



# NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Coral Fellowship



The NOAA Coral Reef Management Fellowship class of 2013 has landed in the jurisdictions! Please welcome Jenn Travis (USVI), Jeiger Medina (Puerto Rico), Karen Bohnsack (Florida), Anne Rosinski (Hawaii), Britta Baechler (CNMI), Roxanna Miller (Guam), and Derek Toloumu (American Samoa). They will be working through Jan 2014. Read about them and what will keep them busy this year.



JENN  
Travis



ROXANNA  
Miller



JEIGER  
Medina



KAREN  
Bohnsack

## 2013 Coral Fellows

BRITTA  
Baechler



DEREK  
Toloumu

ANNE  
Rosinski



## About Jenn



From 2007 to 2009, Jenn’s adventures included summers in Everglades National Park interpreting for park visitors and working with the wildland fire crew, before moving to St. Croix in 2009. Since then, she has managed the Turtle Watch Education Program at Sandy Point National Wildlife Refuge for three years, been an active member of the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators, led hundreds of snorkel tours, and co-designed a communication and outreach plan for Virgin Islands Marine Protected Areas Network.

**JENN-USVI/2013** She’s responsible for further development of the Friends of the St. Croix East End Marine Park non-profit. In order to recruit more Friends members and build the value of membership, Jenn will work with the East End Marine Park rangers and education specialists to develop more events and activities for Friends group members and the community at large. Expansion of the program of events and activities are part of the other major task of her fellowship: implementing the Sustainable Tourism Plan developed by previous fellow.

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## About Roxanna



As a child, she had decided she wanted to be a marine biologist, and that career path didn’t change as she grew up. She pursued her Master’s degree at the University of Guam Marine Laboratory, focusing her studies on coral disease. During her time at the UOG Marine Lab, she was able to spend a lot of time with coral reef monitoring and coral disease monitoring, both in Guam and the Philippines. In 2011 she graduated with her M.S. in Biology with her thesis on the disease of growth anomalies affecting massive *Porites* sp. on Guam. She then continued her work with coral reef monitoring with a program support position through NOAA within the Guam Coastal Management Program.

**ROXANNA-GU/2013** Roxanna is working within the Guam Coastal Management Program, which is under the Bureau of Statistics and Plans. As a part of this program, Roxanna is heavily involved with the implementation of Guam’s Long-Term Coral Reef Monitoring Program. She assists with data collection, entry, and analysis. She also assists in the development of outreach materials, with training for the Guam Community Coral Reef Monitoring Program, and also provides outreach and educational activities to students of various age groups. Roxanna helps with review of any proposed actions concerning Guam’s coastal resources, including review of Environmental Impact Statements documents.

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**Jeiger Medina**



## About Jeiger

Jeiger is from Peñuelas, a mountainous small town in southwestern Puerto Rico, and obtained his MSc in Environmental Health from the UPR-Medical Sciences Campus. He has worked with various local NGO's in Puerto Rico doing water quality assessments in coastal areas, coral restoration, monitoring and farming. Jeiger received the 2012 USCRTF's Summer Internship, where he worked with the Guánica Bay/Rio Loco Watershed initiative. He's interested in changes in land use patterns, sediment and nutrient transport, and socio-economic/human dimensions of coral reef areas.

### JEIGER-PR/2013

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The host agency for Jeiger is the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources of Puerto Rico, Bureau of Coasts Reserves and Refuges. He will be working in Puerto Rico's coral reef priority areas, including Cabo Rojo and the North East Reserve, where he'll be implementing plans that address overfishing, recreational overuse, and lack of local awareness.

**Karen Bohnsack**



## About Karen

Karen grew up locally, in Miami, Florida. She received her Master's in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara. During her MS studies at UC Santa Barbara, she completed an internship with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Habitat Conservation Division in Gloucester, MA and also worked as a Climate Intern with the Coral Reef Advisory Group in American Samoa. Most recently she worked as the NOAA CRCP Regional Mgmt Coordinator at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP).

### • KAREN-FL/2013

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Karen is working with the FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program, where she is responsible for coordinating the Southeast Florida Action Network – a marine

- incident reporting and response program, and the Marine Debris Reporting and Removal Program. Karen will also lead the development and implementation of local action strategies and management options to increase resilience of reef resources in the southeast Florida region, as well as oversee CRCP's participation in the Florida Reef Resilience Program Disturbance Response Monitoring surveys.

**Anne Rosinski**



## About Anne

Anne's thesis work focused locally, "Creating Comprehensive MPAs in Hawaii" (University of Miami), also being involved with a biological inventory of tide pools in Pupukea, Hawaii, and Makai Watch volunteers. She worked at Hawaii's Institute of Marine Biology as a marine bioacoustics specialist, and as a wildlife biologist for Volcanos National Park, providing field support for the Hawaiian hawksbill sea turtle monitoring program. She served as Coastal Monitoring intern developing community-based beach utilization patterns at Waikiki beach.

**ANNE-HI/2013**

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Anne is working in the Division of Aquatic Resources at the Department of Land and Natural Resources in Honolulu, HI. Her work will focus on the Makai Watch program, providing community members with opportunities to assist managing local resources. She will also aid in the implementation of Hawai'i's Rapid Response Contingency Plan, which addresses the specific threats of bleaching, disease, and invasive species on the State's coral reefs. Lastly, she will be helping to plan and implement conservation actions in marine managed areas on the islands of Maui and Hawai'i, working with partner agencies and local communities in those areas.

**Britta Baechler**



## About Britta

Britta was born and raised in the small coastal fishing town of Homer, Alaska. As American Fisheries Society Hutton scholar in HS, she worked alongside fisheries biologists and developed a strong interest in fisheries management, which became the focus of her undergraduate studies and has driven her career ever since. During college, she was awarded the NOAA Hollings scholarship with NMF Service in Seattle. Britta has worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as a Fisheries Management Biologist, collaborating extensively with fishermen and a wide variety of federal, state, and local agencies regarding large- and small-scale shellfish fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands.

**BRITTA-CNMI/2013**

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Britta will primarily support local staff on projects related to the implementation of CNMI's marine sanctuary management plans. Additionally, she'll collect information on the newly established Tinian Fish Reserve and help draft a marine management plan. Another goal of this position is to mitigate anthropogenic impacts on local coral reefs by assisting in watershed conservation efforts and investigating the impacts of various fishing methods.



## About Derek

Derek is from American Samoa. He grew up in a strong subsistence fishing family, where he learned to respect the ocean and its natural resources. His passion for the ocean increased in school and learned about how it affects the daily island life. He recently graduated from the University of Hawaii at Hilo with a B.A. in Marine science. He has now returned home to assist with ongoing efforts by the Coral Reef Advisory Group through NOAA Fellowship program to manage and promote the conservation of coral reefs.

DEREK-AS/2013

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Derek will play a pivotal role in the development, coordination, and implementation of sustainable development and community resilience projects and programs, focusing on the human aspect of coral reef ecosystem management, including sustainable development projects and climate change adaptation. By addressing human use of the Territory's limited resources, Derek will concentrate on actions and efforts that will increase the Territory's ability to sustainably adapt to an ever-changing environment. In addition to empowering communities to conserve the health and sustainability of their coral reef resources, Derek will work to enhance community resilience to climate change via sustainable development and planning.

## What we did IN 2012

In 2012, the Coral Program funded seven support staff to assist our jurisdictional partners, and each was hosted by local agencies. They accomplished a lot —thank you for your hard work!

- **Marija Micuda (USVI):** Increased collaboration with park concessionaires and operators at St Croix East End Marine Park; Successfully planned, coordinated and implement Friends events, including 2nd Annual Stand Up Paddle Board race; Increased the number of Friends members.
- **Helena Antoun (PR):** Focus group interviews with commercial fishers from the East and West coast of the Island; Prepared a pocket guide on federal and state regulated fish for fishers and rangers.
- **Karen Bohnsack (FL):** Improved marine debris removal efforts to directly reduce the amount of marine debris on southeast Florida's reefs; Raised awareness about marine debris and how to reduce its impacts; Increased marine debris data available for southeast Florida's reefs.
- **Liz Bogdanski (HI):** *Developed and drafted Makai Watch Awareness and Outreach Standards (under review); Developed and drafted Makai Watch Coordinator workplan and budget; Assisted in the development of the Kahekili KHFMA Conservation Plan.*
- **Becky Skeelee (CNMI):** Designed and supervised collection of over 400 surveys on climate change understanding by the public; Laid groundwork for CNMI Vulnerability Assessment; assisted creation of CC Working Group, with over 22 local and federal agencies involved.
- **Roxanna Miller (GU):** Established of the Piti Bay monitoring sites; Completed nearly 100 marine surveys; Completed data analysis of coral size frequency to be included in the monitoring progress/status report; Assisted with the database project that collects of coral reef monitoring information.
- **Kristine Bucchianeri (AS):** Established protocols for response to coral threat events, including bleaching, Crown of Thorns Starfish outbreaks; Created "Reef Resilience" outreach and education campaign, (for 2013); Assisted AS finalize its Territorial Climate Change Adaptation Framework.