

# Christopher Kwan

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## Education

**Bachelor of Science in Evolution, Ecology and Biodiversity** (June 2009)

**Minor in Environmental Toxicology** (June 2009)

University of California, Davis

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## Research Experience

Bodega Marine Lab Research Technician, Stachowicz Lab **June 2009- May 2010**

*Dr. Jay Stachowicz- Dept. of Evolution & Ecology Faculty, UC Davis*

- Maintain long-term study on the effects of algal species diversity on intertidal community function and structure
- Monitor percent cover of harbor fouling species for a long-term study on exotic and native fouling species; record species recruitment rates, abundances and diversity
- Manage paid lab assistants and unpaid volunteers in doing lab and field work

Lab Assistant, Sanford Lab

**Aug 2008- September 2008**

*Dr. Eric Sanford- Bodega Marine Laboratory Faculty, Dept. of Evolution & Ecology, UC Davis*

- Monitored intertidal snails in predation laboratory experiment; this included measuring weight and length of shell, and counting number of mussels they drilled for food
- Measured mussel lengths and recorded drilled locations on mussel valves to find any patterns of snail feeding habits
- Helped retrieve more than 120 experimental cages on the intertidal rocky shore for field study at Oregon and California sites
- Recorded data on the amount of barnacle and bivalve recruitment in field collected samples of *M. californianus* mussels
- Sorted through samples of bivalve recruitments to assess differences in population densities among Oregon and California sites using dissecting and compound microscopes

Bodega Marine Lab Independent Study

**June 2008- Aug 2008**

*Advisors- Dr. Brian Gaylord (Bodega Marine Laboratory Faculty, Dept. of Evolution & Ecology, UC Davis) and Dr. Eric Sanford*

- Investigated the reduction effects of mussel beds on wave-generated hydrodynamic forces influencing the predation rates of the intertidal dogwhelk, *Nucella ostrina* on its barnacle prey, *Semibalanus cariosus*

- Implemented a field study examining barnacle consumption by dogwhelks in various sizes of bare plots within mussel beds
- Measured water flow velocity in different synthetic mussel formations to show the ameliorating effects of mussel beds on intertidal community organisms subjected to wave forces

Bodega Marine Lab Independent Study

**April 2008- present**

*Advisor- Dr. Eric Sanford*

- Investigated the mechanisms behind the feeding patterns of an intertidal dogwhelk, *Nucella canaliculata*, on its prey, the California mussel, *Mytilus californianus*
- Created different mussel assemblage orientations to serve as treatments in the study
- Constructed cages to contain dogwhelks and mussel assemblages; deployed cages in the field on the rocky intertidal shores of the Bodega Marine Reserve
- Monitored feeding habits of dogwhelks

Lab Assistant, Richards Lab

**June 2007- January 2008**

*Dr. Jim Richards- Dept. of Land, Water, and Air Resources Faculty, UC Davis*

- Conducted multiple germination tests on seeds from different cottonwood trees for future use in the field
- Helped harvest and conduct treatments on finding ion threshold of salt grass intake
- Tested germination rates of cottonwood in various soil substrates
- Determined the ages of centuries old sagebrush stems with sandpaper, wood varnish and magnifying glass

Lab Assistant, Rejmanek Lab

**February 2007- June 2007**

*Dr. Jennifer Erskine- Postdoctoral Researcher, Dept. of Evolution and Ecology, UC Davis*

- Researched on the optimal germination conditions of multiple California plant species; variables include temperature, nitrogen and water availability
- Planted seeds in soil with correct depth and width determined by the size of each seed
- Recorded the days of germination for pots and assisted in surveying the germination dates for each species of plants

Lab Assistant, Stachowicz Lab

**November 2006- June 2007**

*Suzanne Olyarnik- Bodega Marine Lab Researcher, Dept. of Evolution and Ecology, UC Davis*

- Researched the effects of sea grass growth and marine organism diversity with differing populations of algae in the environment

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**Academic Awards**

- Henry A. Jastro Scholarship (Summer 2005)

- UC Davis Deans Honor List (Winter 2006)
  - Department of Evolution and Ecology Departmental Citation Award (June 2009)
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## **Presentations**

- **Reduction effects of mussel assemblages on hydrodynamic forces influencing predation behaviors of the intertidal whelk, *Nucella ostrina*.** Bodega Marine Laboratory, Undergraduate Research Symposium, August 2008
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## **Affiliations**

- The National Society of Collegiate Scholars Member (April 2006-June 2009)
  - Strategies for Ecology, Education, Diversity and Sustainability (SEEDS), Ecological Society of America Member (January 2008-June 2009)
  - Western Society of Naturalists member (October 2009-present)
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## **References**

**Dr. Eric Sanford**, Bodega Marine Laboratory Faculty member, Department of Evolution and Ecology Assistant Professor, UC Davis  
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