

MIMES

South Carolina Minorities in Marine and Environmental Science

March 1997

Vol. 1, No.1

WELCOME BACK! _____

This first issue of "MIMES" represents a continuation of the "Synergy" newsletter series initiated in 1990 to report collaborative activities of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources - Marine Resources Division (MRD) in assisting minorities in the fields of the Marine and Environmental Sciences. Since the last issue in April, 1993, educational emphasis within MRD has shifted to intensive summer experiences for undergraduate students. MRD has sponsored up to five students each summer in positions of biological research or management under the direction of dedicated mentors.

SUMMER 1996 _____

The summer 1996 project was initiated with students supported by both MRD and the Ocean Sciences Program of the National Science Foundation (NSF). Support from NSF allowed expansion of the summer research training aspects of the project by increasing the number of science mentors and students participating.

There were three students that participated in the 12 weeks of summer training sponsored by MRD. Mr. Goler Collins, a senior Math Major from Orangeburg studying at South Carolina State University, investigated techniques for marking juvenile striped bass with guidance from Mr. Mike Denson. Ms. Lovee McKinney, a sophomore Business Administration Major from Greenville studying at Newberry College, tabulated and improved a fishery economic survey under the direction of Ms. Kim Iverson. Ms. Kay Davy's student was Ms. Sadida Chinnis, a junior Marketing Major at Claflin College from Charleston who assisted with fishing tournaments and the public fish tagging program to analyze the number of tagged fish being re-released. These students arrived on

May 15th. After a welcome address, they received an orientation program which was followed by a social to introduce them to mentors and staff.

The NSF sponsored project had to be shortened to eight weeks. Training emphasis was on scientific research with mentors assisted by their respective research teams. Ms. Veronica Cline of Ft. Hancock, Texas, a senior geology major at the University of Texas at El Paso, studied sediment preferences of postlarval shrimp under the guidance of Dr. Charles Barans. Ms. Vanessa Martinez of High Point, North Carolina, a senior biology major at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, investigated the effects of specific chemicals on settlement of oysters with Dr. Loren Coen and



1996 summer students and speaker Dr. Lisa White (center). From left to right Veronica Cline, Vanessa Martinez, Lovee McKinney, Goler Collins, Sadida Chinnis and Jada Richardson.

Ms. Nancy Hadley. Ms. Jada Richardson of Charleston, South Carolina, a senior majoring in biology at Wilberforce University of Ohio was guided by Dr. Bob Van Dolah and Mr. Phil Maier. She conducted bioassay experiments with blue crab larvae which she raised from eggs.

Students had the opportunity to hear professional seminars by three scientists. The speakers presented information on their current research, advised the students on career and educational opportunities and related personal experiences from their science careers. The visiting scientists were Dr. Lisa White of San Francisco State University Geoscience Dept., who shared her adventures conducting research in Russia; Dr. Mike Howell of the University of South Carolina SC AMP program, who presented his experiences on several cruises in the international Ocean Drilling Program; and Dr. Vincent Purnell Lewis of the University of South Carolina Marine Science program, who had conducted exciting fisheries field and laboratory research. Also participating in these seminars were students from the summer internship program in Marine Biology at Savannah State University, under the direction of Dr. Matt Gilligan, and student of the College of Charleston's AMP summer program.

As part of the requirements for the internship program, the students submitted a written summary of their projects and presented oral reports of research accomplishments on August 1st to peers, mentors and members of the SC MRD Minority Affairs Committee. Topics were: "Increasing Conservation of Marine Game Fish" by Ms. Chinnis; "Sediment Preference of Postlarval White Shrimp, *Penaeus setiferus*", by Ms. Cline; "Hybrid Striped Bass Larval Rearing" by Mr. Collins; "Setting Success of the intertidal American Oyster, *Crassostrea virginica* using two methods: epinephrine and microcultch" by Ms. Martinez; "How to Conduct an Effective Angler Mail Survey" by Ms. McKinney; and "The Developmental Stages of *Callinectes sapidus* and their sensitivity to Cadmium" by Ms. Richardson.

Both a routine survey and an NSF questionnaire designed by C. Yentsch of the Education Development Center in Newton, MA were used to evaluate the student's confidence and competency increase after the summer experience. Summarization and analysis of this data will be used to improve our future programs.

Two of the students, Ms. Veronica Cline and Vanessa Martinez, attended the annual meeting of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography in Santa Fe, NM in February. The students were sponsored by an NSF funded program under the direction of Dr. Ben Cuker of Hampton University in Hampton, VA. Ms.

Martinez has been invited to present her summer research results to peers and the scientific community at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Science.

MRD staff members, Ms. M. Yvonne Bobo and Mr. Louis Heyward, represented the summer training program committee at the annual meeting of the Minorities in Natural Resources Committee of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Hot Springs, Arkansas in October, 1996. This exchange of ideas on training summer interns keeps the MRD summer project in tune with recent improvements in training methodology and student needs.

One of the immediate benefits of the summer training project to MRD was the temporary employment of one of the students, Ms. Jada Richardson, with our Oyster Disease Monitoring Project.

SUMMER 1997

We hope to recruit 6-8 minority students for this year's summer research training (12 week) experience in marine and environmental science. Several improved opportunities are being developed for students including an increase in the diversity of mentors and associated research areas available to students through a cooperative training effort between scientists of MRD, the Marine Biology graduate program of the Univ. of Charleston and the National Marine Fisheries Service Laboratory of NOAA's Southeastern Fisheries Center.

PAST STUDENTS

We would love to know how all our previous interns and students are doing and where they are now. We would appreciate phone numbers and/or addresses. Thanks!

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