

## Sherril Leon Soon

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### EDUCATION

*University of Hawai'i at Manoa (UH Manoa), Manoa, HI*

**Ph.D. student in Biological Oceanography**

**Present**

Research Interests: Biogeochemical-Physical Intersections in Coastal Environments

*Florida A & M University (FAMU), Tallahassee, FL*

**B.S. Honors in Environmental Science**

**2006**

Areas of Concentration: Environmental Restoration and Waste Management via estuarine biogeochemical cycling and environmental impact assessment

Senior Thesis: "Phytoplankton Production and Bacterial Consumption of Light-mediated DOM Exudate in a Natural System"

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### AWARDS

- Recipient of renewable Distinguished Scholars Award at FAMU **2003 - 2006**
- Listed on Honor Roll and Dean's List at FAMU **2003 - 2006**
- Inducted into the National Society for Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) honor society **2004**
- Chair of the Conference Planning Committee for the 28th Bi-annual Florida Caribbean Students' Association (FCSA) Conference hosted by FAMU CSA in November **2005**
- Selected as a Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Program Scholar **2006**

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### WORK EXPERIENCE

**Graduate Research Assistant**, *Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, Department of Oceanography, University of Hawai'i at Manoa*

**August 2007 – Present**

- Research interests include
  - biological responses to the physical environment specifically related to nutrient uptake and biogeochemical cycling
  - Environmental remediation through improving the understanding of system operation/function
  - Coral reef and wetland ecology and health
- Would like to get involved in community outreach and environmental education projects so as to foster environmental stewardship

**Environmental Education Specialist**, *Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Environmental Education*

**March 2007 – May 2007**

- Work primarily on the FDEP's Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Program.
- Research, plan, and prepare field labs for middle school students.
- Travel throughout Florida to LIFE sites and assist in facilitating field labs.
- Assist in establishing new LIFE sites and partnerships.
- Represent the Office of Environmental Education at various outreach and community service activities.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**, *Aquatic Sciences Laboratory, Environmental Sciences Institute, Florida A & M University*

**2004 – 2006**

- Worked directly with Academic Advisor, academic peers, and other graduate students to ensure the smooth running of the lab and the achievement of research goals to fulfill grant requirements.
- Played key role in planning and preparing for many field sample collection trips.

- Participated in field studies focused on mercury bioaccumulation (USGS funded), carbon flux in the Indian River Lagoon, Florida (NSF funded), and shipboard ecosystem inventory of the northeastern Gulf of Mexico (FIO funded).
- Designed and conducted microcosm experiments as part of Senior Thesis requirements which was also in keeping with the research goals of the lab.
- Conducted sample analyses for various projects centered on nutrient cycling and prepared the data on spreadsheets and graphically.

**Volunteer Services**, *Association for Battered Women, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago*

**3003**

- Responsible for taking inventory and restocking stationery supplies
- Assisted with filing
- Assisted with promotional projects
- General office duties

**Co-curricular Subject Teacher**, *Bishop Anstey Junior School, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago*

**2001 – 2003**

- Worked with students from age five to twelve in fulfilling their curriculum requirements in Social Studies, Religious Education, and Art and Craft.
- Responsible for filling in for other instructors where necessary, including Science and Math classes.

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**SKILLS**

➤ **Equipment**

- DOC analysis using a high temperature catalytic oxidation process on the Shimadzu TOC 5050A Total Organic Carbon Analyzer
- Total Nitrogen and Nitrate concentration determination using the Thermcraft furnace and an Antek 7050 and 745 chemiluminescent NO-NO<sub>2</sub> –NO<sub>x</sub> detector
- Ultrafiltration techniques utilizing the Pall Corporation Minimate TFF capsules
- Turner Designs TD-700 Fluorometer
- Milton Roy Spectronic 601 Spectrometer
- Zeiss Axioskop

➤ **Laboratory Protocols**

- Ammonium, nitrite, and phosphate concentration analysis using standard colorimetric techniques
- DAPI staining and bacteria enumeration
- Phytoplankton staining and counting (Palmer and Sedgwick Rafter cells)
- Chlorophyll quantitation via Fluorescence
- Exposure to the isolation of bacteria from marine sponge tissue; extraction, purification (Agarose gel), amplification (PCR), and separation (DGGE) of DNA and RNA fragments; and quorum sensing in bacteria.
- Nitrate reductase protein assays from marine algae samples
- Protein extraction and total protein assays from coral samples

➤ **Field Techniques**

- Surface and sub-surface water sample collection
- Familiar with water quality data collection using hydrolabs, niskin bottles, YSIs, refractometers, secchi disks, and turbidimeters
- Use of Van Veen sediment grab, plankton nets, and otter trawls
- Largemouth bass fillet and otolith sampling
- Water velocity data collection using ADVs

➤ **Programs**

- Microsoft Office Suite
- SigmaPlot graphing software
- EndNote (bibliography management software)
- Matlab

> **Experience in**

- Phytoplankton aquaculture
- Sediment sample collection using sediment corers
- Data collection using a Conductivity-Temperature-Depth (CTD) instrument

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CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

- Attended the National Association of African American Honors Programs 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference hosted by FAMU in Orlando **2003**
- Presented at the Bernard D. Hendricks Undergraduate Research Conference at FAMU **2004**
- Attended Florida Caribbean Students' Association (FCSA) Conferences **2004, 2005, 2006**
- Attended the ASLO Aquatic Sciences Conference in February **2005**
- Participated in the Summer Microbiology and Research Training (SMaRT) Program at the Center of Marine Biotechnology (COMB), University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute **2006**
- Participated in the Edwin W. Pauley Summer Program in Marine Biology **2007**

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MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

- Member, National Society for Collegiate Scholars (NSCS)
  - Officer, N□ Kama Kai (UH Manoa Oceanography Graduate Student Organization) **2008/09 Academic Year**
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