Christian B. Pryor

Christianbpryor@gmail.com | 972-533-9723
Austin, Texas | linkedin.com/in/christianpryor

Education

B.S. Marine Sciences, *Texas A&M University at Galveston* 2020 - 24
Summa cum laude, Undergraduate Research Scholar, Minors in Chemistry & Biology

Laboratory Experience

Water Quality Scientist 2024 - P
Environmental Analytical Services Lab, City of Austin, Texas.
- Conduct chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses on municipal wastewater, groundwater, biosolids, and riverine samples according to EPA protocols and NELAC standards.
- Maintain QA/QC through routine proficiency tests, SOP review, and calibration of analytical balances, pipettes, and instrumentation.
- Utilize LIMS to process chains of custody and report results to customers.
- Prepare reagents, dispose of biowaste, maintain chemical and supply inventories, conduct laboratory safety checks, clean and sterilize equipment.

Undergraduate Researcher 2021 - 24
Phytoplankton Dynamics Lab, Texas A&M University at Galveston. Advisor: Dr. Antonietta Quigg.
Thesis title: "PFAS Mixology: The physiological response of Texas coastal phytoplankton to perfluoroalkyl substance mixtures."
- Collaboratively designed and executed experiments to measure microbial exudates, photosystem II health, 16/18s rRNA, dissolved nutrients (C, N, P), oxidative stress, and chlorophyll-*a*.
- Optimized methods to detect aquatic microbial protein exchange via click chemistry and epifluorescence microscopy.
- Maintained phytoplankton cultures using aseptic technique and classical cell counting.
- Managed experimental documentation and data, produced scientific diagrams in BioRender.
- Developed R Studio code for statistical analysis and data visualization.

NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Intern 2023
NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center. Advisors: Dr. Noelle Bowlin and Dr. Ryan Freedman.
Assessing National Marine Sanctuary health using larval fish abundances and biodiversity.
- Sorted plankton samples from California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI).
- Identified target larval fish and zooplankton via morphology using dissection microscopy.
- Developed R Studio code for biodiversity assessments and ArcGIS maps for spatial data visualization.

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates Intern 2021
Stable Isotope Lab, Rice University. Advisor: Dr. Jeanine Ash.
Identifying oceanographic conditions of the Ross Sea during the Pliocene–Pleistocene Transition.
- Analyzed large datasets of biogeochemical proxies from the International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) through R-coded principal component analyses and time-series visualizations.
- Processed sediment cores for nitrogen isotope measurement via isotope-ratio mass spectrometer.

Field Experience

Lentic Ecology Field Technician 2022
Environmental Institute of Houston, University of Houston – Clear Lake.
EPA 2022 National Lakes Assessment in Texas.
- Collected *in-situ* water chemistry, fish, and benthic invertebrate samples via canoe/boat in urban and remote lakes.
- Conducted physical habitat assessments of littoral & riparian environments.
- Operated and maintained water quality monitoring sondes and wildlife collection devices.
- Aided in state-wide travel logistics: contacted landowners, prepared field kits, created itineraries and site maps in ArcGIS Pro.

Scholarships and Awards *($170,900)*

Barry Goldwater Scholar *($7,500)* 2023
NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholar *($19,500)* 2022-24
Aggies Commit to Excellence Scholar *($2,000/yr)* 2021-24
Choctaw Nation Higher Education Scholar *($1,500/yr)* 2021-24
Terry Foundation Traditional Scholarship *($133,400 – fully funded undergraduate degree)* 2020
College Board National Merit Commended Scholar 2019

Research Grants *($3,600)*

Coastal Estuarine Research Federation (CERF): Rising Towards an Inclusive, Diverse, and Enriched Society Travel Grant *(full conference travel and fees [x3], $600 stipend)* 2023-24

Aggies Commit to Excellence Small Grant *($1,000/yr)* 2021-23

Professional and Academic Leadership

Student Learning Assistant – General Chemistry I & II, *Texas A&M University at Galveston.* 2023-24
- Led tutoring sessions, proctored exams, and facilitated student-faculty communication of entry-level chemistry lectures (~80 students).

Student Body Vice President, *Texas A&M University at Galveston.* 2021-23
- Oversaw operations and led strategic planning of 8 student-led committees (~40 members).

Chancellor's Student Advisory Council, *Texas A&M University System.* 2021-23
- Serve as an official liaison between Galveston Campus students and TAMU System executives.

Deans Committed to Anti-Racism Efforts (*C.A.R.E.)* Intern, *Texas A&M University at Galveston.* 2021
- Developed a physical and digital booklet providing BIPOC, Queer, Veteran, International, and Disabled students on- and off- campus resources.

Selected Presentations

Pryor, C., S. Davis, J. Childs, A. Quigg. "PFAS mixology: the physiological response of Texas coastal phytoplankton to perfluoroalkyl substances." *Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Spring 2024 Meeting.* Gloucester Point, VA. Poster. Award: Best Undergraduate Poster. 2024

Pryor, C., N. Bowlin, R. Freedman. "Developing larval fish indicators to track sanctuary performance in the California Current." *American Geophysical Union Ocean Sciences Meeting.* New Orleans, LA. Poster. 2024

Pryor, C., S. Davis, M. Kamalanathan, A. Quigg. "Phytoplankton-bacteria interactions: a new method to investigate protein activity in the phycosphere." *Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation 27th Biennial Conference.* Portland, OR. Poster. 2023

Pryor, C., N. Bowlin, R. Freedman. "Developing larval fish indicators to track sanctuary performance in the California Current." *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Science and Education Symposium.* Washington, DC. Oral. 2023

Pryor, C., S. Davis, M. Kamalanathan, A. Quigg. "Optimizing bio-orthogonal non-canonical amino acid tagging to determine protein activity in phytoplankton-associated bacteria." 18th *Texas A&M University System Pathways Student Research Symposium.* Galveston, TX. Poster. Award: 1st Place – Undergraduate Life Sciences. 2023

Pryor, C., S. Davis, A. Mitchell, S. Klumer, A. Quigg. "A true substitute? Assessing the physiological toxicity of 6:2 fluorotelomer sulfonate on the diatom, *Thalassiosira pseudonana*." *Texas A&M University at Galveston Student Research Symposium.* Galveston, TX. Poster. Award: 2nd Place – Undergraduate Life Sciences. 2022

Pryor, C., M. Patterson, T. Sun, J. Ash. "Nitrogen isotope variation and principal component analysis reveal oceanographic conditions during the Pliocene-Pleistocene Transition in the Ross Sea." *San Jacinto College STEM Symposium.* Pasadena, Texas. Poster. Award: 1st Place. 2021

Pryor, C., M. Patterson, T. Sun, J. Ash. "Nitrogen isotope variation and principal component analysis reveal oceanographic conditions during the Pliocene-Pleistocene Transition in the Ross Sea." *Institute for Biosciences and Bioengineering (IBB) Research Symposium.* Houston, Texas. Poster. 2021