

LOWELL ANDREW ROBLES IPORAC

Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University
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EDUCATION

Florida International University
Ph.D Candidate
3.70 current GPA
2016 - present

California State University, San Bernardino
B.A. Biology
3.80 cumulative GPA
Magna Cum Laude
2012 - 2016

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

Macroalgae-invertebrate interactions, marine macrophytes as habitat-forming organisms and the contribution to community structure in tropical shallow coastal systems. I seek to investigate questions about the characteristics of habitat-forming organisms that govern its suitability as habitat for other organisms, particularly small invertebrate epifauna. I also use this information to create outreach and citizen science programs for the public to increase their environmental literacy and be engaged with scientific work.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Florida International University, Miami FL
Ph.D Student, August 2016 – Present
Adviser: Ligia Collado-Vides, Ph.D

CSU San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA
Independent Researcher January 2015 – August 2016
Adviser: John Skillman, Ph.D

Shannon Point Marine Center, Anacortes, WA
NSF-REU Fellow June 2014 – August 2014
Advisers: Sylvia Yang, Ph.D, and David Shull, Ph.D

CSU San Bernardino, San Bernardino, CA
PRISM Scholar July 2013 – August 2013
Adviser: Sally McGill, Ph.D

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Florida International University, Miami FL
Diversity Representative – FCE-LTER Program and LTER Network
2020 - Present

Florida International University, Miami FL
Communications Manager – SargNet Listserv
2019 – Present

Florida International University, Miami FL
Committee Member – ComSciCon 2019 Organizing Committee
2018 – 2019

PUBLICATIONS

- Iporac, L.A.**, Olszak, S., Burkholder, D. and Collado-Vides, L. Lessons and challenges in piloting “Sargassum Watch,” a citizen science program to monitor Pelagic Sargassum landings in South Florida. Proceedings of the *72nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*. In review
- Collado-Vides, L., Cifuentes P., Bally, N., **Iporac, L.A.**, and Olszak, S. Variability of nutrient tissue content in pelagic *Sargassum* spp. from South Florida compared with global data. Proceedings of the *72nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*. In review

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Iporac, L.** “Macrophytic and epifaunal assemblages between submerged macrophyte habitats in Deering Estate's shallow coastal bay.” *Meeting of Graduate Student Research at the Deering Estate, via Zoom* (May 2020)
- Iporac, L.** “Ecological Interactions between marine macrophytes and small invertebrate epifauna in shallow coastal systems: What we know and what’s next.” *Broward Shell Club Meeting, Pompano Beach* (February 2020)
- Iporac, L.**, Burkholder, D., and Collado-Vides, L. “Lessons and challenges in piloting a citizen science project to monitor pelagic *Sargassum* landings in South Florida.” *72nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (November 2019)
- Collado-Vides, L., Cifuentes, P., Bally, N., **Iporac, L.**, and Olszak, S. “Variability of nutrient and metals tissue content in pelagic *Sargassum* spp. from South Florida compared with global data.” *72nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (November 2019)

- Iporac, L.** and Collado-Vides, L. "Pioneering a citizen science approach to monitor landings of Pelagic *Sargassum*." *73rd Annual Meeting of the Phycological Society of America*, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA (June 2019)
- Iporac, L.**, and Collado-Vides, L. "Using a Functional-Group Approach to Assess Invertebrate and Macroalgal Diversity in Coastal Systems." *Broward Shell Club Meeting*, Pompano Beach (July 2018).
- Iporac, L.** and Skillman, J. "A census of macro algal and epibiont communities in eelgrass beds across California." *Department of Biology Student Research Colloquium* (Dec. 2015)
- Iporac, L.** and Skillman, J. "Effects of temperature on the competitive ability of two invasive grass species (*Bromus tectorum* and *Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*)." *4th Meeting of the Minds Symposium* (May 2015)
- Iporac, L.**, Yang, S. and Shull, D. "The effects of sulfide concentration on the flowering stage of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*)" *Department of Biology Student Research Colloquium* (December 2014)

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

- Olszak, S., **Iporac, L.**, and Collado-Vides, L. Using citizen science photographs and in situ sampling to measure abundance and biomass of *Sargassum* landings. *72nd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute*, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (November 2019)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Olszak, S., and Collado-Vides, L. A citizen science approach to monitor Pelagic *Sargassum* landings in South Florida. *73rd Annual Meeting of the Phycological Society of America*, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA (June 2019)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Vera, M., and Collado-Vides, L. Assessing epifaunal habitat preference in a shallow coastal bay. *73rd Annual Meeting of the Phycological Society of America*, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA (June 2019)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Olszak, S., and Collado-Vides, L. A citizen science approach to monitor Pelagic *Sargassum* landings in South Florida. *Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean 39th Scientific Conference*, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (May 2019)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Vera, M., and Collado-Vides, L. Assessing epifaunal habitat preference in a shallow coastal bay. *Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean 39th Scientific Conference*, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (May 2019)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Vera, M., and Collado-Vides, L. Assessing epifaunal habitat preference in a shallow coastal bay. *4th Year CREST CAChE All-Hands Meeting*, Miami, Florida, USA (March 2019)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Vera, M., and Collado-Vides, L. Assessing epifaunal habitat preference in a shallow coastal bay. *21st Annual FIU Biosymposium*, Miami, Florida, USA (Feb 2019)
- Olszak, S., Saqui, L., Cifuentes, P, **Iporac, L.A.R.**, and Collado-Vides, L. Monitoring program for pelagic *Sargassum* landings in South Florida. *40th Annual Southeastern Phycology Colloquium*, Jacksonville, Florida, USA. (Oct. 2018)

- Iporac, L.A.R.** and Collado-Vides, L. "Does morphology of *Penicillus* spp. affect its usage as invertebrate habitat?" *Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean 38th Scientific Conference* (May 2017)
- Iporac, L.A.R.** and Skillman, J. "An assessment of macroalgal and epibiont communities in eelgrass beds across California." *96th Western Society of Naturalists Conference* (Nov. 2015)
- Iporac, L.A.R.**, Yang, S. and Shull, D. "The effects of sulfide on seed production in eelgrass (*Zostera marina*)." *Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR)* (Nov. 2014)
- Iporac, L.** et al. "PRISM Geology Group: Surveying plate tectonic movement to determine fault slip rate" *Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) Conference* (Oct. 2013)

OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS

- Iporac, L.A.** (2019). *An influx of smelly seaweed is deadly for marine animals in the Caribbean*. Retrieved September 20, 2019, from <https://massivesci.com/notes/seagrass-sargassum-caribbean-harming-marine-life/>
- Iporac, L. A.** (2017). *Pilipin @ Scientists Exist!* Retrieved October 3, 2017, from <https://wearekubo.com/pilipin-scientists-exist-e8535bec2483>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Ecology Lab – Summer 2019
- Ecology Lab – Spring 2019
- Marine Protected Areas Lab (COIL) – Fall 2018
- Ecology Lab – Summer 2018
- Ecology Lab – Spring 2018
- Marine Protected Areas Lab – Fall 2017
- Ecology Lab – Summer 2017
- Ecology Lab – Spring 2017
- Marine Protected Areas Lab – Fall 2016

OUTREACH EXPERIENCE

- Guest Speaker (Zoom): Of seaweeds and sea-bugs: Macrophyte-epifauna interactions in shallow coastal systems. Oral presentation, Bridges Academy, April 2020
- Guest Speaker: Macroalgae and Invertebrates of Deering Estate – BioBlitz Lesson Plan, Deering Estate 2020
- Exhibit Booth: Macroalgae of Deering Estate, Seafood Festival, Deering Estate 2019
- Coordinator: Deering Estate City Nature Challenge – Marine Macroalgae and invertebrate epifauna section, Deering Estate July 2018
- Exhibit Booth: Macroalgae of Deering Estate, Seafood Festival, Deering Estate 2018

Volunteer Presenter: Earth Day Celebration, Sweetwater Elementary School, Part of FCE-LTER Outreach

Exhibit Booth: Macroalgae of Deering Estate, Seafood Festival, Deering Estate 2017

Guest Panelist: Alumni Panel Event, Lubos Pilipino American Student Organization (P.A.S.O), CSUSB

Workshop Planner/Presenter: Effective Scientific Presentation Workshop, In collaboration with: Dr. Dan Nickerson, CSUSB

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- CREST-CAChE Additional Supplies Request (2020)
- CREST-CAChE Travel Support Request (2019)
- FIU Graduate and Professional Student Committee (GPSC) (2019)
- FIU Department of Biology (2019)
- FIU College of Arts, Sciences, and Education (CASE) (2019)
- FIU Tropics RFP (2019)
- CREST-CAChE Fellowship (Fall 2019)
- CREST-CAChE Additional Supplies Request (2018)
- Gumbo Limbo Graduate Grant (nominated as one of finalist) (2018)
- FIU Marine Education and Research Initiative (MERI) Grant (2018)
- Broward Seashell Club Scholarship (2017)
- Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean Travel Award (2017)
- FIU Marine Education and Research Initiative (MERI) Grant (2017)
- Richard Fehn Scholarship (2015)
- CSUSB Retirees Association Scholarship (2015)
- Associated Students Inc. Scholarship (2015)
- ASI Student Research and Travel Grant (2015B)
- CSU Council on Oceanic Affairs, Science, and Technology (COAST) Grant (2015)
- ASI Student Research and Travel Grant (2015A)
- NSF-REU Fellow at Shannon Point Marine Center (2014)
- Mojave Desert Fryxell Scholarship (2012)

REFERENCES

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Conservation and Research Specialist

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