

Curriculum Vitae

Bobbie Lynn Renfro

Florida State University, Department of Biological Sciences
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EDUCATION

Florida State University

Doctor of Philosophy in Biology, anticipated 2024
Major Professor: Janie Wulff, PhD | Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Auburn University

Master of Science in Biology, Focused in Marine Ecology, 2016
Major Professor: Nanette Chadwick, PhD | Cumulative GPA: 4.0

The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Science in Biology, Focused in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, 2013
Cumulative GPA: 3.64

CAREER INTERESTS

Continued research, teaching, and outreach related to tropical marine ecology, anthropogenic disturbance, and conservation. Specific interests in Caribbean coral reef sponge assemblages.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Soaking It In: Species-Specific Effects of Anthropogenic Nutrient Enrichment on Caribbean Coral Reef Sponges

Florida State University Department of Biological Science Doctoral Dissertation Project
Major Professor: Janie Wulff, PhD

A Sticky Situation: Sponge Transplants as a Natural Adhesive Stabilizing Coral Rubble for Restoration

Collaboration with Islamorada Conservation and Education Restoration (I.CARE) non-profit organization
I.CARE Co-Founders: Kylie Smith, PhD and Mike Goldberg

MASTER OF SCIENCE THESIS

Impacts of diving tourists on coral reef community structure and herbivorous reef fish foraging behavior

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Auburn University Department of Biological Science
Major Professor: Nanette Chadwick, PhD
Available at: <http://etd.auburn.edu/handle/10415/5263>

FUNDING & HONORS

2022	PADI Foundation Grant
2022	Smithsonian Tropical Research Inst. Short Term Fellowship \$5600
2022	FSU CRE Undergraduate Research Mentor Award \$500
2022	Nominated for the FSU Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
2022	American Academy of Underwater Sciences Kevin Flanagan Travel Award \$800
2021	Mote Protect Our Reefs Grant (awarded in collaboration with I.CARE) \$14,905
2021	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Mentor Materials Grant \$250
2021	Nominated for the FSU Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
2021	Nominated as an FSU CRE Featured UROP Research Mentor
2021	William R. and Lenore Mote Eminent Scholar in Marine Biology RA \$14,038
2020	American Academy of Underwater Sciences Doctoral Scholarship \$1500
2020	Nominated for FSU UROP Mentorship Award
2020	Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Mentor Materials Grant \$250
2019	Horace Loftin Endowment for work in Panama \$1000
2019	William R. and Lenore Mote Eminent Scholar in Marine Biology RA \$14,038
2019	Smithsonian Tropical Research Inst. Post-Taxonomy-Course fellowship \$3500
2019	Gumbo Limbo Nature Center Gordon J Gilbert Grant \$2500
2019	International Women’s Fishing Assoc. Graduate Research Grant \$2000
2019	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Taxonomy Course Fellowship ~\$1000
2019	Nominated for the FSU Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award
2018	William R. and Lenore Mote Eminent Scholar in Marine Biology RA \$14,038
2018	Robert B Short Zoology Scholarship for field course \$1000
2018	Florida State University Dean’s Scholarship \$1000
2015	Graduate Student Thesis/Dissertation Fellowship \$500
2015	International Women’s Fishing Assoc. Ryan Kelley Scholarship \$2000
2015	Dauphine Island Sea Lab Graduate Student Symposium Travel Grant \$100
2013	Beal/Gurevitz Marine Botany Scholarship \$525
2011	Global Medical Training: Dominican Republic Scholarship \$330
2011	Global Medical Training: Kaplan Scholarship \$2000
2011	Acceptance into Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society
2010	Laurence Baker Memorial Scholarship \$1000
2010 – 2013	College of Natural Sciences Honors
2010 – 2013	University Honors
2009 – 2010	State of Texas Top 10% Scholarship \$1000 per year
2009	Acceptance into Freshman Research Initiative

PUBLICATIONS

2020 **Renfro, B.** Public knowledge and coral reef conservation: a lesson from the COVID-19 pandemic. Reef Encounters; 35(1): 79. (correspondence of opinion)

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- 2017 **Renfro, B.**, Chadwick, N. E. Benthic community structure on coral reefs exposed to intensive recreational snorkeling. Plos One; 12: e0184175.
- 2015 Gil, M.A., **Renfro, B.**, Figueroa-Zavala, B., Penié, I., and Dunton, K.H. Rapid tourism growth and declining coral reefs in Akumal, Mexico. Marine Biology;162: 2225–2233.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Mote Protect Our Reefs Grants Program
Kylie Smith and Bobbie Renfro. A Sticky Situation: Sponge Transplants as a Natural Adhesive Stabilizing Coral Rubble for Restoration.
- 2022 American Academy of Underwater Sciences Symposium
Bobbie Renfro. The Effects of Anthropogenic Nutrient Enrichment of the Standing Biomass and Growth of Coral Reef Sponges at the Species Level.
*Won Best Student Talk (\$300)
- 2021 Islamorada Conservation and Restoration Education (I.CARE)
Bobbie Renfro, I.CARE Staff, Sarah Smith. Sponge Ecology, Reef Restoration, and Transplant Training.
*Presented 5 times to members of the Florida Keys recreational diving community
- 2021 Florida State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster)
Sarah Smith, **Bobbie Renfro**. The Cultivation of the Caribbean Reef Sponge *Aplysina fulva* in a Closed System.
*My mentee presented this poster
- 2020 Florida State University Undergraduate Research Symposium (poster)
Deborah Olivier, **Bobbie Renfro**. Examination of *Amphimedon compressa* as a Complex of Cryptic Sponge Species.
*My mentee presented this poster
- 2019 & 2020 Invited speaker: FSU Marine Biology course
- 2019 Invited speaker: FSU SEEDS undergraduate chapter
- 2019 Gumbo Limbo Nature Center Gordon J. Gilbert Grant Competition Talk.
- 2017 Invited speaker for series: Learning Community in Marine Biology at Auburn University.
- 2016 Auburn University “This is Research” Student Symposium
Bobbie Renfro, Nanette Chadwick. Can We Swim with the Fishes? Impacts of Tourism on Macroalgal Grazing Behavior by Coral Reef Fishes.
*Won 2nd Place Best Graduate Student STEM Field Talk (\$500)
- 2016 Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference

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Bobbie Renfro, Nanette Chadwick. Can We Swim with the Fishes? Impacts of Tourism on Macroalgal Grazing Behavior by Coral Reef Fishes
*Won 3rd Place Best Talk (\$50)

2015 Dauphin Island Sea Lab Graduate Student Symposium
Bobbie Renfro, Ken Dunton, Nanette Chadwick. Coral Reefs: Tourism’s Fragile Playground—An examination of declining coral reefs in an area of growing coastal tourism
*Won ‘Student’s Choice Best Presentation’ (\$100)

2015 Auburn University This is Research Student Symposium (poster)
Bobbie Renfro, Ken Dunton, Nanette Chadwick. Coral Reefs: Tourism’s Fragile Playground—An examination of declining coral reefs in an area of growing coastal tourism

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 – 2021 **Communications Committee Web Designer**
Graduate Assistants United: Florida State University Chapter

2017 – 2018 **Environmental Educator**
Austin Nature and Science Center, Austin, TX

2017 – 2018 **PADI SCUBA Instructor and Web Designer**
Sugar Land Diver Center, Sugar Land, TX

2017 **Marine Scientist and SCUBA Instructor**
Global Expeditions Group, Sea|mester, Sarasotta, FL/British Virgin Islands

2017 **Dive Master and Instructor Development Course Intern**
Subway Watersports, IDC Instructor: Phil Hetherington

2014 **Surface Water Biology Intern**
City of Austin Watershed Protection Department
Mentor: Andrew Clamann, M.Sc.
Media Coverage: front page story of Austin American Statesman for E. coli Geographic Source Isolation

2013 **Laboratory Technician (seagrass monitoring project)**
University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute, Port Aransas, TX
Primary Investigator: Ken Dunton, PhD

TEACHING

Introduction to Scientific Diving

Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory Academic Dive Program
Dive Instructor and Teaching Assistant: Spring 2021, Spring 2022

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Biology II Laboratory

Florida State University

Teaching Assistant – Fall 2018, Fall 2020

Lead “Honcho” Teaching Assistant: Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2021

Responsibilities: As Honcho TA I taught and coordinated a minimum of 11 Teaching Assistants and managed the course content for a minimum of 500 students. I also co-lead the transition of this course to online format during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

K-12 Science and Nature Experiential Learning Courses

Austin Nature and Science Center, Austin, TX

Environmental Educator: 2017 – 2018

Study Abroad: Oceanography

Sea|mester, accredited by University of South Florida

Marine Science Lecturer and Dive Instructor: 2017

Study Abroad: Coral Reef Sustainability in Mexico

Auburn University

Teaching Assistant and Course Co-Designer: Summer 2016

Honors Organismal Biology Laboratory

Auburn University

Teaching Assistant: Spring 2015

Honors/Regular: Principles of Biology Laboratory

Auburn University

Teaching Assistant: Fall 2014, Fall 2015

Ecology Laboratory

Auburn University

Teaching Assistant: Spring 2015

MENTORING

2021 *Remi Ventura* – FSU Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)
Project: Improving Sponge Aquaculture

2021 *Sydney Grzep* – Sponge restoration assistant

2020 – 2021 *Allison Grula* – FSU Undergraduate Research Assistant
Project: Methods of Marine Sponge Measurement

2020 – 2021 *Sydney Jansen* – FSU Undergraduate Research Assistant
Project: Methods of marine sponge measurement

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- 2020 – 2021 *Stasia Pietraszun* – FSU Directed Independent Study (DIS)
Project: Clay sponge models to demonstrate the influence of morphology on size
- 2020 – 2021 *Clydyll Dee Uyan* – FSU Undergraduate Research Assistant
Project: Methods of Marine Sponge Measurement
- 2020 – 2021 *Josh Cohen* – FSU Undergraduate Research Assistant
Project: Methods of Marine Sponge Measurement
- 2020 – 2021 *Sarah Smith* – FSU Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)
Project: Sponge aquaculture
- 2019 – 2021 *Deborah Olivier* – FSU Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)
& FSU Directed Independent Study (DIS)
Project: Morphological analysis of cryptic sponge species
- 2019 *Miguel Ortiz* – FSU Directed Independent Study
Project: Spicule microscopy & Water quality sampling in the Florida Keys
- 2019 *Cassia Foley* – McGill University BESS Program Intern
Project: distribution of *Palythoa caribaeorum*
- 2019 *Isabelle Basden* – FSU Undergraduate Research Assistant
Project: Florida Keys fieldwork in coral reef ecological monitoring

TRAINING & SKILLS

- FSU Program for Instructional Excellence Workshops:**
- 02/08/21 Creating a Diversity Statement
- 02/05/21 How to Create a Teaching Portfolio
- 06/22/20 Educational Media for Online Learning
- 06/19/20 **Summer Institute on Education, Equity, and Justice**
Attended this Virtual Conference at the American University School of Education
- 2019 **Understanding Basal Metazoan Relationships: Sponge Course**
Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
- Since 2018 **AAUS Scientific Diver**
- Since 2017 **PADI SCUBA Instructor**
Teaching specialties: Deep, Fish ID, Night, Emergency Oxygen, Enriched Air Nitrox, Emergency First Responder
- 2022 Awarded PADI 50 Level Elite Instructor Award

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Since 2017 **International Yacht Training**
International Certificate of Competency, earned aboard 89' schooner

2017 **Very High Frequency Radio Operator**

Since 2017 **Boat work**
Drive/dock dinghy
Dive guide/skipper dive boat
Tall ship/sailing yacht 3 months experience
BoatUS Florida Certified

OUTREACH & ORGANIZATIONS

2022 **History of Diving Museum in Islamorada, FL, USA: Sponge Hunters Exhibit**
Contributed sponge ecology information to the exhibit and was listed on the exhibit's contributors panel

2022 **Scientist in Every Florida School: Volunteer virtual teacher**
Taught evolution virtually to Florida K-12 students

2021 **SciGirls Summer Camp**
Invited Scientist for Florida Keys Marine Biology & Neutral Buoyancy Lab

2021 **Tallahassee Community College International Day of Women and Girls in Science virtual event "Stories in STEM: Changing the Narrative"**
Served as a Graduate Peer Mentor

2020 – present **Graduate Assistants United: Communication Committee Web Designer**
Florida State University Chapter

2020 – present **International Coral Reef Society Student Committee: Blog Post Coordinator**
Hosted Science Communications webinar: 2020

2020 **Florida Ocean Day: Represented Florida Ocean Alliance**
Florida State Capital

2020, 2022 **Tallahassee Regional Science Fair: Volunteer Judge**

2018, 2019 **Tallahassee Science Festival Booth**

2019 – 2020 **FSU AAUS Scientific Diver Workshop: Volunteer SCUBA Mentor**
Florida State University, Tallahassee Florida

2019 – present **Florida State University Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program: Biology Mentor**

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- 2018 – present **Ecology and Evolution Research Discussion Group**
Florida State University, Tallahassee Florida
Served as Social Media Coordinator and Historian: 2020 – 2021
Served as Outreach Coordinating Officer: 2019 – 2020
- 2014 – 2016 **Auburn Biological Sciences Graduate Student Association**
Auburn University, Auburn Alabama
Served as Secretary 2015 - 2016
- May 2015 **AU Explore Event Coordinator**
Auburn University, Auburn Alabama
- 2015 – 2016 **Science Olympiad ‘Green Generation’ Event Coordinator**
Auburn University, Auburn Alabama
- 2015 **Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center Volunteer**
Auburn University, Auburn Alabama
- 2014 **Endangered *Eurycea sosorum* Salamander Habitat Cleanup Volunteer**
City of Austin Department of Watershed Protection, Austin, TX
- 2010 – 2013 **Global Medical Training Trip Leader & Fundraising Coordinator**
University of Texas at Austin
Dominican Republic: March 2011
Panama: August 2012

MEDIA FEATURES

- 2022 FSU Office of Graduate Fellowship and Awards “Rockstar Graduate Student Profile”:
<https://ogfa.fsu.edu/graduate/bobbie-renfro>
- 2021 Featured on FSU Arts and Sciences Student Spotlights. Interview by undergraduate Chase Clough: <https://artsandsciences.fsu.edu/article/student-spotlight-bobbie-renfro>
- 2021 Featured on FSU Costal and Marine Lab webpage “Who Works on the Coral Reefs Down in the Keys... SpongeBOBBIE Renfro!”
<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/news-at-fsucml/who-works-on-the-coral-reefs-down-in-the-keys-spongebobbie-renfro/>
- 2021 Interviewed by Tiffany Duong for Keys Weekly newspaper
“Sponge Bob(bie) Restores the Reef”
<https://keysweekly.com/42/sponge-bobbie-restores-the-reef/>
- 2021 Interviewed by Tiffany Duong for EcoWatch

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“Meet 'Sponge Bobbie,' the Marine Biologist Using Sponges to Save Coral Reefs”
<https://www.ecowatch.com/coral-reef-conservation-sponges-2655063655.html>

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

- 2013 **The Effects of Tourism on Coral Reefs**
University of Texas at Austin – Akumal, Mexico Maymester Program
Guiding Professor: Ken Dunton, PhD
(Resulted in publication see Gil et al. 2015 above)
- 2010 **Vertebrate Interactome Mapping Research Stream**
University of Texas at Austin – Freshman Research Initiative program
- 2010 **Fish Community and Water Quality**
University of Texas at Austin – Freshman Research Initiative program

SOCIETIES

- Since 2020 **American Academy of Underwater Sciences**
Since 2020 **National Society of Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi)**
Since 2019 **International Coral Reef Society**
Since 2018 **National Association for Interpretation**
Since 2017 **Professional Association of Diving Instructors**
Since 2015 **American Society of Naturalists**
Since 2014 **Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology**
Since 2011 **Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society (University of Texas & Auburn Chapters)**