Deidric B. Davis

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Education

Bachelor of Science & Bachelor of Arts, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL 5/20/2024

Two Majors: Marine Science (Biology track) (B.S) & Animal Studies (B.A)

Fellowships & Scholarships

Black In Marine Science Tidal Wave Fellowships (\$15,000) 2024 Duke Marine Lab's Marine Science and Conservation Scholarship (\$53,000) 2022

Eckerd Founders Scholarship (\$84,000) 2020

Manuscripts

• Three new species of Ascarophis van Beneden, 1871 (Nematoda: Cystidicolidae) from deep-sea hydrothermal vent fishes of the Pacific Ocean (2023) (https://rdcu.be/dtQIY)

Manuscripts in review:

- Prey selectivity in co-occurring brachyurans and zoarcid (eelpout) fish in a deep sea hydrothermal vent community
- Opecoelids from deep-sea vents neolebouria (trematoda: digenea) and another opecoelid fromdeep-sea hydrothermal vent fields off central america and Papua New Guinea, with species keys and a comparison to mesobathylebouria
- Flight Initiation Distance in Blue Green Chromis

Laboratory Experience

3.5 years of undergraduate lab experience in multiple labs

-2 years Smith Parasite Ecology Lab (Eckerd College) 2022-2024

-6 months Van Dover Deep-Sea Ecology Lab (Duke University) 2022

-6 months Angulo-Valdes Coastal Restoration Lab (Eckerd College) 2021

-6 months Higgins/Frick Animal Behavior Lab (Eckerd College) 2020

Work Experience (Jobs/Internships):

REU Intern

UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA June 2024-Aug 2024

• 10 week program developing a project at UCSB. I develop projects in ecology while getting hands-on experience in different environments. Used advanced data analytics through R and python to create plots and diagrams for data collected. Scientific diving was employed as well as PCR and chemical analyses.

REU Intern

UC Los Angeles, Moorea, French Polynesia June 2023-Aug 2023

• Examined how coral size, distance to nearest shelter and shoal size impacted predator avoidance behavior in the blue green chromis Results showed a significant influence of coral head size and distance to nearest coral, but not shoal size. Skills developed include: project development, behavioral observations, scientific scuba diving, and data analysis in R Lived on a research station.

REU Intern

June 2022-Aug 2022 Duke University Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC

• The project focuses on the impact of temporal and spatial variability of seagrass ecosystems on coastal fisheries in North Carolina. Found out commercial species size and abundance is indicative of seagrass bed size and location depending on the time of the year Learned how to process samples in the field and out of the field as well as describe relationships and patterns seen at different sites. Good laboratory practices employed as well as Good Documentation Practices.

Contracted Student Researcher

Sep 2020-May 2024

Eckerd College, St Petersburg, FL

- Contracted by Eckerd College to aid faculty with scientific research for different laboratories outside of class time compensated with money (not part of curriculum)
- Coastal habitat restoration with Artificial reefs where they were seen to improve water quality in places where mangroves had been removed. Environmental consulting, installations of reefs and estimations given to buyers with plans made for placement.
- Surveys done to find horseshoe crab populations in St pete and test their cognitive function with maze trials. Results showed they have an ability to learn and can navigate simple puzzles if given enough time.

Relevant Research Experience (Volunteer/Unpaid):

Young Explorer (Intern) July 2024 OceanX, Jakarta, Indonesia

• This 8-day voyage in Jakarta works to bring together scientists and media creators from around the world to develop storytelling projects about the oceans. Aboard we will be given classes on scientific communication, scientific method and learn from high level scientists about the intricacies of ocean conservation and the disconnect between the general public and scientists. Overall this experience was used to enhance my ability to scientifically communicate and develop media for my brand as a scientist.

Lead Researcher

Sep 2022-Dec 2022 Duke University, Beaufort, NC

• Research independent Study focusing on zoarcid fish and brachyuran and their selectivity of prey at the south sea hydrothermal vent ecosystem, Discovered zoarcids are apex predators in the South Su system and are not omnivores like previously thought. Learned how to successfully run a project from start to finish on my own as well as using metadata. Got comfortable with dissection and recognizing gut contents from different species. Learned to expand upon research that was previously done.

Research Aide

Jun 2022-Dec 2022

University of North Carolina, Morehead City, NC

• Hooked bait for longlines. tagged and measured sharks. Surveyed & categorized different species caught in bait trawl. Assessed population stability of sharpnose sharks are off of the NC coast.

Collection Aide

Sep 2022-Dec 2022 Duke University, Beaufort, NC

• Collected oysters from Duke aquafarm and repaired cages ,Fixed damaged lines and piloted boat to and from site

Conferences & Presentations

Ecological Society of America (ESA), Long Beach, CA Aug 2024

"Communicating Science: Perspectives from Editors & Communicators" (oral)

Western Society of the Naturalist (WSN 2023), Monterey Bay, CA Nov 2023

"The effects of habitat complexity on antipredator responses in Chromis viridis" (poster)

UCLA Research Symposium, Los Angeles, CA Aug 2023 "The effects of habitat complexity on antipredator responses in *Chromis viridis*"(oral)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Day, St Petersburg, FL Apr 2023

"How science shapes my life"(oral)

Research Independent Study Presentation, Beaufort, NC Dec 2022

"Prey selectivity in zoarcid (eelpout) fish and brachyuran crabs that co-occur at the South Su hydrothermal vent (Manus Basin)" (oral)

Duke REU Research Presentation, *Beaufort*, *NC* Aug 2022

"The relationship between habitat size and density/length of commercially important important species" (oral)

<u>Media</u>



<u>Extracurriculars</u>

Graduate Director, <u>Dr. Walter L Smith Library</u>, Tampa, FL Jan 2024-May 2024

• Managed Facebook and instagram accounts Attended and helped set up fundraising events for library Spokesperson for the Library. Worked with volunteers and students

Show host/Podcast host, WMNF 88.5 fm, Tampa, FL

Mar 2024- present

• Host of <u>"Black Nerds Matter</u>" Podcast at WMNF. Interviews Black professionals on STEM to introduce minorities to scientific fields Produce interviews and news posts for station as an anchor as well. Scientific communication

Pen pal, Letters to a pre-scientist, CA Aug 2023-May 2024

• Pen pal to a student interested in science

Resident Advisor (RA), Duke University Marine Lab, Beaufort, NC Sep 2022-Dec 2022

• Managed dorms at Duke's Lab. Made activities for other students and volunteered to aid them when needed.

Club Member, Marine Life Adventure Society Eckerd, St. Petersburg, FL Sep 2021- May 2024

• Marine Science field trips as well as volunteer work like beach clean ups and shark tagging

Organizations

IABO (International Association for Biological Oceanography) Jul 2024- present

Black In Marine Science (BIMS) Nov 2023- present

Ecological Society of America (ESA) Jul 2024- present

Certifications

AAUS Diver, UCLA, *Los Angeles, CA* May 2023- present

Programming Experience

• Proficient in R & Python