

ADRIAN DITORE

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EDUCATION

Master of Professional Science

University of Miami, Miami, FL

Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management

- Summa Cum Laude

August 2023 - December 2024

GPA: 4.0/ 4.0

Bachelor of Science

Nova Southeastern University, Davie, FL

Major in Marine Biology with minors in Research Studies and Transdisciplinary Science

- Razor's Edge Research Scholars Program and Council Representative
- Honors College Scholar
- Magna Cum Laude Graduate

August 2019- May 2023

GPA: 3.70/ 4.00

KEY SKILLS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marine Invertebrate Handling and Care• Heterobranch Biology and Behavior• Scientific Diving• Data Analysis (R Studios)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem-Solving• Scientific Literacy and Writing• Data Management and Curation
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Associate I- Bioinformatics Specialist: National Aplysia Resource

Dr. Michael Schmale

Created a relational database in compliance with NIH requirements for a public facing database using FileMaker Pro that is responsible for tracking all incoming biological data for the Resource.

- Supervise creation and implementation of a relational database for tracking all aspects of *Aplysia* husbandry at the Resource including egg batch production, larval culture, AAvb1 viral load, inventory, and tracking of samples collected from individual animals.
- Supervised other aspects of the *Aplysia* Resource Facility as needed, including but not limited to: caring for lab reared *A. californica*, maintenance of macroalgal cultures, and shipping.
- Explore the influence of PIT Tags on the reproductive output, quality, and survivorship of *Aplysia californica*

December 2024 -
Current

Research Volunteer: Mollusk Death Assemblage

June 2024 - Current

Dr. Evan D'Alessandro

Assisted a professor in identifying and cataloging mollusk death assemblages collected in Southern Florida to develop a monitoring program.

- Taxonomic identifications of local mollusks
- Accurately recorded and organized extensive mollusk data
- Developed and applied a standardized methodology for evaluating shell conditions.

Graduate Student Research Assistant: National Aplysia ResourceAugust 2023-
December 2024

Phil Gillette, Dr. Michael Schmale

I determined the influences of diet on lab-reared *A. californica* through short-term growth studies on juvenile animals and proximate composition analyses on foot muscle.

- Assessed quality of organisms by tracking bodyweight, dissections, and tissue collection
- Quantitative and qualitative statistical analysis in R Studios and Excel to reveal the ideal diet for laboratory animals
- Responsible for completing *Aplysia* husbandry tasks in a fast-paced environment, including: maintaining proper animal health by cleaning/sanitizing cages, monitoring health issues, feeding, and maintaining macroalgae cultures

Galapagos Islands Tidal Ecology

May 2023

Dr. Joshua Feingold

Led a small research team that explored rocky intertidal communities in the Galapagos Islands, with special attention to the difference between diurnal and nocturnal communities.

- Recorded dimensions and abiotic data of rocky tide pools
- Conducted a census of marine invertebrates
- Trained peers on species identification and procedures

Honors Thesis & Razor's Field ExperienceAugust 2021- April
2023

Dr. Joshua Feingold

Independent research study exploring the chemosensory pathways of the California Sea Hare and their behavioral response to stimulation using amino acids.

- Analysis of *Aplysia* behavior
- Aquarium building and maintenance including but not limited to: Construction of a water raceway tank, regular water quality testing, and cleaning tanks.
- Invertebrate handling and care including but not limited to: feeding, handling, and diagnosing illness and preparation of hospital tanks

- Non-parametric statistical analysis to reveal differences in response to amino acids

Immersive Razor's Field Experience

January - May 2020

Dr. Joshua Feingold

A field experience that involved learning how to read and interpret scientific articles, as well as exploring different marine disciplines in order to choose a future research project.

Fish Behavior and Coral Degradation Lab Volunteer

August - December 2020

Dr. Lauren Nadler

In collaboration with a small research team, I analyzed fish schooling behavior to quantify cues of degraded response social and environmental information

- Trained how to quantify fish anti-predator behaviors
- Analysis of fish behavior from videos and data maintenance through digital tools
- Quantitative statistical analysis to reveal differences across treatments

INTERESTS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Invertebrates • Marine Ecology • Marine Chemical Ecology • Heterobranch Biology, Ecology, and Behavior • Taxonomy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemosensory pathways • Chemical defenses • Climate change influence on marine invertebrate evolution, biology, and distribution • Ecological responses to environmental degradation
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PRESENTATIONS

Ditore, A., Feingold, J. (March 13, 2023). The Behavioral Response of Aplysia to Three Amino Acids. Honors Thesis Defense at Nova Southeastern University. Davie, FL

Ditore, A., Feingold, J. (April 6, 2023). The Behavioral Response of Aplysia to Three Amino Acids. Undergraduate Research Symposium Oral Presentation at Nova Southeastern University. Davie, FL

PUBLICATIONS

Ditore, A. (2024). The influence of diet on the quality of lab-reared Aplysia californica. (, Ill.). University of Miami. [Access PDF](#)

CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES

AAUS Diver	Dec 2024
Status: <i>Inactive</i>	
Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Training	2023
DFA Pro (Diving First Aid for Professional Divers)	April 2023, September 2024
PADI® Enriched Air (Nitrox) Diver	2023
PADI® Advanced Diver	2023
• Specialty Course: Deep Diving, Search and Recovery, Underwater Naturalist	
PADI® Open Water Diver	2020

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Dean's List (NSU)	2019, 2020, 2022, 2023
Mentor of the Year (NSU Student Success Program)	2022
Academic Achievement Scholarship (NSU Admissions)	2019 - 2023
Honors Scholarship (NSU Farquar's honors College)	2019 - 2023
Razor's Edge Research Scholarship (NSU Admissions)	2019 - 2023

REFERENCES

Claudia Alvarez

Resource Manager at the UM National Aplysia Resource

(305) 421-4941

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Michael Schmale

University of Miami Professor, Resource Director & Principal Investigator of UM National Aplysia Resource

(305) 421-4140

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Phil Gillette

Previous Resource Manager at the UM National Aplysia Resource, MPS Project Supervisor

(305) 421-4941

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Evan D'Alessandro

Director of MPS Program, Principal Investigator of Mollusk Death Assemblage project

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Joshua Feingold

Nova South University Professor, Undergraduate Faculty Mentor

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