

Benjamin Branoff

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Research Interests

Systems ecology and the dynamics between human and natural systems, especially those involving coastal resources. Multi-disciplinary research involving engineers, sociologists, and natural scientists. Ecosystem adaptations, services, and their utility in a future of changing climate, urban expansion, and increasing anthropogenic influences.

Current Research

Urban Mangrove Ecology (Doctoral Thesis)

Mangrove biology and ecology throughout the San Juan Bay Estuary, Puerto Rico. I am measuring numerous attributes of the mangroves throughout the estuary that will reveal how surrounding urban land use is influencing their health, function, and the provisioning of ecosystem services.

Education

Ph.D. Biology, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras, 2013 – (2017), 3.7/4.0 GPA

M.Sc. Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University (LSU), 2010 – 2012
4.0/4.0 GPA

B.Sc. Environmental Engineering Sciences, University of Florida, 2003 – 2009, 3.0/4.0 GPA

Publications

Rodríguez Barreras, Ruber, Cuevas, E., Cabanillas-Terán, N., and **B.L. Branoff** (2016) Understanding trophic relationships among Caribbean sea urchins. [Rev. Biol. Trop 64.2: 837-848](#).

Rivera-Monroy, Victor H., **Branoff, B.L.**, et al. (2013) Landscape-Level Estimation of Nitrogen Removal in Coastal Louisiana Wetlands: Potential Sinks under Different Restoration Scenarios. (Louisiana 2012 Coastal Master Plan Technical Analysis) [Journal of Coastal Research 67: 75-87](#).

Branoff, B., Yankson, K., Wubah, D. (2009). Seaweed and associated invertebrates on Iture Rocky Beach, Cape Coast, Ghana. [Journal of Young Investigators, 19\(9\)](#).

Employment History

2016-present, part time Ecology laboratory instructor, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico

2015-2016, part time, Botany laboratory instructor, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico

2014-2015, part time Ecology laboratory instructor, Department of Biology, University of Puerto Rico

2013-2015, full time, Graduate Fellow, NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship

2010-2013, full time, Research Assistant, Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, LSU

2010, full time, Instructor, Newfound Harbor Marine Institute and Seacamp

2007-2009, part time, Aquatic toxicology laboratory technician, AMEC Engineering and Consulting

Educational Experience

2015 - present, Instructor, Botany Laboratory (BIOL 3410), University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras

2014 - 2015, Instructor, Ecology Laboratory (BIOL3112), University of Puerto Rico- Río Piedras

2011 – 2013, Producer and host of Louisiology, a coastal science radio program

Produced and hosted more than a dozen radio shows aimed at educating the Louisiana public on the science behind their coastal and environmental issues. This show airs on WHYR Baton Rouge Community Radio and is available as a podcast online. <http://www.mixcloud.com/CEGO/>

2010 – 2012, LSU EnvironMentors after school volunteer mentoring program

Partnered with a local high school student on developing a science fair project. In 2011, my student was awarded a trip to Washington DC to compete at the national level. <http://environmentors.lsu.edu/>

2010 – 2013, various educational volunteer events

Volunteered as a coastal and environmental science educator for numerous events. This included two [Ocean Commotions](#), [the Sally Ride Science Festival](#), Evangeline Area Boy Scouts events and more.

2010 , Environmental and Marine Science Educator, Newfound Harbor Marine Institute, Big Pine Key, Florida, Designed and taught curricula focused on marine sciences in on site laboratories and research vessels.

Guest Lectures

2016 – CINA 3005, Introduction to Env. Sciences, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras

2015 – CINA4995, Geographic Information Systems, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras

2015 – CINA4071, Environmental Sciences Seminar, University of Puerto Rico-Río Piedras

2012 – OCS7001, Coastal Ecological Modeling, Louisiana State University

Conference Presentations

American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Granada, Spain, February 2015 (poster)

State of the Coast, New Orleans, LA, June 2012, (poster)

INTECOL International Wetlands Conference, Orlando Florida, June 2012 (oral)

Graduate Student Symposium, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, March 2012 (oral)

Coast and Estuarine Research Federation, November 2011 (poster)

American Ecological Engineering Society, May 2011 (oral)

Leadership

Asociación de Estudiantes Graduados de Biología (Association of Biology Graduate Graduate Students). University of Puerto Rico, Nominated and subsequently elected to the governing body, fall, 2014

President: Coast and Environment Graduate Organization (CEGO). Lead an organization of 100 graduate students, oversaw its budget, served as liaison to the faculty and administration, and coordinated various education & outreach events, 2011-2012.

Co-Principal Investigator, Louisiana Sea Grant, Louisiology Radio Show and Podcast. A monthly science radio show on Baton Rouge Community Radio, WHYR of Louisiana, 2011-2013.

Student director: National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates, University of Cape Coast, Ghana, summer 2008

Student Member: Sustainability in Curriculum and Education Committee (SCurrE), a committee of faculty and students concerned with incorporating sustainability science in the LSU curriculum, 2011-2012.