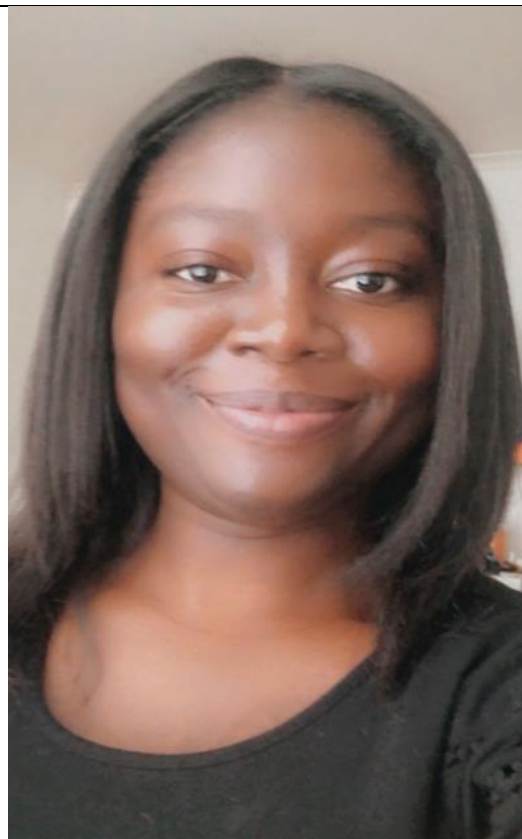


2022 NERRA Conference Scholarship Recipients

Claudia Gil Arroyo is from Lima, Peru and earned a Bachelor's degree in Tourism Management at Universidad San Ignacio de Loyola (Peru) and an MS in Parks, Recreation and Tourism at University of Missouri, where she developed research on agritourism and sustainable tourism. She has experience in the tourism industry and academia in Peru and the US, and her research interests are community-based tourism, food tourism and experiential tourism. Currently, she is a PhD candidate (ABD) in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University. Her current research focuses on product and destination image development based on craft beverage tourism, and craft beverage tourism's contributions to sustainable community development.



Akosua Pomaa Asabere is a first year PhD student and Graduate Teaching Assistant at the State University of New York- College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF). She holds B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana) and SUNY-ESF respectively. During her M.S., she won the Albert Leaf Memorial and the Alec Proskine scholarship awards for her excellence in graduate study. Akosua was a Data Entry Clerk for Legendary Foods Ghana after college and rose to Assistant Farm Supervisor. Before leaving to the United States to pursue graduate studies, she was again promoted to Quality Control Assistant in the same company. Akosua has extensive knowledge and experience in the agricultural processing sector hence generating her love for agritourism. She is result-oriented, believes in team work, and finds pride in being part of a winning team. She is building



her expertise in human dimension research, and loves cooking.

Kiley Foss is a second year Sport and Recreation Administration master's student at South Dakota State University. She has been involved with municipal parks and recreation since she was 15, which fueled her passion in the field of recreation. At SDSU, Kiley is a Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Stella Liu. This year they are diligently working on the 2023-2028 South Dakota Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Kiley is also working on research for her thesis, which focuses on how youth and their families recreate outdoors and the influence parents' have on their children's outdoor recreation experiences. When she's not busy working with Dr. Stella Liu or writing her thesis, Kiley enjoys visiting her family back home in Minnesota, working out, reading, and traveling. After graduating this spring, she hopes to work in municipal and community recreation programming.



Peter Whitney is a member of the Wildland and Recreation Management Research Lab at the University of Montana, pursuing an M.S. in Parks, Tourism, and Recreation Management. Hailing from Chicago, Peter's love for outdoor recreation, ecology and public lands grew from time spent in small, urban patches of remnant natural communities. Inspired by ecological restoration projects in his hometown, Peter completed his B.S. in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources with a minor in Horticulture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. While completing his undergraduate degree and in subsequent jobs, Peter has had the opportunity to balance his contributions to social science research projects with hands-on land management experience. He's especially interested in advancing the role of recreational ecosystem

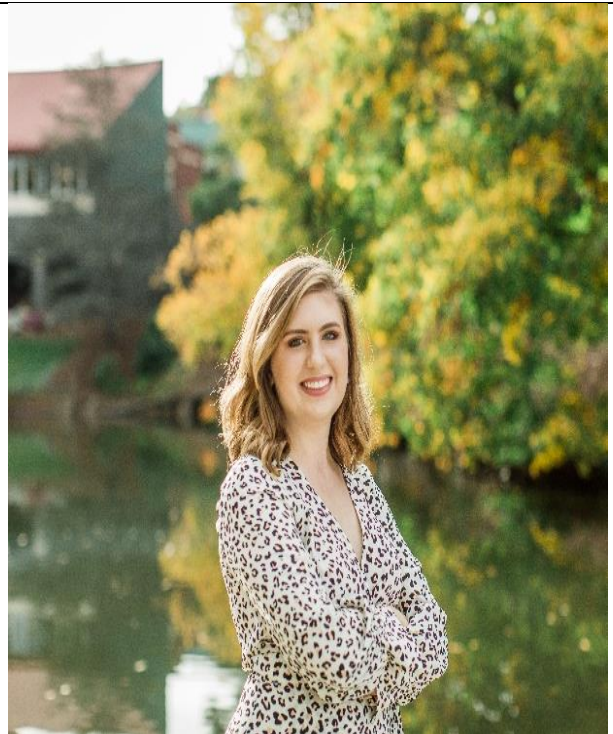


services in public space planning and management, and exploring solutions that balance visitor use with natural resource conservation.

Evan Salcido is a Ph.D. candidate from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, under the advisement of Dr. Carena van Riper. Raised in Las Vegas, Nevada, Evan relocated to the Midwest to pursue and earn a B.S. in Zoology from The Ohio State University. After a few years working in a toxicology laboratory in Texas, Evan began graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, where he received an M.S. under the advisement of Dr. David Fulton. A specialist in the human dimensions of natural resource management, Evan's research interests include environmental values & behaviors; human-wildlife conflict; and wildlife & natural resources policy. His work aims to inform and improve our ability to reconcile the interests of humanity with the necessities of environmental conservation.



Emily Smith is a first-year Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management master's student at North Carolina State University. She received her undergraduate degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Appalachian State University, where she developed her passion for tourism. She is a research assistant on a study with the North Carolina State Parks focusing on pricing strategies that will support demand, promote more equitable use of NC State Parks, and contribute to more sustainable park management. Based on this work, her thesis examines how pricing strategies can be used to address overtourism challenges within state parks. She is still exploring possible career ventures but finds interest in working for a Destination Marketing/Management Organization or as a Tourism Extension Associate.



Megan Thompson is a Sport and Recreation Administration master's student at South Dakota State University. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa, where she studied Leisure, Youth and Human Services with an emphasis in outdoor recreation. Currently, she is a Graduate Research Assistant, working with Dr. Stella Liu on the South Dakota 2023-2028 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, focusing on providers' trends and challenges. Megan is extremely passionate about working with youth, specifically in a summer camp setting, which was the predominant motivational factor when choosing recreation as her career path. She loves camping and hiking and is currently in the process of harness training her new cat, Sebastian, so he can accompany her on these excursions.

