

# Keenan C. Guillas

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (San José State University)

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## EDUCATION

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2021–Present **M.S. Marine Science** (*in progress; expected graduation spring 2024*)  
Invertebrate Ecology Lab, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories  
San José State University | GPA: 4.0

Thesis advisor: Dr. Amanda S. Kahn

Thesis topic: The behaviour and energetics of demosponges in response to suspended sediments

2018 **B.Sc. Biological Sciences**  
Major: Biological Sciences | Minor: East Asian Studies  
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada | GPA: 3.8

Research advisor: Dr. Sally P. Leys

Research project: Epifaunal invertebrate ecology of reef-forming glass sponges

2013–2014 **University Transfer Courses**  
Grande Prairie Regional College  
Grande Prairie, AB, Canada | GPA: 3.9

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Invertebrate Ecology Lab (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories)**  
2022–Present **Graduate Research Assistant**  
Fish-invertebrate associations in deepwater marine protected areas of California

**Leys Lab (University of Alberta)**  
2019–2021 **Research Assistant**  
Ecosystem function, flux, and spatial ecology in north Pacific glass sponge reefs  
Sensory systems in calcareous sponge larvae

2018 **Laboratory Assistant**  
Megafaunal diversity of north Pacific glass sponge reefs

2017–2018 **Undergraduate Researcher**  
Epifaunal invertebrate ecology of reef-forming glass sponges

**Derocher Lab (University of Alberta)**  
2020 **Biological Technician**  
Interindividual variation in mercury levels in western Hudson Bay polar bears

2018 **Undergraduate Research Initiative Stipend Recipient**  
Interindividual variation in mercury levels in western Hudson Bay polar bears

**Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre (University of Alberta)**

2018

**Undergraduate Student, Marine Invertebrate Zoology**

Diet specialization and sequestration of physical defenses in northeast Pacific spongivorous dorid nudibranchs

**PUBLICATIONS**

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2. Law, L.K., H.M. Reiswig, B.S Ott, N. McDaniel, A.S. Kahn, **K.C. Guillas**, C. Dinn, and S.P. Leys (2020). Description and distribution of *Desmacella hyalina* sp. nov. (Porifera, Desmacellidae), a new cryptic demosponge in glass sponge reefs from the western coast of Canada. *Marine Biodiversity* 50:1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12526-020-01076-6>
1. **Guillas, K.C.**, A.S. Kahn, N. Grant, S.K. Archer, A. Dunham, and S.P. Leys (2019). Settlement of juvenile glass sponges and other invertebrate cryptofauna on the Hecate Strait glass sponge reefs. *Invertebrate Biology* 138:e12266. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ivb.12266>

**PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2018 **Guillas, K.C.**, and S.P. Leys (2018, April 25). Building a glass sponge reef. **Video**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DA62wL2M-mQ>
- 2018 **Guillas, K.C.**, A.S. Kahn, and S.P. Leys (2018). Settlement of juvenile glass sponges and other invertebrate cryptofauna on the Hecate Strait glass sponge reefs. **Poster**. Dr. R.E. Peter Biology Conference 2018, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada.

**AWARDS**

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- 2022–2023 Moss Landing Marine Laboratories SJSU Scholarship (\$8732)
- 2022–2023 SJSU Graduate Student Travel Award (\$2000)
- 2021–2022 COAST Field Experiences Scholarship (\$1420)
- 2022–2023 Sylvia Earle Academic (SEA) Scholarship (\$4000)
- 2022–2023 Bertha Kalm Scholarship Award (\$10,000)
- 2022–2023 AEP MB-SV University Scholarship Secondary Award (\$500)
- 2022–2023 COAST Graduate Student Research Award (\$3000)
- 2022–2023 Louie Barozzi Scholarship (\$1000)
- 2022–2023 Myers Oceanographic and Marine Biology Trust (\$3005)
- 2022–2023 Simpkins Family Marine Science Scholarship (\$2000)
- 2022–2023 SJSU Research and Innovation Student RSCA Fellowship (\$3500)
- 2021–2022 Sir James Lougheed Award of Distinction (\$15,000)
- 2021–2022 Moss Landing Marine Laboratories SJSU Scholarship (\$5000)
- 2021–2022 Alberta Student Grant for Full Time Students (\$3720)
- 2021–2022 Viola Palmer Memorial Scholarship (\$637)
- 2018–2019 University of Alberta Undergraduate Research Initiative Stipend (\$5000)
- 2017–2018 Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre Scholarship (\$500)
- 2016–2018 Louise McKinney Post-Secondary Scholarships (\$5000)
- 2016–2017 China Institute Scholarship (\$600 + tuition waiver)
- 2016–2017 Canadian Learning Initiative in China Scholarship (\$500)

2016–2017 University of Alberta Education Abroad Group Award (\$750)  
2016–2017 University of Alberta Education Abroad Individual Award (\$750)  
2016–2017 University of Alberta Undergraduate Academic Scholarships (\$2500)  
2014–2016 Jason Lang Scholarships (\$2000)  
2013–2014 Alexander Rutherford High School Achievement Scholarship (\$2500)  
2013–2014 Grande Prairie Composite High School Credit Scholarship (\$750)

## **SERVICE**

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2022–2023 **Vice President**, Student Body (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories)  
2022 **Graduate Student Mentor**, MLML-CSUMB Undergraduate Research Opportunities Center Researchers Program (1 undergraduate student)  
2021–Present **Editor**, The Drop-In Blog (Moss Landing Marine Laboratories)  
2020 **Reviewer**, Scientific Reports  
2019 **Adjudication Committee Member**, Undergraduate Research Initiative Stipend (University of Alberta)  
2014–2016 **Tutor**, Study Buddy (Edmonton, AB)

## **CERTIFICATIONS AND RELEVANT SKILLS**

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**Certifications:** (expected 2022) AAUS Scientific Diver  
NAUI Master Scuba Diver, NAUI Enriched Air Nitrox Diver  
DAN FaPRO Standard First Aid for Divers  
MLML Small Boat Operator certification  
California Boater Card; Canada Pleasure Craft Operator's Card  
Japanese Language Proficiency Test N1 (native level) certification

**Selected software:** R, Python, ImageJ, ArcGIS, QGIS, Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office, Procreate

**Field experience:** (Monterey Bay, CA and Vancouver Island, BC): Intertidal, subtidal via SCUBA, ship-based/oceanographic, small boat operation.

**Languages:** English (native), Japanese (professional working), Spanish (beginner)

## **SELECTED NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

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2021–2022 Student Assistant (Front Desk), Moss Landing Marine Laboratories/SJSU  
2020–2021 English Language Instructor, Kohgakusha Co., Ltd. (Osaka, Japan)  
2019–2021 Barista, School Bus Coffee Stop Kyoto (Kyoto, Japan)  
2018–2019 Barista, DOSC (Edmonton, AB)  
2016–2018 Shift Supervisor, Starbucks Coffee Company Canada  
2014–2018 Coffee Master and Barista Trainer, Starbucks Coffee Company Canada  
2012–2016 Barista, Starbucks Coffee Company Canada