

Daniel Isaac Speiser

Department of Biological Sciences
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC, USA 29208

Email: speiser@mailbox.sc.edu
Tel: (803) 777- 6597
www.speiserlab.com

EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D., Biology
Duke University, Durham, NC (advisor: Sönke Johnsen)
- 2003 B.A., Biology
Carleton College, Northfield, MN

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2014-present **Assistant Professor**
Department of Biological Sciences, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA
- Spring 2014 **Assistant Research Specialist**
Marine Science Institute, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
- 2011-13 **Post-doctoral Fellow**
Marine Science Institute, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, CA, USA
- Fall 2010 **Instructor**
Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences, NC State Univ., Raleigh, NC, USA

FUNDED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROPOSALS

- 2016-17 ASPIRE Proposal # 13010-16-41857 "Neurobiology of a dispersed visual system: How do chitons (Mollusca; Polyplacophora) process the images gathered by their hundreds of eyes?" **PI: Daniel Speiser (University of South Carolina)**, Co-PI: Fabienne Poulain (USC); **\$15,000 awarded to PI Speiser at USC.**
- 2015-18 NSF IOS Award #1457148 "Collaborative Research: Evolutionary Origins of Chiton Shell-eyes: Integrating Structure, Function, and Gene Expression within a Phylogenetic Context." **PI: Daniel Speiser (University of South Carolina)**, Co-PI Todd Oakley (UC Santa Barbara). Amounts awarded: **\$454,624 to PI Speiser at USC**, \$162,969 to Co-PI Oakley at UCSB.
- 2014-17 NSF DEB Award #1354831 "RUI: Collaborative Research: Timing and Molecular Origins of Recently Evolved Chiton Shell-Eyes: Phylogenomics of Chitonina." **PI: Doug Eernisse (CSU-Fullerton)**, Co-PI: Todd Oakley (UC Santa Barbara), **Co-PI: Daniel Speiser (University of South Carolina)**. ~\$350,000 awarded to Co-PIs Oakley and Speiser, ~\$750,000 awarded in total.

FUNDING AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2007 Sigma Xi Grant-in-Aid of Research -- \$400
- 2007 Student Travel Award for the 2007 World Congress of Malacology -- \$1,000
- 2006-09 National Science Foundation Graduate Student Research Fellowship. ~\$120,000.
- 2005 Student Support for a summer course at Friday Harbor Marine Lab -- \$1,500
- 2004-07 James B. Duke Fellowship, Biology Department, Duke University -- \$20,000

PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 Kingston, A.C, D.R. Chappell, H.V. Miller, S.J. Lee, and **D.I. Speiser**. Expression of G Proteins in the Eyes and Parietovisceral Ganglion of the Bay Scallop *Argopecten irradians*. *The Biological Bulletin*, 233(1): 83-95. DOI: 10.1086/694448
- 2017 Ramirez, M.D, A.N. Pairett, M.S. Pankey, J.M. Serb, **D.I. Speiser**, A.J. Swafford, and T.H. Oakley. The Last Common Ancestor of Most Bilaterian Animals Possessed at Least Nine Opsins. *Genome Biology and Evolution* 8(12): 3640-3652. DOI: 10.1093/gbe/evw248
- 2017 Williams, S. T, A.E. Lockyer, P. Dyal, T. Nakano, C.K. Churchill, and **D.I. Speiser**. Colorful seashells: Identification of haem pathway genes associated with the synthesis of porphyrin shell color in marine snails. *Ecology and Evolution*, 7(23): 10379-10397. DOI:10.1002/ece3.3552
- 2016 **Speiser, D.I**, Y.L. Gagnon, R.K. Chhetri, A.L. Oldenburg, and S. Johnsen (2016). Examining the Effects of Chromatic Aberration, Object Distance, and Eye Shape on Image-Formation in the Mirror-Based Eyes of the Bay Scallop *Argopecten irradians*. *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 56(5): 796-808. DOI: 10.1093/icb/icw099
- 2016 **Speiser, D.I**, and L.A. Wilkins (2016). Neurobiology and behaviour of the scallop. In book: *Scallops: Biology, Ecology, Aquaculture, and Fisheries* 3rd Edition, eds. S.E. Shumway and G.J. Parsons. Elsevier Science, pp. 219-251.
- 2016 Williams, S.T, S. Ito, K. Wakamatsu, T. Goral, N.P. Edwards, R. A. Wogelius, T. Henkel, L.F.C. de Oliveira, L.F. Maia, S. Strekopytov, T. Jeffries, **D.I. Speiser**, and J.T. Marsden (2016). Identification of Shell Colour Pigments in Marine Snails *Clanculus pharaonius* and *C. margaritarius* (Trochoidea; Gastropoda). *PLoS ONE* 11(7): e0156664. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0156664
- 2015 Li, L, M.J. Connors, M. Kolle, G.T. England, **D.I. Speiser**, X. Xiao, J. Aizenberg, and C. Ortiz (2015). Multifunctionality of chiton biomineralized armor with an integrated visual system. *Science* 350(6263): 952-956. DOI: 10.1126/science.aad1246
- 2015 Stahl, B.A, J.B. Gross, **D.I. Speiser**, T.H. Oakley, N.H. Patel, D.B. Gould, and M.E. Protas (2015). A Transcriptomic Analysis of Cave, Surface, and Hybrid Isopod Crustaceans of the Species *Asellus aquaticus*. *PLoS ONE* 10(10): e0140484. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0140484

- 2015 Oakley, T.H. and **D.I. Speiser** (2015). How Complexity Originates: The Evolution of Animal Eyes. *Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics* 46: 237-260. DOI: 10.1146/annurev-ecolsys-110512-135907
- 2015 Battelle, B.A., K.E. Kempler, S.R. Saraf, C.E. Marten, D.R. Dugger, **D.I. Speiser**, and T.H. Oakley (2015). Opsins in *Limulus* eyes: characterization of three visible light-sensitive opsins unique to and co-expressed in median eye photoreceptors and a peropsin/RGR that is expressed in all eyes. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 218: 466-479. DOI: 10.1242/jeb.116087.
- 2014 **Speiser, D.I.**, M.S. Pankey, A.K. Zaharoff, B.A Battelle, H.D. Bracken-Grissom, J.W. Breinholt, S.M. Bybee, T.W. Cronin, A. Garm, A.R. Lindgren, N.H. Patel, M.L. Porter, M.E. Protas, A.S. Rivera, J.M. Serb, K.S. Zigler, K.A. Crandall, and T.H. Oakley (2014). Using phylogenetically-informed annotation (PIA) to search for light-interacting genes in transcriptomes from non-model organisms. *BMC Bioinformatics* 15: 350. DOI: 10.1186/s12859-014-0350-x.
- 2014 **Speiser, D.I.**, D.G. DeMartini, and T.H. Oakley (2014). The shell-eyes of the chiton *Acanthopleura granulata* (Mollusca, Polyplacophora) use pheomelanin as a screening pigment. *Journal of Natural History* 48: 2899-2911. DOI: 10.1080/00222933.2014.959572.
- 2014 Gagnon, Y.L, **D.I. Speiser**, and S. Johnsen (2014). Simplifying numerical ray-tracing for characterisation of optical systems. *Applied Optics* 53: 4784-4790. DOI: 10.1364/AO.53.004784.
- 2013 Brandley, N.C, **D.I. Speiser**, and S. Johnsen (2013). Eavesdropping on visual secrets. *Evolutionary Ecology* 27: 1045-1068. DOI: 10.1007/s10682-013-9656-9.
- 2013 Porter, M.L, **D.I. Speiser**, A.K. Zaharoff, R.L. Caldwell, T.W. Cronin and T.H. Oakley (2013). The evolution of complexity in the visual systems of stomatopods: Insights from transcriptomics. *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 53: 39-49. DOI: 10.1093/icb/ict060.
- 2013 **Speiser, D.I.**, R.I. Lampe, V.R. Lovdahl, B. Carrillo-Zazueta, A.S. Rivera and T.H. Oakley (2013). Evasion of predators contributes to the maintenance of male eyes in dimorphic *Euphilomedes* ostracods (Crustacea). *Integrative and Comparative Biology* 53: 78-88. DOI: 10.1093/icb/ict025.
- 2011 Ramirez, M.D, **D.I. Speiser**, M.S. Pankey, and T.H. Oakley (2011). Understanding the dermal light sense in the context of integrative photoreceptor cell biology. *Visual Neuroscience* 28: 265-279. DOI: 10.1017/S0952523811000150.
- 2011 **Speiser, D.I.**, D. Eernisse, and S. Johnsen (2011). A chiton uses aragonite lenses to form images. *Current Biology* 21: 665-670. DOI: 10.1016/j.cub.2011.03.033.

- 2011 **Speiser, D.I.**, E.R. Loew, and S. Johnsen (2011). Spectral sensitivity of the concave mirror eyes of scallops: Potential influences of habitat, self-screening and longitudinal chromatic aberration. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 214: 422-431. DOI: 10.1242/jeb.048108.
- 2008 **Speiser, D.I.**, and S. Johnsen (2008). Comparative morphology of the concave mirror eyes of scallops (Pectinoidea). *American Malacological Bulletin* 26: 27-34. DOI: 10.4003/006.026.0204.
- 2008 **Speiser, D.I.**, and S. Johnsen (2008). Scallops visually respond to the presence and speed of virtual particles. *Journal of Experimental Biology* 211: 2066-2070. DOI: 10.1242/jeb.017038.

SOCIETY PRESENTATIONS (AS FIRST-AUTHOR)

- 2018 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2017 National Shellfish Association meeting – Knoxville, TN, USA **(invited)**
- 2017 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – New Orleans, USA **(invited)**
- 2016 Southeast Regional SICB meeting, Durham, NC, USA
- 2016 World Congress of Malacology meeting – Penang, Malaysia **(invited)**
- 2016 American Malacological Society Annual Meeting – Ensenada, Mexico **(invited)**
- 2016 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – Portland, OR, USA **(invited)**
- 2015 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – West Palm Beach, FL, USA
- 2014 Southeast Regional SICB meeting, Chapel Hill, NC, USA
- 2014 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – Austin, TX, USA
- 2013 International Conference on Invertebrate Vision – Backaskög, Sweden
- 2013 World Congress of Malacology meeting – Azores, Portugal **(invited)**
- 2013 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – San Francisco, CA, USA
- 2012 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meeting – Charleston, SC, USA
- 2011 Western Society of Malacology annual meeting – La Paz, Mexico
- 2011 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting – SLC, UT, USA
- 2010 Society for the Study of Evolution annual meeting – Portland, OR, USA
- 2010 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting – Seattle, WA, USA
- 2009 Southeast Regional SICB meeting – Chapel Hill, NC, USA
- 2009 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting – Boston, MA, USA
- 2009 Society for the Study of Evolution annual meeting – Minneapolis, MN, USA
- 2008 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting – San Antonio, TX
- 2007 World Congress of Malacology meeting – Antwerp, Belgium **(invited)**
- 2007 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting – Phoenix, AZ
- 2006 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology annual meeting – Orlando, FL

INVITED WORKSHOPS

- 2017 21st International Pectinid Workshop – Portland, Maine
- 2015 20th International Pectinid Workshop – Galway City, Ireland
- 2014 Workshop on Distributed Sensing, Actuation, and Control for Bio-inspired Soft Robotics; University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA.
- 2013 Emergent Design in Biological and Bioinspired Materials: Beyond the Rule of Mixtures; MIT Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies, Boston, MA.

INVITED SEMINARS

- 2018 Hobcaw Research Symposium, Baruch Institute of Coastal Ecology and Forest Science, Georgetown, SC, USA. Presented on February 9, 2018.
- 2017 Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology seminar series, Iowa State University, Ames, IA. Presented on November 14, 2017. Invited by Assoc. Prof. Jeanne Serb.
- 2017 Department of Biology and Geology seminar series, University of South Carolina, Aiken, SC, USA. Presented on November 3, 2017. Invited by Dr. Kelly Gibson
- 2017 Population Biology Seminar Series, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA. Presented on September 21, 2017. Invited by Julia Notar (graduate student).
- 2017 Fort Johnson Marine Science Seminar Series, Fort Johnson, Charleston, SC, USA. Presented September 15, 2017. Invited by Dr. Peter Kingsley-Smith
- 2017 Symposium on Molluscan Colour and Vision, Natural History Museum, London, England. Presented on April 27, 2017. Invited by Dr. Susan Williams.
- 2017 Biology Department Seminar, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, USA. Presented on April 12, 2017. Invited by Professor Seth Bybee.
- 2016 Evolutionary Morphology Seminar Series, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, USA. Presented on November 17, 2016. Invited by Professor David Jablonski.
- 2016 Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alabama, AL, USA. Presented on October 14, 2016. Invited by Assistant Professor Kevin Kocot.
- 2016 Oregon Institute of Marine Biology, Univ. of Oregon, Charleston, OR, USA. Presented on May 27, 2016. Invited by Assistant Professor George von Dassow.
- 2016 Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS, Canada. Presented on March 10, 2016. Invited by Postdoctoral Fellow Isabelle Tremblay.
- 2015 Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of Florida, Marineland, FL, USA. Presented on December 11, 2015. Invited by Professor Mark Q. Martindale and Postdoctoral Research Associate Leslie Babonis.
- 2015 Marine Sciences Program, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA. Presented on March 27, 2015. Invited by Assistant Professor Howie Scher.
- 2015 School of Medicine, Univ. of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, USA. Presented on March 16, 2015. Invited by Professor Janet Fisher.

- 2015 Department of Biology, Carleton College, Northfield, MN, USA. Presented on March 9, 2015. Invited by Professor Mark McKone.
- 2013 Department of Biological Science, California State Univ., Fullerton, CA, USA. Invited by Professor Doug Eernisse.
- 2011 Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior Seminar, Univ. of Texas, Austin, TX, USA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer reviews of manuscripts have been provided for the following scientific journals:

- 2018 Hydrobiologia, Integrative and Comparative Biology.
- 2017 Biological Bulletin, BMC Biology, BMC Genomics, Hydrobiologia, Integrative and Comparative Biology, Journal of Experimental Biology (2X), Journal of Experimental Zoology Part B, Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences, Science.
- 2016 BMC Evolutionary Biology (2X), JEZ Part B: Molecular and Developmental Evolution, Journal of Molluscan Studies, Marine Biodiversity, Vision Research.
- 2015 BMC Evolutionary Biology, EvoDevo, ICES Journal of Marine Science, Zoologischer Anzeiger, Journal of Molluscan Studies, Marine Biology, Zoomorphology.
- 2014 BMC Evolutionary Biology, Chinese Journal of Oceanology and Limnology, Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology, Journal of Natural History, Journal of Shellfish Research.
- 2010-13 Acta Zoologica, American Malacological Bull., Molecular Biology and Evolution (2X).

Peer reviews of research proposals have been provided for the following scientific journals:

- 2017 National Science Foundation Division of Integrative and Organismal Biology (Ad hoc), South Carolina IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence.
- 2016 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Natural Environment Research Council of the UK (NERC), NSF Division of Environmental Biology (Ad hoc), NSF Division of Integrative and Organismal Biology (Ad hoc).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2018 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 635 **Neurophysiology** (Lecture/Seminar/Lab, 12 students).
- Fall 2017 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 543 **Comparative Physiology** (Lecture, 57 students).
- Spring 2017 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 635 **Neurobiology** (Lecture/Seminar/Lab, 12 students).
- Fall 2016 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 543 **Comparative Physiology** (Lecture, 72 students).

Spring 2016 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 635 **Neurobiology** (Lecture/Seminar/Lab, 12 students).

Fall 2015 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 543 **Comparative Physiology** (Lecture, 66 students).

Spring 2015 Instructor, University of South Carolina, BIOL 543 **Comparative Physiology** (Lecture, 83 students).

Summer 2013 Instructor, Univ. of Calif. Santa Barbara, EEMB 194 **Visual Ecology** (Seminar).

Spring 2013 Reader, Univ. of Calif. Santa Barbara, EEMB 102 **Macroevolution** (Lecture).

Fall 2012 Co-Instructor, Univ. of Calif. Santa Barbara, EEMB 112 **Invertebrate Zoology** (Lecture, ~60 students).

Fall 2010 Instructor, NC State University, MEA 200 **Introduction to Oceanography** (Lecture, ~80 students).

Spring 2006, '10 Teaching Assistant, Duke University, **Principles of Animal Physiology** (Lab).

Summer 2002, '03 Rhetoric Assistant, Carleton College Summer Writing Program.

POSTDOCTORAL MENTEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Alex Kingston Fall 2015-present

GRADUATE MENTEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Daniel Chappell (PhD) Fall 2015 - present

Natalie Sanchez (MS) Fall 2016 - present

Jamie Clark (MS) Fall 2017 - present

UNDERGRADUATE MENTEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Jamie Clark ('17 Biology)	2015-2017	Magellan Award winner (2016)
Olivia Harris ('18 Biology)	2015-present	Magellan Award winner (2017)
Luke Havens ('16, Biology)	2015-16	Magellan Award winner (2015)
Taylor Hollingsworth	2017-present	Magellan Award winner (2017)
Lauren Kunselman ('19 Biology)	2018-present	
Hayley Miller ('17, Biology)	2015-17	Magellan Award winner (2015)
Courtney Rulison ('19, Biology)	2017-present	
Alex Siegfried ('20, Biology)	2017-present	
Caitlin Wolfe ('15, Biology)	2015	

STUDENT COMMITTEES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Trenton Agrelius (MS student, in progress, Dudycha Lab, Dept. of Biology).

Connor Bacon (MS student, in progress, Boggs Lab, Dept. of Biology).

Christopher Brandon (Ph.D. student, graduated, Dudycha Lab, Dept. of Biology).

Taylor Carter (Ph.D. student, in progress, Ely Lab, Dept. of Biology).
 Eilea Knotts (Ph.D. student, in progress, Pinckney Lab, Dept. of Biology).
 Habeeb al-Sudani (Ph.D. student, in progress, Quattro Lab, Dept. of Biology).
 Lindsey Schwartz (Ph.D. student, in progress, Hilbish Lab, Dept. of Biology).
 Keisha Wilson (Ph.D. student, in progress Ely Lab, Dept. of Biology).

STUDENT COMMITTEES AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

John Kirwan (Ph.D. student, in progress, Nilsson Lab, Lund University, Sweden).
 Julia Notar (Ph.D. student, in progress, Johnsen Lab, Duke University, USA).
 Dalton Smedley (Ph.D. student, in progress, Serb Lab, Iowa State University, USA).
 Rebecca Varney (Ph.D. student, in progress, Kocot Lab, University of Alabama, USA).

SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

2018-present	Department of Biological Sciences Hiring Committee .
2018	NeuroNet Presentation March 28. 2018.
2018	Administered Qualifying Exams for 1 st year Evolutionary & Ecological Biology (EEB) graduate students (4/9/18).
2018	Reviewed Magellan Scholar proposals (4/6/18).
2018	Hosted Departmental Speaker: Dr. Melissa Hughes, CoC (4/6/18).
2018	Faculty Search Committee for Population Ecology Candidate.
2018	Nominated for Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.
2017-present	Department of Biological Sciences Curriculum Committee
2017	Guest lecture for MSCI 450 (11/13/17)
2017	Led tours of the EWS seawater lab for SEOE Parent's Day (10/6/17).
2017	Reviewed ASPIRE-I proposals for the Office of the VPR.
2017	Faculty Search Committee for DBER Candidate.
2017	Reviewed Magellan Scholar proposals (3/30/17)
2017	Administered Qualifying Exams for 1 st year Integrative Biology (IB) graduate students (3/22/17).
2017	Lectured for PHPH 740 (2/20/17)
2017	Hosted Departmental Speaker: Dr. Christine Bedore, GSU (1/23/17)
2016	Led tours of the EWS seawater lab for SEOE Parent's Day (9/16/16).
2016-present	Mentor for Carolina and McNair Scholars
2016-present	Faculty adviser for the Graduate Association of Biological Sciences
2016	Guest lectures for MSCI 450 (11/7/16 and 11/9/16).
2016	Led a tour of the EWS seawater lab for SEOE Parent's Day (9/16/16).
2016	Hosted Departmental Speaker: Kevin Kocot, U of Alabama (4/25/16).
2016	Gave a guest lecture for Bert Ely's PREP/IMSD students (2/10/16).

2016	Nominated for a Two Thumbs Up Award at USC (4/15/16)
2016	Nominated for Distinguished Undergraduate Research Mentor Award.
2015-present	Department of Biological Sciences Graduate Studies Committee
2015-present	Department of Biology Undergraduate Awards Committee
2015	Hosted Departmental Speaker: Jeanne Serb, Iowa State (4/13/15)
2015	Helped host Departmental Speaker: Todd Oakley, UCSB (3/23/15)
Fall 2014	Helped organize and lead BIOL 801

OUTREACH AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2017	Interviewed by Carl Zimmer (for the NY Times) and Ed Yong (for The Atlantic) regarding an article about scallop eyes in <i>Science</i> (among other media requests).
2017	Reviewed proposals for the NSF's Spring 2017 Animal Evolution of Developmental Mechanisms Review Panel (March 8-10 in Arlington, VA, USA).
2016-17	Organized and co-edited a virtual symposium for the journal <i>Biological Bulletin</i> on "New insights from genetic datasets on the function and evolution of visual systems" (symposium published August 2017).
2016	Contributed material for an exhibit at The Natural History Museum of London titled "Colour and Vision". http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit/exhibitions/colour-and-vision-exhibition.html
2016	Consulted on an article in Science News titled "Some animals 'see' the world through oddball eyes" (published 5/18/2016, story by Susan Milius).
2016	Consulted on the "Smallest Mollusk Museum" (an outreach and education project by Amanda Schochet).
2016	Consulted on an article about scallops for the children's magazine Scholastic News (article by Laine Falk).
2016	Consulted on an article about chitons for the French magazine Science et Vie Junior.
2016	Contributed to a National Geographic article on eye diversity in invertebrates (published February 2016, story by Ed Yong, photos by David Liittschwager).
2013	Took part in UCSB's Freshman Summer Start Program: EEMB 4FS - Introduction to Research in Life Sciences.
2012	Discussed my research as a guest on the Santa Barbara news radio station KZSB.
2012	Gave a "Science Pub" talk as part of a series organized by the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.
2008-09	Worked with local fishermen on a North Carolina Sea Grant project that explored different methods of scallop aquaculture.
2008-10	Member of the Duke University Science Diving Control Board.

- 2008-09 Active in Carteret County Crossroads, a community conservation network on the North Carolina coast.
- 2006-07 Worked as a science diver to build, maintain, and study artificial reefs in coastal waters near Beaufort, North Carolina.
- 2005 Took part in Operation Deep Scope, a two-week research cruise in the Gulf of Mexico supported by NOAA.
- 2005 Earned a NAUI Research Diver Certification.
- 2004-05 Acted as Graduate Recruiting Coordinator for the Duke Biology Department.