

Susanna L Harris, PhD

Chapel Hill, NC | SusannaLHarris@gmail.com
SusannaLHarris.com | [linkedin/in/susannalharris/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/susannalharris/)

SUMMARY

I translate cutting-edge research into accessible and engaging materials for professional and public audiences. Through real-world experience and professional training in written, oral, and digital communication, I am comfortable speaking to rooms of 5-to-500. I approach scientific outreach, whether to investors or kindergartners, through the lens of inquiry-based learning; through charisma and compassion, I can persuade others to reevaluate their beliefs and opinions towards new technologies and divisive world challenges. I am a motivated self-starter, but I also excel in problem-solving and project development through delegation and teamwork. As the founder and CEO of Community Balance LLC, I created PhD Balance and now lead a team of volunteers to support an international community of academics.

EXPERIENCE

PhD Balance at Community Balance LLC

Founder and CEO (Website: PhDBalance.com)

Mar 2018 – Present

- Creating spaces online and at institutions for graduate students to learn from shared experiences.
- Curating resources and personal narratives to promote inclusion, equity, and student wellness in academia.
- Delegating tasks and evaluating progress with a team of over twenty volunteers to design websites, edit and publish narratives and op-eds, and implement social media campaigns

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC

Graduate Research Assistant in Microbiology

Aug 2014 – May 2020

- Project: Understanding Bacterial Community Assembly in the Soil
- Developing research projects and collaborations to investigate plant-bacterial interactions through molecular biology approaches
- Compiling comprehensive literature reviews and writing manuscripts, grants, and fellowship applications.
- Training undergraduate students to conduct laboratory experiments

Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

IMPACTS Outreach Trainer

Sep 2017 – April 2020

Science Ambassador

Sep 2016 – Aug 2017

- Inspiring Meaningful Programs and Communication through Science
- Designing and delivering hands-on activities in K-12 classrooms, museums, and statewide science festivals
- Training scientists to convert primary research into outreach lessons appropriate for all ages as based on current informal education pedagogy guidelines

University of Iowa, IA

Undergraduate Research Assistant in Microbiology

Aug 2011 – Jun 2014

- Project: Signal Transduction and Regulation of Gene Expression in *Myxococcus xanthus*
- Performing, interpreting, and presenting independent research on bacterial intercellular signalling

LEADERSHIP

Supporting Mental Health and Wellness of Graduate Students, Council of Graduate Schools

National Taskforce Member

Sep 2019 – Present

- Create evidence-based policies and resources to support graduate student mental health and well-being

Adams Apprenticeship, UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School

Advisor

Jan 2020 – Present

Apprentice

Jan 2019 – Jan 2020

- Building entrepreneurship skills through experience and networking opportunities

How to Learn to Code, UNC Training in Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program

Founder and Organizer

Sep 2015 – Sep 2017

- Teaching foundations of computer coding for biological research as led by current bioinformatics researchers.

HIGHLIGHTED PRESENTATIONS

Science Talk 2020 Annual Meeting, Portland, OR

Workshop Leader: *Building a Brand on Social Media*

Mar 2020

Graduate Career Consortium Meeting, New Orleans, LA

Keynote Speaker: *Students Don't Want a Hand Out*

June 2019

East Carolina University BGSA Research in Progress Seminar, Greenville, NC

Invited Speaker: *Community effects on *Bacillus subtilis* rhizosphere competence.*

Oct 2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, NSF

May 2015 – Present

3-Minute Thesis Finalist, University of North Carolina

Nov 2018

Graduate Teaching Award, Tri-Beta Honors Fraternity at UNC

Jan 2017

Markovetz Award for Outstanding Research, University of Iowa

May 2014

EDUCATION

University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, NC

May 2020

PhD in Microbiology and Immunology

University of Iowa – Iowa City, IA

May 2014

Bachelors of Science in Microbiology, Minor in Spanish;

Cumulative GPA: 3.82/4.0

Graduated with Honors; Dean's List (2010-2014) President's List (2013)

PUBLICATIONS

(For full list of publications, [click here](#))

Bacterial Community Members Increase *Bacillus subtilis* Maintenance on the Roots of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. (Co-first authors) Eckshtain Levi, N., Harris, S. L., Shank, E. A. *Phytobiomes J.* (Under review)

Monitoring Bacterial Colonization and Maintenance on *Arabidopsis thaliana* Roots in a Floating Hydroponic System. Harris, S. L., Pelaez, C. A., Shank, E. A. *J. Vis. Exp.* (147), e59517, doi:10.3791/59517 (2019). Includes video protocol.

Mental Health in Academia: Get online to support wellbeing of graduate students. Liesl A Krause, Susanna L Harris. *eLife* 2019;8:e53178 DOI: 10.7554/eLife.53178 (2019)

MULTIMEDIA PRODUCTIONS

Videos, Podcasts, Blogs, Etc. [Click Here](#)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Teaching and Speaking: University teaching assistant (laboratory demonstrations, lecturer, tutor). Discovery learning. Inquiry-based learning. K-12 hands-on workshops. Guest lecturer. Workshop leader. Digital meetings and workshops (Zoom, Skype, Hangouts). Lesson planning. Tabletop demonstrations. Science festival coordination. Research assistant training. Informal teaching. Fellowship and grant writing.

Digital Communications: Hootsuite scheduling. IFTTT. Trello. Tweetdeck. Paid promotions. Brand marketing. Brand ambassador. Redbubble merchandising. Coordinated multi-platform campaigns and social media insights analysis (Instagram, Twitter, Reddit). Grassroots fundraising (GoFundMe). Live and recorded YouTube videos. Open Broadcaster Software. Adobe Premiere Pro. Adobe Photoshop (beginner). Adobe Illustrator. Web design and development (Wix, Wordpress, Squarespace). Blog writing and publishing.

Microbiology and Molecular Biology: Bacterial physiokinetics. Bacterial transduction/transfection (*Bacillus*, *E. coli*, *Myxobacteria*). Genetic modification (primer design, PCR, restriction enzyme digestion, Gibson cloning). Computer programming (Python - beginner). PCR (qPCR, RT-PCR). Shake Flask cell culture (lab-scale). Gel electrophoresis. Flow cytometry (beginner). Aseptic technique. Microscopy (confocal, light, fluorescence). Cell culture (e.g. bacterial, mammalian). Plant pathophysiology (e.g. *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica*, Tomato).