My name is Emmanuel Vázquez-Rivera, a senior student from Universidad del Este in Puerto Rico. I’m currently majoring a double BS in Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology. This experience at Wood Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) was really important to my educational and professional future. I am always being really interested in the Environmental Microbiology with a special curiosity in water microbiology. Thanks to this opportunity, I have realized that I would like to do my graduate studies in Marine & Estuarine Microbiology and Microbes in Extreme Environments using biotechnological techniques to analyzed potential biomolecules with therapeutic uses (Bioprospecting).

At WHOI I worked with a project that I called as *Characterization of Caribbean Sponge- Cyanobacterial Symbionts*. In this project we are identifying two possible new cyanobacterial species. After several analysis of the pigments from each sample using High Performance Liquid Cromatography (HPLC) and HPLC-APC-MS (Atmospheric Pressure Chemical Ionization – Mass spectrometry) we identify interesting peak patterns suggesting the presences of new pigments in both isolates.

This project gave me the opportunity to explore and learn new techniques in chemistry and microbiology as well, being really useful to me as a future researcher considering Biochemistry and Biogeochemistry analysis in my research interests.