

MICHELE HOCKETT COOPER

EDUCATION

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | EAST LANSING, MI | 2012 – 2014

Master of Science: Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies

Specialization: Ecological Food and Farming Systems

Research: Studied efficacy of USAID-funded agricultural intervention, Africa RISING program (Malawi) – developed and utilized survey and interview tools, managed data collection with six local enumerators, analyzed data using mixed methods approach, reported findings back to local stakeholders and respondents

CONCORDIA COLLEGE | MOORHEAD, MN | 2006 – 2010

Bachelor of Arts: Sociology, Classical Studies; *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

- Davis, J.N., Nikah K., Landry M.J., Vandyousefi, S., Ghaddar R., Jeans M.J., Cooper M.H., Martin B., Waugh L., Sharma S.V., van den Berg, A. (2022). Effects of a garden, nutrition, cooking randomized controlled trial on academic performance. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jand.2022.08.125>
- Hoover, A.; Vandyousefi, S.; Martin, B.; Nikah, K.; Cooper, M.; Muller, A.; Marty, E.; Duswalt-Epstein, M.; Burgermaster, M.; Waugh, L.; Linkenhoker, B.; Davis, J. (2021). Barriers, Strategies, and Resources to Thriving School Gardens. *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior*, Vol. 53, No. 7. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2021.02.011>
- Nikah, K.; Martin, B.; Hoover, A.; Vandyousefi, S.; Hockett Cooper, M.; Muller, A.; Marty, E.; Duswalt-Epstein, M.; Burgermaster, M.; Davis, J. (2020). 2020 Austin School Garden Report. Compiled for the City of Austin, Office of Sustainability.
- Silberg, T.R., Richardson, R.B., Hockett, M., and Snapp, S.S. (2017). Maize-Legume Intercropping in Central Malawi: Determinants of Practice. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, 1-19. doi:10.1080/14735903.2017.1375070
- Hockett, M., and Richardson, R.B. (2016). Examining the Drivers of Agricultural Experimentation Among Smallholder Farmers in Malawi. *Exploring Agriculture*, 1-21. doi:10.1017/S0014479716000673

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- **American Chemical Society Student Organization**, Faculty Speaker (Fall 2023)
- **Polymathic Scholars Student Organization**, Faculty Speaker (Fall 2023)
- **Alternative Energy Resources Organization Expo (Helena, MT – Fall 2023)**, Attendee
- **Peace Corps Prep Coordinators Conference (Tacoma, WA – Fall 2023)**, Attendee
- **Society for Advancing Gender Equity in STEM (SAGES) Research Networking Event**, Faculty Panelist (Spring 2023)
- **College of Natural Sciences Nursing Freshman Interest Group**, Faculty Speaker (Spring 2023)
- **Growing School Gardens Summit (Denver, CO – Spring 2022)**, Attendee
- **Texas Association for Environmental Education (Austin, TX – Fall 2021)**, Speaker and Panel Host: *Outdoor Education Tastes Good: Nutrition and Gardening in Austin-area Elementary Schools*

- **Food and Nutrition Conference & Expo (Winter 2020)**, Abstract submitted: Matthew Landry, Michele Hockett Cooper, Jaimie Davis: *Growing Public Health/Community Nutrition Skills in Undergraduate Students Participating in an Innovative Experiential Nutrition and Gardening Community Engagement Course*
- **Texas Executive Education, McCombs School of Business (Austin, TX – Spring 2019, Summer 2020)**, Guest Lecturer for Shandong Program: *US Agricultural Systems and Sustainable Agriculture*
- **Peace Corps Connect (Austin, TX – Summer 2019)**, Conference Co-Chair – approx. attendance: 300
- **Graduate Research Presentations and Conferences (2013-2014)**: Michigan State University; Salima, Malawi; Tufts University; University of Vermont; Mangochi, Malawi

EMPLOYEMENT EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS | AUSTIN, TX | AUG 2016 – PRESENT

Assistant Professor of Instruction – Dept of Nutritional Sciences | Aug 2019 – Present

- **NTR 306 (Fundamentals of Nutrition)**: Course development and teaching; first departmental course to be developed and conducted in partnership with Liberal Arts Instructional Technology Sciences studio; WB class with upwards of 1,800 undergraduates per semester
- **NTR 365 + 365L (Principles and Applications in Community Engagement)**: Course development and teaching; community-based food systems and nutrition intervention course rooted in experiential learning; direct 9-month internship component in Austin-area elementary school gardens; lead garden utilization training sessions for Austin-area educators
- **NTR 332 (Community Nutrition)**: Course development and teaching; social determinants of health; addressing biases and disparities in health care system; cultural competencies; professional and advocacy skills development (aligned with dietetic KRDNs)
- **NTR 331 (International Nutrition: Social and Environmental Policies)**: Course revitalization with Sustainability Course Development Award; sustainability of ecology, communities, and economies through the lens of water, trade, environmental change, and policy; UN Sustainable Development Goals; professional and advocacy skills development (aligned with dietetic KRDNs)

Social Science/Humanities Research Professional – Davis Lab | Aug 2016 – May 2020

- **TX Sprouts Lead Nutrition and Garden Educator**: Taught nutrition, gardening, and environmental curriculum to Title I elementary students; led nutrition education classes with at-risk adults; managed school gardens; collected anthropometric data; led large undergraduate volunteer team

AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE | ELGIN & AUSTIN, TX | OCT 2015 – PRESENT

Adjunct Faculty – Continuing Education Program

- **Basic Principles of Sustainable Agriculture:** Course development and teaching; leading inquiry-based discussions; guiding experiential learning on local farms; creating course curriculum; curating course reading list

SUSTAINABLE FOOD CENTER | AUSTIN, TX | MAR 2015 – JULY 2016

Farmers' Market Coordinator

- **Downtown and Triangle Markets:** Facilitated market operations; liaised between vendors (20-60 per market), corporate partners, and customers; led five-person crew

GREEN GATE FARMS & NEW FARM INSTITUTE | AUSTIN, TX | MAR 2015 – MAY 2016

Farm-Based Educator and Farm Camp Director

- Created schedule, curriculum, and activities for 5-week summer day camp; hired, trained, and supervised camp staff and volunteers; managed administrative processes
- Led student groups (ages 3 – 20) during field trips, tours, and service learning

FLATHEAD LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP | LAKESIDE, MT | FEB 2012 – AUG 2012

Garden Education Coordinator

- Created and implemented programming and curriculum for campers ages 8-18

MENTORSHIP & SERVICE

Mars Desert Research Station, Student Research Advisor: Noah Mugan (2024)

Sustainable Food Systems Curriculum Design Team, Collaborator (2023 – 2024)

College of Natural Sciences External Teaching Assessment Program, Fellow (2023 – 2024)

UT Peace Corps Prep, Faculty Advisor (2023 – present)

Department of Nutritional Sciences Public Relations Committee, Member (Fall 2023 – present)

Department of Nutritional Sciences Undergraduate Honors Program Committee, Member (Fall 2023 – present)

College of Natural Sciences Graduate of Distinction Faculty Mentor, Aneesha Dandekar (2023)

Core Curriculum Assessment Project, Faculty Evaluator (2023)

College of Natural Sciences Undergraduate Research Forum, Evaluator (Spring 2022)

College of Natural Sciences Teaching Discovery Days, NTR 306- featured course (Fall 2021)

Bridging Disciplines Program, Faculty Mentor:

- Eunice Kim (Spring 2023)
- Gabriela Gantt (Spring 2023)
- Paula Manaloto (2020 – 2021)

HANS Thesis, Second Reader: Johanna Lindquist (Spring 2021)

AWARDS

Eyes of Texas – Teaching Excellence Award, Fall 2023 Recipient

Sustainability Course Development Award, Fall 2023 Recipient (related course: International Nutrition: Social and Environmental Policies)

UT Tower Awards – Outstanding Service-Learning Instructor, Office of the President and the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement (2023)

University of Texas at Austin Faculty Innovation Center, Undergraduate Teaching Grant
Recipient: *Nutrition Students in the Community: Internships in elementary school gardens* (2021)

**PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE**

First English Lutheran Child Development Center, Austin, TX: Board Member, Parent Representative (2021 – 2023)

Hudson Center for Community and Environment, Hudson Valley, New York: Founding member (2021 – 2023), Board of Directors member emeritus, (2023 – Present)

Hudson River Curriculum Guide, NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, New Paltz, NY: Curriculum Advisor (2021)

First English Lutheran Church, Austin, TX: Council Member (2018 – 2022)

Leadership Austin *Emerge Alumna*: Austin, TX (2019)

Heart of Texas Peace Corps Association, Austin, TX: Membership Chair (2016 – 2018); Vice President (2018 – 2019)

Austin Jewish Academy, Austin, TX: Teaching Practicum (Spring 2016)

Peace Corps Volunteer, Saumalkol, Kazakhstan: English Language Education/TEFL (2011)

**ADDITIONAL
COMPETENCIES**

Interpersonal skills: experience working with diverse and underserved populations; confident public speaker; familiar with grant writing, research and dissemination in partnership with research institutions and non-profit organizations

Computer literacy: Microsoft Office suite; SPSS; NVivo qualitative analysis program

Agricultural / livestock experience: born and raised on family farm and ranch in Havre, MT