

Peyton Heisch

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Sustainability Manager

Education

B.A. Environmental Studies, Minor Anthropology/Sociology - 2023

Augustana College - Rock Island, Illinois

Advisor Dr. Sarah Lashley

Senior Research Project: “Perceptions and Attitudes of Stakeholders in Hickory Creek Watershed”

Research Interests

Sense of Place, Norms, Systems, Framing, How language and perception guide environmental care among different cultures, and Interconnections between ecological, public health, social, cultural, and environmental justice in communities

Professional Positions/Experiences

Augustana College, Rock Island, IL

Sustainability Manager, Manage Research of the following two centers; Upper Mississippi Center for Sustainable Communities & Center for Advancement of Community Health and Wellness.

June 2023 - Present

Rock Island Lead Service Line Project

- Developed experiential community projects to address data gaps for Rock Island City regarding state legislation for the *Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act*
- Maintained interactive maps to include historic data and multi-source updates on live GIS (Geographical Information Systems) Data, up keeping all communication between community members that need help to identify their water service line material

- Created Agendas for meetings with Rock Island City Public Works to discuss the project, and attended meetings with City Council members in order to specialize community outreach efforts based on each unique locations needs

Quad Cities Mississippi Watershed Projects (a region of cities in the U.S. states of Iowa and Illinois: Davenport and Bettendorf in southeastern Iowa, and Rock Island, Moline and East Moline in northwestern Illinois)

- Mentored student researchers in data collection for ecological and human dimension projects that involved: microplastics in aquatic systems, conservation and biodiversity, access to blood pressure screenings in underserved communities, and environmental public health justice
- Attended partnership meetings with Davenport City Natural Resources Manager to discuss future research endeavors to improve knowledge on local watershed water quality, riparian health, and community perspectives on local watersheds
- Assisted in communication and data collection in partnership with the City of Moline to combat an unregulated landfill and determine its harm to ecology and public health
- Created maps on GIS and added data to the online database to understand where and how water quality levels change overtime
- Supported multiple environmental courses in tree identification, riparian assessment, and water quality watershed data that is used to support yearly watershed reports to the City of Davenport
- Composed online student research assistant applications and worked side by side with students in accordance with the research centers' needs and the students' time and desire to assist in the projects
- Generated graphs in SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) to represent watershed data
- With creative freedom built a project that would incorporate environmental education in neighborhoods and elementary schools, oral histories, wayfinding for walkable paths to the bike path on the Mississippi and connection to Sylvan Island hiking trails with focus on connecting low income and/or communities of color to have access to the river, outdoor physical activity and environmental education that would be monetarily incentivised to combat socioeconomic barriers (this pairs with the below project)

Quad Cities Health Disparities Projects

- Observed free blood pressure screenings to reflect on how to strengthen methods to combat healthcare injustices in connection to geographical and socioeconomic obstacles
 - Managed background tasks, such as printing, prepping, organizing, and communication for the *Fit & Strong Program*, which is an evidence-based community-based, physical activity program that uses flexibility, strength training, aerobics, and health education to promote behavioral change in people with arthritis
 - Assisted in gathering literature and data on low-birth weight full-term pregnancies in connection to socioeconomic and educational barriers
 - Wrote online student research assistant application for student researchers being funded by the Center for the Advancement of Community Health and Wellness
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Research Experience

October 2022 - May 2023

Research Assistant, Upper Mississippi Center for Sustainable Communities and the Center for Advancement of Community Health and Wellness, Augustana College

Rock Island Lead Service Line Project

- Analyzed Rock Island City historical records to determine what information was salvageable for the inventory due to the State April 2024
- Utilized Excel with co-workers to create data to be used in GIS Model Predictions
- Attended and assisted in the guidance of monthly meetings between all project members
- Preliminary internal plans on how to get the most data points through community outreach to create a predictive model, so that the City of Rock Island has the data to understand how much it will cost to equitably replace all lead and most galvanized service lines in their City

June 2022 - August 2022

Summer Research Intern, Upper Mississippi Center for Sustainable Communities and The Center, Augustana College

Perceptions and Attitudes of Stakeholders in Hickory Creek Watershed

- Assisted in the data collection and processing of multiple projects at once
- Created interview protocols, interviewed, recorded, transcribed, coded, and used inductive reasoning to produce a qualitative report on the sense of place in a rural/urban watershed called Hickory Creek Watershed Scott County, IA
- Gathered data and presented the project to the City of Davenport, IA
- Collected water quality data through on-site tests and off-site lab work
- Completed Institutional Review Board Training
- Biggest takeaway was that generational farmers and people that live in a small town built in the 2000s can live in the same watershed, but have vastly different perceptions on nature, water, and life

January 2022 - May 2022

Research Assistant, Under Dr. Sarah Lashley, Augustana College

Serving Our Students and Our Neighbors: Implications of Campus Expansion for Rock Island

- Attended weekly meetings to be given research topics by a professor writing a chapter on the Lands' perspective in a book being written by various professors of different disciplines titled, *Serving Our Students and Our Neighbors: Implications of Campus Expansion for Rock Island*
- Organized and researched within an exploratory project along with a co-worker and professor where I presented research deliverables weekly through online literature research, special collections, interviews, and other forms of valuable resources that fueled the exploratory project
- Assisted in gathering data used to understand the relationship between Augustana College and the City of Rock Island
- Developed my own interests and ideas to bring to the project

Teaching and Advising experience

August 2023 to Present

First Year Advisor

Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

- Advised students one-on-one. Assisted in planning their J-term and Spring semester, encouraged them to explore their interests through reflection and deep conversation
- Prepared Residential Learning Experience materials
- Assisted in Community-based Learning experiences for students

August 2023 to October 2023

First Year Inquiry 100: Introduction of Liberal Arts Instructor

Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

- Teach 7-week course that guides first year students through the beginning of their academic journey in a Liberal Arts Education, while advising them to find their passion and follow their curiosities

Reports

Delaney Farwell, **Peyton Heisch**, Dr. Sarah Lashley. August, 2022. *Perceptions and Attitudes of Stakeholders in Hickory Creek Watershed*. Davenport City and Partners of Scott County Watershed.

Joel Amaro, Holly Chesney, Diego Cruz, **Peyton Heisch**, Paige Lundborg, Rosie Ong, Jonathan Pape, Natalia Perez, Adam Schumacher, Caroline Sorenson, Julia Vanhouten. May, 2022. *Riparian Assessment in the Silver Creek Watershed*. Davenport City.

Presentations

"Perceptions and Attitudes of Stakeholders in Hickory Creek Watershed." Verbal Presentation to Davenport City Representatives. Augustana College. Rock Island, Il. August 2022.

"Perceptions and Attitudes of Stakeholders in Hickory Creek Watershed." Verbal and Poster Presentation. Mississippi River Research Consortium Annual Meeting. La Crosse, WI. April 2023.

"Riparian Assessment in the Silver Creek Watershed." Verbal Presentation to Davenport City Representatives. Augustana College. Rock Island, Il. May 2022.

Awards and Honors

More than I Imagined Award, Augustana College, 2023,

"One of Peyton's greatest strengths is her ability to seamlessly integrate across the social and ecological dimensions of environmental problems in real-world contexts. Peyton is also a quiet, critical thinking leader capable of organizing and mentoring colleagues with a diverse array of interests, passions and motivations to accomplish the goals of community-driven projects."

Dr. Michael Reisner, Associate Professor, Environmental studies

Presidential Scholarship, Augustana College, 2019-2023. This is given to exceptional high school students who can maintain it each year by keeping a 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher

Media Coverage

Augustana College Newspaper, Augustana Observer, Environmental Justice issue, *GIS leads Lead Service Line Project*

<https://augustanaobserver.com/35299/special-editions/environmental-justice-issue/gis-leads-lead-service-line-project/>

Represented Lead Service Line Project on **Channel 4 WHBF** (Where Historic Black Hawk Fought), Rock Island, Illinois <https://youtu.be/vbF53-kNScU>

Represented Lead Service Line Project Community Outreach Event on **Channel 6 KWQC** (KW Quad Cities), Davenport, Iowa

<https://www.kwqc.com/2023/08/18/augustana-vikings-football-team-goes-door-to-door-water-line-inventory-project/>
