

## **“Coral reef microbes from Rhode Island to Indonesia”**

Symbiotic and free-living microbial communities are essential for maintaining the health of coral reef ecosystems. My research has involved both experimental systems and environmental sampling to explore the relationships between corals and their microbial symbionts and understand the structure and function of microbial eukaryotic communities in coral reefs across the Indo-Pacific. This talk will discuss my research path that led me from working to establish the temperate coral *Astrangia poculata* as a model system for studying coral ecology in Rhode Island to using high throughput sequencing and environmental sampling to explore the biodiversity and biogeography of protist communities in coral reef ecosystems across the Indo-Pacific. Finally, I will discuss how each of these experiences, has led me to the Fuess Lab at Texas State and how they have shaped the research that I plan to conduct in my time here.