

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 – 01/2026

- 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

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

DIVING EXPERIENCE

- *Total Dives*: ~ 400
- *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*: ~ 100

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:

- **Orli, Jaden E.,** Sophia M. Lecuona, Gabrielle O. Plewe, Carson N. Gadler, Armand M. Kuris, Danny Tang, and Zoe L. Zilz.2025. “Discovery of an Unidentified Species of Nicothoid Copepod Infesting Cancrid Crabs in Santa Barbara, California.” *Ecology* 106(12):e70263. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ecy.70263>

Manuscripts in Review:

- 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”