First-Year Graduate Students -- Fall 2009

Lydia Baker

B – Paul Kemp

When I entered the UCB I had a general interest in microbiology, but I quickly became fascinated by the study of microalgae after taking Biology of Algae with Dr. Nyogi. After graduating, I was a tech and manager for a plant pathology lab that specialized in molecular diagnostic of an organism closely related to brown algae. At UHM I intend to study algal populations to better understand how their community structures and diversity relate to the sensitivity of those populations to the changing environment.

Christina Comfort

B – Kevin Weng/Frank Sansone

As part of the National Marine Renewable Energy project, my adviser Dr. Kevin Weng and I will be looking at the ecological impacts of wave energy and ocean thermal energy conversion structures. It will encompass a broad range of topics including fish aggregation, effects on fish and elasmobranch behavior, effects on marine mammals and seabirds including entanglement issues, and fouling communities on the structures

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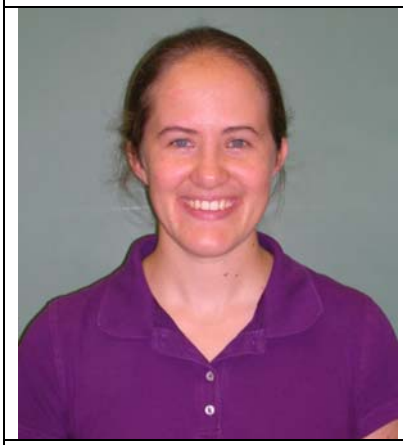

Sarah Eggleston

GC – David Ho

I am interested in air-sea gas exchange and specifically the effect of rain and wind on the gas transfer velocity of CO_2.

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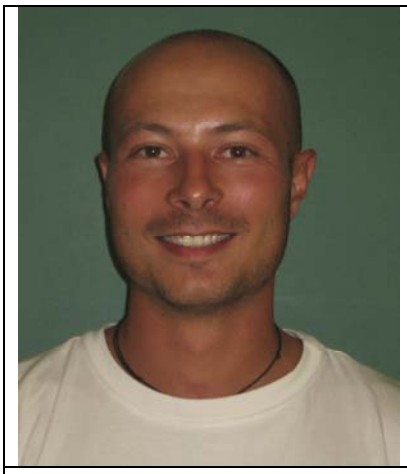

Giacomo (Giaco) Giorli

B – Whitlow Au

My research interest focuses on using underwater acoustical devices for marine mammals monitoring.

Abby Johnson

P – Brian Powell

My research interests involve using modeling to help predict how our climate will change in the future and what policy should be implemented due to the predictions.

Christopher (Chris) Jury

B – Rob Toonen

My research will focus on the physiological processes involved in coral calcification and especially how ocean acidification and other environmental factors may affect those processes. In addition, I intend to investigate the potential for acclimation or adaptation among corals in the face of ocean acidification.

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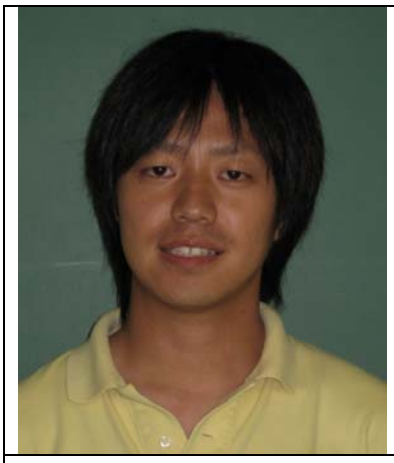
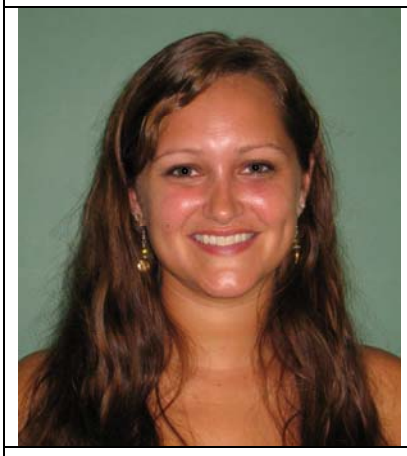


Yoshimu Kusumoto

P – Bo Qiu

Yoshimu Kusumoto looking at Decadal Variability of the North Pacific Subarctic Circulation with using the combination of satellites and *in situ* equipment data.



Jaclyn Mueller

B – Grieg Steward

I am interested in using molecular techniques to study the diversity and ecology of marine RNA viruses; as well as their affects on bacteria, archaea, and other microorganisms.

Arisa Okazaki

GC – David Ho

I am interested in the broad field of marine biogeochemistry with an emphasis on global environmental change.

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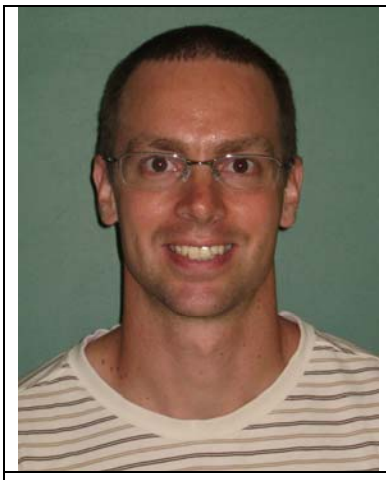


Christopher (Chris) Schvarcz

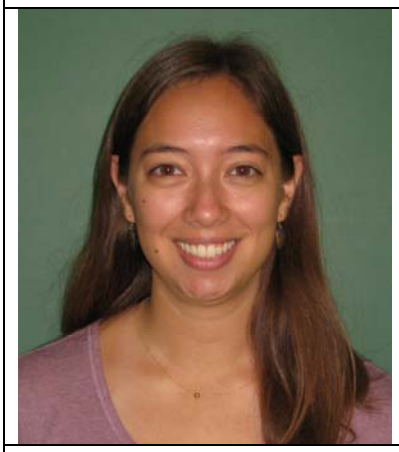
B – Grieg Steward

I am broadly interested in the ecology and diversity of marine microbes and their role in oceanic food webs and nutrient cycling. More particularly, I am interested in the affects of marine viruses on plankton communities (e.g. mortality rates, virus-host interactions, co-evolution).

Joy (Leilei) Shih

GC – Eric De Carlo

I am interested in air-sea CO_2 flux and ocean acidification. Anthropogenic activities can directly and indirectly alter the composition of nearshore waters, leading to changes and even direction of CO_2 fluxes. A resulting decrease in pH could lead to increased dissolution in calcifying organisms and carbonate structures, and I have great interest in how biogeochemical and physical processes may affect the coral reef ecosystem.



Katharine (Katie) Smith

P – Mark Merrifield

I am interested in the observation and modeling of physical-biological interactions in marine systems. In particular, my research will investigate some of the roles hydrodynamics plays in coral reef ecosystems.

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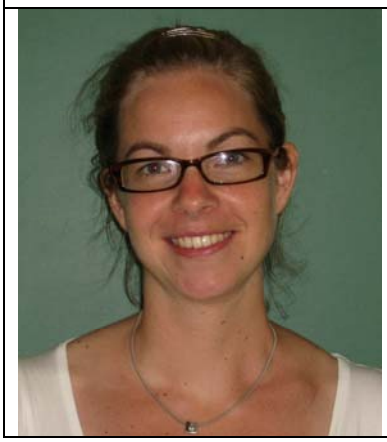
Natalie Wallsgrove

B – Brian Popp

I will be investigating the biomagnification of the neurotoxins ciguatoxin (CTX) and β-N-methylamino-L-alanine (BMAA) in Hawaiian coral reef ecosystems using nitrogen and carbon stable isotope methods. My role in the project will be to determine the trophic level of organisms sampled from near shore reefs in relation to their CTX and BMAA concentrations.



Johanna Wren

B – Rob Toonen

I am interested in population ecology, more specifically connectivity and larval dispersal and how these patterns are effected by climate change. I am also interested in the design and management of marine reserves, and would like to combine the two areas in order to get a clearer picture of what climate change does on population level and what is needed to better protect populations at risk.