The Jersey Shoreline
New Jersey Sea Grant

2008 Knauss Fellowship Finalists Selected

Established in 1979 and named in honor of one of Sea Grant’s founders and former NOAA Administrator John Knauss, the Knauss Fellowship gives students with an interest in marine sciences the opportunity to be involved in the national policy-making process for oceanic, coastal, and Great Lakes resources. The program pairs selected qualified graduate students with mentors in the legislative and executive branches of government in Washington, D.C.

For over twenty-two hours in early May, the 2008 Knauss Fellowship Selection Committee met in Silver Spring, Maryland to choose next year’s Fellowship finalists. Applicants from twenty-five Sea Grant programs were judged in a rigorous and competitive selection process based on a number of criteria: the recommendations of superiors, the strength of their academic records, and any relevant work experience in marine- or aquatic-related fields. Selected from the pool of applicants from New Jersey Sea Grant, Jaclyn Taylor is a Master’s candidate at Rutgers University whose road to the fellowship began at the Jersey Shore.

A native of Pennsylvania, Jaclyn’s earliest childhood memories include family vacations on Long Beach Island and visits to the New Jersey State Aquarium at Camden, a combination which initiated and fed her interest in the ocean and marine life. It was no surprise when she matriculated at Southampton College in Long Island, she chose to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Marine Biology.

During her final year of study at Southampton, Jaclyn enrolled in a fisheries biology course which she credits with defining her professional interests and directing her towards studies in marine and fisheries ecology. With this new focus in mind, she applied to Rutgers’ Masters Program in Ecology and Evolution. Currently working at the Haskin Shellfish Laboratory and on her thesis entitled “Secondary Ecological Benefits of Oyster Fish-}

ery Enhancement in Delaware Bay” under the guidance of her advisor Dr. David Bashek, Jaclyn ultimately sees herself working within a government agency in a policy and management role. It was this long-term goal that motivated Jaclyn to apply for the Knauss fellowship knowing it would provide the real world experience she needs to obtain a holistic view of marine resources management and conservation issues.

Jaclyn will be given the Knauss designation during placement week, slated to take place in Washington, D.C. during the week of December 2-7, 2007, and will join the other Knauss finalists in the nation’s capital in early 2008 to assume her responsibilities. Excited and hopeful about Knauss experience, she says expectantly, “This experience will give me more than I could ever learn in a classroom.”

Jaclyn Taylor, New Jersey Sea Grant 2008 Knauss Fellowship Finalist