

# Sara Norton

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## Education

Duke University, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, Durham, NC

**Expected May 2025**

B.S. in Biology and Marine Science and Conservation

**GPA:** 3.91/4.00

**Honors and Awards:** Rachel Carson Scholar; Dean's List with Distinction (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Fall 2024); Invited speaker, Nicholas School of the Environment Board of Visitors Meeting, Fall 2023

## Relevant Experience

Researcher, Climate Change Impacts on Oysters Bass Connections, Durham & Beaufort, NC

**May 2024-Present**

- Collaborate with students, faculty, and partners to develop strategies for mitigating climate change impacts on wild and cultured oysters, integrating techniques in microbiology and environmental monitoring
- Utilize statistical and geospatial tools to assess oyster lease siting strategies, contributing to sustainable and effective aquaculture practices

Lab/Help Room Teaching Assistant, Duke Mathematics Department, Durham, NC

**Aug 2022-Present**

- Facilitate group work and guide students to learn new concepts in class and lab settings
- Instruct students on mathematical concepts critical for success in applied calculus
- Provide constructive feedback on student assignments
- Assist students with difficult methods and problems in the Lab Calculus Help Room

Researcher, Belugas: Sentinels of Climate Change in the Arctic Bass Connections, Durham, NC

**Aug 2023-May 2024**

- Investigated the state of the Hudson Bay beluga population using satellite monitoring and remote sensing
- Synthesized findings from diverse sources to contribute to the creation of a model for the feasibility of satellite monitoring of cetaceans
- Wrote and recorded an episode of the Seas the Day Podcast discussing the team's experience in Churchill

Story + Researcher, Unearthing Duke Forest Working Group, Durham, NC

**May-Jun 2022**

- Engaged with archeological sites and document archives to recover historical evidence of land use
- Synthesized findings into a digital exhibit using ArcGIS, to be converted into signage in the Duke Forest
- Created and presented a short documentary film at a research symposium

Mammal Intern: Hoofstock/Pinniped, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden, Columbia, SC

**May-Aug 2021**

- Performed daily maintenance of animal enclosures and exhibits for 6 species and 20+ individual animals
- Monitored health and wellbeing of collection animals by preparing and distributing animal diets and observing and recording animal behavior
- Practiced operant conditioning through observing training sessions and training approved animals under the supervision of the Senior Keeper

## Outreach & Involvement

Co-President, Showcase Coordinator, & Choreographer, Duke Swing Dance Club, Durham, NC

**Aug 2022-Present**

- Oversee the executive board, coordinate and conduct auditions, manage relationships and collaborations with Duke Dance Council and the broader Duke community
- Design and teach choreography for auditions, performances, and lessons for club members and events

- Orchestrate end-to-end show production, including coordinating rehearsal and performance venues and organizing placement and rehearsals for 60+ dancers and choreographers

Vice President, Duke Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Durham & Beaufort, NC

**May 2023-Present**

- Organize on and off campus events to promote marine conservation and advocate for environmental justice, including contacting speakers, booking venues, and securing funding for events including the annual Summit for Ocean Stewards
- Facilitate career development programming for undergraduates interested in marine sciences through managing logistics and relationships with relevant campus offices

Vice-President/Outreach, Duke PAWS (Promoting Animal Welfare through Service), Durham, NC **Jan 2022-Jul 2023**

- Coordinate volunteer opportunities with partner organizations
- Facilitate transportation by communicating with members and drivers regarding volunteer trips
- Plan and execute on and off campus events to promote animal welfare and volunteering

## **Skills & Certifications**

Languages: Native Proficiency in English, C1 Proficiency in Spanish, A2 Proficiency in Korean

Lab-Based: PCR, Gel Electrophoresis, Preparation of oyster cultures for Histology and RNA-seq

Computer: Microsoft Office Suite Certification, Experience in R, Python, and ArcGIS