May Grant Awards

Kay Bidle “Infochemical Control of Microbial Ecosystem Pathways in the North Atlantic” WHOI $57,915

Ben Horton “Collaborative Research: Sea-level variability during the Common Era” National Science Foundation $255,430

Lisa Auermuller “NYCDEP Wastewater Treatment Plant Effluent Dilution, Task 3” SNJ-Department of Environmental Protection $89,875

Reinhard Kozdon “Reconciling substrate specific difference in the carbon isotope excursion marking the Paleocene-Eocene” University of Wisconsin $108,252

Olaf Jensen “2015 Assessment of Egiin Gol Hydropower Project” The Taimen Conservation Fund $130,000

Oscar Schofield “Palmer, Antarctica LTER (PAL): Land-Shelf-Ocean Connectivity, Ecosystem Resilience and Transformation” Columbia University $120,000


While we spend much time emphasizing research and outreach successes, the primary focus remains on the Rutgers students. The students are the best part of each day, and we are excited to work with them. The undergraduate program continues to grow and produce talented and experienced students who go on to graduate school, industry, federal, state and local agencies. This year we had a great group undergraduate and graduate students. Above are marine science graduate students Kaycee Coleman (MS degree focused on economically important fish movement and migrations and how environmental changes affect distribution and abundance), Nicole Waite (MS degree focused on the ecology of seagrass ecosystems) and Xinzhuang Zhang (Ph.D focused on coupling of physical and biological modeling to simulate changes in coastal regimes). In addition we had a great group of undergraduate students who attained their degree. This year we had 14 students graduate with a marine science degree. We are confident of their future success and are extremely lucky to have had time with a remarkable group of people, that gives me hope for our collective future!
Congratulations to Robert Forney who wins the Outstanding Marine Science Student Award

Congratulations to Robert Forney who was awarded the Marine Science Outstanding Senior award. Robert, beyond being a professional chess player, was an exceptional student. During his time at Rutgers he was active in the COOL room. He conducted hands-on research that included work on coastal HF radars as well as the ocean-atmosphere interactions in hurricanes. His storm work is part of a Nature Communications paper that is under revision and he is a co-author. Congrats to Robert who demonstrated passion and drive in conducting original research!!!

Celebrating Ocean Leadership

Five years ago, the Celebrating Ocean Leadership Award was created. The award was focused on celebrating leaders in the field whose unselfish efforts transformed the field though the development of cutting edge new technologies as well as unselfish efforts in communicating to broader audiences to increase ocean literacy. Past winners of the award include Buzz Berstien (Developer and Founder of Sea Space Inc.), Don Barrick (inventor and founder of CODAR Inc.), Douglass Webb (inventor of autonomous buoyancy robotics including ARGO and gliders, and founder of Webb Research Inc), Antonio Ramos (U. Gran Canaria, ocean explorer and developer of education based cyber tools providing students innovative abilities to explore a 3D ocean). The awards are presented during the annual RU undergraduate Marine Science Science Symposium where students present their research using remote data streams from around the world. This year we celebrated two of Rutgers best who both are responsible for making Rutgers Oceanography a world leader.

Congratulations to Federick Grassle

Fred, is considered the father of Rutgers Oceanography. Under his leadership, he built the current marine science building and hired the majority of the faculty in Department. For this award he was recognized for being a technology leader. Fred deployed the first dedicated seafloor cable for science when he built LEO-15 at the Tuckerton marine field station. With the Census of Marine Life, Fred built one of the first global data catalogs, ushering in the new era of cyber-oceanography. These achievements are addition to his giant legacy of being a ground breaking deep sea ecologist.

Congratulations to Richard Lutz

Rich casts a giant shadow over Rutgers and oceanography as whole. Rich was one of the key strategists to develop a leading oceanography program at Rutgers. He was instrumental in garnering the funding to build our program. Beyond that Rich is a globally recognized deep
sea explorer and inspirational communicator. This is evidenced by his high profile outreach work with National Geographic and his ground-breaking IMAX movie “Volcanoes in the Deep Sea”. These efforts have inspired many of us Rutgers to not only do great science but to focus on communicating that work in exciting ways to the general public.

Let’s celebrate the first Rutgers graduates who have been awarded an undergraduate Minor in Fisheries Science.

Rutgers recently introduced a new undergraduate minor in Fisheries Science. This was motivated by a recognition of the need to train a future generation of leaders to meet growing societal needs. Despite the clear importance of fisheries to the state, the region, and the country, our ability to manage fisheries is falling behind. In a report to Congress in 2007, the National Marine Fisheries Service identified a “perfect storm” of retirements of stock assessment scientists combined with both increased demand and decreased supply of incoming scientists. Similar gaps between supply and demand of trained fisheries scientists exist at the state level. Despite the importance of fisheries in New Jersey, we are one of the only states in the mid-Atlantic region that does not have a university offering a major in Fisheries Science, Fishery Management, or Fish & Wildlife Sciences. The objective of the Fisheries Science minor is to fill this gap by providing students with a broad introductory training in the interdisciplinary study of fisheries as complex social-ecological system. This last year we have seen the first graduates for this new program. Congratulations to Collin Dobson and Packy Looney, our first two students to graduate with the new undergraduate minor in Fisheries Science. Well done, Collin and Packy!

Coastal Ocean Modeling Gordon Research Conference
PhD student Jack McSweeney (left) and Professor of Marine Sciences John Wilkin (right) chaired the 2015 Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) and Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on Coastal Ocean Modeling. The meetings were held at the University of New England on the banks of the Saco River (in background) in Biddeford, Maine. The GRS brought together 50 students and early career scientists for two days to discuss their research among peers and mentors, while the GRC that immediately followed comprised a week of invited talks to 150 attendees on observing and modeling coastal ocean physics, encompassing estuarine circulation, physics-ecosystem interaction, boundary layer dynamics, submesoscale mixing, internal waves, data assimilation, polar processes, and climate change.
GET YOUR RU OCEAN SWAG!!!!

Rutgers Oceanography tee-shirts have arrived for the warmer season. Proudly wear the Rutgers Oceanography tee-shirts - funds are raised to host science socials for the undergraduate and graduate students. Tee-shirts go for $15 and will make you look athletic, smart, and dashing. Such a great deal for a great cause. Contact Sarah Kasule if interested (kasule@marine.rutgers.edu). To see the quality people your contribution would support check out our featured graduate students at http://marine.rutgers.edu/main/Featured-Student/.

Please help us enable Rutgers oceanography to support the next generation!

Rutgers oceanography needs your support to meet the environmental and educational challenges facing the world today. Your support is critical to enabling high risk and high reward research, developing students to be the leaders of tomorrow and bringing the public with our scientists into the ocean. Your private gifts will create new laboratories, student fellowships, endowments and feed ambitious new programs. Come join us!

New Publications


