

# McKenzi Norris

[msnorris@email.sc.edu](mailto:msnorris@email.sc.edu)

[mkenzi.com](http://mkenzi.com)

## Education

### University of South Carolina

Columbia, SC

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Graduating December 2020

- GPA: 3.98
- Coursework focus: Biology
- Leadership distinctions: Research and Professional & Civic Engagement

## Professional Experience

### Student Health Services, University of South Carolina

COVID-19 Contact Tracer

July 2020 – Present

- Investigating exposed, suspected, and confirmed COVID-19 cases, completing interviews, and responding to inquiries while adhering to HIPAA and FERPA regulations.

### Laboratory of Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Research Assistant

September 2018 – Present

- Acquiring epidemiologic grant- and report-writing experience.
- Supported a state-wide field surveillance of ticks of public health importance in South Carolina involving CDC-recommended trapping and speciation.
- Led a state-wide surveillance study to detect the invasive Asian longhorned tick in veterinary populations for the first time in South Carolina, which received CDC and USDA recognition.
- Supported a regional study to evaluate population genetics and distributions of *Aedes* mosquitoes through CDC-recommended egg trapping.

### University Housing, University of South Carolina

Resident Mentor

August 2018 – May 2020

- Provided paraprofessional advising for 40+ undergraduate residents while maintaining FERPA standards.

- Developed and implemented community building programming to improve community building, personal and academic performance, and diversity. Confronted and resolved issues of academic performance, personal development, and roommate conflicts.
- Performed several administrative duties including data analytics, visitor check-ins, front-desk customer service, incident reports, and maintenance requests.

### **South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control**

Intern Lab Technician

November 2019 – March 2020

- Learned and performed speciation of mosquitoes while maintaining proper handling and documentation procedures.

### **Freelance Web Developer**

December 2014 – September 2018

- Provided digital solutions by analyzing requirements and designing, developing, and implementing software applications for multiple personal and business websites.
- Used various technologies, including WordPress and Cloudflare, to make repairs and optimize business and personal websites.

## **Advisement Experience**

Adjunct Advisor to the Association of Public Health Infectious Disease Students, November 2020 – Present

## **Activities**

**Society for Vector Ecology**, Member, March 2020 – Present

**Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association**, Member, February 2020 – Present

**Student Government**, Arnold School of Public Health Senator, Health & Safety and Sustainability Committees, March 2020 – November 2020

**Association of Public Health Infectious Disease Students**, Co-Founder & President, October 2019 – November 2020

**American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**, Member, May 2019 – Present

**Public Health Society**, Member, February 2019 – May 2019

**Chabad Student Organization**, Vice President, October 2018 – Present

**Student IT Advisory Committee**, Member, February 2018 – May 2018

**Patterson Hall Government**, President, August 2017 – May 2018

## **Presentations**

*An Epidemiological Search for the Asian Longhorned Tick in South Carolina*, American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Virtual, Poster Presentation, November 2020.

*Engaging Undergraduate Students in Entomological Research*, Mid-Atlantic Mosquito Control Association, Greenville, SC, Poster Presentation, February 2020.

*An Investigation Into the Distribution of Urban Aedes spp. in the Coastal City, Charleston, SC*, Society for Vector Ecology, San Juan, PR, Poster Presentation, September 2019.

## **Research Funding**

**May 2020 – December 2020**

**University of South Carolina, Magellan Scholar Award:** “A field epidemiologic investigation to determine at what extent invasive *Haemaphysalis longicornis* ticks pose a risk to dogs and humans in South Carolina” \$2,500

**May 2019 – August 2019**

**University of South Carolina and crowdfunding with Experiment.com:** “How do *Aedes* mosquito genetics affect their habitat choice?” \$2,000

## **Honors & Awards**

- **Magellan Scholar Award**, \$2,500, University of South Carolina, April 2020
- **President’s Award**, University of South Carolina, April 2020
- **Outstanding Senior Award**, University of South Carolina, March 2020