



## American Samoa Community College Marine Science Internship Program Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology National Marine Sanctuary Program-Pacific Region

The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) is conducting a training program at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC), with funding support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuaries Program-Pacific Region (NMSP-PR). This is a collaborative effort with the ASCC Marine Science Program and the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. Our goal is to expose students to both marine sciences and NOAA activities, as well to help lay a foundation to build capacity and recruit the next generation of ocean scientists and environmental stewards.



ASCC students during an outdoor lab class on marine alien species (E. Temple)

This year, a researcher from the HIMB is working with ASCC and Hawai'i Sea Grant to familiarize a group of undergraduate student interns with issues concerning marine alien species in the Samoan Archipelago. These students will be given an elementary overview of the identification techniques for select marine invertebrate species that typically are associated with fouling communities and shoreline habitats. These



Student with sea star collected during species inventory exercise (S. Granger).

particular species groups include sponges, cnidarians (non-stony coral species), bryozoans, and marine worms. Additionally, there will be field classes on monitoring techniques conducted in shoreline habitats. The field monitoring events will focus on the basics of setting up long-term monitoring sites, such as species inventories, habitat assessments, and carrying out transect surveys.

This is semester-long internship program within the ASCC Marine Science Program that is focused on broadening the education of students on the local marine environment and providing opportunities for hands-on training in marine science research. Student interns are also exposed to NOAA's activities in American Samoa, including the management of the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the Education Cruise activities aboard the NOAA research vessel *Hi'ialakai*. Participating students will receive stipends and college credit for their participation, and are expected to produce species identification and monitoring technique guides, and conduct an

independent research project. The final culminating event is a presentation of their project results to their peers and other educators at the end of the term.

HIMB hopes to continue this collaboration with NMSP-PR, ASCC and Hawai'i Sea Grant with a series of different marine science topics delivered each semester.



ASCC students during field class on shoreline habitats (S. Granger).

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