

Michelle Curtis

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Education

Year	School	Degree	GPA
2016-Present	University of Alabama at Birmingham	PhD	
2012-2015	Florida Institute of Technology	MS Marine Biology	4.0
Thesis: Development and morphology of ciliary urns in the sea cucumber <i>Synaptula hydriformis</i> (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea)			
Graduate Advisor: Dr. Richard L. Turner			
2010-2012	Richard Stockton College of New Jersey	BS Marine Science	3.92
2007-2010	San Jacinto College	AA General Studies	3.14

Academic Honors and Awards:

Outstanding graduate student award – Florida Institute of Technology

7th North American Echinoderm Conference student scholarship

Magna Cum Laude – Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Program Distinction – Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Mead Holm Scholarship Award – Art Park Theatre – Parks and Recreation Department, City of Deer Park, Tx.

Publications

Landau M, Curtis M, Reiley S. 2013. A Note on the distribution of some sponges and corals in a seagrass bed. *Gulf of Mexico Science* (1-2):67-73.

Curtis MD, Connelly PW, Turner RL. Morphology of chitinous bristles of the eastern surf chiton, *Ceratozonia squalida* [abstract]. *Florida Scientist* 77(1):39.

Invited Presentations

Curtis MD, Turner RL. 2015. Development and morphology of ciliary urns in the sea cucumber *Synaptula hydriformis* (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea). Biological Sciences Seminar Series. University of Saint Frances. Fort Wayne, In.

Curtis MD, Connelly PW. 2013. Morphology of chitinous bristles of the eastern surf chiton, *Ceratozonia squalida*. Biological Sciences Seminar Series. Florida Institute of Technology. Melbourne, Fl.

Presentations

Curtis MD, Turner RL. 2016. Development and morphology of ciliary urns in the sea cucumber *Synaptula hydriformis* (Echinodermata: Holothuroidea). Florida Academy of Sciences 2016 Meeting.

Curtis MD, Connelly PW, Turner RL. 2013. Morphology of chitinous bristles of the eastern surf chiton, *Ceratozona squalida*. Florida Academy of Sciences 2014 Meeting. Indian River State College. Fort Pierce, FL.

Landau M, **Curtis M**, Reiley S. Spring 2012. Distribution of three sponges in a Florida seagrass bed Poster Day. Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, Galloway, NJ.

Landau M, **Curtis M**, Reiley S. 2012. Distribution of three sponges in a Florida seagrass bed. Annual Meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. Charleston, SC.

Academic and scientific societies

Year	Overview
2015	Sigma Xi
2015	The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi
2015	Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society

Professional and Research Experience

Year	Overview
2015	Laboratory TA -
2015	Animal compliance assistant – Florida Institute of Technology
2013-2015	Histological examination of ciliary urns in the sea cucumber, <i>Synaptula hydriformis</i>
2013-2015	Aquaculture laboratory manager – Florida Institute of Technology
2013	Morphological and histological examination of chiton bristles via scanning electron microscopy
2013	Sea scallop survey – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries Service – Ecosystems Surveys Branch
2013	Biological technician I job position – Integrated Statistics – annotating images for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries Service – Ecosystems Surveys Branch
2011-2012	Spatial distribution of several coral and sponge species in a seagrass bed in southern Florida via transect methods and statistical analysis

Field Methods:

Operation of Wood's Hole Oceanographic Institution's habitat camera sea sled; seining; transects; trawling; cast netting; water quality monitoring; forked, total and standard length fish measurements; native fish and plant identification; reading of topographic maps; scallop sexing and gonad removal

Laboratory and Microscopy Methods:

Scanning electron microscopy; critical point drying; brightfield microscopy; plastic embedding; ultramicrotome sectioning; scanning laser confocal microscopy; image annotation; plankton identification; histological and fluorescent staining

Teaching Experience

Year	Experience
2015	Teaching Assistant for Environmental Science– Native tree and freshwater invertebrate ID, biotic index calculations, composting and soil examination
2013-2015	Teaching Assistant for Marine Biology – Native flora and fauna identification of marine, coastal, and Indian River Lagoon habitats, cast netting, plankton ID, sein netting.
2012	Teaching Assistant for Tropical Marine Biology – Native and invasive flora and fauna identification for estuarine, terrestrial, and marine environments of Florida Keys coral reefs, seagrass beds, and the Everglades. Assisting in organization of class and trip activities for a field course.

Volunteer Experience

Year	Work
2015	Lagoon Fest
2014–2015	Youth Making Ripples Film Competition
2013	Beneath the Waves Film Competition
2013	Sea scallop survey – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries Service – Ecosystems Surveys Branch
2010–2011	Campus Cleanup
2010	Beach Sweep

Certifications

Year	Certification
2011	Underwater Naturalist
2010	Open Water Diver
2010	Emergency First Responder – CPR & First Aid