

James P. Kerr

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Education:

PhD Geoscience, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT expected defense date: Dec. 2020

MS Geology, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC, Dec. 2014

BS Geoscience, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA, May. 2012

Research Interests:

Regional to global scale ecological and evolutionary processes as they can be accessed through the deep time fossil record. Use of specimen-based techniques to study paleoecology and interspecific interactions as they affect evolutionary trends through geologic time as well as the influence of environmental change on ecological interactions.

Publications

Kerr, J.P., Bush, A., Pier, J., Brisson, S., and Bush, A.M. Preservation and host preferences of late Frasnian (Late Devonian) skeletobionts in the Appalachian Foreland Basin, USA. *In prep.* PALIOS.

Kerr, J.P. and Kelley, P.H. Assessing the influence of escalation during the Mesozoic Marine Revolution: Shell breakage and adaptation against enemies in Mesozoic ammonites. 2015. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* 440:632-646.

Published Abstracts

Kerr, J.P., Brisson, S.K., Pier, J.Q., and Bush, A.M. VARIATION IN SKELETOBIONT-HOST RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS THE FRASNIAN-FAMENNIAN EXTINCTION EVENT ALONG AN ENVIRONMENTAL GRADIENT. 2019 GSA Annual Meeting in Phoenix, Arizona (22-25 September 2019) Paper No. 194-18.

- Kerr, J.P.** COMMENSALISM IN THE MIDST OF EXTINCTION: ENCRUSTERS AND BORERS OF THE APPALACIAN FORELAND BASIN ACROSS THE FRASNIAN-FAMENNIAN BOUNDARY. 2018 GSA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana (4-7 November 2018) Paper No. 73-7.
- Kerr, J.P.**, ENCRUSTERS AND BORERS THROUGH AN EXTINCTION EVENT: A DESCRIPTION OF SKELETOBIONT ASSEMBLAGES THROUGH THE FRASNIAN-FAMENNIAN BOUNDARY OF THE APPALACHIAN FORELAND BASIN. 2017 GSA Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington (22-25 October 2017) Paper No. 271-1.
- Kerr, J.P.**, Park Boush, L.E., Yakabowskas, D.M., and Myrbo, A. RESILIENCE AGAINST PERTURBATION: RESPONSE OF MOLLUSCAN COMMUNITIES TO SEA LEVEL RISE IN AN INLAND BLUE HOLE, ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS. 2016 GSA Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado (25-28 September 2016) Paper No. 76-26.
- Kerr, J.P.** and Kelley, P.H. PREDATION OF MESOZOIC AMMONITES THROUGH TIME AND SPACE: COMPARISON OF REPAIR SCAR FREQUENCY AND ANTIPREDATORY SHELL MORPHOLOGY IN NORTH AMERICA AND EUROPE. 2015 GSA Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, USA (1-4 November 2015) Paper No. 129-13.
- Kerr, J.P.** and Kelley, P.H. PREDATION AND ESCALATION OF MESOZOIC AMMONITES: EVIDENCE FROM REPAIR SCARS AND ANTIPREDATORY SHELL MORPHOLOGY. 2014 GSA Annual Meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia (19-22 October 2014) Paper No. 134-3.
- Kerr, J.P.** and Kelley, P.H. REPAIR SCARS AS INDICATORS OF PREDATION AND ANTIPREDATORY RESPONSE TO PREDATION IN MESOZOIC AMMONOIDS. Southeastern Section – 63rd Annual Meeting (10-11 April 2014) Paper No. 7.
- Kerr, J.P.** and Kelley, P.H. ANTIPREDATORY MORPHOLOGY AND INTENSITY OF SUBLETHAL PREDATION IN MESOZOIC AMMONOIDS. National GSA Meeting - 125th Anniversary Annual Meeting and Expo (27-30 October 2013) Paper No. 296-2.
- Kelley, P.H., Albritton, C.K., **Kerr, J.P.**, Korpanty, C.A., Tedick, A.M., Umling, N.E., and Dietl, G.P. DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CANEPATCH FORMATION, UPPER PLEISTOCENE, HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA. Southeastern Section – 62nd Annual Meeting (20-21 March 2013) Paper No. 15.
- Korpanty, C.A., **Kerr, J.P.**, Standford, S.D., Tedick, A.M., Kelley, P.H., and Dietl, G.P. FIDELITY OF MOLLUSCAN LIFE AND DEATH ASSEMBLAGES: A FIVE YEAR STUDY TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC PRESSURES ON A NORTH CAROLINA TIDAL FLAT. Southeastern Section – 62nd Annual Meeting (20-21 March 2013) Paper No. 6.

Kerr, J.P., Dexter, T.A., Wittmer, J.M., Scarponi, D., and Kowalewski, M. MEASURING SHELL SIZE WITHOUT MEASURING SHELL SIZE: A TIME-EFFICIENT APPROACH TO BODY SIZE ANALYSES. Southeastern Section - 60th Annual Meeting (23–25 March 2011) Paper No. 30-2.

Teaching Experience:

Laboratory Instructor and Teaching Assistant: ***08/2012-05/2014***

Instructed for an environmental geology lab course. Prepared and delivered lectures, administered assignments, answered questions about course material, and graded assignments. Assisted teaching a historical geology lab course in which duties were to help answer students' questions and grade assignments. Class Sizes: ~20 Students Each

Introductory Laboratory Instructor and Teaching Assistant: ***03/2015-12/2019***

Instructed for an introductory geology lab course for which I prepared and delivered lectures, administered assignments, answered questions about the material, and graded assignments. Class Sizes: 24 Students

Field Course Teaching Assistant: ***01/2016***

Assisted teaching a geological field course in San Salvador Island, Bahamas. Aided teaching in the field, answered students' questions on course content, graded assignments, and maintained safety of the students. Class Size: ~15

Lecture Instructor: ***08/2018-12/2018***

Co-taught a lecture course on dinosaurs, natural disasters, and mass extinctions. Taught lectures that were 50 minutes long and met once a week. Topics covered included processes involved in fossilization, the geologic time scale, synapomorphies of dinosaurs, major dinosaur groups, present and Mesozoic climate, and mass extinctions. Class Size: ~15

Paleobiology Laboratory Instructor and Teaching Assistant: ***01/2020-Present***

Instructed the laboratory component of a course on paleobiology. Produced lecture materials, prepared assignments, selected and arranged specimens, graded assignments, and instructed students through a specimen-based approach to understanding topics including fossil preservation, sedimentary rock formation, paleoenvironmental interpretation, and a variety of organisms as they are accessible in the fossil record. Class Size: 18

Scholarly Memberships:

Student Member of the Geological Society of America

Grants and Awards:

GSA Graduate Student Research Grant

GSA Student Travel Grant

Schuschert and Dunbar Grants-in-Aid Travel Grant