

Natasha J. Gownaris

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School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
Stony Brook University
Stony Brook, NY 11794

Education

School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Ph.D. (in progress, August 2009-present)
Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York
Major: Marine Sciences

Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania Bachelor of Science May, 2009
Cumulative GPA: 4.07
Rank: 7/619
Major: Environmental Studies (Concentration in Marine Ecology and Environmental Policy)
Major: Biology
Received Honors for Both Majors

Publications and Presentations

Gownaris, N.J. and M.J. Brush. Nutrient uptake dynamics of macroalgae and phytoplankton in shallow marine systems. Paper in preparation. Presented at the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Meetings. Fairfax, Virginia. 2008.

Commuto, J.A., Commuto, A.E., Platt, R.V., Grupe, B.M., Dow, W.E., Gownaris, N.J., Reeves, K.A., and Vissicelli, A.M. 2008. Self-organization in soft-bottom mussel beds. In preparation.

Commuto, J.A., and Gownaris, N.J. 2008. Spatial threat response in a marine bivalve: mussels self-organize into fractal aggregations. Publication in preparation. Presented at the Benthic Ecology Meetings. Providence, Rhode Island. 2008.

Research Experience

Department Honors Project and Research Assistant, Dr. John A. Commuto (Supervisor)
Gettysburg College Environmental Studies Department (2005-2009) Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Are mussel beds selfish herds? Mussels self-organize into fractal aggregations.
Research conducted at Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research and Education, Beals Island, Maine.
Research focused on the factors influencing post-larval movement of *Mytilus edulis*.
Multiple statistical and spatial analyses employed, including the use of ArcGIS and Benoit software.

Research Experience for Undergraduates Intern (National Science Foundation), Dr. Mark Brush (Supervisor)
Virginia Institute for Marine Science (May 2008-August 2008) Gloucester Point, Virginia
Nutrient uptake dynamics of macroalgae and phytoplankton in shallow marine systems.
Ammonium and ¹⁵N spike experiments using phytoplankton, *Gracilaria* spp. and *Ulva* spp.
Data used in intermediate complexity model for shallow marine systems (STELLA).
Week spent helping with Defense Coastal/Estuarine Research Program (Camp Lejeune, North Carolina).

Laboratory Assistant, Dr. Virginia M-Y Lee and Dr. John Q. Trojanowski (Directors)
University of Pennsylvania Center for Neurodegenerative Disease (2006-2007) Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Investigating the causes and mechanisms of neurodegenerative diseases
Assisted with brain autopsies and fixing and processing of tissue.
Performed immunohistochemistry on human brain tissue to test for the presence of TDP43 positive pathology in Tauopathies (Pick's Disease, PSP, CBD).

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistantship: Environmental Science and Society (Fall 2008) Environmental Studies Department, Gettysburg College.

Teaching Assistantship: Ecology (Fall 2006) Environmental Studies Department, Gettysburg College.

Teaching Assistantship: Ichthyology (Fall 2009) School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University.

Teaching Assistantship: Oceanography (Fall 2009) School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University.

Course Preparation Teaching Assistantship: Marine Conservation, graduate level (Spring 2009) School of Marine

and Atmospheric Sciences, Stony Brook University.

**Undergraduate
School and
Community
Involvement**

Member (2005-2009), Historian (2006-2007) and Treasurer (2007-2009) of Gettysburg Environmental Concerns Organization (G.E.C.O.).

Member (2005-2009), Senate Representative (2005-2006), Treasurer (2006-2008) and Public Relations Chair (2008-2009) of Biosphere.

Member of (2005-2009) and Co-Chair of Coffeehouse Committee (2006-2008) for Campus Activities Board.

Founding member of Gettysburg Research and Action by Students for Sustainability, G.R.A.S.S. (2006-2009).

Sustainability Representative (2007-2009) – Leader in the promotion of sustainable practices on campus residences.

Student Volunteer, Painted Turtle Organic Farm (2007-2009)

**Undergraduate
Honors**

Goldwater Scholar

Student Speaker: Presidential Scholar's Breakfast, Presidential Donor's Lunch, Trustees Luncheon

Garden Club of America Grant for Summer Environmental Research

Dean's List and Presidential Scholar all semesters

Member, Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa merit fraternities

Recipient, Bobby Fulton Memorial Scholarship (all years)

Recipient, Karl. A Herzog Biology Honors Award

Recipient, Betty Barnes Biology Award (given to one senior each year)