

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

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Special points of interest:

- Announcing 2010-2012 Coral Fellows
- Coral Fellowship Orientation: Maui, Hawaii January 19-23, 2010
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Announcing 2010-2012 Coral Fellows

The fourth cohort of Coral Reef Management Fellows has been selected to support island coral reef management efforts in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Florida, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The new fellows bring with them a diverse set of skills and knowledge, such as technical expertise in watershed and MPA management, coastal planning and permitting, education and outreach strategy design and implementation, and ecotourism development. These skills will be utilized in their respective positions to support coral reef conservation.

Clare Shelton will be working with the Department of Commerce, Resource Management Division in American Samoa; Aric Bickel will be working with the Division of Environmental Quality in CNMI; Todd McCabe will be working with Florida's Department of Environmental Protection; Tammy Jo Anderson will be working for Guam's Coastal Man-



Location: Puerto Rico/ Photo Credit: Marci Wulff

agement Program; Luna Kekoa will work for the Division of Aquatic Resources in Hawaii; and Marija Micuda will work for the Division of Coastal Zone Management Program in the U.S. Virgin Islands. They will all begin working in their respective locations in January, 2010.

The fellow that will be working for the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources in Puerto Rico has not yet been selected. A separate announcement will go out in the next edition of Coral Fellowship Newsletter.

The Coral Reef Management Fellowship program addresses capacity deficiencies in the US Flag jurisdictions by providing technically proficient fellows who have the necessary experience to provide specialized support to jurisdictions in their coral reef conservation efforts while providing fellows with professional training in coastal and coral reef resource management.

For more information visit the Coral [Fellowship Website](#).

Coral Fellowship Orientation 2010

The Coral Reef Management Fellowship will be holding an orientation for the fourth cohort of fellows and their supervisors in Maui, Hawaii January 19-23, 2010.

Fellows and supervisors will learn about the coral fellowship program's policies and procedures, receive professional development training and begin to develop their two-year project plans.

The fellowship orientation is a great opportunity for fellows and their supervisors to focus on project plans and also to build lasting networks between jurisdictions.

Professional development training will focus on building the skills and attitudes necessary for fellows to successfully complete their work portfolios.



Photo Credit: Marci Wulff/Location: Puerto Rico



Puerto Rico Task Force Meeting

The 2009 Regional U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from Oct. 31-Nov. 5.

Coral Fellows attended the meeting at the request of their jurisdiction Point of Contact (POC) where they provided poster presentations on the work that they are doing in their jurisdictions. Rai Espinoza presented on his work with the Guanica Watershed project.; Elaina Todd presented on her Rare Pride campaign to reduce sediment run-off in Guam; and Alyssa presented on the works she's been doing to address population pressure impacts in American Samoa.

The meeting provided a venue to report on the status of ongoing coral reef initiatives in local areas, an opportunity to discuss resolutions and the status of past resolutions, and allow for public participation regarding coral reefs and their conservation in Puerto Rico.



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

Rare Pride Campaign to Begin in Guam

Guam's Coastal Management Program has partnered with Rare Pride to conduct a campaign focused on reducing the impacts of sedimentation on near shore reefs. Elaina Todd was selected to be the campaign manager to coordinate the planning and implementation of this campaign. Elaina attended a rigorous training program in Arlington, VA to learn how to prepare a project plan for a threat-specific, targeted, social marketing campaign that would support the efforts of local agencies in reducing threats to the reef.

The plan was created with input from community members, resource users, stakeholders and local and regional experts. Key threats were identified as well as the behaviors associated with these threats. Key audiences were identified and targeted messages and alternative options were devised to spur behavior change. Elaina has finished this year long planning process and is looking forward to launching her campaign in 2010.



Photo Credit: Paulo Maurin/Location: Guam

Building Climate Change Awareness in American Samoa

Alyssa Edwards helped to plan, prepare and facilitate an *Introduction to Climate Change* workshop for 30 local education and outreach staff members in local agencies in American Samoa. She also participated in the local Department of Education's annual teacher's orientation where she presented on how to integrate climate change and population information into subject areas across the curriculum to approximately 60 elementary school teachers. Alyssa has been mentoring a Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) intern over the course of her fellowship in order to pass some of her knowledge and skills on to an aspiring coral reef conservationist in American Samoa.

Spotlight on Karlyn Langjahr, USVI



Karlyn in American Samoa/ Photo Credit: Marci Wulff

Karlyn grew up in Wisconsin where she learned about oceanography in her 7th grade science class. "It definitely piqued my interest in marine life and the seas,

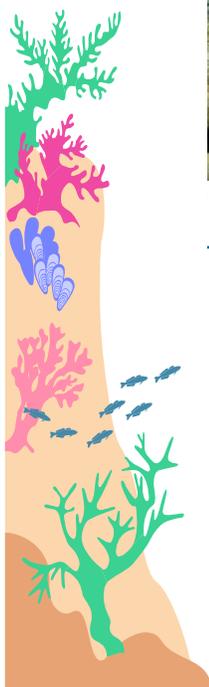
but there were obvious limitations growing up in a land-locked state." Her interest in marine science solidified after her first time snorkeling in the Caribbean on a family trip at age 16. The following summer she enrolled in a university field course in tropical marine biology in Jamaica and fell in love with the ocean.

It wasn't until she was working as a Peace Corps volunteer on the Pacific Coast of Panama that she realized that her career would take a conservation and management angle. Prior to working in a rural village, she expected to return to graduate school and pursue marine ecology or marine biology. "The scientific knowledge of ecosystems and interactions suddenly seemed less able to spark change in light of actual human perceptions, cultural behaviors, and basic survival needs. At the very least, I felt a greater pull towards an interdisciplinary angle where the human and society dimensions were integral to the program."

Karlyn attended the University of Washington's School of Marine Affairs. Upon graduating, she was selected to be the Coral Reef Management Fellowship in the U.S. Virgin Islands where she spent three years working with the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program. "I feel happy to have had the opportunity to form strong and positive working relationships with in different agencies, NGOs, academic institutions, stakeholder groups and others."

Karlyn took on the role of Education Coordinator for the St. Croix East End Marine Park after her first year as a fellow.

She was the island's coordinator for International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR) campaign. Some of her greatest achievements were the projects she coordinated for IYOR. "We hosted monthly free public events that exposed participants directly to the marine environment through snorkel clinics and beach days. These types of activities could reach individuals that previously had no real access to the water, or otherwise would have felt



Spotlight on Karlyn Langjahr, USVI Coral Fellow 2006-2009

Aerial view of Chumbe Island



uncomfortable or unsafe in the water.” Although it was a simple concept, the idea to host monthly family-friendly snorkel clinics really caught on with many locals. Karlyn and her colleagues were awarded the U.S. EPA’s Environmental Quality Award for their IYOR efforts.

IYOR also gave birth to St. Croix Reef Jam, a grass-roots effort to promote marine education and conservation through an educational and fundraising beach festival. It included a family Activity Corner, underwater photography contests, raffles and t-shirt sales, high-profile guest speakers, and of course, popular local music acts. The event was an immediate success and evolved into an annual festival, drawing 1,000 community members to the beach each year. Part of the funds raised went back into other community efforts through a Reef Jam Mini Grants Program while additional funds were channeled to radio PSAs and a Reef Responsible Award program targeting local restaurants and suppliers of sustainably caught fish and seafood. The St. Croix Reef Jam Committee was recognized by the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management in 2009 as the Organization of the Year. “It felt encouraging to



VINE Workshop Attendees 2007

know that the word was actually reaching the public.” Karlyn also coordinated the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE) which helps build capacity among environmental educators, both formal and non-formal. Karlyn led the development and planning of two workshops for VINE members and involved administrators from the V.I. Department of Education along with active environmental science high school teachers.”

Karlyn finished her fellowship in October, 2009 and accepted a position as the Project Manager of Chumbe Island Coral Park, Ltd. (CHICOP), the world’s first

privately-owned marine protected area. Chumbe Island is a non-profit project that funds management, conservation, and community education programs through small scale eco-tourism on this small island ecosystem eight miles southwest of Zanzibar Town. Established in 1992, Chumbe is renowned locally, regionally, and internationally. “I am enjoying taking up a new language (Kiswahili) and the cultural exchange of a moderate and peaceful Muslim society.”

Karlyn’s position is incredibly diverse. She manages 43 staff and oversees each of the various departments: eco-tourism, accounting, research/conservation, maintenance and education. “In less than two months I have done everything from negotiating with the government to hosting Radio France’s “Snapshots of the World” series to representing Chumbe at a “pro-poor tourism” workshop and securing funding to expand our conservation and education program to ten communities to the south of Zanzibar.”



Eco-Lodges in Chumbe Island

One of the main aspects of Karlyn’s position is to ensure the success of the eco-tourism venture. “The eco-lodge on Chumbe Island is truly state-of-the-art, minimizing human impact on the island through eco-technologies. For example, all seven eco-bungalows are self-sufficient, utilizing solar energy and natural rain catchment systems (since fresh water supply is limited to annual rains). They each have a compost toilet and natural ventilation for “air conditioning”. All kitchen refuse is composted and water is filtered through a gray water system.”

The job comes along with less glamorous tasks such as hiring/firing staff members and dealing with personnel conflicts, but overall it is stimulating and keeps her engaged in marine protected area management and eco-tourism. “I cannot express how good it feels to be part of a company that emphasizes social responsibility and participatory processes in decision-making. I am really excited to be here and realize that I couldn’t be doing what I am now doing without the Coral Fellowship!

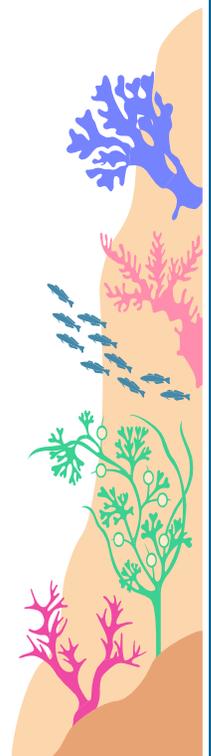


Karlyn in her new position as Project Manager of Chumbe Island Coral Park



“A genuine effort can have a lasting impact.”

-Karlyn Langjahr



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We're on the web!
<http://coralreef.noaa.gov/aboutcrpcp/fellowship/>

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

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The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program 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 jurisdictions. The fellowship program's mission is two-fold, it provides coral reef management support in each coral jurisdiction by placing highly qualified individuals whose education and work experience meet each location's specific coral reef management needs, while providing individual fellows with professional training in coastal and coral reef resource management.

Life After the Coral Fellowship

Guam: Elaina Todd 2008-2010



Elaina will continue to work in Guam's Coastal Management Program where she is leading a Rare Pride campaign aimed at reducing sediment run-off in southern Guam. Her campaign will be begin in 2010.

Puerto Rico: Raimundo Espinoza 2008-2010



Raimundo will continue to work for the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources where he concentrates his efforts on land-based sources of pollution in the Guanica Biosphere Reserve.

CNMI: Kathleen Herrmann 2008-2010



Kathleen Herrmann has accepted a position as a Marine Steward in Snohomish County. She will be based in Everett, Washington.

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



Karlyn is now based in Tanzania where she works as the Project Manager of Chumbe Island Coral Park, Ltd. (CHICOP), the world's first privately-owned marine protected area.

American Samoa: Alyssa Edwards 2008-2010



Alyssa hasn't made final plans and is excited about what might come next. She is keenly interested in working to promote sustainable development and coral reef conservation in East Africa.

Hawaii: Petra MacGowan 2007-2010



Petra is the State Planner in Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources. She is responsible for managing the Coral Program in Hawaii including Local Action Strategies, Priority Setting processes, the Coral Reef Outreach Network as well as grants management.

