

# Alanna Durkin

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## EDUCATION

**Temple University**, PhD candidate in Biology Degree expected May 2018  
Dissertation: *The ecology of deep-sea chemosynthetic habitats, from populations to metacommunities.*  
Advisor: Dr. Erik E. Cordes

**Cornell University** May 2012 graduate  
B.A. in Biological Sciences Minor in East Asian Studies

## HONORS AND AWARDS

**Temple University Dissertation Completion Grant** 2017  
One semester of independent funding to complete dissertation writing.

**Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Student** 2016  
Awarded to select graduate students in Temple University's College of Science and Technology who have demonstrated excellence in their teaching assistant positions.

**Ernest F. Hollings Scholar** 2010-2012  
Awarded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to outstanding undergraduates studying a related field of science to complete a summer research project with NOAA.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Durkin, A.**, Fisher, C.R., Cordes, E.E. (2017). Extreme longevity in a deep-sea vestimentiferan tubeworm and its implications for the evolution of life-history strategies. *The Science of Nature*. doi: [10.1007/s00114-017-1479-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00114-017-1479-z)

Georgian, S.E., DeLeo, D., **Durkin, A.**, Gomez, C.E., Kurman, M., Lunden, J.J., Cordes, E.E. (2015) Oceanographic patterns and carbonate chemistry in the vicinity of cold-water coral reefs in the Gulf of Mexico: implications for resilience in a changing ocean. *Limnology and Oceanography*. doi: [10.1002/lno.10242](https://doi.org/10.1002/lno.10242)

## RESEARCH CRUISES

2017 – [DEEP SEARCH](#) – NOAA Ship Pisces and AUV Sentry, US Atlantic margin 18 days  
Chief Scientist: Dr. Amanda Demopoulos

2017 – [ROC HITS](#) – R/V Atlantis, DSV Alvin & AUV Sentry, Costa Rica 21 days  
Chief Scientist: Dr. Erik Cordes

2014 – [Acid Horizon](#) – R/V Atlantis, DSV Alvin & AUV Sentry, Gulf of Mexico 19 days  
Chief Scientist: Dr. Erik Cordes

## COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Python, Java, ArcGIS 10, Windows batch scripting, Unix shell scripting, Primer, LaTeX, Arduino

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Teaching in Higher Education Certificate

Received upon completing year-long program with Temple's Center for the Advancement of Teaching that taught principles of inclusive teaching, course design, student development, and technology.

### Facilitator for Temple University TA Orientation

2016 and 2017

Invited to lead a session titled "Captivating Classes: Improving Lectures and Presentations" to prepare new graduate student TAs for their first semester of teaching at Temple.

### Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017

Temple University, BIOL 2227 Principles of Ecology

### Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer

Summers 2013, 2014, 2016

Temple University, BIOL 3244 Experimental Marine Bio "Intro to Marine Bio" and "The Ocean Floor"

### Guest Lecturer

Fall 2015

Temple University, BIOL 3245 Marine Ecology "Deep-Sea Hot Spots"

### Teaching Assistant

Spring 2015

Temple University, BIOL 8250 Programming for Biologists

### Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer

Spring 2015

Temple University, BIOL 1911 Honors Intro to Biology "Intro to Animals" and "Population Ecology"

### Teaching Assistant

Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2016

Temple University, BIOL 1001 Human Biology

### GRE Instructor

2014 to present

Led classes and tutored students one-on-one through Kaplan Test Prep

### Cornell Learning Strategies Center, Biology Tutor

2010 - 2012

Tutored undergraduate students in general biology electives, evolution, and genetics

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Faculty workshops at Temple University's Center for the Advancement of Teaching including:

"Welcome to Canvas" – March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

"Inclusive Teaching Institute" – February 19<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

"Life at a Community College: A Workshop for Teaching Assistants" – February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018

"Teaching and Learning STEM: A Practical Guide Book Discussion" – February 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Assistive and Accessible Technology and Universal Design for Learning Workshop

*February 24<sup>th</sup> 2017, Temple University*

Second Annual Graduate Workshop on Environmental Data Analytics

*July 27<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup> 2015, National Center for Atmospheric Research*

Parallel Programming and Optimization for High-Performance Computing Workshop

*July 7<sup>th</sup> to July 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, Temple University*

Deep Submergence Science Committee's Early Career Scientist Workshop

*December 7<sup>th</sup> 2013, San Francisco*

## PRESENTATIONS

- Durkin, A.,** Levin, L.A., Cordes, E.E. 2017. Community ecology of methane seeps along the Costa Rica margin. Oral presentation for 6<sup>th</sup> International Chemosynthesis-Based Ecosystems Symposium, Woods Hole, MA.
- Durkin, A.,** Fisher, C.R., Cordes, E.E. 2017. Evolution of extreme longevity in a deep-sea tubeworm. Oral presentation for Evolution in Philadelphia Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Durkin, A.,** Cordes, E.E. 2016. Spatial analysis of cold-water coral and cold seep distributions in the Gulf of Mexico. Poster presentation for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Deep-Sea Coral Symposium, Boston, MA.
- Durkin, A.,** Cordes, E.E. 2016. Evolution of longevity and population dynamics in the centuries-old deep-sea tubeworm *Escarpia laminata*. Poster presentation for the Computational Research on Owl's Nest Symposium, Temple University.
- Durkin, A.,** Cordes, E.E. 2015. Population dynamics of the long-lived tubeworm *Escarpia laminata* at Gulf of Mexico cold seeps. Oral presentation for 14<sup>th</sup> Deep Sea Biology Symposium, Aveiro, Portugal.
- Durkin, A.,** Cordes, E.E. 2015. Population dynamics of the tubeworm *Escarpia laminata* at Gulf of Mexico cold seeps. Oral presentation for 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting, Quebec City, Canada.
- Durkin, A.,** Cordes, E.E. 2013. Population dynamics of *Escarpia laminata* in Gulf of Mexico cold seeps. Oral presentation for 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Benthic Ecology Meeting, Savannah, GA.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Cordes Lab, PhD Researcher** 2012 – 2017  
Participated in oceanographic research cruises where my duties included sorting community collections, assisting with water chemistry, and creating fine-scale habitat maps using *AUV Sentry's* photo and environmental data on board. Performed data analysis to answer ecological questions about chemosynthetic ecosystems from the population dynamics of a species of seep tubeworm to the extent of seep influence on background species in the deep Gulf of Mexico how a novel hydrothermal seep hybrid fits into the global biogeography of vents and seeps.
- Hairston Ecology Lab, Lab Assistant** 2010 – 2012  
Collected and processed Cayuga Lake plankton samples, maintained *Daphnia* cultures, and assisted in data management.
- NOAA James J. Howard Lab, Hollings Scholar/Intern** Summer 2011  
Participated in a research cruise and sorted the collected plankton samples, analyzed data using R to complete and present a 9-week project: "Larval summer flounder distributions with respect to oceanographic features and possible connections to spawning grounds."
- Schuylkill Headwaters Association, Intern** Summer 2009  
Collected and catalogued water quality data on local rivers to update acid mine drainage database for Schuylkill County, helped to maintain acid mine drainage treatment systems, and assisted other branches of the Schuylkill Conservation District with outreach and education.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Reviewer** for a manuscript submitted to *Biogeosciences*

**Science Fair Judge**

March 2018

Evaluated Philadelphia high school zoology projects at the George Washington Carver Science Fair.

**Start Talking Science**

September 2016

Presented a science communication poster about deep sea exploration and dissertation research to a broad audience including other scientists and the general public of Philadelphia.

**Philadelphia Science Leadership Academy Shark Week Panel**

June 2016

Delivered an invited talk about deep-sea sharks to high school students who organized the panel.

**Philadelphia Area Girls Enjoying Science (PAGES)**

April 2016 and November 2016

Led a hands-on water chemistry activity as part of a one-day event dedicated to encouraging 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls to explore and pursue science.

**iPraxis Scienteer**

Fall 2015 and Fall 2016

Spent an hour a week with 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders through the fall semester to help them design and carry out their science fair projects.

**Letters to a Pre-Scientist**

September 2015 – April 2016

Exchange letters with a 5<sup>th</sup> grader interested in oceans to give them an idea of life as a scientist and how they could enter a science career themselves.

**Biology Student Advisor**

July 2011 – May 2012

Through Cornell's Office of Undergraduate Biology, mentored a group of five freshman biology majors from the summer before they matriculated to the end of their first year.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Temple Society for Women in Science, Webmaster

2017 – Present

Association of Women in Science, junior member

2016 – Present

Deep Sea Biology Society, student member

2015 – Present

Temple Biology Graduate Student Society, Historian and Webmaster

2012 – Present