

## Professional Science Master's Scholar

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### PSM Degree

*Master of Professional Science in Marine Conservation*

### US University

*University of Miami – Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science*

### Date of Completion

*May 2017*

### GPA

*3.87*

## Master of Professional Science in Marine Conservation

The Masters of Professional Science (MPS) degree in Marine Conservation focuses on developing scientific skills and literacy for marine conservation efforts. The degree integrates marine science and social science for public education, outreach, management, and policy applied to the conservation of marine resources.

### As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

The highlight of my study was working on research applicable for marine spatial management. This involved using a mapping tool to determine fishing areas in Puerto Rico to identify areas of socio-economic and environmental concern.

### In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The USAID scholarship has increased my awareness of marine conservation as a field that tackles a global issue but requires locally addressed solutions. The scholarship has presented both a challenge and an opportunity to me upon returning to the Philippines: to creatively modify what I learned in the U.S., a leader in scientific research and advocacy, to the context of the Philippines.

### How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

My PSM degree has broadly exposed me to different applications of marine conservation, one of which is my growing interest in marine spatial planning – a science-based approach to managing ocean use. The Philippines has a history of involving and empowering local coastal communities to protect and manage its ocean resources. However, the collection and application of scientific data to support the decision-making process has yet to be strengthened. With a professional background in education and outreach, and now, a technical background in policy and spatial assessments, I hope to communicate that the utilization of our marine resources and ocean stewardship are not disconnected from one another, but rather, can complement each other with sound management.

### As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

As a young scientist, I envision that science in the Philippines will be prioritized as a proactive stakeholder in responsible policy development. I do not only refer to research that serves as factual and meaningful information for the policy process but also to the very essence of science: the practice of critical thinking. In the next 10 years, I hope that science in the Philippines will find its voice. Not a weak voice that cries quietly out of frustration from the lack of support for Filipino scientists but a loud voice that calls out the thrill of discovery and determination to improve the lives of Filipinos.

*Carlie is currently working as a senior research assistant in the University of the Philippines - Diliman under the Philippine Coral Reef and Mangrove Remote Sensing (Phil-CoMaRS) project, a nationwide, multi-temporal assessment of coral reef and mangrove communities that is funded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).*

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