

European Coral Reef Symposium

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At the 20th Anniversary of the European Coral Reef Symposium, I presented my poster on *Potential new ways to expedite recovery of long-dead Acropora palmata skeletons*. This presentation culminated the past two summers of research on Little Cayman, funded by the NSF and Shackoul's Honors College and under the mentorship of Dr. Brandon Barton. I was able to demonstrate that our novel approach to restoring *A. palmata* populations in the Caribbean had potential application in the future, with respects to mitigating the shift to macro-algae dominance on many reefs.

The conference provided a saturated environment of almost exclusively marine scientists to learn from. I was able to attend a full range of talks and discussions focusing on current and future topics pertinent to reef studies. In addition, I was able to make connections with workers whose interests aligned with mine — potential opportunities for future collaborations. Presenting my research to this group provided both helpful and critical feedback necessary to improve experiment designs, variable to consider, and applications of my work. Moreover, the invited presentations given by field leaders established high bars of excellence to achieve in the future. Thanks to funding by Shackoul's Honors College, I was able to share the work done at Mississippi State on a global scale, critically evaluate my own work, and find inspiration for projects down the road.