

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



Volume I Issue 4

October 2008

Special points of interest:

- U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting Washington D.C.: February 23-27, 2009
- Coral Fellows [Webpage](#)

Inside this issue:

Special Features 1

Jurisdictional 2

Updates

Spotlight on Elaina Todd 2-3

Announcements 4

Annual Coral Fellows Retreat



Kathleen presenting her Work Plan

The annual Coral Reef Management Fellowship Retreat was held in Kona, Hawaii, Sep. 2-4.

The first day was spent sharing information about the work that the fellows are doing. Each fellow gave a presentation on their work plan and answered any questions that the group had. There was a lively discussion about how to adapt projects to other locations.

Over the next two days fellows participated in professional development training on social marketing by Kevin Doyle of Green Economies. This workshop provided a framework for determining what is involved in social marketing and provided tools to apply marketing principals to outreach and awareness projects.

The fellows also spent time learning about web design and online media outlets from Brian Asbjornson of Kona Impact. Participants came away with a basic understanding of online design issues and a range of tools that they can use to enhance their online presence.



Kalani Teaching at Coral Fellows Retreat

M. Kalani Sousa joined us for an evening of sharing Hawaiian cultural knowledge. Each fellow received a "pocket hand card" that listed inspirational comments such as, "Conflict is the opportunity for positive change."



Petra, Rai, Alyssa, Karlyn, Marci, Kevin, Kathleen & Elaina on Ridge of Kohala Mountain

On the final day, Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District led the group on a tour of the Waiulaula Watershed. The tour started at the base of the watershed where the stream flows out into the ocean and worked up from there. Fellows were able to inspect the water sampling equipment at each station. The group hiked up to the top of the watershed



Base of Waiulaula Watershed

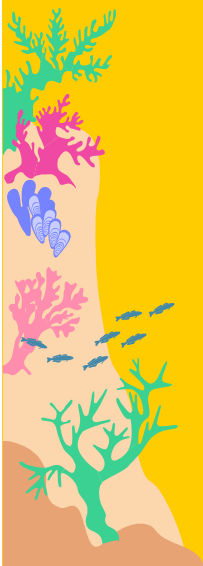
on the slopes of Kohala Mountain where they learned about how the bog ecosystem supports the watershed. The tour illustrated the impacts of residential and urban development on watershed resources,

The week ended with a round table discussion about emerging issues and ways to improve the fellowship program.

The fellowship retreat was a very successful event. Thanks to all those that participated!



Fellows at the Bog on Kohala

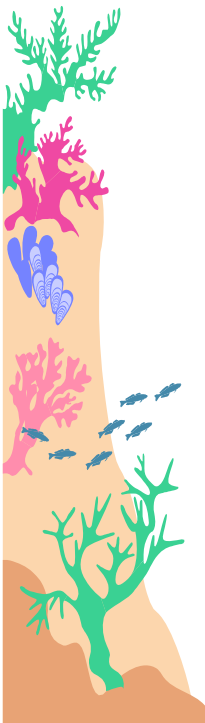




2008-2010 Coral Reef Management Fellows: Kathleen Herrmann, Karlyn Langjahr, Elaina Todd, Alyssa Edwards, Raimundo Espinoza & Petra MacGowan

Check Out the Coral Fellowship Website for a complete profile on each of the Coral Fellows

<http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/meetcurrent.html#news>



Guam: Elaina Todd 2008-2010



Elaina works in Guam's Coastal Management Program where she coordinates education and outreach events and will be leading a RARE Pride campaign for Guam next year.

CNMI: Kathleen Herrmann 2008-2010



Kathleen Herrmann is undertaking watershed planning in partnership with local agencies as well as working on several education and outreach projects in CNMI's Division of Environmental Quality.

Hawaii: Petra MacGowan 2007-2010



Petra manages several projects in Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources. She is coordinating the Local Action Strategies, the Coral Reef Outreach Network and supports the community based Makai Watch program.

American Samoa: Alyssa Edwards 2008-2010



Alyssa works in the Resource Management Division of the Department of Commerce where she assists in the coordination of the Local Action Strategy: Reducing Population Pressure.

Puerto Rico: Raimundo Espinoza 2008-2010



Raimundo works for the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources in Puerto Rico. He concentrates his efforts on land-based sources of pollution and outreach programs.

U.S. Virgin Islands: Karlyn Langjahr 2007-2010



Karlyn is serving as the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the St. Croix East End Marine Park. She also coordinates the Virgin Island Network of Environmental Educators.

Spotlight on Elaina Todd
Guam Coral Fellow



Elaina Todd, 5 years old

Elaina was born in San Francisco and spent the first few years of her life in Redwood City, California. Her early childhood was spent in a predominantly Mexican community. When she was 10 years old she moved to Guam. Her cousins who had grown up in Guam scared her by telling her that nobody wore clothes and you had to carry all your stuff on your head! She was relieved to find that these things were totally untrue. She did feel a little bit of culture shock initially. She was still an outsider and the Spanish she had learned in California didn't help her with her new peers, but she grew to love Guam. "It is an amazing, very family-oriented place!"



She didn't start out as a "fish-nerd" as she now refers to herself. In fact, as a child she was terrified of water and absolutely refused to go near the ocean. "I was sure that all the creepy shapes that I could see below the surface were sharks waiting to eat me!"

When she was about eleven she went to a "swim-through" aquarium where she put on a mask for the first time and looked into the water. "It was a controlled, safe environment and it allowed me to see the beauty of the underwater world for the first time!" She committed then and there to becoming a marine biologist.

Elaina sought out every possible opportunity to learn more about the marine world and loved to tell her family and friends about what she was learning. She attended George Washington High School, where she met Linda Tatreau, one of the teachers there. "She was a total inspiration to me, always full of energy and enthusiasm for marine conservation." Linda founded a group known as Marine Mania and Elaina was one of its founding members. She got SCUBA certified when she was 17 years old as part of the Marine Mania program and loved getting down underneath the water to see the animals she adored up-close.

Spotlight on Alyssa Edwards, American Samoa Coral Fellow (cont...)

While in high school she applied for an Upward Bound program that focused on marine science. She wrote a long essay about how much she loved the ocean and was thrilled when she was accepted. She held fundraisers to earn enough money to buy her flight. She traveled to the University of California in Santa Cruz where she took six weeks of classes in ocean science with 50 other lucky students from across the nation. It was during this summer that Elaina realized how much she loved teaching. "Every night I would get a bunch of my peers together and pull in the white board to go over the day's information. I would share with them my ideas about how to remember each fish name and it seemed to help. Everyone, including the teachers, thanked me after the test!"

After that experience she looked forward to attending UCSC and was accepted there, but was also offered a full-ride Merit Scholarship at the University of Guam and accepted the scholarship. She decided to major in Biology at UOG because there wasn't a Marine Biology program, but she did take as many electives in marine science as possible. The competition was tough in the Biology program. "I was the only one that was not a pre-med student. We started with 60 students in our program and only three ended up graduating my year."

During her freshman year Elaina got a job at the aquarium as an aquarist. Over time she learned the ropes and moved up the ranks. She loved working at the aquarium and soaked up all the information she could about the animals that she took care of. Once she graduated from college she became the Education Coordinator for the aquarium and stayed there for the next three years.

After spending seven years at the aquarium she started to feel like she had accomplished all that she

would be able to there and began to search for new opportunities. "I was hoping to gain more experience working with NGOs and spend some time learning about a new area." She took a job at Pigeon Key Marine Science Center in Florida, but was disappointed to find that the job didn't provide her with the experience she was looking for. She and a friend drove north, applying for jobs along the way. "I felt like a little fish in a big pond. In Guam it was so easy, I knew everyone and doors just opened for me. Here I was starting from scratch and had to work hard for every opportunity."

Elaina ended up getting a position at the Baltimore Aquarium. "It was kind of crazy, I recognized all the Pacific fish, but had to learn all about the Atlantic ecosystems. It was actually a great experience to learn about a whole new ocean!" She was just starting to get settled in at the Baltimore aquarium when she got a call about the Coral Reef Management Fellowship. "I had applied for the fellowship while I was driving up from Florida, but I



Sorting Trash after a Beach Clean Up

didn't really think I had a chance of getting it." It was an easy decision for her to leave Baltimore behind and return to Guam to participate in the fellowship program.

Elaina began her fellowship at the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources where she was tasked with developing a public outreach campaign on Marine Preserves. "Public awareness is pretty low; most people can't point out the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) on a map." She's been helping in the development of a webpage and



outreach materials for the MPA and is currently writing up an overall strategy that will be implemented by a committee.

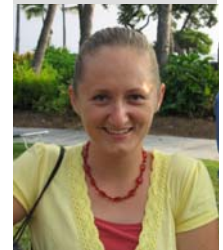
Elaina was selected recently to take on a new RARE Pride campaign in Guam and is totally thrilled about the opportunity. Pride campaigns are year-long marketing efforts that use private sector tactics to promote environmentally sustainable practices. "It is the perfect project for me. I get to pour all my creativity into something that I care about. I will learn so much *and* I'll receive my Master's degree when I'm done!" Elaina begins the project in November 2008 and will travel to Washington DC for nine weeks of training in February.

In the meantime she's got plenty of projects to keep her busy: coordinating the Year of the Reef awards, Guardians of the Reef, kids' snorkeling events, recreational users workshops and school presentations, just to name a few. She will be working from the Guam Coastal Management Program for the rest of her fellowship. "This fellowship has been the highlight of my professional experience! I get to interact with and learn from the other fellows, who have such a wealth of information. I feel lucky to be able to network with so many great people who want to engage the community and create positive change."

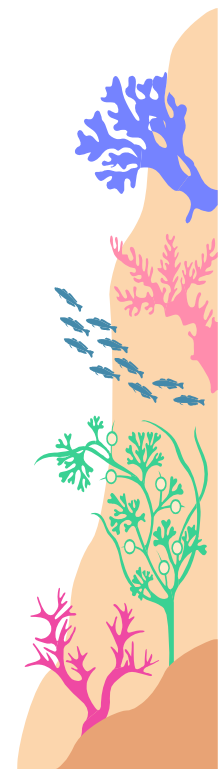
Elaina is committed to marine conservation on Guam. She hopes to be able to open her own science education center in the future. "I'd like to target younger students, get them *outside* into the environment they're studying. It makes such an impact!" Guam is her home and she wants to stay, "As long as I'm making a difference and continue to love what I'm doing, I'll be here."

"This fellowship has provided me with the opportunity and resources to do the work that I always wanted to do!"

- Elaina Todd



Elaina Todd in Kona



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

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

Marci Wulff
Coral Fellowship Coordinator
1305 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Please [email us](mailto:marci.wulff@noaa.gov) your questions and suggestions for future editions

Editor & Graphics Designer: Marci Wulff

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.



CoRIS Regional Portals



The [Regional Portal](http://coris.noaa.gov/data/portals/welcome.html) is an enhancement to the CoRIS web site, providing CoRIS users with regionally-focused access to CoRIS metadata, data, and information about coral reefs in a clear, concise, and integrated way. While the focus of the information is specifically NOAA Coral data, activities, information, and products, non-CRCP activities that fall under the US Coral Reef Task Force umbrella will be included as appropriate.

Interactive Maps Provide Regional Access to the Following Categories of Data & Information...

- Regional Chapters from the State of the Reefs Report
- Links to CoRIS Metadata, Data and publications for Specific a Specific Region
- Available Real-Time and Near-Real-Time Data
- Key Regional Documents
- Education & Outreach Items
- Information for Marine Protected Areas
- USCRF Partner Activities
- AND More!

US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting

- Washington D.C., February 23-27
- The February Task Force meeting is **not** mandatory for fellows to attend. There are fellowship funds available to support travel **IF** the jurisdiction Point of Contact (POC) requests that their fellow be in attendance.
- If this applies to you, please make sure you have a signature from your POC on your Professional Development Request form or a letter from them in addition to your supervisor before you make travel arrangements.

IMSG Reminders

- Time Sheets: make sure you enter your time each day and print a copy of your timesheet at the end of the pay period for your supervisor.
- Monthly Reports: Make sure you are entering a report on your work each month for IMSG (due the last day of each month).
- Cash advances for travel are due a month prior to your departure date.

