

MATE Internship Program Update

RVTEC Meeting, Miami, FL, Nov 4, 2015

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Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center



Internship Program Overview

- **Started with a NSF UNOLS grant in 1999 to fill need for marine technicians; current funding till 2017**
- **Since 1999, 300+ community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (~200 were placed on UNOLS vessels)**
- **Students demographics over the last 16 years**
 - **46% women and 54% men**
 - **29% underrepresented minority participation**
 - **From 65 colleges and universities in USA**

Internship Program Overview

- **New grant from NSF for 2014-2017**
- **NSF Grant for 2014-2017**
 - Host 12-15 interns in 2-16 week internships each summer; support to lengthen internships beyond one research cruise at each site
 - Host 1 six-month intern on 1-2 host vessels each year



Intern selection process

- **Preference (except for six-month internship) given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students**
 - **2015 Summer: 10 internships**
 - **5 of the 2015 summer interns were from community colleges.**
- **Interns' interests, knowledge, and skills are carefully matched to mentor requirements**
 - **Mentor receives the 3-5 resumes that best match their needs**
 - **Mentor makes final decision on which student(s) they host**

Selection for 6-month interns

- Alice Doyle at UNOLS and Nandita & Tami at MATE review applicants for marine technical qualifications and determine top 10-12 finalists
- Ad-hoc committee of RVTEC members review the finalists and score and rank them
- Top 5 candidates from this review are sent to the host(s) to interview, call references, and select



What the interns gain

- **Job experience essential for employment – often the most important step**
- **Better understand the diversity of ocean careers**
- **Experience with cutting-edge technologies that are not available at their institutions**



2015 Internships

- **1 long-term intern:**
 - **Sonia Brugger with Oregon State University**
- **9 other interns were placed on UNOLS vessels:**
 - *R/V Sharp (2), Thompson (1), Langseth (4), Pelican (2).*
- **New partnership with Schmidt Ocean Institute:**
 - *1 intern on R/V Falkor*
- **6 women, 4 men**



Mentor feedback on 2015 interns

- **All mentors said:**
 - They would mentor another MATE intern in the future
 - They were satisfied with the process of hiring an intern and the support received from MATE
 - The intern developed skills that increased their chances of employment in the field
 - The intern made their job easier
- **80% of mentors said:**
 - They would hire their intern immediately in an entry-level position

2015 UNOLS mentors/community said:

- *“I can’t say this enough; if you have time for a MATE intern, you should get one immediately....the applicants in the MATE program are all outstanding. Having just gone through the applications for the 6 month internship, I wish I had places for the top 8 candidates in the group.”*
- *"Thankfully we had a MATE intern on board which allowed for two marine technicians on every CTD...[otherwise] this would have required much more creative solutions."*
- *“[The MATE intern’s] level of professionalism, technical knowledge and safety awareness were a key component to the completion of this science cruise.”*

Student post-internship survey results

100% of interns said:

- The internship was a valuable learning experience
- They have increased confidence in working on technological problems
- Their mentor served as a professional role model for them– WELL DONE!
- They enjoyed working at sea



90% of interns said:

- The internship prepared them for future jobs in marine technology
- They have increased confidence in working on scientific problems

2015 UNOLS interns said:

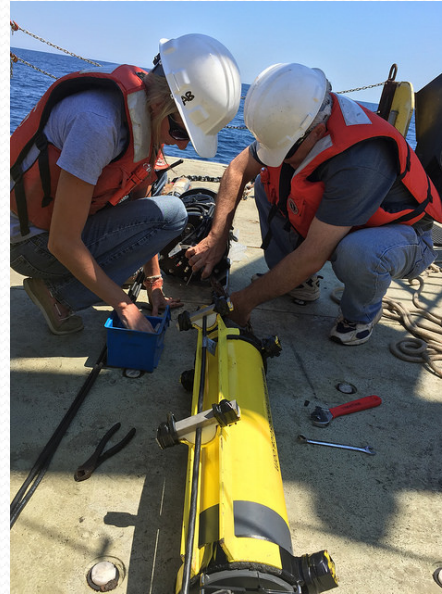
- *“I never knew what it would be like to live out onboard a vessel for a month. It was definitely a new experience.”*
- *“I learned a lot more than I had expected!”*
- *“They completely devoted themselves to teaching me anything I was interested in, which I definitely appreciated.....midway through the internship, I was able to fully function on my own and felt like a valued member of the MT crew. I honestly couldn't have asked for better mentors.”*
- *“I learned the reasons behind what we were doing. When I did not understand or had a question, it was quick to be answered or solved.”*

Students getting hired!

Sonia Brugger
Marine Technician,
University of Hawaii

Amber Batts
Hydrographic Survey
Assistant Technician,
NOAA

Brandon D'Andrea
University of Hawaii



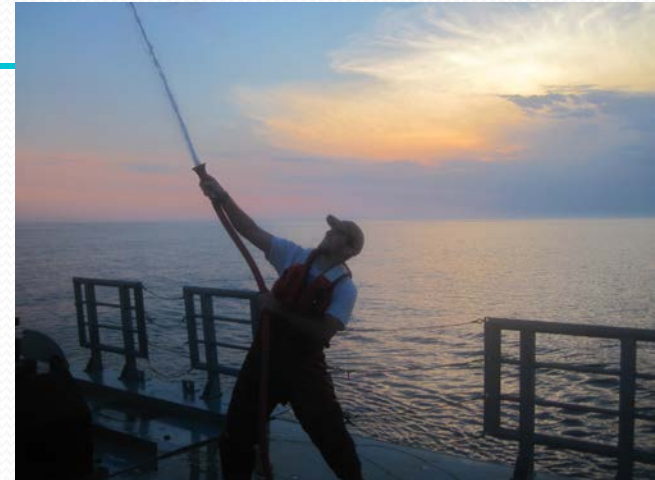
Other accomplishments in 2015

- Tyler Hackett – Selected for REU Symposium in Washington D.C. in October 2015
- New partnership with Schmidt Ocean Institute
 - 1 intern placed on R/V Falkor for 8 weeks
 - Separate funding from SOI for participant support



What is happening in 2016?

- Preparing for 2016 LT internship – please contact Nandita Sarkar (MATE) or Alice Doyle (UNOLS) if you would like to host an intern for 2-3 months in Spring 2016.
- Looking for hosts for summer internships – especially May-September.
- Surveying past interns on the effect of the internship on their career paths



Same requests as every year!

1. Please commit to providing internship opportunities as soon as possible and consider longer multi-cruise internships.
 2. Use the internship to promote marine technical careers— you are great mentors and role models.
- THANK YOU!**



The background is a collage of four images related to marine technology. Top-left: A person in a blue hard hat and orange life vest stands on a ship's deck, holding a long pole. Top-right: A group of people in a small inflatable boat on the water. Bottom-left: A woman in a red shirt holds up a large framed map or chart. Bottom-right: A person in a red hooded jacket stands on a ship's deck next to a large piece of equipment.

**For more information visit:
www.marinetech.org/internships**

**Or contact:
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