

JADEN ORLI

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EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 2025
Degree: BA in Biology (College of Creative Studies)
Awards: Regent Scholar, Coastal Fund Major Grant Recipient
GPA: 3.90

Ronald Reagan High School, Pfafftown, NC 2020
Awards: National Honor Society Member, National AP Scholar
GPA: 4.51

WORK EXPERIENCE

SONGS Mitigation Monitoring Program, *Lab Technician*, UCSB, CA 08/2025 – current

- Conducting intensive field surveys in Southern California salt marshes, focusing on fish and invertebrate community sampling as part of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Mitigation Monitoring Program
- Processing collected field samples in the lab, including species identification and data entry (QA/QC)
- Operating and maintaining field and lab equipment in challenging conditions, including muddy salt marshes
- Collaborating with project scientists and staff to support long-term monitoring of ecological restoration efforts

Stier Ocean Recoveries Lab, *Research Intern*, UCSB, CA 09/2024 – 08/2025

- Modeling the implications of various management strategies - Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and slot limits - on the CA Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) commercial and recreational fisheries in Southern California
- Designing and developing the saltwater system for future work on coral cultivation and the exploration of the recovery of coral frags under varying parameters

Valentine Lab, *Research Intern*, UCSB, CA 01/2023 – 08/2025

- Exploring the role of Marine Group II Archaea in biogenic hydrocarbon cycling and petroleum spills
- Learning bioinformatics and metagenomics using Bash (Terminal) and Bridges-2 PSC
- Collecting sediment and water samples on cruise expeditions

Caselle Lab (PISCO), *Scientific Diver/Research Intern*, UCSB, CA 06/2024 – 10/2024

- Completed underwater benthic and fish surveys as part of the (MPAs) monitoring project with the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) across the Northern Channel Islands
- Began training on the operation of UCSB small crafts
- Evaluated near-shore fish stocks through hook-and-line surveys with volunteer anglers and the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Project (CCFRP)

Reef Check California, *Intern*, CA 06/2022 – 04/2023

- Entering data from surveys performed by divers at Reef Check sites across the coastal western United States
- Completing transects in southern California to measure abundance and prevalence of select invertebrate and kelp species via scientific diving
- Performing quality control on surveys that have been entered in the database

Novex Innovations, *Lab Technician*, Winston-Salem, NC 08/2020 – 08/2021

- Worked on the research and development of a drug that is historically manufactured in Japan to treat lymphatic malformation and is currently undergoing the FDA approval process
- Passaged and processed mesenchymal stem cells from amnion and chorion tissue samples for research into regenerative therapies
- Trained new team members on sterile technique protocols (ISO 5) and proper equipment usage
- Participated in biweekly management meetings with department heads

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Kuris Parasite Ecology Lab, *Project Lead*, UCSB, CA 09/2021 - current

- Leading a team of undergraduate students on an independent research project investigating a novel copepod egg predator infesting commercially important rock crabs in Santa Barbara
- Mentoring peers to develop posters and presentations for various conferences including:
 - EEMB URS (2021/2022/2023): talks and posters at the UCSB Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology (EEMB) Undergraduate Research Symposium (URS)
 - ESA (2023): a talk at the 108th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (ESA)
- Applied for (and received) funding to pay student salaries and purchase more equipment to support the project (including light boxes, drawing tube, Canon camera, and scope adapter)
- Conducting fieldwork which includes surveying sites, laying transects, monitoring camera traps, and collecting samples
- Submitted a manuscript for publication (accepted for publication) where I will be listed as the first author

Environmental Media Production Course, *Associate Producer*, UCSB, CA 03/2025 – 04/2025

- Assisted with media management responsibilities associated with the course, including client communications and media organization
- Edited a short promotional film for a nonprofit organization, which collaborated with the Bren graduate school to host a climate leadership program for high school students, using Adobe Premiere Pro
- Filmed and directed high school students outdoors with a Canon EOS C70 camera
 - [Climate Leadership Program - Santa Cruz Island 2025](#)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Santa Barbara Coastal Long Term Ecological Research, *Scientific Diver*, UCSB, CA 03/2023 – 05/2024

- Conducting underwater surveys in the kelp forest off the coast of Santa Barbara to monitor various components of the changing kelp forest environment
- Deploying and retrieving packages of giant kelp at various depths in an attempt to understand degradation rates under varying physical conditions

Pacific Manta Research Group, *Web Designer/Research Intern* 12/2021 – 01/2024

- Designed the website for the research group with a focus on creating a user-friendly interface for photo-ID submission from citizen scientists
- Formatted posters and presentations to educate divemasters and recreational divers on proper manta etiquette and photo-taking techniques
- Wrote a research proposal for the BBC Blue Planet III documentary on the significance of the Revillagigedo oceanic manta population

Floge Marine Microbial Ecology Lab, *Research Intern*, WF, NC 01/2020 – 03/2020

- Prepared petri dishes and growth mediums
- Pipetted samples and nutrients
- Organized lab equipment and cleaned glassware

Greensboro Science Center, *Aquarium Docent*, Greensboro, NC 02/2018 – 08/2021

- Worked with visitors to further enhance their experience through education
- Oversaw the visitor-animal engagement within the aquarium
- Explained the current conservation efforts of the center and animal care practices

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- *Technical*: proficient in R, ArcGIS Pro, Adobe Premiere Pro, and WordPress
- *Interests*: applied systems ecology with a particular interest in adaptive management strategies which integrate human and ecological welfare

- *Projects*: spatially explicit analyses in GitHub
 - [Marine-Aquaculture](#): An analysis of potential locations within the Economic Exclusion Zones (EEZ) along the West Coast of the US that are potentially suitable locations for integrative multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA)
 - [Houston-Storms](#): An analysis of blackout impacts during the Great Texas Freeze of 2021, evaluating socioeconomic disparities and spatial patterns of recovery across the Houston metropolitan area

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

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|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Applied Marine Ecology | • Microbial Diversity | • Biology of Fishes |
| • Theoretical Ecology | • Marine Ecology and Conservation | • Quantitative Methods in Biology |
| • Geospatial Analysis and Remote Sensing | • Ecological Modeling (Undergrad TA) | • Environmental Processes in Oceans and Lakes |
| • Environmental Modeling | • Environmental Media Production | • Marine Biogeochemistry |

DIVING EXPERIENCE

- *Total Dives*: ~ 350
- *Certifications*: Rescue, Nitrox, AAUS (60 feet), and Reef Check
- *Conditions/Environments*: wrecks, low visibility, blue water, night, cold water, and strong currents
- *Technical Skills*: underwater photography (photo identification techniques), drift diving, deep diving, and peak performance buoyancy
- *Research Skills*: laying transects, conducting benthic and fish surveys, and invertebrate specimen collection
- *Scientific Dives*: ~ 75

GRANTS

- Coastal Fund, UCSB, CA (CF-202204-02367)** 06/2022 – 03/2024
- *Major Grant Recipient*: received for “A novel copepod egg predator found infesting commercially important rock crabs in Santa Barbara, CA”
 - *Author, Amount Awarded*: \$12,518.10
- Coastal Fund, UCSB, CA (CF-202404-09827)** 06/2024 – 06/2026
- *Major Grant Recipient*: received for “Microbial hydrocarbon cycling at Coal Oil Point”
 - *Author, Amount Awarded*: \$8,100.00

AWARDS

- Southern Academy of Parasitologists, Annual Meeting** 05/2023
- *Best Student Poster Award*: received for the poster titled “A novel copepod egg predator found infesting commercially important rock crabs in Santa Barbara, CA”
- International Conference on Copepoda, Triannual Meeting** 07/2022
- *Best Student Presentation Award*: received for the poster titled “A novel copepod egg predator found infesting commercially important rock crabs in Santa Barbara, CA”
- Western Society of Naturalists, Annual Meeting** 11/2021
- *Honorable Mention for Best Poster*: received for the poster titled “A novel copepod egg predator found infesting commercially important rock crabs in Santa Barbara, CA”

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts in Review:

- **Orli J. E.**, Lecuona S. M., Plewe G., Gadler C., Kuris A., Tang D., & Zilz Z., “Discovery of an unidentified species of nicothoid copepod infesting cancrinid crabs in Santa Barbara, California”
- Zilz Z., Hascall E., DiBartolo A., Flores D., Cameron S., **Orli J. E.**, Kuris A., “A parasite-inclusive food web for the California rocky intertidal zone”