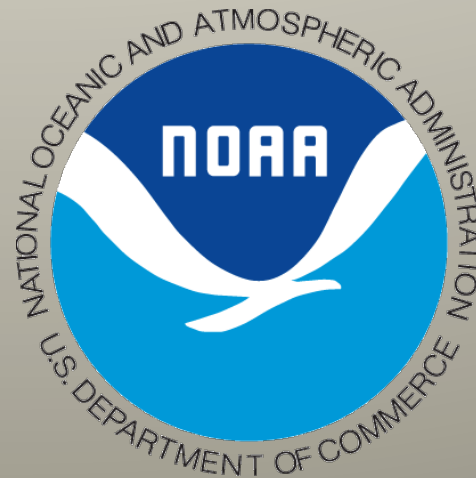


NOAA Northern Gulf Institute Diversity Internship Program





2008 Cohort

2009 Cohort, in part

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration / Northern Gulf Institute
DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2009

The NOAA/Northern Gulf Institute Diversity Internship Program provides career exploration opportunities in all forms of coastal science data management, data stewardship for fisheries, socio-economic and ecosystem data management including metadata development. NCI researchers, NOAA scientists and subject matter experts from National Coastal Data Development Center serve as mentors and coordinate intern assignments. NCDDC Metadata trainers support the interns in the development of accurate metadata records for geospatial project data. This paid internship is open to eligible undergraduate and graduate students targeting populations underrepresented in NOAA, with an emphasis on those from diverse communities. Students from all disciplines are welcome to apply for this competitive internship, and social science majors are strongly encouraged to participate.

FEATURED STUDENTS

Matilda Asuzu
 Louisiana Sea Grant, Baton Rouge, LA
 Ms. Asuzu was assigned to the communication office of the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program. She wrote press releases and articles for Louisiana Sea Grant's quarterly newsletter and researched wind energy farms in Louisiana. She was also a part of multi-media activities at Sea Grant, creating four podcasts to accompany the "I Am Louisiana Sea Grant" video and proofreading oral history transcriptions.

Kelly Henry
 Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA
 Ms. Henry worked on her doctoral dissertation under the guidance of Northern Gulf Institute Research Fellow Dr. Robert Twilley at Louisiana State University. Her current research focuses on exploring the effects of black mangrove (*Avicennia germinans*) expansions on the nitrogen dynamics of smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) marsh habitats in southern Louisiana. She completed a comprehensive elevation survey of her research sites in Port Fourchon, LA, confirming that black mangroves are growing at slightly higher elevations than smooth cordgrass marshes.

Onome Ighoavodha
 Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Jackson, MS
 Ms. Ighoavodha interned with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Data (MSDEQ) Integration Department. She completed a large metadata project on fecal coliform water assessment and developed detailed metadata records for 12 datasets dated 2001-2007. She also worked on a separate project dealing with related datasets for nutrient criteria development, where several water assessment project data sets were merged into one database.

Dominique Lazzare
 National Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Miami, FL
 Ms. Lazzare spent her summer researching the lionfish invasion along the East Coast of the United States. She collected and compiled articles relating to the lionfish invasion, the pathways of transfer of marine exotics to new locales, and possible means of eradication of marine invasive species. In addition, she met with scientists at the NOAA National Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center in Miami, FL, and corresponded with the scientists at the NOAA Center for Coastal Fisheries and Habitat Research in Beaufort, NC.

Contact information:
 Email: NCDDC@NOAA.GOV

DIVERSITY INTERNSHIP

Russ Beard, Director, National Coastal Data Development Center (NCDDC)
 Kathy Martindale, NCDDC Diversity Internship Coordinator
 Tina Miller-Way, PhD, Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) NCI Representative
 Rachel Rowley, DISL Diversity Internship Coordinator

2010 Cohort



2011 Cohort



2012 Cohort



2013 Cohort



In summary...

- 2008-2013: 56 students
- 2008-2013: 19 males, 37 females
- 2008-2013: 28 under, 23 masters, 5 PhD

	African American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	Caucasian
2008	6				
2009	4			1	5
2010	6	1	1	2	3
2011	1	1	4	2	1
2012	3		7		
2013	2		3	3	

Joonghyun “Cheetos” Hwang ‘12

- Agricultural Economics, Mississippi State Univ.
- Community survey strategies with Dr. Petrolia
- Earned his Master’s from MSU and has been admitted to a PhD program in Sydney, Australia

“Through the NGI internship, I have found that research work is fascinating, and I enjoy it. Also, I was motivated to be an environmental economist through the internship where I had a great opportunity to meet people who work to save the Gulf coast.”



Idrissa Boubé '10

- Coastal Science, University of Southern Mississippi
- Gained employment after internship as the lab manager for the GCRL Molecular Toxicology Lab
- Recently hired on with BOEM as an environmental scientist

“My internship was very valuable in getting a federal job. I will always thank NOAA/NGI for the opportunity.”



Francis Tran '12

- Electrical Engineering, Mississippi State University
- Ground fish survey aboard NOAA vessel
- Troubleshooting sampling gear designs
- Now – beginning co-op with Calvert (build components for power plants) in Jackson, MS



“The NOAA Internship has helped me explore my options and see the different opportunities that are out there.”

Sachiko Hayasaka '11

- Master's in Ecology & Fisheries, Universidad Veracruzana
- Mentored by Jim Gibeaut at the Harte Research Institute
- Worked for one year at a Mexican environmental law center: able to apply lessons learned in her internship, including ecosystem service valuation
- Now working @ Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a National Protected Area and World Heritage Site in Mexico



Veronica Alston '12

- Studying Animal Science at Tuskegee Univ.
- Interned at GCRL with Joe Griffitt
- Inspired to participate in the Woods Hole Partnership Education Program, 2013



Katy Landry '11

- Interned with the National Weather Service at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center.
- Gained experience in forecasting and, after receiving her degree, was hired on as a hydrometeorologist.



Gabriel Roman-Valentin '11

- Worked at Mississippi State University and presented his summer research at two conferences following the program, including the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Conference
- Now attending graduate school at the University of Puerto Rico, studying watershed management and eutrophication



*A big thanks to Russ Beard who has
been the biggest supporter of this
program since its inception,*

and

*to all of the mentors and support
personnel who have worked with the
program year after year.*