

MASTERS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

EVSS FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: MATTHEW GORSTEIN

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Matt Gorstein serves as a faculty member at CofC, and has also been employed by S.C. Sea Grant Consortium since 2019. As the Consortium's Assistant Director for Development and Extension, Matt coordinates the efforts of extension staff members. At his current position with Sea Grant, he enjoys working with communities and stakeholders to better understand their issues.

Matt previously served as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Florida teaching undergraduate students, which he believed has helped improve his ability to now teach graduate students. "Throughout 2016-2018 I provided lessons and technical assistance to Micronesian fishing communities as it relates to collecting and analyzing socioeconomic data through surveys. Consistent technical assistance resulted in two separate weeklong workshops: one in Palau and one in Yap (Federated States of Micronesia). For each of these workshops, I developed lessons, hands-on exercises, quizzes, and evaluations to train participants in conducting socioeconomic research. This included lessons on interviewing protocols, confidentiality, personally identifiable information, data collection, questionnaire development, data entry, descriptive statistics, and inferential statistical analysis."



Matt teaches Environmental Economics at CofC for EVSS students. "I am most excited about communicating to students how economic concepts are woven throughout environmental science. Social, economic, and cultural values play a role in how ecosystems are used and unfortunately abused in some cases. Industries such as fishing, aquaculture, coastal tourism, seaport activity, shipbuilding, and offshore mineral extraction depend on a healthy marine environment for inputs." Matt intends to bring the 'real world' into his economics course as well. "By incorporating recently peer-reviewed environmental economics journal articles, problems currently facing South Carolina, economic valuation case studies, and non-market valuation concepts I hope to foster a greater understanding and appreciation for applied economics: using economic concepts and applying them to environmental science questions. The other important concept I'd like to highlight is the importance of communicating economic concepts in a way that people can understand – how the words we use and graphics we show can impact how the message is received and/or perceived."



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