

2024-2026

NSU Florida

SUSAN L. WILLIAMS NATIONAL CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT FELLOWSHIP

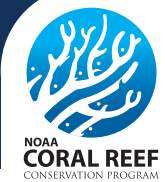
GOAL

To develop a thriving and collaborative fellowship program that builds excellent, next-generation leaders and capacity for effective, local coral reef ecosystem management.



PARTNERS

Nova Southeastern University's National Coral Reef Institute, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Conservation Program, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, and U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee.



PROCESS

Recruit and place highly qualified individuals, whose education and work experience meet specific coral reef management needs in each of the seven U.S. coral reef jurisdictions (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Each fellow works to address current capacity gaps and build longer-term solutions in these locations.



INTRODUCING

American Samoa • Riley Garvey



Riley Garvey is originally from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and received his Bachelor of Science in Biosystems Engineering from Clemson University. He has spent more than two years working in many aspects of coral restoration in the Florida Keys.

As the American Samoa fellow, Garvey will be working with the Coral Reef Advisory Group to install and monitor restoration interventions at sites around the island of Tutuila. He will monitor new and existing interventions for success and use what is learned to help inform updates to American Samoa's Action Plan for Coral Reef Restoration. Garvey will also build on the work of previous fellows to increase local capacity for coral restoration by continuing to engage community members in restoration work.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) • Bailey Warren



Originally from California, Bailey Warren received her Bachelor of Science in Biology from California State University—Monterey Bay and her Master of Arts in International Environmental Policy with a focus on ocean and coastal resource management from the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey.

As the fellow in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Warren will work to produce an updated strategic communications plan for the CNMI's Coral Reef Initiative (CRI), which will include a standard framework and an execution plan for the CRI's various communication needs and outreach programs. The overall goal of the project is to raise community awareness of climate change impacts on the local reefs and associated ecosystems and, in turn, foster behavior changes and improve stewardship of the CNMI's reefs. Additionally, and upon completion of this plan, Warren will assist in plan implementation by developing targeted messaging for selected outreach materials and programs.

Florida • Allison Holevoet



Raised in Northwest Indiana, Allison Holevoet received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island and her Master of Science in Marine and Environmental Science at the University of the Virgin Islands.

As the South Florida fellow, Holevoet will draw upon her background in marine ecology, coral restoration, and mangrove restoration to help manage Department of Environmental Protection-funded projects for the expansion of Florida's coral restoration and propagation efforts. This includes working with state and federal partners, as well as universities and nongovernment organizations to help translate ongoing research into management practices.

Guam • Sabrina Medina



Sabrina Medina is originally from Orange County, California, and received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and her Master of Science in Conservation and Restoration Science at the University of California—Irvine.

As the fellow in Guam, Medina will be compiling strategies for best practices in coral reef-related outreach and education. She will focus on organizing a forum for stakeholders to discuss collaborative opportunities and foster student engagement in educational programs to involve the community in managing Guam's natural resources. Medina will also be supporting Guam Coral Reef Initiative in the development of related activities, as well as assisting in coral reef conservation programs.

Hawaii • Ellie Jones



Ellie Jones was born in Oregon and received her Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology from the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Oregon. She values doing work that benefits both coral reefs and the people who depend on them, which is reflected in her work as a science communicator and marine researcher throughout the years.

As the fellow in Hawaii, Jones will be working with the Division of Aquatic Resources, focusing on water quality monitoring and management for nearshore ecosystems. She will use a ridge-to-reef approach for this work, engaging various watershed organizations and stakeholders to ensure a collaborative effort.

Puerto Rico • Roxana Aslan



Roxana Aslan, born and raised in Los Angeles, California, received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and Health from the University of Southern California, her Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of California—Los Angeles, and her Master of Professional Science in Marine Biology and Ecology from the University of Miami.

As the Puerto Rico fellow, Aslan will be working with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources through the coral reef program to consolidate information regarding coral rescue and restoration efforts in Puerto Rico. She will work to establish a standard operating procedure for acquiring permits relevant to each type of coral restoration effort and continue to promote awareness regarding coral reef emergency responses. Aslan will promote continual collaborations between research, education, rescue, and management groups to promote successful coral rescue and restoration efforts on the island.

U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) • Alexandra Fireman



Originally from Washington, D.C., Alexandra Fireman received her Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Earth and Environmental Sciences from Wesleyan University and her Master of Science in Marine Estuarine Environmental Sciences from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

As the USVI fellow, Fireman will work with the Division of Coastal Zone Management in the St. Croix East End Marine Park (EEMP). She will be facilitating the Virgin Islands Restoration of Coral Squad in implementing the USVI Coral Reef Restoration Plan, which will include implementation of coral rescue software, tracking progress toward restoration targets, and summarizing annual rescue efforts. Fireman will also assist with EEMP community engagement initiatives such as Reef Week, sea turtle nesting beach patrols, seagrass patrol, and management of the park's demonstration coral restoration site.