

MIMES REPORT

Winter 2001

South Carolina Minorities in Marine and Environmental Sciences Summer Intern Program

Summary of Summer 2001 Activities

MIMES Project Renewed!

The National Science Foundation, Ocean Science Program, has renewed funding for the MIMES internship for another three years. The financial support for this summer's program was broadened through funding received from NOAA National Sea Grant through a partnership between MRD and SC State University. South Carolina Sea Grant Consortium also provided support. Each funded one student who participated in the summer program with four students funded by the National Science Foundation.

In May, staff at the Marine Resources Center, including the Marine Resources Division, and the University of Charleston, welcomed six excited students to the summer program. They received tours of the facilities to see first-hand the variety of marine and environmental-related research projects being conducted at the Center. After a day of orientation activities and a welcome social, the interns began their independent summer research projects.

Five of the students completed their summer research projects. Joe Seawright Jr., a senior at South Carolina State University, was funded through the National Sea Grant-MSI Partnership Program. During the summer, Mr. Seawright conducted a "Cost Benefit analysis of two hypothetical red drum stocking methods in South Carolina" under the guidance of Mr. Ray Rhodes of the Marine Resources Division. Mentored by Dr. Alan Lewitus of the Marine Resources Division, Ethell Vereen Jr., a senior at South Carolina State University, studied the environmental factors regulating the abundance and microcystin production of *Microcystis* spp. in a



Seated (left to right): Cecilia Lewis, Dr. Cecil Jennings, Claudia CebadaMora

Standing (left to right): Joe Seawright Jr., LaShawn Smalls, Zinnette Lee, Ethell Vereen Jr.

freshwater/brackish pond in Charleston, South Carolina. LaShawn Smalls, a senior at South Carolina State University, was funded by SC Sea Grant Consortium. Ms. Smalls examined the stock structure of red porgy, *Pagrus pagrus*, in the Western Atlantic, with the assistance of her mentor Dr. Amy Ball of the Marine Resources Division. Under the guidance of her mentors (Dr. Charles Wenner, Bill Roumillat, Myra Brouwer and John Archambault of the Marine Resources Division), Cecilia Lewis, a sophomore at the College of Charleston, examined the effects of salinity on the size distribution of two estuarine species, *Brevoortia tyrannus* and *Leiostomus xanthurus*. Claudia CebadaMora, a junior at Stony Brook State University of New York, worked closely with her mentor, Dr. Charles Barans of the Marine Resources Division, this summer. Ms CebadaMora studied the movements of the juvenile horseshoe crab, *Limulus polyphemus*, and the vertical distribution of eggs in the sediment. Zinnette Lee, a junior at Benedict College, worked with her mentor, Dr. Craig Plante of the University of Charleston, to study whether antibiotic-resistant bacteria are found in the hindguts of marine worms. Ms. Lee, regrettably, had to withdraw from the program.

Classroom Training and Peer Interactions

During the first weeks of the program, the interns attended workshops on statistics, scientific writing, and preparing graphic presentations that were designed to prepare them for their work ahead. Research staff at the Marine Resources Division, Mr. Bill Roumillat, Mr. Chris McDonough, Mr. David Wyanski, and Ms. Karen Swanson, taught these classroom sessions.

The six MRD undergraduate students also participated in joint activities with students of the Fort Johnson Undergraduate Research Program (administered by the College of Charleston). All of the students presented their oral presentations, which were critiqued by members of both groups to improve further development of the presentations. Students from both groups also participated in a Charleston Harbor educational cruise and a beach/marsh walk conducted by Dr. Reid Wiseman, a College of Charleston professor.

Visiting Scientists - Outstanding Minority Role Models

During July, the interns interacted with two nationally known research scientists, who provided information on goal setting in obtaining careers in science and offered advice on the need for attending graduate school. Dr. Cecil Jennings is the Leader of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit at the University of Georgia at Athens, GA. Dr. Dionne Hoskins is a NOAA/NMFS fishery biologist and professor at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA. Lastly, Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields, Commander of the NOAA Corps, visited with the students and shared her experiences as a successful woman officer in NOAA.

Preparations for the Last Day!

During the last three weeks of the program, students and mentors were very busy finalizing their research

objectives and developing the students' final written and oral research reports. Computer generated Power Point presentations were used by all students with the assistance of Karen Swanson. The quality of scientific research conducted by the students demonstrated their dedication and enthusiasm for research and the supportive efforts and patience of the mentors and their research teams.

Student Updates

Over the years, we have heard from many students, and we encourage you to stay in touch. Please continue to let us know what you are doing and where you are. All alumni updates are published in our newsletter. We would appreciate telephone numbers, home, and e-mail addresses. Thanks!

Tell a Friend!!

It may seem early to be considering recruitment for next summer's internships, but students interested in science and research are somewhat rare. The high quality of our past interns suggests that some of their friends might be interested in a similar summer experience. Please encourage any minority undergraduates interested in science to check out our web site.

Opportunities

The following websites contain information on other research opportunities available for undergraduates:

www.aslo.org/mas

www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/reu/reuoce.htm

www.savstate.edu/scitech/marinesci/fly2001.htm

Those interested in participating in workshops at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) annual meeting, should contact Dr. Ben Cuker at: www.hamptonu.edu/science/ASLO.htm



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