

[EXT] 77th SEAFWA Conference: Abstract Status!

Meg Boera <Meg@delaneymeetingevent.com>

Sat 8/5/2023 12:22 PM

To:Makeda Nurradin <mzn0061@auburn.edu>

CAUTION: Email Originated Outside of Auburn.



ABSTRACT CONFIRMATION

Dear Makeda,

CONGRATULATIONS! Your abstract submission has been accepted and added to the program for the **77th Annual SEAFWA Conference** hosted by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, to be held October 15-18, 2023 at the [Omni Hotel](#) in Corpus Christi.

This email confirms your participation and provides preliminary information for planning purposes.

Please take note of the scheduled date/time of your presentation.

Presentation Title: Overcoming Obstacles and Finding a Voice: The Lived Experiences of Underrepresented Graduate Students in Natural Resource Programs

Scheduled Date/Time: 10/17/2023 1:20:00 PM - 10/17/2023 1:40:00 PM

Session: Marketing, R3 & Communications 2 Track

ABSTRACT DETAILS:

Makeda Nurradin, Clarissa Beavers - Auburn University

This research seeks to understand the challenges faced by underrepresented graduate students in natural resource programs and how they navigate diversity in their academic and social lives. Semi-structured approximately one-hour interviews were conducted with graduate students that self-identified as members of minority groups. There were five guiding questions being: 1) What are some strategies you used to navigate difficult environments? 2) Which strategies did you find successful? 3) What challenges did you face? 4) Are you aware of similar challenges faced by other minority students? 5) How do you think successful methods can be implemented? Interviews were transcribed, information triangulated, and independent thematic analysis was performed. From the thematic analysis there were themes of similar challenges and successes. The qualitative study highlights how microaggressions, prejudice, and a lack of belonging can create barriers for these students in their pursuit of academic success. Despite these challenges, underrepresented students use various strategies such as seeking out mentorship, building community, and advocating for their needs, to navigate and thrive in these programs. The findings of this research can be used to guide initiatives that better support the academic and professional growth of underrepresented graduate students in natural resource programs. Some recommendations from this study are fostering environments that value diversity and inclusivity-consider increasing minorities in tenure track faculty positions; implement programs that bolster