



STANTON G BELFORD

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

MARINE SCIENTIST

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INSTAGRAM

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INTERESTS

Zoanthid diversity and molecular identification

Sea urchin population density and abundance on coral reefs in Trinidad

Coral reef monitoring and coastal management

Coral, anemonefish, and anemone population ecology, anemonefish behavior, and *Symbiodinium* distribution in both corals and sea anemones

HONORS

2018. Invited Participant. National Ocean Exploration Forum. MIT Media Lab. Cambridge, MA.

2017-2018. Spring Breakaway Award. Martin Methodist College.

2013, Proposal accepted: Lerner Gray Fellowship for Marine Biology, American Museum of Natural History. "Assessment of the Cnidarian species diversity and distribution on the upper intertidal zone of a fringing reef exposed to marginal conditions."

2012, Outstanding International graduate student award, College of Education, Auburn University.

2008-2010, NSF Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education Program (GK-12), Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Auburn University.

2007, 2nd place poster, Basic and Applied Science Department, Scholars Day, Middle Tennessee State University.

2007, J. Gerald Parchment Biological Field Station Scholarship, Middle Tennessee State University

2006, John A. Patten Scholarship, Middle Tennessee State University.

2006, J. Gerald Parchment Biological Field Station Scholarship, Middle Tennessee State University.

EXPERIENCE

June 2015-2019: Lead faculty study abroad trip to Trinidad- Abroad research experience for undergraduate students. Martin Methodist College.

July 2011; Research assistant, diver observations at Key Largo, Florida.

June 2009, 2010; International Research Experiences for Students: US-Jordan population dynamics and metabolic interactions between giant sea anemones and anemonefish on Red Sea coral reefs. Auburn University.

July 2008; Research training; PCR-DGGE protocol. Supervisor: Dr. T. LaJeunesse, Department of Biological Sciences, Penn State University November 2006; Master's Research; genetic analysis of coral samples to determine *Symbiodinium* clades. Supervisor: Dr. T. LaJeunesse, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University (FIU).

December 2005-present; research assistant; provide continual data for coral distribution throughout the Toco region. Research supervisor: Dr. D. Phillip and Dr. Adesh Ramsubhag, Department of Life Sciences (UWI).

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Secondary Science Education, College of Education, Department of Curriculum and Teaching, May 2014, (dissertation) "Informal science education and rural science: a case study of two seventh grade life science teachers". Dr. Melody Russell (advisor), Auburn University.

M.Sc. program Biology, December 2007, (thesis) "Analysis of coral distribution and coral symbionts in a patch reef and fringing reef in the southern Caribbean" Dr. Dennis Mullen (advisor), Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).

B.Sc. Biology, May 2005, Martin Methodist College.

B.Sc. Human Services, May 2000, Martin Methodist College.

EMPLOYMENT

January 2014-present: Associate Professor & Program Coordinator, Biology, Martin Methodist College.

August 2011-May 2014: graduate teaching assistant, Concepts of Science Supervisor: Dr. David King, Auburn University.

August 2011- December 2011: graduate teaching assistant, BIOL 1001 biology for non-majors. Supervisor: Matthew Kearley, Auburn University.

January-May 2011: graduate teaching assistant, BIOL 1011 biology for non-majors. Supervisor: Matthew Kearley, Auburn University.

August 2010: graduate teaching assistant, BIOL 1011 biology for non-majors. Supervisor: Matthew Kearley, Auburn University.

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August 2009-April 2010: graduate teaching assistant, BIOL 1001 biology for non-majors. Supervisor: Matthew Kearley, Auburn University.

August 2008-May 2010: GK-12 Fellow (science) at Booker T. Washington H.S. Supervisor: Dr. Jack Feminella, Auburn University

January 2008-May 2008: adjunct faculty for Biology 1030. Supervisor: Dr. G. Murphy, Head of the Department of Biology, MTSU

January 2008-May 2008: adjunct faculty for Zoology 111. Supervisor: Dr. J. Murrell, Academic Dean, Martin Methodist College.

January 2007-March 2008; science teacher for Upward Bound Program. Supervisor: Wayne Hobbs, Head of Upward Bound Program, Martin Methodist College

September 2006-December 2007; graduate teaching assistant for science major's general biology laboratory. Supervisor: Dr. D. Mullen, Department of Biology, MTSU

September 2005-May 2006; graduate teaching assistant for non-major Topics in Biology Laboratory. Supervisor: Dr. K. Sadler, Department of Biology, MTSU

PUBLICATIONS

Belford, S.G. 2020. Spatial abundance and colour morphotype densities of the rock-boring sea urchin (*Echinometra lucunter*) at two different habitats. *Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences* 36(1): 157-164.

Belford, S.G., Phillip, D.A.T., Rutherford, M.G., Schmidt, R.S., Duncan, E.J. 2019. Biodiversity of coral reef communities in marginal environments along the north-eastern coast of Trinidad, Southern Caribbean. *Progress in Aqua Farming and Marine Biology* 2(1): 1-23.

McDonald, C., Belford, S.G. 2018. Density and size of the beaded sea anemone (*Epicysytis crucifer*) at a tropical reef in the southern Caribbean. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 93(1-2): 38.

Woods, M., McDonald, C., Dorer, D., Belford, S. 2018. Benthic communities at a tropical reef in the southern Caribbean after tropical storm Brett. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 93(1-2): 36.

Belford, S.G. 2018. Sharing shared shelf science sea life in the classroom. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 93(1-2): 44.

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Bledsoe, M., Belford, S.G. 2017. Distribution of sea urchin density and community structure in different habitats along the northeastern coast of Trinidad. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 92(1-2): 37.

Crye, Bradley, Belford, S.G. 2016. Distribution and density of the rock-boring sea urchin (*Echinometra lucunta lucunta*) along the northeastern coast of Trinidad, West Indies. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 91(1-2): 36-37.

Folt, B., Laurencio, D., Goessling, J., Birkhead, R., Stiles, J., Stiles, S., Harris, A., Belford, S. 2015. One hundred two new county records for amphibians and reptiles in Alabama, USA. *Herpetological Review* 46(4): 591-594.

Russell, M.L., Belford, S., Crowe, L., Laurencio, D. 2015. Love our coral reefs: Teaching 6-14 year-olds about environmental stewardship and coral reefs using modeling materials found in most cupboards. *Green Teacher* 107: 29-32.

Belford, S. (January-April 2015) The Importance of Corals: What Citizens should know about? in the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network. *EcoLife Magazine*, Issue No. 6

Belford, S. (July-December 2014) Coral reef ecosystems: Diversity of Invertebrates in the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network. *EcoLife Magazine*, Issue No. 5

Belford, S.G., Chadwick, N.E., Khalaf, M.A. 2013. Measuring body size in small marine fishes: a comparison of three non-intrusive methods. *Fisheries and Aquaculture Journal* FAJ-71: 1-8.

King, D.T., Harrold, C.B., Natter, M.G., Belford, S.G. 2012. Concepts of science lab book, 3rd edition. South Carolina: Tavenner Publishing Co. ISBN: 978-1-9374435-35-6.

Belford, S.G., Phillip, D.A.T. 2012. Intertidal distribution patterns of Zoanthids compared to their Scleractinian counterparts in the southern Caribbean. *International Journal of Oceanography & Marine Ecological System* 1 (3): 67-75.

Belford, S., Phillip, D. 2011. Rapid assessment of a coral reef community in a marginal habitat in the southern Caribbean: A simple way to know what's out there. *Asian Journal of Biological Sciences* 4(7): 520-531.

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IN THE NEWS

Trinidad and Tobago Newsday. Step carefully on Toco reefs. By Anjani Ganase. 2020.

[Step carefully on Toco reefs \(newsday.co.tt\)](http://newsday.co.tt)

Trinidad and Tobago Newsday. Protect Toco reefs too. By Anjani Ganase. 2020.

[Protect Toco reefs too \(newsday.co.tt\)](http://newsday.co.tt)

Wild Tobago Blog. Classrooms in the Sea and Swamp. By wildgirl. 2020.

[Classrooms in the Sea and Swamp \(wildtobago.blogspot.com\)](http://wildtobago.blogspot.com)

The Last Best Hope. By Mark Meredith. 2020.

Trinidad and Tobago Guardian Newspaper. Grande L'Anse coral reef threatened by Toco port. By Kristy Ramnarine. 2019.

['Grande L'Anse coral reef - Trinidad Guardian](#)

Put the Environment First. By Mark Meredith. 2019.

Sunday Express Newspaper. Toco's Turning Tide. By Mark Meredith. 2019.

[TOCO's+TURNING+TIDE+SERIES.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](#)

The Columns Martin Methodist. From coral reef to classroom. By Kayla Wiggins. 2015.

[The Columns Martin Methodist Spring 2015 by Martin Methodist College - issue](#)

PRESENTATIONS

Samantha Kilian*, Stanton G. Belford. 2020 (poster) 130th Tennessee Academy of Science Conference Molecular identification of three freshwater crayfish species at streams in Giles County, Tennessee. Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN. November 21 2020.

Stanton Belford. 2020. 14th International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS 2020-poster). Island biodiversity and phylogeny on coral reef communities in the wake of ecological risks associated with port development in a developing country. July 6-8, 2020. Bremen, Germany (Abstract accepted).

Samantha Davenport*, Madison Yurewitch* Stanton Belford. 2019. Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) Conference (poster) Morphology and comparative survey of the crayfish *Faxonius* sp. At streams in Giles County, Tennessee. Memphis, Tennessee. April 3-6, 2019.

Stanton Belford. 2019. (ASB) Conference (lightening talk) Adding knowledge of molecular phylogenetic relationships of the rock-boring sea urchin *Echinometra lucunter*. Memphis, Tennessee. April 3-6, 2019.

Aleigha Carroll*, Stanton G. Belford. 2018 (poster) 128th Tennessee Academy of Science Conference. Comparing undergraduate biology majors' outlook on science to that of

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undergraduate non-majors. Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN. November 17th 2018.

2018 National Ocean Exploration Forum (talk). MIT Media lab, Cambridge, Massachusetts. November 8-10

Stanton G. Belford. Association of Southeastern Biologists 2018 (poster), Myrtle Beach, SC. March 28-31, 2018. Zoantharian

abundance in benthic communities within the vicinity of human activities along the northeastern coast of Trinidad, West Indies

Stanton G. Belford. 127th Tennessee Academy of Science

Conference (poster) Sharing shared shelf science sea life in the classroom. University of Tennessee-Martin, Martin, TN.

November 17th 2017.

Stanton G. Belford CalliAnna McDonald*, Madeline Woods*,

Douglas Dorer, 127th Tennessee Academy of Science Conference

(poster) Benthic communities at a tropical reef in the southern

Caribbean after tropical storm Brett. University of Tennessee-

Martin, Martin, TN. November 17th 2017.

Council of Independent Colleges, Consortium on Digital

Resources for Teaching and Research National Workshop. (talk),

Washington D.C. September 8-10, 2016.

Mid-Atlantic Association of Science Teachers Meeting

(Gatlinburg, TN.) (poster) Incorporating Informal Science

Education to determine students' perception of the marine

environment. September 22-24, 2016.

Markeyta Bledsoe & Stanton Belford. (Poster) Distribution of

sea urchin density and community structure in different habitats

along the northeastern coast of Trinidad. Tennessee Academy of

Science (TAS) Annual Meeting Saturday November 19, 2016 in

Clarksville, Tennessee.

Brad, C. & Belford, S. (poster) Distribution and density of the

rock-boring sea urchin (*Echinometra lucunta lucunta*) along the

northeastern coast of Trinidad, West Indies. Tennessee Academy

of Science (TAS) Annual Meeting Friday November 20, 2015 in

Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Belford, S., & Russell, M. 2015 (Oral Presentation: Stand Alone

Paper) Rural Science Education: Promoting environmental

awareness through informal science education. National

Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST),

Chicago, IL. April 11-14.

Belford, S., & Russell, M. 2014. (Oral Presentation) Informal

science education and rural science: A look at a seventh grade

life science classroom in the southern US. Southeastern

Association for Science Teacher Education (SASTE) Savanna,

GA. September 26. 2014.

Belford, S., & Russell, M. 2013 (poster) Utilizing informal

science education to promote awareness throughout local coastal

communities. Dr. Gregory P. Domin Graduate Research

Conference, Columbus State University, Columbus, GA. October

24, 2013.

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Laurencio, D., L. Crowe, S. Belford, and M. Russell. 2013 (talk). Exploring Alternative Field Placements: Preservice Science Teachers and the Informal Science Setting. A NanoBio Science Partnership for the Alabama Black Belt Region First Annual MSP Conference on Science Teaching and Learning, Tuskegee, AL. August 17, 2013.

Post Graduate Forum 2012/2013 (talk). "Liming next to Toco's Reefs, no drinks allowed." University of Trinidad and Tobago, O'Meara Campus. August 15, 2013.

June 6, 2013. Invited speaker for a teachers' workshop at the Destination Malawi 2013 Program, Lumbadzi Primary School, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Southeastern Association for Science Teacher Education.

Achieving ecojustice through science education. University of Georgia, October 2011.

Symbiofest (talk). Clowning my way through life: effects of mutualism on the dynamics of clownfish symbiosis. University of Georgia. April 2010.

Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference (talk). Effects of mutualism on population dynamics in anemonefish symbiosis. Georgia Institute of Technology. March 2010.

Benthic Ecology Meeting (poster). Effects of mutualism on population dynamics in anemonefish symbiosis. UNC-Willmington. March 2010.

MTSU Scholars Day 2008 (poster). Monitoring the distribution of coral reef-builders growing in harsh environmental conditions. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. April 2008.

Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference (SEEC) (talk). Analysis of coral distribution and coral symbionts in two reef "systems" in the southern Caribbean." Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. March 2008.

MTSU Scholars Day 2007 (poster). Baseline coral density data: a simple way to know what's out there. Murfreesboro, Tennessee. April 2007.

CONTACT INFORMATION

STANTON BELFORD

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