

KENDRA LEE

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EDUCATION

Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, San Diego, USA
Master of Science in Marine Biology

Graduated March 2025

- GPA: 4.00
- Thesis: Macroinvertebrate Communities on Carbonates at Southern California Methane Seeps: Environmental Drivers and Dynamics

University of California, San Diego, USA
Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology
Minor in Computer Science and Engineering

Graduated March 2024

- GPA: 3.786

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student at Levin Lab

Mar/2024 – Present

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

- Processed over 1,300 macroinvertebrate specimens extracted from transplant and colonization experiment carbonate rock samples, conducting taxonomic morphotype identification to the lowest possible taxonomic level in collaboration with invertebrate taxonomist specialists
- Applied advanced multivariate statistical analyses, including dissimilarity indices and ordination methods to evaluate macroinvertebrate community biodiversity; utilized R and PRIMER for ecological modeling and data visualization
- Processed over 60 live rock and pushcore samples, prepared carbon- and nitrogen-labeled isotope samples, coordinated CTD deployments, and participated in *Alvin* submersible dive to directly observe and sample methane seeps during a collaborative research cruise along the Aleutian Margin

Undergraduate Laboratory Intern at Levin Lab

Aug/2023 – Mar/2024

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

- Processed over 1,500 macroinvertebrate specimens extracted from carbonate rock samples, conducting taxonomic morphotype identification to the lowest possible taxonomic level
- Conducted quantitative analysis of macroinvertebrate community density and composition using R and PRIMER; authored two comprehensive research reports

Undergraduate Laboratory Intern at Hechinger Lab

Aug/2022 – Apr/2023

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

- Dissected and recorded data for over 50 Mollusca species and freshwater fish specimens weekly, documenting parasite types and abundance to support graduate and PhD research projects
- Maintained daily snail mesocosms by clearing algae, adjusting seawater flow rates, and mixing mud layers

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Independent Mentor

Sept/2024 – Present

Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

- Supported several mentees' independent research projects, offering training in laboratory techniques such as processing pushcore samples for analysis and identifying taxa
- Tutored mentees weekly in ecology-focused programming, statistical analysis, and data visualization in R

Jane Teranes - Scripps Undergraduate Research Fellowship (JT-SURF) Mentor
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, CA, USA

June/2024 – Aug/2024

- Supervised and guided mentee's research, demonstrating laboratory techniques including macroinvertebrate sorting and rock surface area measurement
- Provided instruction on R programming basics, including figure creation for research presentations
- Analyzed the density and community composition of mentee-processed macroinvertebrate samples using advanced statistical methods in R and PRIMER

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts in preparation

- **Lee, K. C.,** Levin, L. A., & Pereira, O. S. (2025). "Environmental Drivers and Dynamics of Macroinvertebrate Communities on Carbonates at Southern California Methane Seeps." (Submitted)

PRESENTATIONS

- McGurrin, J., **Lee, K. C.,** & Levin, L. A. "Macrofauna Invertebrates on Carbonates at the Newly Discovered Sanak Methane Seeps (2020m), Aleutian Margin Alaska." Oral presentation at the 2025 Undergraduate Research Conference. April 2025. University of California, San Diego, CA.
- **Lee, K. C.,** Levin, L. A., & Pereira, O. S. "Macroinvertebrate Communities Inhabiting Hard Substrates at Southern California Methane Seeps." Poster presentation at the 17th Deep-Sea Biology Symposium. January 2025. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong.
- Martinez, S. Z., **Lee, K. C.,** Pereira, O. S., & Levin, L. A. "Methane Use by Macrofauna at Methane Seeps on The Aleutian Margin of Alaska." Poster presentation at the JT-SURF Research Symposium. August 2024. Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego, CA.
- **Lee, K. C.,** Levin, L. A., & Pereira, O. S. "The Characterization of Macroinvertebrate Communities at Southern California Methane Seeps." Oral presentation at the 2024 Undergraduate Research Conference. April 2024. University of California, San Diego, CA.

HONORS & AWARDS

Graduate Student Travel Award
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, CA, USA

Feb/2025

Provost Honors
University of California, San Diego, USA

- Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023

MEMBERSHIPS

Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI)

Jan/2024 – Present

- Climate Change and Decade of Deep-Ocean Action Working Groups

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Boldly Me, Fremont, CA, USA
Volunteer

Dec/2019 – June/2020

The Healthy Teen Project, Los Altos, CA, USA
Volunteer

Oct/2019 – June/2020

Hungry Owl Project (Wildcare), Ross/San Rafael, CA, USA
Volunteer Researcher

Nov/2016 – Feb/2017