

CURRICULUM VITAE

Jenny L. Wrast

6925 SPID #43

Corpus Christi TX 78412

Jenny.wrast@tamucc.edu

(417)766-0396

EDUCATION

M.S. Biology, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Completion expected: December, 2007 (Graduation: May, 2008)

GPA: 3.8/4.0

THESIS: SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL VARIABILITY IN FOOD WEB STRUCTURE ON SUBTIDAL OYSTER REEFS IN LAVACA BAY, TEXAS

B.S. Biology, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Emphasis in marine science and field research, minor in chemistry. 2006

GPA: 3.4/4.0

AREA OF SPECIALIZATION / REASERCH INTERESTS

My broad research interests include many areas of marine biology and ecology including coral reefs, oceanography, fisheries ecology and management, and water chemistry. Recent areas of specialization include food web studies (stomach content and stable isotope analyses) to understand the dynamics of these diverse systems. My current work in tropical reef studies of Caribbean fishes along the coast of Quintana Roo, Mexico have spurred my interest and guided me to refine my professional interests to coral reef systems.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

January 2007-Present

Graduate Research Associate

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

-Conduct marine biological research, with emphasis in marine ecology in the Fisheries Ecology Laboratory under Dr. Greg Stunz.

-Focus on understanding the relative value of habitat for aquatic organisms emphasizing marine and estuarine fishes.

-Research duties include: identification of marine fish and invertebrates for community structure studies, stomach content analysis, and prepare samples for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ stable isotope analysis, as well as various field work using epibenthic sleds, trawls, drop samplers, and rod and reel collection techniques.

-Extensive knowledge in data entry and advanced statistical analysis.

August 2006-January 2007

Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA)

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

- Taught 3 sections of Introductory biology I
- Performed all laboratory preparations and grading.

May 2006-August 2006

National Coastal Assessment Internship (Intern Technician III)

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

- Field equipment and sample collection preparation including: preparing sample paperwork, conducting maintenance measures and calibration of field equipment such as: bag seine, gill net, and conducting fishery surveys.
- proficiency in vehicle and boat maintenance and operation.

August 2004-March 2006

Laboratory Technician for Microbiological, Molecular Biology labs.

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

- Set up lab supplies for courses from Introductory Biology through Microbial Ecology.
- Inoculate and culture bacterial and fungal cultures.
- Operate autoclave and minor maintenance.

May 2004-August 2004

Wildlife Extern

Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) Sanibel Island, FL

- Handled daily cleaning of compounds and diet preparation of American alligators, pelican, sea turtles, river otters, variety of raptors, as well as various other types of wildlife.
- Conducted orphan hand-rearing, wildlife rescues and releases, patient admittances, diagnostics, surgeries & necropsies

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Wrast, J.L., G.W. Stunz, and J. Simons. 2007. SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL FOOD WEB ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL, ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT TYPES IN LAVACA BAY, TEXAS. Texas Academy of Science, Waco, TX

Wrast, J.L., G.W. Stunz, and J. Simons. 2007. SPATIAL and TEMPORAL VARIABILITY in OYSTER REEF FOOD WEB STRUCTURE COMPARED to OTHER ESTUARINE HABITATS. Estuarine Research Federation, Providence, RI

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Project Leader: Oyster reef as essential fish habitat

Project Leader: Reef Fish Assemblage of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Quintana Roo, Mexico

Field Assistant: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), National Coastal Assessment, Texas

Field Assistant: Black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) Community Structure, Growth and Recruitment, Along the South Texas Coast

Field Assistant: Macroalgal Colonization: Recruitment of a new rocky habitat (Packery Channel) along the South Texas coast

Field Assistant: Origins of spotted seatrout stocks: assessing the contribution of different nursery grounds to adult stocks using chemical signatures

Laboratory Assistant: Access to estuarine nursery habitat: recruitment dynamics of nekton through tidal inlets

SELECTED VOLUNTEER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

February 2005-May 2006

Animal Husbandry Volunteer

Texas State Aquarium, Corpus Christi.

- Volunteer 4 hours a week in marine animal husbandry.
- Preparing food for fish exhibits, handling American alligators for public display events, general cleaning and maintenance of fish and reptile exhibits.

September 2002-May 2004

Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Club Member

Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Club (WCRC), TAMUCC.

- Volunteer an average of 4 hours a week, for various local organizations, e.g. Corpus Christi Zoo Refuge, Animal Rehabilitation Conservatory (ARC), Port Aransas, TX; Rachel Brooks Bird Rehab, Rockport, TX.

May 2004-August 2004

Texas marine mammal Stranding Network volunteer

Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network (TMMSN).

- Certified to work with stranded/beached marine mammals in rehabilitation and release efforts; also, certified and experienced in performing necropsies.
- Have experience in working with bottle-nose dolphins, spinner dolphins, and rough toothed dolphins.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- SCUBA Certified, 02/2006
 - Certified in First Aid and CPR
 - Excellent computer skills in most popular software programs (e.g. Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Photoshop, Arc GIS 9.2, and Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)
 - Strong aptitude in sterile laboratory techniques
 - Quantitative Visual Census Survey of Fish on SCUBA
 - Course work and professional experience with Photoshop, and Graphic Design
 - Extensive research field experience*
 - Operated and maintained boats, motors, and trailers
 - Proficient with sample techniques/devices: epibenthic sled, trawl, drop sampler, cast net, gill nets, bag seine, etc.
- *Details available upon request

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Women in Science Club member, 2006
- Sigma Xi Research Honor Society, member, 2007
- Texas Academy of Science Member, 2007
- Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Member, 2007
- Saltwater-fisheries Enhancement Association (SEA) Member, 2007

AWARDS

- Dinah Bowman Endowed Scholarship, 2004-2008 (\$3,000/year)
- Dodson Memorial Scholarship, 2007 (\$500)
- Texas A&M Graduate Studies scholarship, 2007 (\$406.50)
- University Honors Scholarship, 2005-2006 (\$1,000)
- National Dean's List Nomination., 2006
- Dean's List honoree (3.5-4.0), 2002, 2006

REFERENCES

Dr. Greg Stunz

Endowed Research Professor, Harte Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

Associate Professor of Marine Biology

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, HRI 213 A, Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5869

Email: greg.stunz@tamucc.edu

361-825-3254

Dr. James Simons

Marine ecologist, Coastal Studies Program

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, NRC 2600, Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5869

Email: james.simons@tpwd.state.tx.us

361-825-3241

Dr. David McKee

Professor

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, CS 250, Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5802

Email: david.mckee@tamucc.edu

361-825-2676

Dinah Bowman

Master Naturalist and Biological Artist

The Dinah Bowman Studio and Gallery, 312 5th Street, Portland, TX 78374

Email: dinah@dinahbowman.com

361-643-4922