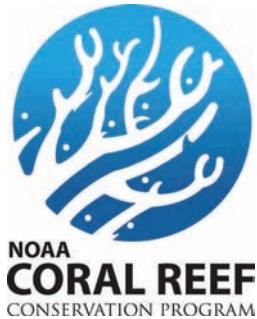


The Coral Fellowship
Newsletter
is published by the
NOAA Coral Reef
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fellows, mentors, program
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Volume 2 Issue 2

April 2009

Florida Joins the Coral Reef Management Fellowship

Florida is joining the Coral Management Fellowship program for the 2010-2012 period, alongside Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Hawaii, CNMI, Guam and American Samoa. The Florida fellow will be hosted by the state's Coral Reef Conservation Program in Miami, under the Department of Environmental Protection. The new fellow will have a lot to work with, as the beautiful Floridian reefs span over 330 miles from Dry Tortugas to Stuart, making it one of the longest reef tracks in the world, located next to a urbanized coastal region that receives close to 40 million annual visitors. Welcome to the fellowship, Florida!



Karlyn Langjahr Receives EPA Environmental Quality Award

The International Year of the Reef (IYOR) efforts in St. Croix, USVI, led by Karlyn K. Langjahr, a

CRCP Coral Management Fellow, has been honored by the EPA with an Environmental Quality Award (EQA). Each year, EPA Region 3 honors individuals and organizations who have



contributed significantly to improving the environment during the prior year in New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. This EQA selection recognizes the significant contributions of IYOR St. Croix, and the sustained efforts by Karlyn K. Langjahr, for improving environmental quality of local natural resources in the U.S. Virgin Islands, and for creating increased public involvement in environmental action. **Karlyn, congratulations!**

Guam Workshop for Current Class

The last training for the 2008-2010 fellows will take place in Guam this summer, June 15-20. This workshop and training will give current fellows a chance to present the results of their jurisdictional work that has taken place for the past year and a half;

training will be provided by Kevin Doyle of Green Economies, and will assist to capacitate them as effective environmental stewards for their next steps as their fellowship concludes.

As the 2008-2010 fellowship cycle winds down, the next cohort is taking shape. New Statements of Work are being crafted by each of the jurisdictions. We hope to have a good selection of local candidates and will be advertising the positions both nationally and locally. Help us by disseminating the word in each jurisdictions. Job postings will be made available beginning **June 1, 2009**, and applications will be accepted from that day until **July 30, 2009**. Interested applicants can go to <http://coralreef.noaa.gov/fellowship.html> during that time window to see each posting and the application process. Spread the word!

Recruiting for the 2010-2012 Class

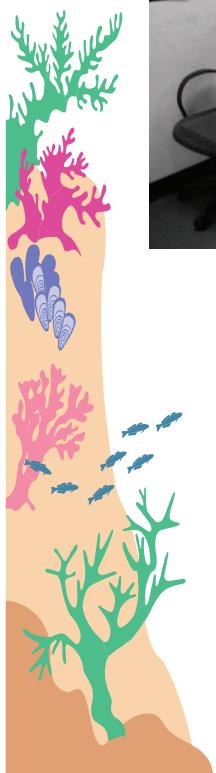
[Check Out the Coral Fellowship Website for a profile on each of the current Coral Fellows](#)

Social Marketing Workshop by Alyssa Edwards

American Samoa's Fellow Alyssa Edwards recently conducted a social marketing training she received through the fellowship program for local environmental conservation workers. The two-hour workshop trained representatives from AmeriCorps Invasive Tree Removal Program, administrative staff from the Coral Reef Advisory Group, and representatives from the Department of Commerce, American Samoa Community College Land Grant program on expanding education and outreach programs to engage in behavior change efforts. Participants learned that while education is important, it often



times is not enough to change behaviors. The workshop looked at targeting audiences and using marketing principles to change behaviors in a measurable way that have a direct impact on the environment. The culmination of the workshop included teams devising social marketing campaigns to address the environmental problems they tackle in their daily work. The workshop received great reviews and plans are already underway to replicate it for other agency staff.



Spotlight on Kathleen Herrmann CNMI Coral Fellow



Kathleen hard at work in Rota

Kathleen Herrmann was born and grew up in Flint, Michigan. While she was far from the ocean, she was close to other forms of nature. Her family had a cottage house near Lake Superior, adjacent to a National Wildlife Park area, and they would stay at this house every summer since she remembers.

Prodded by her father, she became curious about the environment around her, catching critters and fish to see them up close—when she was not being chased after by her cousins armed with leeches

they themselves had caught. Bigger animals were also abound, including deer and mountain lions, which could be heard at night, alongside with large birds including herons and cranes. Her dad would take her to see birds, and she remembers studying a nesting pair of bald eagles. Back in the 1980s, bald eagles were very rare, and she would feel fortunate to be able to see them.

All of these early experiences with wildlife up close ignited her interest in nature and played a big role in her pursuing an environmental career later on. Her attention started turning towards the ocean beginning in High School when she was taking biology classes. An inspiring teacher, Ms. Rasmussen, made biology fascinating, and a trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, opened her eyes to how much higher biodiversity was in the oceans compared to the lakes she grew up to know so well. She eventually went on to take AP biology, earning 8 college credits.



Kathleen learning about students environmental projects

Spotlight on Kathleen Herrmann, CNMI Coral Fellow (cont...)



When it was finally time to go to college, she went to Michigan State University, studying environmental science. While an undergrad, she worked under a limnologist at a biological station, taking samples of zooplankton from small lakes to quantify species diversity and to help determine the productivity of the lakes. The best part of this job was being able to go on boat rides to collect samples almost daily, and also assisting fresh water turtle experts doing population counts.

She then pursued a master's degree at the University of Washington, in Marine Affairs, a policy-centered education that fitted her personality well, since she's attuned to policy and planning, and enjoys working closely with people.

Her MS studies led her to the Coral Fellowship. As it happens, coral fellows Petra and Karlyn were classmates one year ahead, and were also one year into the coral fellowship when they encouraged her to apply.

Since becoming the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands coral fellow, Kathleen has been working to address land-based sources of pollution to protect coral reefs at a watershed level. In Saipan, CNMI's most populous

island, her work has focused on Lau Lau bay. In the island of Rota, she has worked on the Talakhaya area.

In Lau Lau bay, Kathleen is working to implement the Conservation Action Strategy for the area, which was recently completed and will guide the work in the bay. In Rota, her work addresses the burning of vegetation induced by humans, which erode the soil and adversely affects the reefs below. Her work there is mobilizing local teams to plant vegetation that will help maintain the soil—this is a shovel-intensive work that, if successful, can have noticeable effects in the reef's conditions.



Revegetating Together in Rota

The coral fellowship in CNMI has given Kathleen the cherished experience of working in a different culture. She loves interacting

with the local island people, learning different stories, and a different history. While working locally, she also enjoys being connected to NOAA, as she can help bring federal resources to build local capacity. Working on collaborative conservation projects throughout the fellowship has been rewarding for Kathleen, since she's been

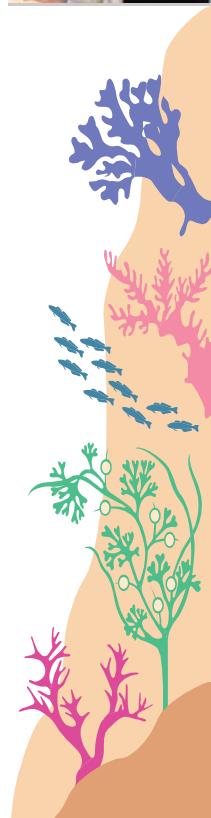
able to help plan interesting work and then involve many people to get it done.



Save Our Soil, Save Our Reef: The Talakhaya Revegetation Project in the island of Rota

"The NOAA coral fellowship has challenged me and extended my thinking in ways that I couldn't have imagined, and has led to a fantastic professional learning experience."

-Kathleen Herrmann



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We're on the web!
[www.coralreef.noaa.gov/
fellowship.html](http://www.coralreef.noaa.gov/fellowship.html)

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

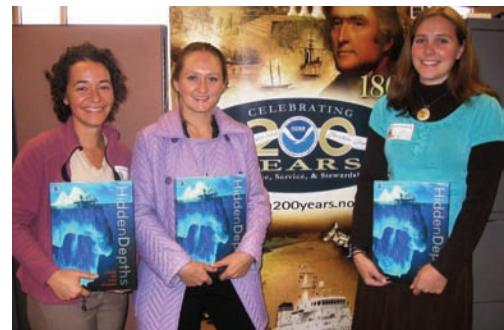
Editor: Paulo Maurin

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.



Fellows' Week during USCRTF DC 2009 meeting

Coral Fellows from the Pacific (Hawaii, CNMI, American Samoa and Guam) attended the US Coral Reef Task Force DC meeting this past February. Their week-long agenda was full of productive activities complementing the several Task Force events. Some fellows participated in one-day of training in the RARE curriculum, learning about building stakeholder consensus and workshops, as well as concept modeling. Also during the visit, Alyssa Edwards, the fellow from American Samoa, continued her work in population growth by visiting NGOs Population Connection and Population Action International. Fellows presented on their projects in the Pacific islands at the NOAA Central Library, as part of its Brownbag seminars. Kathleen Herrmann shared her involvement in the Conservation Action Plans being implemented in the CNMI. Alyssa Edwards presented how rapid population growth is impacting the coastal resources in American Samoa. Elaina Todd talked



about the RARE Pride Environmental Campaign in Guam, a long-term project to raise public awareness about the link between land use and coral reefs. During their visit, the fellows also met with SeaWeb's head-quarter staff to learn about innovative ways in which social marketing is being used for a variety of ocean conservation campaigns.



New Graphic Identity for CRCP

Perhaps you've noticed something different on the first page of the newsletter—it is a new "visual identifier" for the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. It will be officially launched in June of 2009, but here's a sneak preview. Look at it carefully. Besides a branching coral, what else do you see?



Those little dots represent coral spawning, and also help form images of fish; you can see abstract versions of a shark, perhaps a manta, a moray eel, and little fish. Taken together they represent essential and interconnected elements that form a coral reef ecosystem.