
Curriculum Vitae

Michael A. Gil

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Biology, University of Florida

P.O. Box 118525 • Gainesville, FL 32611

m.gil@ufl.edu • Ph. (832) 233-6937

Education

University of Florida (UF), *PhD Candidate in Biology*

Gainesville, FL

Aug. 2009-April 2014

- NSF Graduate Research Fellow
- UF Alumni Fellow
- Advisor: Craig W. Osenberg

University of Texas (UT), *B.S. in Marine and Freshwater Biology*

Austin, TX

Aug. 2004-May 2008

- *Magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in Biology
- Major GPA 4.00, Cumulative GPA 3.95
- GRE scores: V 620 (89%); Q 800 (94%); A 4.5 (58%)
- **Honors thesis:** "Spatial variation in test size of the pteropods *Limacina inflata* and *Limacina trochiformis* in relation to pH across the eastern equatorial Pacific," advised by Ken Dunton (University of Texas), Jan Witting and Kara Lavender (SEA)

Sea Education Association (SEA) Semester at Woods Hole

Woods Hole, MA

Oct. 2007-Jan. 2008

- SEA Dean's Scholar
 - *SSV Robert C. Seamans*, Research Cruise S-214: Oceans and Climate (Puerto Vallarta, Mexico to Papeete, Tahiti)
 - Chief Scientist: Kara Lavender, Captain: Elliott Rappaport
-

Research Interests

Community ecology and conservation, particularly the effects of environmental change and spatial habitat features on coral reef community structure and function

Publications & Professional Reports (* = co-lead authorship, † = undergraduate)

Gil, M.A. and J. Zill[†]. (*In prep, intended for Ecology*). Thinking outside the patch: Habitat isolation and herbivory.

Gil, M.A. (*In prep, intended for Ecology Letters*). Unimodality in coral-nutrient interaction.

Publications & Professional Reports (continued)

Stier, A. C.*, **M. A. Gil***, C. S. McKeon*, S. Lemer, M. Leray, S. C. Mills, and C. W. Osenberg. 2012. Housekeeping Mutualisms: Do More Symbionts Facilitate Host Performance? PLoS ONE 7:e32079.

Mutchler, T., **M.A. Gil**, and K.H. Dunton. 2009. Investigating the response of seagrass meadows to environmental stressors: Quantifying the effect of grazing and nutrient enrichment on seagrass growth and tissue nutrient content. Technical Report. Jobos Bay NERR, Puerto Rico.

Montagna, P.A., T. Palmer, **M.A. Gil**, E. Hill, B. Nicolau, and K.H. Dunton. 2009. Response of the Nueces Estuarine Marsh System to Freshwater Inflow: An Integrative Data Synthesis of Baseline Conditions for Faunal Communities. Technical Report. Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc. Project 0821.

Gil, M.A. 2008. Spatial variation in test size of the pteropods *Limacina inflata* and *Limacina trochiformis* in relation to pH across the eastern equatorial Pacific. *In: Student Research Reports: S-214*, Sea Education Association, P.O. Box 6, Woods Hole, MA 02543.

Gil, M.A., K. Jackson, and S. Moorhead. 2007. Little Bay Project Summary. Technical Report. City of Rockport, TX.

Professional Experience

University of California Berkeley, Gump Research Station, *Graduate Researcher*

Conducted field and lab-based research on the effects of eutrophication on coral growth and the effects of habitat configuration on herbivory dynamics

Moorea, French Polynesia
June-Aug. 2011
May-July 2010

Ocean Bridges Workshop 2010 & 2011

Graduate Researcher

Participant in two international workshops with French and American grad students and PIs sharing past research findings and initiating new collaborations

Moorea, French Polynesia
June 2011
July 2010

Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, *Post-Bachelorette Researcher*

Assisted with design and implementation of a manipulative field experiment testing the individual and combined effects of water-column nutrient

Aguirre, Puerto Rico
May-June 2009

Professional Experience (continued)

enrichment and simulated grazing on seagrass growth and tissue nutrient content

University of California Berkeley, Gump Research Station,
Field Technician

Moorea, French Polynesia
April 2009

Assisted with implementing and monitoring multiple field research projects in the reef

University of Texas Marine Science Institute,
Post-Bachelorette Researcher

Port Aransas, TX
June-Sept. 2008

Organized and analyzed extensive 15-year dataset on Nueces Estuary, TX and the spatiotemporal ecological response to freshwater limitation

University of Texas Department of Integrative Biology,
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Austin, TX
Jan.-May 2008
Sept.-Dec. 2006

Conducted pollution and predation experiments on the federally protected salamander *Eurycea nana* to inform a larger population study on the federally endangered *Eurycea sosorum*

SEA Semester at Woods Hole,
Undergraduate Researcher

Woods Hole, MA/SSV
Robert C. Seamans
Oct. 2007-Jan. 2008

Devised and executed original research on a 43-day trans-Pacific passage. Led and participated in deck and lab watches consisting of vigorous sailing, oceanographic equipment deployments and sample processing procedures

University of Texas Marine Science Institute,
Undergraduate Research Assistant

Port Aransas, TX
June-July 2007

Designed and executed a study on the ecological effects of anthropogenic stressors on seagrasses in a local bay system for the city of Rockport, TX

Nutrient Loading/Marine Botany Studies,
Undergraduate Research Assistant/Study Abroad Student

Akumal, Mexico
April-June 2007

Conducted experiments and surveys on seagrass and macroalgae ecology, including water quality sampling and laboratory analysis

Professional Experience (continued)

Lizard Island Research Station, *Study Abroad Student*

Lizard Island, Australia
May-June 2005

Conducted coral reef biodiversity transects for station database, and independent ecological niche study on congeneric goatfish species

Presentations (Δ = presenter, † = undergraduate)

- 2012 Δ Gil, M.A. and J. Zill†. "Grazing across a reefscape: Using Google Earth to measure the effects of spatial habitat features on herbivory", oral presentation at the 41st Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting (BEM), March 21-24, Norfolk, Virginia.
- 2011 Δ Gil, M.A. "Evidence for a unimodal relationship between coral growth and eutrophication", oral presentation at the 40th Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting (BEM), Mobile, Alabama.
- 2011 Δ Gil, M.A. "The shape of the relationship between eutrophication and coral growth", oral presentation at the University of Florida 3rd Annual Marine Biology Symposium, Saint Augustine, Florida.
- 2010 Δ Gil, M.A. "Eutrophication and Corals: The Good, The Bad, and The Unclear", oral presentation at the Western Society of Naturalists (WSN) 91st Annual Meeting, San Diego, California.
- 2009 Δ Gil, M.A., Dunton, K.H., and Montagna, P.A. "Rincon Bayou Overflow Project: Preliminary Hydrological Data Synthesis", oral presentation at the City of Corpus Christi: Rincon Bayou, Nueces Delta Studies Coordination Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas
- 2008 Δ Gil, M.A. "Spatial variation in test size of the pteropods *Limacina inflata* and *Limacina trochiformis* in relation to pH across the eastern equatorial Pacific", poster presentation at the University of Texas at Austin Undergraduate Research Forum.
- 2007 Δ Gil, M.A. "How does pH affect pteropod test size?", poster presentation at SEA, S-214 Research Symposium in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

Teaching Experience

Maymester Field Course in Marine Biology

Co-instructor (23 students)

Delivered lectures and field instructions on basic seagrass and coral reef ecology and advised student groups on field research projects.

Akumal, Mexico
University of Texas
May-June 2011

Teaching Experience (continued)

General Ecology Laboratory,

Instructor for 2 lab sections (27 students)

Labs for this upper-division course teach students how to design, carry out and present field and lab based research in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.

Gainesville, FL
University of Florida
Aug.-Dec. 2010

Integrative Principles of Biology Laboratory II,

Instructor for 3 sections (60 students)

BSC2011L is the second core biology laboratory for biology/pre-med majors, covering organismal physiology and population/community ecology

Gainesville, FL
University of Florida
Jan.-May 2010

Mentoring

Undergraduate Research Assistantships:

During field components of my doctoral research, I have brought along undergraduate students as research assistants (Julie Zill, *June-August 2011*; Meridith Hedgecock, *May-July 2010*), introducing them to concepts and approaches in ecology and working together on diverse lab and field-based research projects.

Advised student-led presentations († = undergraduate):

2012 Katelyn Jordan[†], Monica Traylor[†], Hannah Petraskova[†], Michael Gil, Nathan McTigue and Ken Dunton. "Effects of nutrient enrichment on herbivorous reef fish consumption and abundance". Poster presentation at University of Texas at Austin Undergraduate Research Forum.

Discussion Panels and Seminars:

"How grad school works". 2012 & 2010. Served on discussion panel for UCLA Marine Biologyclass, UC Berkeley Gump Research Station, Moorea, French Polynesia.

"The ins and outs of grad school: Tips and tricks for continuing your career in science". 2011 Initiated/served on discussion panel for UT Marine Biology class, Akumal, Mexico.

"Corals, Boats, and the End of the World (as we know it): Why I am a Grad Student in Marine Biology". 2011. University of Florida Marine Biology Club Invited Speaker, Gainesville, Florida.

Service

- Gator Nation Conservation, *Founder/President*** Gainesville, FL
September 2009-Dec. 2010
 Student service organization that advocates environmental awareness through local service events (e.g. park/beach/campus cleanups, invasive plant removals, etc)
- Divining for Science Program, *Volunteer Diver*** San Marcos, TX
March 2008-August 2008
 Responsible for maintaining habitat at Aquarena Springs, home to several federally endangered species. Tasks included invasive species removal, clearing of natural upwelling vents, and sediment dispersal from native plant species
- Tribeta Biological Honor and Service Society** Austin, TX
Active Member
Oct. 2006-May 2008
 Took part in fundraising and service events including habitat cleanup projects and Ronald McDonald House Charities meal preparation
- 12th Annual Lake Travis Underwater Cleanup *Organizer*** Austin, TX
Sept. 2006
 As officer of the University Scuba Club, helped organize and participated in the largest scuba and shoreline cleanup in Texas, resulting in over 7 tons of trash removal, 1500 lbs. recyclable materials

Service to the UF Department of Biology

- 2012 Biology Undergraduate Research Symposium oral presentation judge
 2010-13 Green Representative (liaison between Dept. and UF Office of Sustainability)
 2010-11 Graduate Research Forum Committee (organize weekly graduate seminar)
 2010-11 Welcoming Committee (organize event to welcome Dept. back for new year)

Honors

- 2012 1st Place, Best Oral Presentation at the 41st Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting in Norfolk, Virginia
 2008 UT Dean's Honored Graduate (highest honor awarded by College to <1% of class)
 2008 Inducted into Sigma Xi, Scientific Research Society

Honors (continued)

- 2008 Second Place in Biology, Best Poster Presentation at University of Texas Annual Undergraduate Research Forum
- 2008 UT Distinguished College Scholar for GPA and coursework undertaken for academic years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08
- 2007 Induction into the Phi Beta Kappa Society

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Grants

Graduate (totaling over \$260,000)

- 2012 Chateaubriand Fellowship, through Embassy of France for research in French Polynesia (\$10,000)
- 2011 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship International Travel Award (\$1,000)
- 2011 Florida Sea Grant Nutrient Dynamics Fellowship (\$19,000)
- 2011 Ed Stolarz Memorial Fellowship in Marine Biology (\$1,500)
- 2010 UF Graduate Student Council Travel Award for Spring 2011 and Spring 2012 (\$500)
- 2010 Ocean Bridges II Program Fellowship, awarded through a grant from the French American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Program to the University of Florida (\$5,500)
- 2010 NSF Southeast Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate (SEAGEP) Student Travel Award for Fall 2010 (\$650)
- 2010 UF Department of Biology Student Travel Award for Fall 2010 (\$100)
- 2010 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (\$122,500)
- 2009 Ocean Bridges II Program Fellowship, awarded through a grant from the French American Cultural Exchange (FACE) Program to the University of Florida (\$9,000)
- 2009 University of Florida Alumni Fellowship (\$100,000)

Undergraduate (totaling over \$45,000)

- 2007 SEA Dean's Scholarship (merit-based award; \$7,500)
- 2007 SEA Tuition Award (disciplinary, experience-based award; \$2,500)
- 2007 Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of Texas Award of Distinction (\$500)
- 2007 UT Coop GOES Scholarship for Study Abroad in Mexico (\$1,000)
- 2006 Presidential Endowed Scholarship for Natural Sciences (awarded by the College of Natural Sciences, University of Texas at Austin; \$2,500)
- 2006 National SMART Grant (Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent; \$4,000)
- 2005 UT Coop GOES Scholarship for Study Abroad in Australia (\$1,000)
- 2004 C.R. Smith Endowed Scholarship (awarded by the University of Texas at Austin; \$2,500)
- 2004 Haraldson Foundation Scholarship (full, four-year tuition scholarship; \$23,000)
- 2004 Institute of Hispanic Culture of Houston Scholarship (academic merit based; \$1,000)
- 2004 Humble Area Chamber of Commerce Scholarship (academic merit/service based; \$500)
- 2004 Continental Airlines Scholarship (academic merit/service based; \$4,500)
- 2004 Floyd Burton Scholarship Award (academic merit/service based; \$500)

Certifications

NAUI: CPR/First Aid/O2 Administration (2012)
AAUS Scientific Diver (2009)
SSI Scientific Diver Certification (2008)
NAUI Master Diver Certification (2008)
NAUI Enriched Air Nitrox Certification (2008)
NAUI Rescue Diver Certification (2008)
PADI Open Water SCUBA Diver Certification (2005)

Membership

Western Society of Naturalists (since 2010)
Quantitative Spatial Ecology, Evolution and Environment NSF IGERT Affiliate (since 2009)
Sigma Xi Scientific Research Society (since 2008)

Graduate Advisory Committee

Craig W. Osenberg (*chair*)
UF Department of Biology

osenberg@ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 392-9201

Gustav Paulay
UF Department of Biology/Florida Museum of Natural History

paulay@flmnh.ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 273-1948

Brian R. Silliman
UF Department of Biology

brs@ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 392-1137

Thomas K. Frazer
UF Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Program

frazer@ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 273-3644

Robert J. Fletcher
UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

robert.fletcher@ufl.edu
Phone: (352) 846-0632