



# DIRECTED RESEARCH PROJECTS

THE SCHOOL  
FOR FIELD STUDIES

TITLES & AUTHORS  
FALL 2023



SFS



## Australia

### **Flammability of Cultivated Plants in North Queensland, Australia**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Deborah Apgaua and Dr. David Tng

Student authors: Jack Chen<sup>1</sup>, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick<sup>1</sup>, Ursula Fusco<sup>2</sup>, May Ling Roberts<sup>3</sup>, Arnav Singh<sup>1</sup>, Luna Wang<sup>4</sup>

1 University of Southern California, 2 Smith College, 3 Pomona College, 4 Hamilton College

### **Natural Extract Flame Retardant Effectiveness On High-Flammable and Moderate-Flammable Plant Species**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Deborah Apgaua and Dr. David Tng

Student authors: Sydney Strauss<sup>1</sup>, Patricio Palomino<sup>2</sup>, Carter Ruegg<sup>3</sup>

1 University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2 Reed College, 3 Iowa State University

### **Are Savannas more Flammable than Gallery Forests? A Community and Species Level Analysis**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Deborah Apgaua and Dr. David Tng

Student authors: August Grossman<sup>1</sup>, Cecile Szollas<sup>1</sup>, Noah West<sup>2</sup>

1 Reed College, 2 Guilford College

### **Saving a Botanical Ark: *Lauraceae* Family Arboretum Restoration**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Deborah Apgaua and Dr. David Tng

Student authors: Isabel Koerner<sup>1</sup>, Jessie Osgard<sup>2</sup>, Samantha Surks<sup>3</sup>, Leo Sullivan<sup>4</sup>, Ella Thompson<sup>3</sup>, Lucas Walker<sup>5</sup>

1 Gonzaga University, 2 University of Nevada Reno, 3 Middlebury College, 4 Bates College, 5 Reed College

### **Preparation and Baseline Analyses for the First Restoration Plot of Mabi Rainforest on a Cinder Cone Volcano in the Atherton Tablelands in Far North Queensland, Australia**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Sigrid Heise-Pavlov

Student authors: Jamie E. Eldridge<sup>1</sup>, Avril M. Engelhart<sup>2</sup>, Solace Lockheart<sup>1</sup>, Olivia C. Pouliot<sup>3</sup>

1 Mount Holyoke, 2 University of Southern California, 3 University of Vermont

### **Mammals of the CRS**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Sigrid Heise-Pavlov

Student authors: Will Bentley<sup>1</sup>, Luke Cuypers<sup>2</sup>, Miranda Hull<sup>3</sup>

1 Hamilton College, 2 College of the Holy Cross, 3 Mount Holyoke College

## Bhutan

### **Neighbors in Nature: Correlation between human presence and wildlife species richness in Paro Valley, Bhutan**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Tshering Tempa

Student authors: Julia Barton<sup>1</sup>, Isaac Goldings<sup>2</sup>, Zoë Rasmussen<sup>3</sup>, Hannah Simmond<sup>4</sup>

1 College of the Holy Cross, 2 Brandeis University, 3 Grinnell College, 4 Bates College

### **Sharing A Steak Dinner: A Study on the Spatial Temporal Partitioning of Large Predators within Paro, Bhutan**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Tshering Tempa

Student authors: Amanda Newcombe<sup>1</sup>, Celia Neuzil<sup>2</sup>, Campbell Stack<sup>3</sup>, Cayden Steele<sup>4</sup>

1 Iowa State University, 2 University of San Diego, 3 Washington State University/Pullman, 4 Bowdoin College

### **Examining the Positive and Negative Ramifications of Climate Change on Agricultural Livelihoods in Doteng Gewog, Paro, Bhutan**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Norbu Wangdi

Student authors: Natalie Lang-Ree<sup>1</sup>, Gabriela Batista Olivera<sup>2</sup>, Harli Strauss-Cohn<sup>3</sup>, Noah Vernick<sup>4</sup>, Carolina Estrella<sup>5</sup>, Sally Johnson<sup>6</sup>

1 Carleton College, 2 Brandeis University, 3 Muhlenberg College, 4 Connecticut College, 5 Wellesley College, 6 Gonzaga University

### **Assessing Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity in Doteng Gewog, Paro Valley, Bhutan**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Norbu Wangdi

Student authors: Eva Keyes<sup>1</sup>, Julian Renschler<sup>1</sup>, Kelly Andrus<sup>2</sup>, Vivian Miller<sup>3</sup>

1 Colorado College, 2 Oregon State University, 3 Barnard College

### **Impacts of Policy Changes on Tourism: Opportunities and Challenges**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Kuenga Wangmo

Student authors: Annika Vagle<sup>1</sup>, Cassidy Meyer<sup>2</sup>, May Lamb<sup>3</sup>, Monica McWilliams<sup>4</sup>, William Popoli<sup>5</sup>

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## **Cambodia**

### **Beyond the Surface: A Holistic Exploration of Watersnake Population Dynamics and Harvesting Practices in Cambodia's Tonlé Sap Lake**

Faculty advisor: Megan English

Student authors: Owen Blacker<sup>1</sup> and Asher Bachfield<sup>2</sup>

1 University of Massachusetts, 2 Whitman College

### **1 Fish, 2 Fish, Blackfish, Whitefish, Exploring Fishery Dynamics in the Tonle Sap Lake, Cambodia: A Comparative Analysis of Gillnets and Lop Traps and Trends in Species Diversity, Size, and Abundance Over Time**

Faculty advisor: Megan English

Student authors: Morgan McKeen<sup>1</sup>, Zeno Lee Devito<sup>2</sup>

1 Clark University, 2 Reed College

### **Trash to Treasure: The Role of Informal Labor in Siem Reap's Urban Recycling Economy**

Faculty advisor: Tim Frewer

Student authors: Kaitlin Walker<sup>1</sup> and Angela Gier<sup>1</sup>

1 The University of the South (Sewanee)

### **Filming the Lives of Waste Pickers in Siem Reap**

Faculty advisor: Tim Frewer

Student authors: Marion Madanguit<sup>1</sup>

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**Veggie Tales: Examining the Labor, Value, and Relationships Within the Participatory Guarantee System in Siem Reap, Cambodia**

Faculty advisor: Jean-Christophe Diepart

Student authors: Haley Arbon<sup>1</sup> and Maria Pisciotta<sup>2</sup>

1 Fordham University, 2 Bucknell University

**Brace for Impact: Rupture in the Wake of the Angkor International Airport**

Faculty advisor: Jean-Christophe Diepart

Student authors: Angus Carter<sup>1</sup> and Phoebe Kolbert<sup>2</sup>

1 Bates College, 2 Smith College

## Chile

**Sustainable Management of the Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve: implications of stakeholder values on wetland and water quality monitoring**

Faculty Advisor: Rafaela Retamal D.

Student Authors: Natalie Bovie<sup>1</sup> and Patrick Bennett<sup>2</sup>

1 University of Colorado, 2 Gonzaga University

**Gauging Perceptions of Shifting Climate and Weather Patterns Change in Cerro Castillo and Surrounding Areas**

Faculty Advisor: Rafaela Retamal D.

Student Authors: Bella Hopewell<sup>1</sup> and Emily Pavelka<sup>2</sup>

1 Reed College, 2 University of San Diego

**Empowering local voices in Southern Chilean Patagonia through interviews. And effective communication efforts to develop community-driven solutions.**

Faculty Advisor: Rafaela Retamal D.

Student Authors: Daisy Gallagher<sup>1</sup> and Lydia Cohen<sup>2</sup>

1 Bates College, 2 Elon University

**Redesigning Estero Natales water quality sampling points: a co-creation with local key informants**

Faculty Advisor: Rafaela Retamal D.

Student Authors: Henry Koch<sup>1</sup> and Audrey Yung<sup>2</sup>

1 Scripps College, 2 University of Richmond

**Snowline Reconstruction of a Southern Patagonian Mountain, La Victorina, Using Google Earth Engine**

Faculty advisor: Francisco Aguirre

Student authors: Ethan Ashbrook<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Bassett<sup>2</sup>, Margo Moceyunas<sup>1</sup>

1 Kenyon College, 2 Colby College

**Phenological Reconstruction in the Tenerife Watershed of Patagonia**

Faculty advisor: Francisco Aguirre

Student author: Robin Henrikson<sup>1</sup>

1 Williams College

### **Effects of climate change, specifically precipitation and temperature, on snow cover in the Cerro Mocho watershed from 2003 to 2023**

Faculty advisor: Francisco Aguirre

Student authors: Sara DeFor<sup>1</sup>, Claire Bohmer<sup>2</sup>

1 Bowdoin College, 2 Bates College

### **Extreme Events in the Rio Las Minas Watershed**

Faculty advisor: Francisco Aguirre

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### **Measurement Methods for Sinuosity, Slope, and Discharge in Southern Patagonian Rivers**

Faculty Advisor: Shaw Nozaki Lacy

Student Author: Amanda Creek<sup>1</sup>

1 Davidson College

### **Evaluating Field Methods for Estimating River Discharge**

Faculty Advisor(s): Shaw Nozaki Lacy

Student Authors: Victoria Barrow<sup>1</sup> and Lauren Badinger<sup>2</sup>

1 Colorado College, 2 Swarthmore College

### **Predicting Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Richness: The Role of Local Velocity in Southern Patagonian Rivers**

Faculty Advisor: Shaw Nozaki Lacy

Student Authors: Henry Bruininks<sup>1</sup> and Eleanor Mills<sup>2</sup>

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### **The Effect of Drought on Seasonal Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Species Richness in Última Esperanza**

Faculty Advisor: Shaw Nozaki Lacy

Student Authors: Kaitlyn Ying<sup>1</sup> and Katie Schmalz<sup>2</sup>

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### **Evaluating species dominance in vegetation succession of post-wildfire *Nothofagus pumilio* forests in Torres del Paine Biosphere Reserve, Chile**

Faculty Advisor: Shaw Nozaki Lacy

Student Authors: Kelsey Pivnick<sup>1</sup> and Erin Magnuson<sup>2</sup>

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### **Post-2005 Fire Carbon Dynamics in Laguna Azul: Losses and Reuptake**

Faculty Advisor: Shaw Nozaki Lacy

Student Authors: Niah Dang<sup>1</sup> and Maggie Callow<sup>2</sup>

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## **Costa Rica**

### **Tourism, transportation, and *Verdes* community currency: food security in Monteverde, Costa Rica**

Faculty advisor: Mary Little

Student author: Rachel Brzezicki<sup>1</sup>

1 Columbia University

### **Economic, Environmental, and Social Effectiveness of Verdes Crypto-Currency in Monteverde, Costa Rica: Verdes Community Currency Initiative**

Faculty advisor: Mary Little

Student authors: Eugenia Chow<sup>1</sup>, Jade Cale<sup>2</sup>, Maisie Conrad-Poor<sup>3</sup>, Alondra Damian<sup>4</sup>, Shannon Hickey<sup>5</sup>, Elizabeth Domina<sup>6</sup>, Evan Li<sup>7</sup>

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### **The Successes and Challenges of Verdes as a Community Currency**

Faculty advisor: Mary Little

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### **Understory Plant Flammability in a Water Source Protected Area in Atenas, Costa Rica**

Faculty advisor: Milena Cambronero

Student authors: Thomas Axtell<sup>1</sup>, Liam Gislason<sup>2</sup>, Martha Shaffer<sup>3</sup>

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### **Canopy Flammability in the Anselmo Murillo Jimenez Municipal Forest (Atenas, Costa Rica)**

Faculty advisor: Milena Cambronero

Student authors: Lydia Evans<sup>1</sup>, Linnea Sorensen<sup>2</sup>, Rowan Moore<sup>3</sup>

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### **Fire Management and Prevention Systems in the Atenas Municipal Forest (Alajuela, Costa Rica): A SWOT Analysis**

Faculty advisor: Milena Cambronero.

Student authors: Lily Christiana<sup>1</sup> and Lila Miller<sup>2</sup>

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### **Herpetofauna at Soltis Center: analysis of species abundance, density, occupancy, and probability of detectability**

Faculty advisor: Víctor Acosta Chaves

Student authors: Ben Leibowitz<sup>1</sup>, CJ Kreitlow<sup>2</sup>, Drusilla DeJarnette-Perkins<sup>3</sup>, Lizzy Richards<sup>4</sup>, Matilde Dal Boni<sup>5</sup>, Sarah Whitwam<sup>6</sup>, Zoe Sabadish<sup>7</sup>

1 Colorado College, 2 Gonzaga University, 3 Hollins University, 4 University of Massachusetts/Amherst 5 Mount Holyoke College, 6 University of San Francisco, 7 Eckerd College

## **Kenya**

### **Effectiveness and sustainability of Mbirikani Predator Compensation Fund in mitigating human-lion conflicts, enhancing lion conservation and coexistence with communities**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Richard Kiaka, Dr. John Kiringe and Jennifer Wanyingi

Student authors: Alicia Canaday<sup>1</sup>, Ansley Carpenter<sup>1</sup>, Jackson Deely<sup>2</sup>, Naomi Kolmer<sup>3</sup>, David Andrade<sup>4</sup>, Michael Neumann<sup>5</sup>

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### **Evaluating the Effectiveness and Challenges Facing the Mbirikani Predator Consolation Fund: A Comprehensive Analysis**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Richard Kiaka, Dr. John Kiringe and Jennifer Wanyingi

Student author: Alicia Canaday<sup>1</sup>

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### **The evolution and effectiveness of the Mbirikani Predator Consolation Fund as a mitigation strategy for human-lion coexistence**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Richard Kiaka, Dr. John Kiringe and Jennifer Wanyingi

Student author: Ansley Carpenter<sup>1</sup>

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### **Community attitudes towards Mbirikani Predator Consolation Fund, lion conservation and coexistence**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Richard Kiaka, Dr. John Kiringe and Jennifer Wanyingi

Student author: Jackson Deely<sup>1</sup>

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### **Effectiveness of the Mbirikani Predator Consolation Fund in mitigating retaliatory attacks on lions**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Richard Kiaka, Dr. John Kiringe and Jennifer Wanyingi

Student author: Naomi Kolmer<sup>1</sup>

1 University of Redlands

### **Assessment of equitability and effectiveness of the Mbirikani predator consolation fund in lion conservation among different community livelihood strategies and livestock ownership**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Richard Kiaka, Dr. John Kiringe and Jennifer Wanyingi

Student authors: David Andrade<sup>1</sup> and Michael Neumann<sup>2</sup>

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## **Panama**

### **Threats to local surfer wellbeing and potential avenues for surf-break conservation**

Faculty advisor: Leon Mach

Student authors: Jacob Nahmias<sup>1</sup>, Sydney Stark<sup>2</sup>, Lu Rothock<sup>3</sup>

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### **The Social Psychology of the Cobre Mining Protests in Bocas del Toro, Panama**

Faculty advisors: Dr. Cinda P. Scott, Dr. Leon Mach

Student authors: Emma Butcher<sup>1</sup>, Ananya Rao<sup>2</sup>, Samantha Savage<sup>3</sup>, Henry Shuler<sup>4</sup>, Kelly Yen<sup>5</sup>

1 University of Wisconsin, 2 Bates College, 3 Gonzaga University, 4 Dickinson College, 5 Olin College of Engineering

### **Leaf-litter Frog Community Structure vary across land-use type and habitat characteristics in Bocas del Toro, Panama**

Faculty advisor: Daniel Medina

Student authors: Isabel (Izzy) Hernandez<sup>1</sup>, Sabine Manske<sup>2</sup>, Robby Marsh<sup>3</sup>, Dora Trinkle<sup>4</sup>

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***Oophaga pumilio* frog population experience decreased density and body conditions as land use transitions from protected forest to cacao farms in Bocas del Toro, Panama**

Faculty advisor: Daniel Medina

Student authors: Tate Peterson<sup>1</sup>, Annika Fredeen<sup>2</sup>, Will O' Connor<sup>3</sup>, Hannah Burdick<sup>4</sup>

1 Davidson College, 2 Drake University, 3 Dickinson College, 4 Bates College

**Population status of elkhorn corals (*Acropora palmata*) in Bocas del Toro, Caribbean Panama, after the 2023 mass bleaching event**

Faculty advisor: Dagoberto E. Venera Ponton

Student authors: Anjali Shukla<sup>1</sup>, Corinne Charney<sup>2</sup>, Katrina Silva<sup>3</sup>, Yvonne Moreira-Andrade<sup>4</sup>

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**Relationship between *Acropora palmata* health and fish community structure in the aftermath of a mass bleaching event in Bocas del Toro, Panama**

Faculty advisor: Dagoberto E. Venera Ponton

Student authors: Julia Brophy<sup>1</sup>, Olivia Frigyes<sup>2</sup>, Sarah Griffin<sup>3</sup>, Olivia Magazino<sup>4</sup>

1 Bates College, 2 University of San Diego, 3 Wellesley College, 4 University of San Diego

## Tanzania

**Assessing the influence of habitat on avian species abundance in the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem.**

Faculty advisor: Henry K. Njovu, Ph.D.

Student author: Henry Schroeder<sup>1</sup>

1 Gonzaga University

**Anthropogenic influences, climate and invasive plant impact on plant-pollinator interaction and diversity in Northern Tanzania**

Faculty advisor: Henry K. Njovu, Ph.D.

Student author: Sophie Chmelar<sup>1</sup>

1 Yale University

**Spatial variation of small mammals' diversity and abundance along elevation gradients in the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem**

Faculty advisor: Henry K. Njovu, Ph.D.

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**Assessing the influence of habitat on avian species abundance in the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem**

Faculty advisor: Henry K. Njovu, Ph.D.

Student author: Luke Fiermonti<sup>1</sup>

1 Gonzaga University

**Assessment of tourism impact on local community perceptions and their engagement in conservation in Monduli District, Tanzania**

Faculty advisor: John Mwamhanga

Student authors: Julia Grabowski<sup>1</sup>, Lyndsey Olson<sup>2</sup>, Jayd Sollinger<sup>3</sup>, Megan DeLano<sup>4</sup>

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### **Identification of Animal Roadkill Hotspots Along Highways Adjacent Wildlife Protected Areas in Northern Tanzania**

Faculty advisor: John Mwamhanga

Student author: Teegan Lowe<sup>1</sup>

1 Saint Michael's College

### **Impacts of Overgrazing and Associated Ecosystem Health Factors on Invasive Plant Success in Tanzania**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Shem Mwasi

Student author: Casey Shaw-Merrigan<sup>1</sup>

1 Colorado College

### **Using Tree and Shrub Biometrics to Estimate Giraffe Carrying Capacity in Burunge Wildlife Management Area**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Shem Mwasi

Student author: Quinn Boothby<sup>1</sup>

1 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

### **Ecosystem health assessment in Burunge Wildlife Management Area, North Eastern Tanzania**

Faculty advisor: Dr. Shem Mwasi

Student authors: Sydney Molaver<sup>1</sup>, Mitchell Zell<sup>2</sup>

1 George Washington University, 2 Bowdoin College

### **Eco-Geographical Analysis of Livestock Depredation by Carnivores in the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem, Tanzania**

Faculty advisor: Bernard Kissui

Student authors: Sophie Carpenter<sup>1</sup>, Stotra Chakrabarti<sup>1</sup>

1 Macalester College

### **Livestock Predation Patterns by Lions, Leopards, and Spotted Hyenas in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tanzania**

Faculty advisors: Bernard Kissui, Ingela Jansson (Kopelion)

Student authors: Shayden Jones<sup>1</sup>, Max Zeltsar<sup>2</sup>

1 Purdue University, 2 Middlebury College

## **Turks and Caicos Islands**

### **The Most Viable Nursery Structures and Outplant Sites for *Acropora* Restoration in South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands**

Faculty advisor: John DeBuysser and Heidi Hertler, Ph.D.

Student authors: Claudia Buckenmeyer<sup>1</sup>, Kara Ramage<sup>2</sup>, Adriana Yeo<sup>3</sup>

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### **Validating the use of Drones for Flats Wildlife Observations**

Faculty advisor: Bill Bigelow

Student authors: Christopher Walsh<sup>1</sup>, Cole Philpott<sup>2</sup>, Samuel Goldman<sup>3</sup>

1 Providence College, 2 Grinnell College, 3 University of New Hampshire

**Quantifying behavioral responses of green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) and southern stingrays (*Hypanus americana*) to ecotourism disturbance in South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands**

Faculty advisor: Bill Bigelow

Student authors: Allison O'Brien<sup>1</sup>, Jeremy Christensen<sup>2</sup>, Rebecca Schlesinger<sup>3</sup>

1 Creighton University, 2 Davidson College, 3 Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

**Spatial Ecology of *Cardisoma guanhum* on South Caicos**

Faculty advisor: Bill Bigelow

Student authors: Elijah Wallace<sup>1</sup>, Jess Crivello<sup>2</sup>, Matthew Fanara<sup>3</sup>

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**The role of *Sargassum* spp. in anthropogenic marine debris deposition and retainment on South Caicos beaches**

Faculty advisor: Cassandra Dudek

Student authors: Jasmine Caddedu<sup>1</sup>, Keely Lavin<sup>2</sup>, Francesca Bradley<sup>3</sup>, Samantha Gamber<sup>4</sup>

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**Investigation into microplastics in the blue land crab, *Cardisoma guahumi*'s feces and habitat in South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands**

Faculty advisor: Cassandra Dudek

Student authors: Kishan Mangru<sup>1</sup> and Max Ingraham<sup>2</sup>

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***Octopus briareus* of South Caicos: Their unique skin pattern is found displayed with distinct behaviors**

Faculty advisor: C.E. "Shades" O'Brien, Ph.D.

Student authors: Emily Bianco<sup>1</sup>, Lynne McNamara<sup>2</sup>, Stella Gaydek<sup>3</sup>

1 Endicott College, 2 University of New Hampshire, 3 University of Michigan

**Shining a Light on the Nightly Activities of *Callistoctopus furvus* in South Caicos**

Faculty advisor: C.E. "Shades" O'Brien, Ph.D.

Student authors: Dipseka Timsina<sup>1</sup>, Izzy Desjardins<sup>1</sup>, Maddie Marquardt<sup>2</sup>

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**Higher Lucinid Abundance Observed Above Seagrass Erosion Edges than below in the Turks and Caicos Islands**

Faculty advisor: C.E. "Shades" O'Brien, Ph.D.

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