**­Name: Julia C. Notar**

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**Education**2022 **Duke University**, PhD, Biology  
 Dissertation: Vision and Light-Guided Behavior in Sea Urchins and Brittle Stars  
 Major Advisor: Dr. Sönke Johnsen

2016 **UCLA**, MS, Biology   
 Master’s Thesis: A Comparative Study of Sea Urchin Visual Ecology  
 Major Advisor: Dr. Malcolm S. Gordon

2009 **UCLA**, BS, Marine Biology

**Publications**

**Notar, JC**, Meja, B, and Johnsen, S*.* (2022).Testing Mechanisms of Vision: Sea Urchin Spine Density Does Not Correlate with Vision-Related Environmental Characteristics. *Integrative and Comparative Biology,* icac119, doi: [10.1093/icb/icac119](https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icac119)

Gordon, MS and **Notar, JC*.*** (2015). Can Systems Biology Separate Evolutionary Analogies (Convergent Homoplasies) From Homologies? *Prog. Biophys. Mol. Biol.* 117 (2015), 19-29. doi: [10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2015.01.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pbiomolbio.2015.01.005)

**Notar, JC** and Gessow, J*.* (2009). Ecology of an intertidal leech: expanding the range of *Malmiana buthi*. Abstracts of the Annual Meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences. *Bull. So. Cal. Acad. Sci.*, 108(2), 112. doi: [10.3160/0038-3872-108.2.70](https://doi.org/10.3160/0038-3872-108.2.89)

**Grants and Fellowships (Selected)**  
2021 **Jo Rae Wright Fellowship for Outstanding Women in Science** ($5,000), The Graduate School, Duke University  
2021 **International Dissertation Research Travel Award** ($3,000), The Graduate School, Duke University  
2021 **Grant-in-Aid** ($1,000), Biology Department, Duke University  
2020 **Grant-in-Aid** ($1,000), Biology Department, Duke University  
2019 **Lerner-Gray Grant for Marine Research** ($3,106), Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History  
2019 **Grant-in-Aid** ($1,000), Biology Department, Duke University   
2018 **Graduate Student Training Enhancement Grant** ($3,332), Office of the Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University  
2018 **Grant-in-Aid of Research** ($700), Sigma Xi Society  
2017-21 **NDSEG Fellowship** ($153,000), Air Force Office of Scientific Research, US   
 Department of Defense  
2017 **Robert L. Fernald Endowed Fellowship** ($3,500), Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington  
2015 **Research/Travel Award** ($2,000), Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

**Honors and Awards**2021 **Honorable Mention, Mary Price Award for** **Best Student Presentation** Division of Invertebrate Zoology, Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Virtual Meeting

2020 **2nd Place Lightning Talk**  
Duke VisionFest 2020, Duke University

2019 **Dean's Award for Inclusive Excellence in Graduate Education**, as a member of the Biology Department's **Graduate Student IDEA Committee**, on behalf of the Ph.D. Program in Biology  
The Graduate School, Duke University

2016 **1st Place Graduate Student poster**  
19th Annual Biology Research Symposium, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

2015 **Schechtman Teaching Award** for Outstanding Merit in Instruction   
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

**Research Positions**  
2015 **Graduate Student Researcher** Gordon Laboratory, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA  
2014 **Research Assistant**  
 Gordon Laboratory, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA  
2010-13 **Whale Photo ID Intern and Volunteer Researcher** Aquarium of the Pacific, Long Beach, CA  
2010 **Research Assistant** Shipe Laboratory, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

**First-Author Presentations (Selected)**(\* = poster)2022 *Learning with a Decentralized Nervous System in the Brittle Star* Ophiocoma echinata **Notar, JC**, Go, M, and Johnsen, S  
 International Congress of Neuroethology 2022, Lisbon, Portugal

2022 *Classical Conditioning in an Animal Without a Brain, the Brittle Star* Ophiocoma echinata  
 **Notar, JC**, Go, M, and Johnsen, S  
 Animal Behavior Society Annual Meeting, San Jose, Costa Rica

2022 *Training Animals Without Brains: Brittle Stars Exhibit Associative Learning* **Notar, JC**, Go, M, and Johnsen, S Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Virtual Meeting

2021 *A Living Shag Rug: Sea Urchin Spine Density Differs by Habitat and has Consequences for Vision*   
**Notar, JC**, Meja, B, andJohnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Virtual Meeting  
*Honorable Mention, Mary Price Award for Best Student Presentation, Division of Invertebrate Zoology*

2020 *Trends in Spatial Acuity Across the Sea Urchins\**  
**Notar, JC** and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Austin, TX

2020 *Sea Urchins: Sight Without Eyes*   
**Notar, JC**   
Duke VisionFest 2020, Duke University, Durham, NC   
*Second place, Lightning Talk Competition*

2019 *Sea Urchin Vision in Featureless vs. Spatially Complex Environments***Notar, JC** and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL

2018 *Seeing without eyes: Exploring the visual ecology of sea urchins*  
**Notar, JC**Invited seminar, Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, University of Florida, St. Augustine, FL

2018 *Do (Eyeless) Sea Urchins have Color Vision?***Notar, JC** and Johnsen, S  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

2017 *Future Directions in the Whole Body Eye of Sea Urchins: Effects of Phylogeny, Light Intensity, and Spine Density***Notar, JC** and Gordon, MS  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA

2016 *A Comparative Study of Sea Urchin Visual Ecology*\***Notar, JC** and Gordon, MS  
19th Annual Biology Research Symposium, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA  
*1st Place, Graduate Student Poster*

2016 *A Comparative Study of Sea Urchin Visual Ecology*\***Notar, JC** and Gordon, MS  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR

**Co-authored Conference Abstracts**(\* = Undergraduate mentee)  
2021 *Insects go with the flow: A mathematical model of induced flow and cooling during flight* Meja, B\*, **Notar, JC**, and Johnsen, S   
 Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Virtual Annual Meeting

2020 *Associative learning in the brittle star* Ophioderma brevispinumGo, M\*, **Notar, JC**, and Johnsen, S   
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Annual Meeting, Austin, TX

**Teaching Experience (Selected)**2019-2022 **Certificate in College Teaching Program** The Graduate School, Duke University

2018 **Guest Lecture**: *Answering Biological Questions Using Circular Data and Analysis in R*  
Duke Data Expedition, Information Initiative @ Duke, Duke University

2012-22 **Graduate** **Teaching Assistant, Teaching Associate**Biology Department, Duke University1  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA2  
Department of Integrative Biology and Physiology, UCLA3

Courses include: Genetics & Evolution1, Animal Environmental Physiology2, Biology of Vertebrates2, Biology of Invertebrates2, Experimental Marine Invertebrate Biology2, Biology of Marine Tetrapods2, Field Marine Ecology2, Living Ocean2, Introduction to Ecology & Behavior2, Biology of Marine Tetrapods2, Advanced Experimental Statistics3

**Mentorship (Selected)**2021*-*22 **Trinity College Peer Mentoring Fellow**   
 Duke Interdisciplinary Studies, Duke University

2017 **Women in Science and Engineering Graduate Mentor**  
 Biology Department, Duke University

2015-22 **Graduate Student Advisor** to undergraduate lab menteesBiology Department, Duke University  
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UCLA

**Service (Selected)**2020-21 **Graduate Student Representative** on the faculty **AJED** (**Action for Justice, Equity, and Diversity) Committee** Biology Department, Duke University

2019-20 **Graduate Student Representative** on the faculty **Task Force on Graduate Admissions and Recruitment**Biology Department, Duke University

2016-21 **IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Anti-Racism) Committee** Biology Department, Duke University

2016-Present **Dive Control Board**  
 Duke University

**Outreach and Science Communication (Selected)**2018-19 **Exhibiting Scientist** Art of a Scientist, Duke University

2016-17 **Educator Outreach Liaison** Scientific Research and Education Network (SciREN) Triangle, Durham, NC

**Professional Societies**  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB), Animal Behavior Society (ABS), Sigma Xi