

EDUCATION

Aug 2016 – Dec 2020 **MSc.**, Marine Sciences, University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez

Jan 2012 – May 2016 **BSc.**, Coastal Marine Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Humacao

LANGUAGES

Spanish (first language); **English** (written & spoken professionally)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Restoration ecology
- Tropical marine ecology
- Biodiversity & evolution
- Wildlife and coastal management
- Community outreach & education
- Community dynamics & demographic

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- PADI Dive Instructor (in progress)
- PADI Divemaster
- AAUS Scientific Diver
- PADI Rescue Diver
- PADI Nitrox Diver
- PDIC Advanced SCUBA diver
- DRNA Navigation license
- CPR, First Aid and AED certified
- Tall ship sailing & nautical sciences (>700 hrs.)
- Micro- and macrofragmentation, transplant, and maintenance of indoor and outdoor coral nurseries
- Caribbean reef fish identification
- Caribbean coral species identification
- DNA extraction, quantification, PCR, & electrophoresis
- CTD deployment & data-loggers
- Plankton sampling methods & basic taxonomy
- Basic marine invertebrate taxonomy
- Small watercraft navigation
- BSA Lifeguard & Aquatics Instructor
- Over 500 logged dives

COMPUTER SKILLS

- Proficient in PC & Mac systems word processors, spreadsheet & large data management
- Experience in ArcGIS, & Google Earth Pro
- Experienced with SPSS, PRIMER v7, & Oriana statistics softwares
- Basic programming in Linux, Python and R
- Experienced in ImageJ & Adobe Photoshop

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 1. Fish assemblages associated with natural, transplanted, artificial, and accidental reefs in Puerto Rico** (Aug 2016 - Dec 2020)
 - a. Published in *Journal of Ocean and Coastal Management*
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2021.105901>
- 2. Abiotic factors affecting the growth & the microbial community in the brown macroalgae *Turbinaria ornata* in Mo'orea, French Polynesia** (May 2015)

3. **Assessing the mayor lateral tooth of chiton (Polyplacophora) radulas as taxonomic criteria** (Aug 2014)
4. **Composition of the resident macrofauna community in free-floating *Sargassum* seaweed from the Sargasso Sea** (Jan - Mar 2014)
5. **Proposal for a multidisciplinary management of biodiversity in the Sargasso Sea** (Jan - Mar 2014)
6. **Effect of shell fit on shell investigation behavior by the hermit crab *Clibanarius vittatus* in response to colors and chemical cues** (August 2013)
7. **Shift of the symbiotic algae population in the intertidal anemone *Anthopleura elegantissima*** (January 2013)
8. **Short-term changes in planktonic community composition in the bioluminescent bay, Laguna Grande, Puerto Rico, at the onset of the rainy season** (August 2012)

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

1. **Divemaster for Taino Divers, Rincon P.R.**
 - a. Jun 2021 - May 2022 Frank Lazu frank.lazu@upr.edu
2. **Fish ID expert for NOAA's Puerto Rico National Coral Reef Monitoring Program (PR-NCRMP)**
 - a. Jun - Dec 2021 Hector J. Ruiz, PhD. astreoides@gmail.com
3. **Coral restoration practitioner with Institute for Socio-Ecological Research (ISER) Caribe's coral microfragmentation project in Isla Magueyes, La Parguera, Lajas P.R.**
 - a. Jan - Dec 2021 Stacey Williams, PhD. stcmwilliams@gmail.com
4. **Coral restoration practitioner and marine scientist with Sea Ventures Pro Dive Center**
 - a. Jun; Oct - Nov 2021 Cap. Pedro Rodriguez pedrocoralrestoration@gmail.com
5. **Data manager for the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network through CariCOOS, P.R.**
 - a. Mar 2021 - May 2021 Miguel Figuerola mfiguerolahernandez@gmail.com
6. **Snorkeling and diving tour guide with "413 Divers" in Rincon** (Jan 2021 - May 2021)
7. **Dissector of queen snapper fish for ISER, P.R.** (Feb 2020 - Mar 2020)
8. **Fish ID expert for NOAA's Puerto Rico National Coral Reef Monitoring Program (PR-NCRMP)** (May 2019 - Jan 2020)
9. **Writer and editor for the Sea Grant College Program at UPRM, P.R.** (Aug 2018 - Aug 2020)
10. **Waterfront Director at Camp Merz, Chautauqua, Buffalo, N.Y.** (June - August 2016)

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS & RELATED OUTREACH EXPERIENCES

July 2018

- Great Barrier Reef Restoration Symposium in Cairns, Australia.
Poster: *Biodiversity and coral health across natural and artificial reefs in Puerto Rico: an insight to reduce human pressure in natural areas*

March 2018

- **Internship:** Programming for Evolutionary Biology Intensive Workshop in Berlin, Germany

January 2017

- **Internship:** Threatened and Endangered Coral Species at CCMI-Little Cayman Research Center. Coral reef monitoring and restoration workshops.

Sept 2016 - 2018

- **Graduate fellowship:** Puerto Rico's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minorities Participation (PR-LSAMP) Bridge to the Doctorate Program (BDP)

February 2016

- ASLO 2016 – New Orleans, EEUU
Poster: *Abiotic factors affecting the growth & the microbial community in the brown macroalgae Turbinaria ornata in Mo'orea, French Polynesia*

May-August 2015

- **Internship:** The Diversity Project, Pathways to PhD Program: Coral reef algae ecology in Mo'orea, French Polynesia

February 2015

- ASLO 2015- Granada, Spain
Oral presentation: *Factors that influence the composition of resident macrofauna in free-floating Sargassum*

May 2014

- SEA Student Symposium, Woods Hole, MA: **Poster:** *Floating Sargassum seaweed & its resident macrofauna.*
- **Oral presentation:** *Proposal for a Convention for Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea*

Feb - May 2014

- **Internship:** Marine Biodiversity & Conservation program: Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, MA. Oceanographic research aboard the SSV *Corwith Cramer*.

Aug - Dec 2013

- **Internship:** Duke Marine Lab's Marine Science & Conservation Scholarship Program for Fall Term 2013, Beaufort, NC

August 2013

- 98th ESA Meeting-Minneapolis, MN: **Poster:** *An intertidal anemone selectively expel less tolerant symbionts in order to cope with environmental stress*

April 2013

- PERS meeting in Tsawwassen, Canada: **Poster:** *Initial insight on symbiont drift in an intertidal sea anemone*

March 2013

- NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, WA: **Oral presentation:** *Drift of the symbiotic algae population on the intertidal anemone Anthopleura elegantissima*

February 2013

- ASLO 2013-New Orleans, EEUU: **Poster:** *Short-term changes of the planktonic community at "Laguna Grande", Puerto Rico at the onset of the rainy season*

Jan - Jun 2013

- **Internship:** Multicultural Initiative in the Marine Sciences Program (MIMSUP) in Anacortes, WA

Summer 2010

- **Internship:** Nesting & in-water censuses of the hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) & green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) at the natural reserve of Isla de Mona, PR