



# FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

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July 2008, Issue 38



## FOCUS ON FELLOWS: Jacqueline Shapo



Gritty sand between her toes, salty ocean mist clinging to her skin—as a child, Jacqueline Shapo experienced the marvels of the coast chiefly through her vivid imagination.

In reality, Jacquie’s childhood community of Turnersville, New Jersey, was landlocked, suburban, and, in her words, “a tough place.” But Jacquie had advantages that others lacked—a fierce desire to learn more

about the sea and a father who worked in the college textbook business.

“My dad brought home books on corals and deep-sea communities, and I became completely absorbed in the photos and stories,” says Jacquie. In elementary school, she was eager to learn as much as she could about marine biology and archaeology. “Even back then, I saw myself heading toward a science track,” she adds.

As an undergraduate at the University of Rhode Island, Jacquie became heavily involved in the college’s Marine Science Society, eventually being tapped as the group’s vice president. She also worked as a research assistant, studying everything from animal behavior to the growth and development patterns of several fish species. Along the way, Jacquie discovered a number of mentors among the University of Rhode Island’s faculty. She owes special thanks to Dr. Stanley Cobb, now a professor emeritus of biological sciences.

“I didn’t have the finances to finish my senior year—Dr. Cobb pulled together about \$8,000 in scholarship funds so that I could complete my B.S. degree in marine biology. I’ll always be grateful to him for that,” says Jacquie.

After graduation, she moved to South Carolina to work on an M.S. in marine biology at the College of Charleston. “I researched how a soft coral, which has a wide geographic distribution throughout the western Atlantic Ocean, manages microbes in its environment. The hardest part was actually

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locating the coral, which often required diving in sewage-filled sites and old mine sites. We found that the coral can survive in some pretty heinous conditions, although the physical environment of those colonies that appeared healthiest often had a higher grade of water quality,” notes Jacquie.

As a result of her work, Jacquie was able to achieve something rare in graduate school—a first-author credit in an article published in *Comparative Biochemistry and Physiology, Part B*. The article, which was co-authored by research chemists Dr. Peter Moeller and Dr. Sylvia Galloway, is titled, “Antimicrobial activity in the common seawhip, *Leptogorgia virgulata* (Cnidaria: Gorgonaceae).”

Jacquie loved scientific research but was often frustrated by the “disconnect” between research findings and resource management decisions. “I wanted to make sure that sound scientific research was considered when implementing coastal management policies. To do that, I needed to learn more about coastal management and public policy,” she explains.

Jacquie’s fellowship has helped to balance her proven research abilities with new skill sets in land management, public policy, and educational outreach. She works with two different agencies in Virginia—the Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority (MPCBPAA) and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program.

The MPCBPAA has a single purpose—to enhance public access to waterways of the Middle Peninsula. To that end, Jacquie has helped this political subdivision gain access to a



*Jacquie meets up with an alligator at Cypress Gardens in South Carolina.*

number of properties. These include four parcels in the Dragon Run Watershed totaling 565 acres. The acreage was obtained using funds from the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program. The Nature Conservancy, the Virginia CZM Program, and the Virginia Outdoors Foundation were major partners in the acquisition effort.

Jacquie is helping Virginia’s CZM Program develop an on-line, public-access database. “The database is needed to define what public access is, exactly, and to accurately track the location and amenities of public sites throughout the coastal zone,” she notes. “This helps clarify where one is permitted to, for example, swim, fish, or put boats in the water without trespassing on private property.”

Now that her fellowship is nearly at an end, Jacquie is amazed at the networking she has accomplished with a number of governmental and nongovernmental partners and

concerned private citizens in the coastal zone. “Public input has been extremely instrumental in helping me implement a number of public access and land conservation projects during this fellowship,” she notes. “When stakeholders are educated about their environment and understand their connection to it, they will do so much to protect it for the future.”

What does the future hold for Jacquie? She’d like to settle in Maryland, Virginia, or North Carolina, continuing to collaborate with organizations and agencies she has discovered over the past two years. “I’d be happy staying in the government or pursuing a position with a nongovernmental organization or in the private sector, so long as I can continue to incorporate sound research findings into resource management decisions. The fellowship has shown me that combining science, public policy, and outreach is the career path for me.” 

# FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP:

## 2008–2010 Coastal Management Fellows Selected

Six fellows were matched with six state coastal zone management programs at this year's matching workshop, which was held May 5 through 9, 2008, in Charleston, South Carolina. The topics to be addressed in these two-year fellowships include planning for climate change mitigation and adaptation, developing a sea level rise adaptation plan, applying an ecosystem based management approach in coastal waters, helping to make communities more storm-resilient, and providing public access through a coastal atlas.



### California

Daniel Fishman, from the University of Michigan and nominated by Michigan Sea Grant, was matched with the California Coastal Commission to develop a collection of climate change information and use that information to develop a series of public workshops.



### Massachusetts

Daniella Hirschfeld, from Duke University and nominated by North Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to make storm-resilient communities a reality in Massachusetts.



### Delaware

Gabrielle Lyons, from the University of South Carolina and nominated by South Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the Delaware Coastal Management Program to develop a sea-level-rise adaptation plan for the State of Delaware.



### New York

Patricia Bowie, from Duke University and nominated by North Carolina Sea Grant, was matched with the New York State Division of Coastal Resources to develop New York State guidelines for post-storm redevelopment plans.



### Maine

Matt Nixon, from the University of Rhode Island and nominated by Rhode Island Sea Grant, was matched with the Maine Coastal Program to apply an ecosystem-based management framework to Maine's coastal waters.



### Washington

Deborah Purce, from Western Washington University and nominated by Washington Sea Grant, was matched with the Washington State Department of Ecology to develop a public access portion of the Washington Coastal Atlas.



### Eleven finalists attended the 2008 Coastal Management Fellowship Matching Workshop.

From left to right: Jamie Ferro, Prassede Vella, Kevin Doyle, Margaret VanderWilt, Gabrielle Lyons, Daniella Hirschfeld, Erick Rafael Rivera Lemus, Matt Nixon, Patricia Bowie, Dennis Hansen, Daniel Fishman, Deborah Purce, and Ahmed Salahuddin.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### Leaving Light “Coastal Footprints” Is Conference Theme

You are invited to Redondo Beach, California, June 29 to July 2, 2008, for The Coastal Society’s 21st International Conference, “Coastal Footprints: Minimizing Human Impacts, Maximizing Stewardship.”

This conference can help you forge coastal connections that transcend geographic boundaries and professional disciplines, thereby enriching your knowledge and your ability to make wise decisions about coastal resources.

Approximately 400 participants are expected to attend, including policy and decision makers, state and federal coastal and ocean resource managers, local planners, academics, business and industry personnel, teachers, graduate students, coastal engineers, and consultants.

The program will include plenary and concurrent sessions, a poster session, panels, workshops, and field trips on the following themes:

- Effective integration of coastal science, policy, and management
- International coastal management concepts and practices
- Integration of social equity into coastal management
- Coastal energy siting, production, and consumption
- Coastal land and watershed use
- Climate change impacts
- Working waterfronts and waterways

Please visit <http://thecoastalsociety.org/conference/tcs21/> for more information.

The Coastal Society is an organization of academic, governmental, and private-sector professionals and students dedicated to actively addressing emerging coastal issues by fostering dialogue, forging partnerships, and promoting communication and education.

### Quality Growth Conference Highlights Sustainable Communities

What sorts of resource protection programs and management strategies are needed to ensure more sustainable communities in this era of unprecedented growth and development pressures, diminished water availability, and threats from climate change?

This topic will be addressed on August 12 to 14 in Charleston, South Carolina, at the first Regional Quality Growth conference, “Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century.”

The conference will provide regional leadership on issues that will dramatically affect the viability and natural resource base of communities in the southeastern U.S. Those expected to attend—and to showcase ideas for wiser land use and development strategies—include developers, land use planners, natural resource managers, and elected officials, as well as representatives from land trusts, watershed groups, universities, and local, state, and federal agencies.

In addition, conference organizers are seeking local case studies and presentations in the following categories: building greener communities; saving habitat, farmland, green infrastructure, and community character; and designing resilient communities.

Conference organizers include the Southeast Watershed Forum in collaboration with the NOAA Coastal Services Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Gulf of Mexico Program.

For more information on the conference, visit [www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/](http://www.southeastwaterforum.org/roundtables/). 

# FOCUS ON THE CENTER

You are probably familiar with the NOAA Coastal Services Center's longtime publications such as *Fellow News*, *Coastal Connections*, *Coastal Services*, and *Products and Services Bulletin*. But did you know that the Center helps to produce publications that address specific coastal management issues and needs? Listed below are some recent offerings.

## **How Resilient Is Your Coastal Community?**

### **A Guide for Evaluating Coastal Community Resilience to Tsunamis and Other Hazards**

In response to the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004, NOAA and its partners created this coastal community resilience guidebook. It was developed by the NOAA Pacific Services Center and partners from federal and international agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and the private

sector. Approximately 140 other organizations from the Indian Ocean region also contributed. The guide is available on-line at [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov).

## **A Roadmap to a Seamless Topobathy Surface**

This resource, created by the Center, is an on-line series of documents and maps that streamline the process of creating a highly accurate, seamless topobathy model of the coastal margin. It also provides an index to existing publicly available data, introduces options for data manipulation, and illustrates applications of a topobathy surface. To access this resource, view [www.csc.noaa.gov/topobathy/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/topobathy/).

## **The Living Reef**

This special-edition newspaper insert commemorates Hawaii's celebration of the International Year of the Reef. The NOAA Pacific

Services Center partnered with The Nature Conservancy and the *Honolulu Advertiser* to produce this publication, which was distributed to 200 schools statewide for use as a teaching resource. It can be viewed at [www.iyor-hawaii.org/outreach-materials/](http://www.iyor-hawaii.org/outreach-materials/).

## **Summary Report for the Ecosystem-Based Management Course Needs Assessment**

This survey, developed and administered by the Center, queried more than 250 coastal professionals. The survey reveals that respondents have a solid knowledge of ecosystem-based management (EBM) principles but that implementation is stymied by administrative or political hindrances and a lack of resources. Training needs expressed in the survey will inform the Center's efforts to develop useful EBM instruction. To obtain a copy of this survey, contact [Steve.Frano@noaa.gov](mailto:Steve.Frano@noaa.gov).

## **Fellow News**

**The Center's quarterly newsletter by and about Coastal Fellows**

Received a Second Place Award in the "Internal Newsletter" Category from the National Association of Government Communicators Blue Pencil Competition

To learn more, see the list of Blue Pencil award winners at [www.nagc.com](http://www.nagc.com).



### CREDITS AND INFORMATION

*Fellow News* 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.

Please send your questions and suggestions for future editions to [csc.fellowships@noaa.gov](mailto:csc.fellowships@noaa.gov)

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## UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

### JULY

**7 to 11: 11th International Coral Reef Symposium**  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
[www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/](http://www.nova.edu/ncri/11icrs/)

**11 to 15: National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference**  
Kansas City, Missouri  
[www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Annual](http://www.naco.org/Template.cfm?Section=Annual)

### AUGUST

**4 to 8: ESRI User Conference**  
San Diego, California  
[www.esri.com/events/uc/index.html](http://www.esri.com/events/uc/index.html)

**12 to 14: Building Sustainable Communities for the 21st Century**  
Charleston, South Carolina  
[www.sustainablecommunitiesconference.org](http://www.sustainablecommunitiesconference.org)

### SEPTEMBER

**7 to 11: National States Geographic Information Council Annual Conference**  
Keystone, Colorado  
[www.nsgic.org](http://www.nsgic.org)

**8 to 11: National Emergency Management Association's Annual Conference**  
Portland, Oregon  
[www.nemaweb.org](http://www.nemaweb.org)

**16 to 18: Wetlands 2008: Wetlands and Global Climate Change**  
Portland, Oregon  
[www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/](http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/)

**18 to 21: Land Trust Alliance Rally 2008**  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
[www.lta.org/training/rally.htm](http://www.lta.org/training/rally.htm)

For more information on upcoming events, please visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html).

## NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

For more information, please visit [www.csc.noaa.gov/training/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/training/).

### Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS

July 17 to 18  
NOAA Geographic Information System (GIS) Committee

July 24 to 25  
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

July 31 to August 1  
NOAA Coastal Services Center

August 19 to 20  
Rhode Island National Geospatial Technology Extension Network (NGTEN)

August 21 to 22  
Connecticut—NGTEN

**Coastal Community Planning and Development**  
July 30 to 31  
National Estuary Programs: Sarasota Bay, Tampa Bay, and Charlotte Harbor

**Coastal Inundation Mapping**  
July 8 to 9  
North Carolina NERR

July 22 to 23  
Rookery Bay NERR

**Introduction to ArcGIS I**  
July 15 to 16  
NOAA GIS Committee

July 29 to 30  
NOAA Coastal Services Center

**Project Design and Evaluation**  
July 29 to 30  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

August 4 to 5  
University of Vermont Extension

**Public Issues and Conflict Management**  
August 26 to 28  
Jobs Bay NERR

September 3 to 5  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and Office of Response and Restoration

**Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts**  
July 15 to 16  
Rhode Island—NGTEN

July 17 to 18  
Connecticut—NGTEN

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