

FELLOW NEWS

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

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NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TO RELAY INFORMATION ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND PROVIDE A FORUM FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG FELLOWS, MENTORS, SEA GRANT, AND THE CENTER.

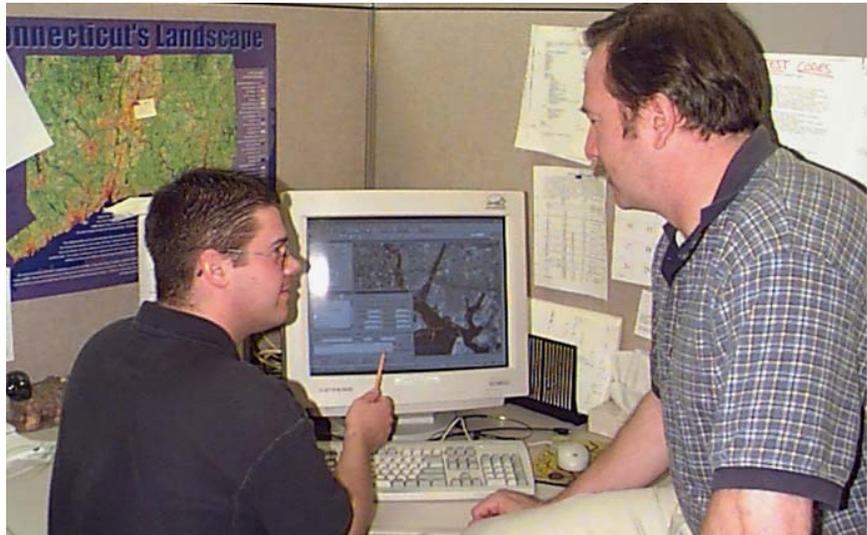
FOCUS ON FELLOWS: KEVIN O'BRIEN 1999–2001

Pursuing a career in coastal management may not have been the obvious path for a math major, but for NOAA Coastal Management Fellow Kevin O'Brien it made perfect sense.

Originally from Torrington, Connecticut, Kevin graduated from Lafayette College in 1996. While there, he took a few electives in oceanography and became increasingly interested in the subject—so much so that in 1997 he entered the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science to begin work on a master's degree in Marine Affairs and Policy.

Completion of the degree required an internship and report from the experience. It was this requirement that led Kevin to the NOAA Coastal Services Center in the fall of 1998, where he learned of the fellowship.

During his internship, Kevin developed ArcView® training courses and worked on T-sheet vectorization. Coincidentally, the Connecticut Coastal Zone Management Program was applying to receive a fellow to



Above: Kevin (left) and mentor George Wisker look over spatial data being used for Kevin's project. Photo courtesy of Harry Yamalis Studios, Inc.

work on a sediment quality information database (SQUID) project.

Seemingly a perfect fit for his interests and technical background, Kevin decided to apply for a fellowship. He was nominated and placed with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Long Island Sound Programs a few months later.

For his project, Kevin has used ArcView® and MS Access to develop a GIS project for dredge material management in Long Island Sound. He began by designing a database to include information from permit files from the past 11 years. He then concentrated on spatial data design and creating customized

analysis tools for the program.

Kevin says that trying to make the program user friendly has been the most challenging aspect of the project. His goal is to ensure that anyone can use and understand the program, regardless of their experience with ArcView.

But Kevin has enjoyed the challenge. He says the opportunity to expand his technical knowledge, as well as to develop something "from scratch" that will be a useful coastal management tool has been a rewarding experience.

Kevin will wrap up work on his project in November. ♦

*For more information contact Kevin:
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2001 FELLOWS SELECTED

SIX INDIVIDUALS CHOSEN DURING APRIL MATCHING WORKSHOP IN CHARLESTON, SC

Warm ocean breezes and the sound of breaking waves set the scene for this year's fellowship matching workshop held at Folly Beach, South Carolina—an island community just outside of Charleston. Although the setting was soothing, the big decisions that were to be made by week's end kept constant anxiety and excitement in the air.

The outcome proved a success when six of the eleven finalists were selected to serve as the sixth class of NOAA Coastal Management Fellows for the next two years. The 2001 fellows are as follows:

Delaware: Bonnie Willis from the University of South Carolina will be working with mentors Dave Carter and Kim Cole at the Delaware Coastal Program on a project entitled "Tracking and Monitoring System for Coastal Non-point Pollution Control Program [CNPCP]."

Bonnie will develop a system for tracking non-point pollution control activities, create a method for analyzing the effectiveness of the CNPCP on water quality control, and begin the long-term collection of data about program areas requiring improvements.

Maine: Peter Slovinsky from the University of South Carolina will be working on a project entitled "Creating a Sustainable Beach Community at Camp Ellis, Maine." While working with mentor Steve Dickson in the Maine CZM office, Peter will develop beach nourishment policy recommendations for the

state and create a hazard mitigation plan.

Michigan: Katherine Ardizone from the Indiana University School of Public & Environmental Affairs will be working within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Land and Water Management Division creating a publication entitled *Environmental Protection for Coastal Communities: A Guide for Local Governments*.

While working with co-mentors Cathie Cunningham and Mark Wyckoff, Kate will be tasked with all phases of the guidebook, including research, development, and final composition. She will also develop a dissemination strategy for the guidebook.

New Jersey: Chris Boelke from the University of Rhode Island will work with mentor Ruth Ehinger and the New Jersey CZM office on a project entitled "Ocean Resource Management," an in-depth review and assessment of the state's coastal zone management program.

Chris will be responsible for defining ocean governance as it applies specifically to New Jersey and an implementation strategy for the approved coastal zone management program.

Pennsylvania: Kirstin Ferrari from the University of Delaware will be working within the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Office for River Basin Cooperation on a project entitled "Expanding the Pennsylvania Sea Grant Program through State and

Regional Approaches in Aquatic Nuisance Species and Fish Consumption Advisories." While working with co-mentors John Booser and John Hines, Kirstin will develop a comprehensive exotic aquatic species program.

South Carolina: Frank Lopez from the University of North Carolina will work with mentor Joe Fersner in the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Office of Coastal Resource Management on a project entitled "Stormwater Program."

The project will include assessment of current stormwater management procedures, legal analysis of maintenance and inspection requirements, baseline field inspections of systems, and fiscal analysis of inspection programs. ♦

For more information about the NOAA



Fellows past and present got together at this year's Coastal Zone '01 Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. Participants included former NOAA Coastal Management Fellows, Knauss Fellows, and NERR Fellows.

The July 16 – 20 conference hosted a student workshop, fellowship special session, and a reception for coastal managers, students, and fellows.

Students from Ohio State, Duke, and Washington and many other universities were on hand to learn about opportunities in the field and network with hundreds of coastal professionals.

FOCUS ON THE CENTER: NEW CSC ASSISTANTSHIP PROGRAM AIMS TO BRING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY TO PACIFIC ISLANDS

The NOAA Coastal Services Center has recently embarked on a multi-year Pacific region initiative. This initiative will focus on capacity building for the Pacific coastal zone management agencies approved under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464). These are the insular areas of Territories of American Samoa and Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the State of Hawaii.



As part of this initiative, the Center is creating four on-site, two-year Assistantship positions. Potential candidates should meet the following criteria:

- Master's degree in Natural Resource Management, Marine Affairs, Geography, Environmental Studies, Regional Planning, or related field
- Advanced GIS skills utilizing ArcView, ARC/INFO, ERDAS, AML and Visual Basic programming

Knowledge of Remote Sensing beneficial

- GIS project management
- Overseas work experience
- Experience working in multi-cultural teams.

Selected individuals will be on-site for two years in Pago Pago, AS, Saipan, CNMI, Hagåtña, GU, and Honolulu, HI.

For more information contact Keri Salzillo at the Environmental Careers Organization (ksalzillo@eco.org) or Cindy Fowler at the Center



Top: A small glimpse of some of the many miles of beautiful shoreline in American Samoa. **Above:** Community members prepare a luau. Photos courtesy of NOAA Coastal Services Center.

UpcomingEventsUpcomingEventsUpcomingEventsUpcomingEventsUpcomingEvents

August

- 4 - 8: Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference
Sponsor: Soil and Water Conservation Society
Location: Myrtle Beach, SC
- 12 - 15: ASIWPCA Annual Meeting
Sponsor: Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA)
Location: Superior Shores Conference Center, Two Harbors, MN

September

- 5 - 6: 2nd International Wetlands and Remediation Conference
Sponsor: Battelle
Location: Sheraton Burlington Hotel and Conference Center, Burlington, VT
- 8 - 12: NEMA 2001 Annual Conference
Location: Big Sky Resort, MT

For more information about upcoming events visit: www.sso.org/cso/conferences01