BRENDA ASUNCION

94-1154 Nanilihilihi St. (808) 291-2340
Waipahu, HI 96797 Brenda.asuncion@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Master of Science, Marine Science – Expected Spring 2009
Hawai'i Pacific University, Honolulu, HI

Bachelor of Arts, Biology, Marine Emphasis, Cum Laude – May 2007
Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Study Abroad, Certificate of Proficiency – attended Spring 2006
University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Iolani School, Honolulu, HI – June 2003

RESEARCH

Algal virus diversity and viral intein elements in Kāne'ohe Bay Fall 2007 – present
Center for Microbial Oceanography: Research and Education (C-MORE), Honolulu, HI

An extension of summer internship; currently focusing on intein elements within algal virus genomes.

Cone snail habitats of Kaua'i Fall 2006
Undergraduate Research Center (URC), Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Sub-tidal investigation of cone snails' microhabitats (genus *Conus*) in relation to disparate feeding ecologies.

An Assessment of Fish Assemblage in Morro Bay Fall 2006
Undergraduate Research Center (URC), Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Employed beach and purse seines, and beam and otter trawls.

An Assessment of Southern Species Fish Assemblage in San Diego Bay Summer 2005
Undergraduate Research Center (URC), Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

In collaboration with student researchers of Vantuna Research Group, utilized beam and otter trawls, beach and purse seines; presented poster at URC session.

Santa Cruz Island Leaf Litter Experiment: The Effect of Feral Pig Foraging Activities on the Leaf Litter Invertebrate Community Fall 2005 – Spring 2007
Academic Student Project Award, URC, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

In collaboration with students of Conservation Biology class, analyzed terrestrial invertebrate assemblage.

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Intern at C-MORE Summer 2007
Hawaiian Internship Program, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu, HI

Utilized molecular techniques to evaluate marine virus genetic diversity and cultivated diatoms to investigate the infectivity of viruses.

George Melendez Wright Student Travel Scholarship Recipient April 2007
George Wright Society Conference, St. Paul, MN

Attended biennial conference to network with researchers and professionals involved in managing protected areas.

Assessing the Sustainability of Fish Assemblages: Demonstrating Reserve Effect and Implicating a Process for Prioritization Fall 2006
Independent Study, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Investigation of fishes' life histories and the potential role in dictating positive reserve effect.

WORK EXPERIENCE

High School Internship Coordinator Fall 2007 – present
Paepae O He'eia, He'eia Fishpond, Kāne'ohe, HI

Lab Technician / Field Assistant Fall 2003 – Spring 2007
Vantuna Research Group, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

King Harbor and Palos Verdes Reef Monitoring
Conducted SCUBA fish transects (10-30 ft.)

Ichthyoplankton Research in King Harbor
Contributed to a data set continuing since the 1970s by performing surface and bottom plankton tows with small craft operation (17' and 18' vessels), and conducting laboratory-based sorting of fish eggs and larvae.

Chevron Products Industrial Outfall Analysis
Analyzed quarterly collections of sediment by laboratory-based sorting of infaunal invertebrates.

U.S. Navy Eelgrass Enhancement Monitoring in San Diego Port
Conducted SCUBA shallow fish transects (<10 ft.)

Impingement Study of Encina Power Plant
Identified and catalogued fish and invertebrates.

CA Department of Fish & Game White Seabass Gill Net Sampling Program
Deployed, retrieved and repaired gill nets to assess the progress of white seabass hatchery program.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2006
Biology Department, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA

Personal Tutor, High School Biology Fall 2006 – Spring 2007
Private family, Los Angeles, CA

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Volunteer 2003 – Present
Paepae O He'eia, He'eia Fishpond, Kāne'ohe, HI

Contribute to efforts of restoring fishpond integrity by eradicating mangrove, assisting with water quality tests, monitoring seaweed growth and acclimation, assessing topography for wall restoration, tagging fish with visible implant elastomer prior to release in pond (collaboration with Oceanic Institute).