The global oceans face an uncertain future due to increasing environmental threats from human activities. While underwater devastation remains largely concealed, the impacts of overfishing, pollution, acidification and climate change are readily noticeable even in the ocean’s most inaccessible regions. It is estimated that we have explored less than 5% of the global ocean yet anthropogenic environmental degradation is causing widespread loss of marine biodiversity, with largely unknown consequences.

Tuesday, April 1, 6:30 p.m.
Campus Center Auditorium

Isla Castañeda’s field of research specialization is molecular paleoclimatology. She utilizes organic compounds preserved in geologic materials to study past climates and environments on Earth. A main focus of her research is on reconstructing past lake and sea surface temperatures using lipids produced by Eukarya, Bacteria and Archaea. She is particularly interested in ancient global warmth as examining climate processing operating during past warm intervals can help inform us about future conditions on Earth. Another of her major research interests is on understanding relationships between climate variability and human evolution.