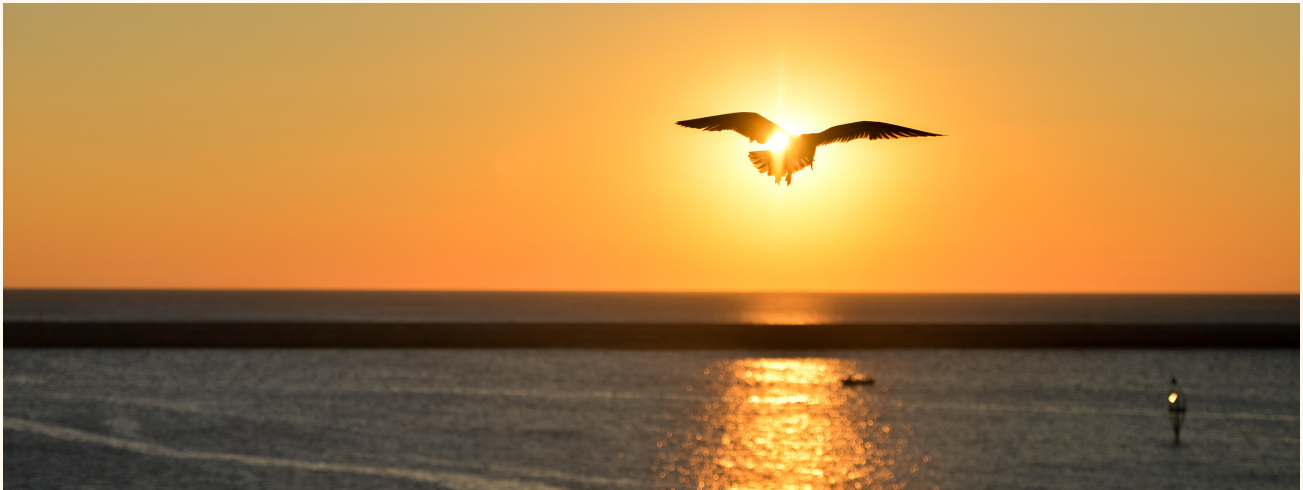


FALL 2019 | ISS. 2

AS THE LEAVES TURN

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF RIDGE 2 REEF



Fall Quarter in Review

In Fall 2019, Ridge 2 Reef welcomed eight new trainees to our program. Over the quarter, we have worked with and learned from our newest family members: Jonathon Babila, Brenna Briggs, Nefertiti Smith, Andie Nugent, Juan Rubio, Elizabeth Patterson, Newton Hood, and David Bañuelas.



We featured our first student blog post by PhD student Raisha Lovindeer, who wrote "Detecting Harmful Algae in Coastal Waters." Lovindeer spent two months on the east coast of Florida at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (HBOI) in Fort Pierce, a research institute that helps monitor Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) in the region's largest lagoon system. She worked with ocean optics experts, Mike Twardowski and Alberto Tonizzo, to figure out a mathematical relationship between light sensed from the surface water and the concentration of the major phytoplankton in eastern Florida's algal blooms—cyanobacteria.

Lastly, we are proud to co-sponsor the upcoming Climate Solutions Conference 2020, where topics covered will include reforestation, regenerative agriculture, soil management, blue carbon, pros and cons of various forms of alternative energy, carbon capture, risks and potential of geo-engineering proposals and individual changes to everyday behaviors and lifestyle. For more information, visit <http://climatesolutions2020.eventbrite.com/> and visit our Online Resources Hub on the R2R website.

**CLIMATE
SOLUTIONS
CONFERENCE**



Seminar Highlights

While this past Fall included many amazing guest lecturers, Sandra Loh and Bri McWhorter surpassed student expectations.

The Loh Down on Science is your daily humorous yet informative syndicated radio science minute, available locally, on various streaming/podcast sites (including npr.org and kpcc.org) or via this website. Created in 2005 by the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and KPCC (89.3 FM in Los Angeles) and hosted by humorist and Caltech physics grad Sandra Tsing Loh, the Loh Down on Science is currently co-produced by LDOS Media Lab, Inc. and SCPR (Southern California Public Radio), in association with the University of California, Irvine Science Communications. The content of the show is researched, written, and edited by graduate research students, informally known as "the Hive," from the UC Irvine School of Physical Sciences, School of Biological Sciences, and School of Engineering. While Loh's presentation on science communication was informative, it was more importantly inspiring for our new and ongoing trainees to begin or continue contributing to translating their knowledge into their own Loh Down. Check out the latest Loh Down's for succinct, well-communicated information on your favorite science topic.

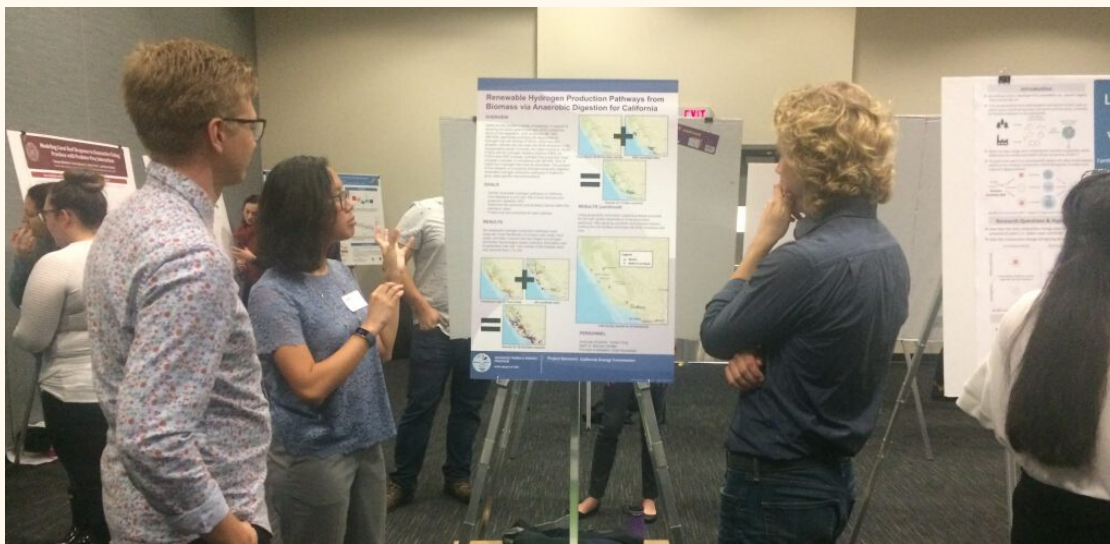


Bri McWhorter is the Founder and CEO of Activate to Captivate. She is passionate about helping people communicate their ideas, share their passion, and bring their story to life. She specializes in teaching workshops covering public speaking fundamentals, communication skills, and executive speech coaching. While our students have much to learn from McWhorter, many PhDs find that they already know the basics of science communication, and are left with not knowing how to improve. For those students, McWhorter says that the best way for students to expand their skills is to always find new ways to talk about their work. This includes speaking at community events, conferences, and posting online videos. The more audiences people speak to, the more connections they make. Every event helps students think about their work in a different way and each new audience brings a unique challenge. If students continuously redefine their "comfort zone", they can keep adding valuable tools to their toolbox.

Third Annual Environmental Research Symposium



The annual Environmental Research Symposium highlights current research underway at UCI by graduate and undergraduate students. At this event, students from wide-ranging disciplines share posters that describe their work as it relates to pressing concerns with environmental science. We hosted 23 presenters from 5 different departments across campus including Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Earth System Science, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Chemistry, and History. Attendees from around campus were exposed to many different points of view and approaches to thinking about solutions for some of our planet's greatest threats. The day ended with two exciting awards for best undergraduate and graduate poster.



We would like to congratulate our two award winners, Bahareh Sorouri and Malissa Ann Gueco Tayo. Malissa was awarded the Best Undergraduate Student Poster for her exceptional presentation, "Shelter from the Storm-Habitat Provision by an Abundant Seaweed." Bahareh Sorouri was awarded the Best Graduate Student Poster. Bahareh presented on the impact of long-term warming on carbon sequestration and nitrogen dynamics in High Arctic tundra soils.