

Becca Jones

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Education

University of Miami – Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science

Master of Science in Marine Biology and Ecology – In Progress

Research advised by Dr. Elizabeth Babcock and Dr. Catherine Macdonald, in coordination with the Shark Research and Conservation Program at the University of Miami

Bachelor of Science in Biology – Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame

Concentration: Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology

Minors: Environmental Studies, Music

Undergraduate Thesis: A comparison between *Opsanus tau* advertisement calling and boat noise in the Hudson River and Sheepshead Bay

Publications

In Press

Hom, K. N., Quigley, T. D., Rodriguez, R., Gdanski, S., Lazrinth, X., **Jones, R. J.**, and Forlano, P. M. 2024. Characterization of anthropogenic noise and oyster toadfish (*Opsanus tau*) calling behavior in urban and small-town coastal soundscapes. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America*, 155(2):1230–1239.

Research Experience

Field School Intern – Field School, Miami, FL

2025–Present

- Participated in field work with the purpose of collecting data relevant to projects associated with the University of Miami Shark Research and Conservation Program
- Assisted with shark capture, handling, and workups, emphasizing safe practices and conservation-focused messaging
- Instructed students ranging from elementary through adult learners in shark biology, ecology, and tagging methods during field-based research trips

Acoustic Data Processing Intern – Boswell Lab for Marine Ecology & Acoustics, Florida International University

Spring 2025

- Used Echoview to train an algorithm and clean echosounder data to investigate diel vertical migration and abundance of mesopelagic micronekton, under supervision of PhD candidate Haley Glasmann

Research Assistant, Campus Canopy Project – Dr. Sally Geislar, Saint Mary's College

Summer 2023

- Collected and analyzed tree data using iTree and GIS to support campus carbon neutrality initiatives and investigate tree health and carbon sequestration ability

Brooklyn Urban Ecology and Environment NSF REU Fellow – Forlano Lab, Brooklyn College, CUNY

Summer/Fall 2022

- Utilized R and Raven Pro to process acoustic recordings and collect data on Oyster Toadfish mating calls and commercial boat noise pollution, as well as analyze said data
- Employed field techniques such as fish seining, trapping, and hydrophone deployment
- Performed aquarium maintenance and animal care

Conservation Genomics Project Research Assistant – Dr. Don Paetkau, Saint Mary's College

Spring/Fall 2022

- Used PCR and genomic tools to investigate genetic causes of eggshell weakness in the Puerto Rican parrot (*Amazona vittata*)

Marine and Terrestrial Wildlife Research Intern – Global Treks and Adventures, U.S. Virgin Islands

Spring 2022

- Collected abundance and distribution data on marine wildlife to produce species profiles for a naturalist guide

Animal Care & Diet Kitchen Volunteer – Potawatomi Zoo, South Bend, IN

Spring 2022

- Shadowed and assisted in training sessions for voluntary medical procedures, shifting, and stationing
- Maintained enclosure cleanliness and administered enrichment activities under staff supervision

Research Supervisor – Kloepper Lab of Bioacoustics, Saint Mary's College

Spring 2020–Fall 2021

- Supervised study space acoustics project analyzing how soundscapes influence student preferences
- Assessed ecological impacts of anthropogenic sound pollution from football games and vehicle traffic

Sustainable Agriculture & Conservation Intern – Huerta Luna & Amazon Learning, Galápagos Islands

Summer 2021

- Implemented regenerative agriculture practices and collected crop success data.
- Led outreach events promoting sustainable agriculture to local communities.

Professional Experience

Government Affairs Fellow – Ducks Unlimited, Washington, D.C.

Fall 2023–Spring 2024

- Managed and assisted in Ducks Unlimited events held in DC, including advocacy fly-ins, Capitol Hill banquets and other receptions and events
- Assisted the government affairs team by conducting and scheduling Congressional and professional meetings, conducting policy research, and providing general support for all public policy activities
- Supported government affairs team lobbying efforts through developing, implementing and tracking policy-related information

Sustainability & Food Services Committee Chair – Student Government Association, Saint Mary's College

2022–2023

- Initiated a campus-wide composting program and organized events promoting sustainability and community engagement.

Student Ambassador – Office of Admission, Saint Mary's College

2021–2023

- Represented the college during panels, events, and tours for prospective students and families.
- Produced and distributed informational materials to recruit new students

Radio Station DJ – WVFI, University of Notre Dame

2019–2023

- Hosted and produced a weekly talk radio show, curating topics and playlists.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant – Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami

Present

- Class: *RSM 612 - Statistics for Marine Scientists*
- Led office hours and graded weekly assignments for graduate-level statistics & R coding class

Academic Tutor – Tutorial Resources

Present

- Provide individualized tutoring in high school STEM subjects and elementary standardized test preparation
- Adapt teaching methods to diverse learning styles and developmental levels to support student success

Students for Students Educator – Rosenstiel School, University of Miami

Fall 2024–Spring 2025

- Designed and delivered interactive STEM lessons to K–12 students and public audiences.

Teaching Assistant – Biology Department, Saint Mary's College

Fall 2021

- Class: *BIO 156 - Introduction to Ecology and Evolution*
 - Led recitation hours and graded lab reports and homework
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Volunteer Experience

Thresholds Choir – Miami, FL – *Summer 2025–Present*

Chapter President – Society for Women in Marine Science, University of Miami – *Fal 2024–Present*

Sustainability Initiative – Rosenstiel School, University of Miami – *Fall 2024–Present*

Farm Volunteer – Sustainable Farm, Saint Mary's College – *2022–2023*

Club President – BeeND, University of Notre Dame – *2019–2023*

Honors, Awards, & Grants

- 2023 Undergraduate Student Presentation Award – Saint Mary's College
 - 2023 Senior Service Recognition Award – Saint Mary's College
 - 2023 Best Picture – Environmental Studies Film Festival, Saint Mary's College
 - NSF REU Fellowship – \$8,750 (2022)
 - Biology Dept. Alumnae Student Research Grant – \$500 (2022)
 - 2022 Saint Mary's College Dean's List
 - 2021 Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society
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Presentations (Selected)

Oral Presentations

- *A comparison between Opsanus tau advertisement calling and boat noise* – Saint Mary's College Symposium (2023)
- *Using genomics and CRISPR to investigate the role of MAN1C1 in eggshell weakness in Amazona vittata* – Senior Comprehensive Proposal Presentations (2021)
- *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security Internship in the Galápagos* – Alumni Career Development Virtual Presentation (2021)

Poster Presentations

- *Opsanus tau advertisement calling and boat noise* – STEM Fall Poster Day, Saint Mary's College (2022)

- *Opsanus tau* advertisement calling and boat noise – BUEE Final Research Presentations, Brooklyn College (2021)
 - *Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security in the Galápagos* – STEM Fall Poster Day (2021)
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Technical Skills

- **Programming & Software:** R, Python, MATLAB, ArcGIS, Echoview, Raven Pro, Audacity
 - **Field Skills:** IACUC-approved and minimally invasive restraint and sample taking techniques, various fishing techniques (i.e. long lining, drum lining, seining), hydrophone deployment
 - **Wet Lab Skills:** PCR, gel electrophoresis, microscopy, micro-pipetting
 - **Other:** Canva, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, audio and visual media production
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References

Elizabeth A. Babcock, Ph.D.

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