



# SoFlacs



Vol. 30, No. 11

South Florida Section American Chemical Society

December 2020

## Virtual Section Meeting

Via Zoom Meeting

<https://american-chemical-society.zoom.com/j/85202778038>

Friday, December 4, 4:00 PM

## Rescue a Reef

### Dalton J. Hesley

Senior Research Associate II

*Benthic Ecology and Coral Restoration Lab*

University of Miami

Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science



The University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School's coral conservation program is designed to build community and coastal resilience through coral reef research, restoration, and citizen science. The abundance of corals has declined significantly over past decades, to the point where several reef-building species in the Caribbean are now listed as threatened. In the past decade, however, active reef restoration has expanded exponentially to help recover degraded coral populations and the ecological services associated with healthy and complex reefs. This methodology focuses on propagating coral stocks within *in-* and *ex-situ* coral nurseries, where individual corals are then outplanted onto degraded reefs. By maximizing the growth of corals within nursery environments and using low-cost, low-tech methods for transplanting, coral gardening is now commonly used around the world by a growing number of restoration practitioners with high success. [Email: rescueareef@gmail.com](mailto:rescueareef@gmail.com) Phone: 305-421-4209



Dalton Hesley (Master of Professional Science ('15), Master of Science in Education ('21 anticipated) is a Sr. Research Associate in Dr. Diego Lirman's Coral Reef Restoration Lab at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, where he assists with their coral research and reef restoration activities. In addition to working as a research associate, Dalton manages Rescue a Reef, the lab's coral conservation program designed to support research and restoration through public education, outreach, and citizen science. Dalton will speak on how bridging the gap between science and society can restore the future of coral reefs!