

The Coral Fellowship Newsletter is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, program coordinators and other stakeholders

Coral Fellowship Newsletter



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Special points of interest:

- Fellowship Orientation: January 28– February 2
- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting: February 26-29
- New Coral Fellows Webpage <http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/fellowship.html>

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New Coral Fellows Selected

New Coral Reef Management fellows were selected to support island coral reef management efforts in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam and Puerto Rico.

Alyssa Edwards will be working with the American Samoa Coastal Management Program; Kathleen Herrmann will be working with the Division of Environmental Quality in CNMI; Elaina Todd will be working for Guam's Division of Marine and Wildlife Resources and Raimundo Espinoza will be working for the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources in Puerto Rico. They will all begin in January, 2008.

The new fellows bring with them a diverse set of skills and knowledge such as experience in watershed and MPA management, education and outreach experience, and technical expertise that will be utilized in their respective positions.

The new fellows will join current fellows: Karlyn Langjahr who has been working for the Coastal Zone Management Program in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Petra MacGowan who works with the Division of Aquatic Resources in Hawaii. Both Karlyn and Petra have been in place for one year.



A reefscape in Chuuk, FSM
Photo courtesy: Matt Ramsey

The Coral Reef Management Fellowship program addresses capacity deficiencies in the US Flag jurisdictions by providing technically proficient fellows who have the necessary experience to provide specialized support to jurisdictions in their coral reef conservation efforts while providing fellows with professional training in coastal and coral reef resource management.

Orientation to Take Place on Maui in January 2008

Coral Fellows and their supervisors will travel to Maui, Hawaii to take part in an orientation January 28-February 2, 2008.

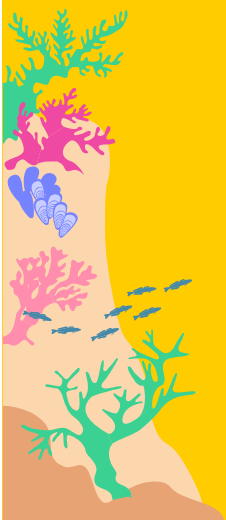
Fellows and supervisors will learn about the coral fellowship program's policies and procedures, receive professional development training and begin to develop their two-year project plans.

The fellowship orientation is a great opportunity for fellows to develop a relationship with their supervisors and also build lasting networks between jurisdictions.

Professional development training will focus on building the skills and attitudes necessary for fellows to successfully complete their work portfolios.

Program Evaluation

The coral fellowship program recently underwent the first phase of an evaluation. Input from stakeholders in each jurisdiction was collected. Program leaders and supervisors will be discussing the resulting changes to the program's policies and procedures at the orientation meeting in January.





Elaina Todd will be the new Coral Fellow in Guam

"This fellowship is an amazing opportunity to return home to where my true passion lies in conserving and educating the community about Guam's amazing natural resources and the need to protect them for future generations."
-Elaina Todd



Alyssa Edwards will be the new Coral Fellow in American Samoa

Meet Elaina Todd, Guam Coral Fellow

Elaina Todd was born in California and moved to Guam when she was ten. Growing up on a tropical island allowed her to appreciate the amazing beauty of Guam's natural reefs and also allowed her to see first-hand how dramatically humans were impacting them. Elaina has always been a "fish nerd" with her nose in either a snorkel-mask or a marine biology book. She attended George Washington High School and became a member of Marine Mania, an environmental club focused on

promoting marine awareness and making conservation fun and interactive. From there her passion for marine science and conservation grew. She attended the University of Guam where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences.

While attending college she worked for Under Water World, an aquarium located in Guam's tourism epicenter. Through various positions with the aquarium she was able to interact with many local

agencies and become involved in environmental awareness and outreach. Eventually she became the education coordinator where she developed and implemented conservation-based education programs for the island community.

Earlier this year she moved to Florida where she directed education programs for a non-profit marine science center. She is looking forward to returning to Guam where she can use her talents and experience to promote healthy reefs.

Update on Petra MacGowan, Hawaii Fellow

Petra continues to manage several different projects in Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources.

In addition to processing management grants, and coordinating Local Action Strategy (LAS) progress, she serves as the coordinator for Coral Reef Outreach Network (CRON). CRON works to raise general public awareness of the impor-

tance and interconnectedness of the coral reef ecosystems to Hawaii's lifestyle and to teach and encourage positive behaviors that will protect and nurture this life giving natural resource.

Petra also works with state partners to coordinate Makai Watch, a program where Hawaii's coastal communities work directly with resource

managers to conduct monitoring, outreach and voluntary compliance activities. Petra is working to formalize the program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and provide standardized training programs and guidelines for participating community volunteers and organizers.

Meet Alyssa Edwards, American Samoa Fellow

Alyssa Edwards grew up in Long Beach, California. She first developed an interest in coastal management while studying abroad in Barbados. She went to school at the University of California at Santa Cruz where she completed a B.A. in Marine Biology and later went on to complete a M.A. in Global Environmental Policy at American University.

Her professional experience includes time spent volunteering in Southern Africa in the

Peace Corps where she taught science and participated in community empowerment programs; work with The Nature Conservancy where she helped with the implementation of a marine park in St. Croix; and work with NOAA headquarters where she facilitated meetings between the National Ocean Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the drafting of a new strategic plan. She also helped plan a working session on sustainable tourism at the 2006 U.S. Coral

Reef Task Force meeting. Alyssa has co-authored various socio-economic reports and has a tremendous amount of experience to bring to her position.

Alyssa will be assisting with the efforts of the Coral Reef Advisory Group, a group of territorial and federal agencies that coordinates all of American Samoa's coral reef management activities.

Meet Raimundo Espinoza, Puerto Rico Coral Fellow

Raimundo Espinoza was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador. He graduated in 2004 from Pace University with a BA in Environmental Studies and a minor in Biology.

As an undergraduate he gained policy experience working at the Office for University Counsel at Pace University and interning at the Puerto Rican Environmental Quality Board Scientific Document Assessment Department.

Raimundo's interest in coastal

and marine conservation was sparked while studying abroad in Baja California Sur, Mexico where he worked with the local community, fishermen, and conservationists in the region.

Since then, Raimundo has worked in Costa Rica, Galapagos, and most recently served as the Science Outreach Coordinator for the Smithsonian National Zoo's Columbia Heights Community Science Workshop in partnership with the Self Reliance Foundation.

He recently finished his Masters of Science in Sustainable Development & Conservation Biology at the University of Maryland.

Raimundo will be working with Division of Natural and Environmental Resources in the areas of watershed and natural reserve management.



Raimundo Espinoza
will be the new Coral
Fellow in Puerto Rico

Update on Karlyn's work in USVI

Karlyn is currently serving as the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the St. Croix East End Marine Park. Her enthusiasm and sincere desire to promote ocean conservation make her an excellent spokesperson for the park.

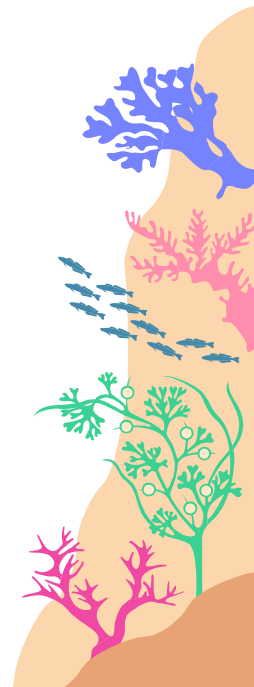
One of her many duties includes coordinating the Virgin Island Network of Environmental Educators (VINE).

VINE strives to build capacity for environmental and cultural education within the Virgin Islands. Karlyn recently planned and conducted a well-attended workshop with participants from both the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

Karlyn also serves as the Committee Chair for the International Year of the Reef (IYOR)

in St. Croix. The committee has been working to plan monthly IYOR activities within the community such as a Fish Fry with local fishermen to promote "healthy reefs for healthy livelihoods."

Karlyn is also conducting socio-economic surveys with the intention of presenting a poster at the International Coral Reef Symposium in July.



Meet Kathleen Herrmann, CNMI Coral Fellow

Kathleen Herrmann was born and raised in Michigan. She graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S. in Environmental Sciences in 1999.

She briefly worked for the Michigan Department of Agriculture before moving to an environmental consulting firm where she spent the next six years doing watershed management for a number of federal, state, and local clients. While there she became interested in marine and coastal manage-

ment issues which led her to a master's degree at the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs.

Highlights of her time at the School of Marine Affairs include assistant teaching, traveling to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, exploring the Baltic Sea as part of the Mare Europeum Scholarship program, planning a conference for the Washington Sea Grant, assisting with a research report on Coastal Water Resources and Watershed

Conditions at Olympic National Park, and conducting an economic study on fishing fleets in Alaska. She also volunteered with The Coastal Society as the National Liaison and facilitated a number of their volunteer and outreach events.

She looks forward to living and working in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to be a part of a unique program working to protect the marine resources of the island community.



Kathleen Herrmann
will be the new Coral
Fellow CNMI

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We're on the web!
www.coralreef.noaa.gov/fellowship.html

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Coral Reef Management Fellowship

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Management Fellowship was established in 2003 to respond to the need for additional coral reef management capacity and capability in the U.S. Flag Pacific and Caribbean islands. The fellowship program's mission is two-fold, it provides coral reef management support in each participating island jurisdiction by placing highly qualified individuals whose education and work experience meet each island's specific coral reef management needs, while providing individual fellows with professional training in coastal and coral reef resource management.



People on the Move



We'd like to thank the fellows and supervisors who have recently completed their fellowships. Their hard work and dedication have made a significant impact in coastal resource management on their islands.

American Samoa Sharon Gulick completed her fellowship with the American Samoa Coastal Management Program and has accepted a position in Costa Rica.

Meredith Speicher, who served as Sharon's mentor and supervisor along with Gene Brighthouse, has accepted another position and will be moving on. A big thanks for all her support.

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Island

Lihla Noori will be continuing in her position at the Division of Environmental Quality in CNMI through April. A big thanks to her for all her hard work and to Gary Toves for acting as her supervisor on the island of Rota. Fran Castro will be supervising the new fellow in Saipan.

Guam Romina King has been hired by Guam's Coastal Management Program to continue the excellent work that she has been doing throughout her fellowship. Romina has entered a masters program in GIS which will sharpen her technical skills. A big thanks to Vangie Lujan for acting as her mentor and supervisor.

Jay Gutierrez with Dept. of Marine and Wildlife Resources will supervise the incoming fellow in Guam and we would

like to welcome him to the team.

Hawaii Kris McElwee will no longer be the program's Pacific liaison for CNMI and Guam. A big thanks to Kris for all her insight and assistance.

Puerto Rico Maria del Mar Lopez-Rivera will finish her term with Puerto Rico's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources in January after assisting in the training of the incoming fellow. Maria del Mar will be moving to Florida.

US Virgin Islands Janice Hodge was hired as the director of the Coastal Zone Management Program and has been Karlyn's supervisor and mentor since her arrival. We're thrilled to have her.

Please [email us](#) your questions and suggestions for future editions

