

MATE Center Marine Technical Internship Program

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Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center



Internship Program Changes

- Tami Lunsford has returned as the internship coordinator
- She was unable to attend due to prior obligations, but she can be reached at tlunsford@marinetech.org or (302) 731-3035

Internship Program Overview

- **Started with a NSF UNOLS grant in 1999 to fill need for marine technicians**
- **Since 1999, 213 community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (123 were placed on UNOLS vessels)**
- **Students demographics**
 - **58% women and 42% men**
 - **In 2008, we increased the minority participation to 29% of interns placed**

Internship Program Overview

- **Longitudinal data on 74% of interns:**
 - **40% are continuing education in a related field**
 - **43% are working in marine science and technology fields**
 - **63% are in academic science or technology based careers**
 - **37% are in industry**

UNOLS intern selection process

- **Preference given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students**
 - 57% of interns this year 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

Mentor feedback on 2008 interns

- **100% of mentors said the intern was beneficial to the organization and 82% said the intern made their job easier**
- **91% were impressed or very impressed with their intern's knowledge and skills (up from 80% last year)**
 - **Weakest areas appear to be scientific and technical knowledge**
 - **BUT, 100% of mentors said that the intern developed skills that increased their chances of employment in the field**
- **78% said the intern was very professional or outstanding**
- **91% said would hire the intern immediately in an entry-level position**

UNOLS mentors have said:

- One mentor this summer said of intern Ross Williams, “Ross is amazing, his knowledge and willingness to extend himself is truly impressive.”
- Jason Muchmore’s mentor said that he “did an excellent job performing all tasks assigned during his time working on the *R/V Hugh R. Sharp*.”

Knowledge, skills and experience interns gain

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

Student post-internship survey results

- 100% feel the internship prepared them for future jobs in marine technology
- 100% said internship was a valuable learning experience
- 87% have increased confidence in working on technical problems
- 86% would highly recommend internship program to other students
- 100% enjoyed working at sea (by far the highest ever!)

UNOLS interns have said:

- *“This is definitely the greatest learning experience I have ever had!”*
- *“It made me realize I like the sea life and could be a technician.”*
- *“My internship was an exceptional experience...I learned a great deal about marine technology...definitely increased my interest in pursuing a career in marine technology...and the knowledge needed to pursue that career.”*

Drew Cole

THEN: Honolulu Community College student, MATE/UNOLS intern in 2006



NOW: *Marine Technician at Scripps Institution of Oceanography*

Deborah Smith

THEN: Maine Maritime Academy student,
MATE/UNOLS Intern in 2001



NOW:
*Hydrographer &
Marine Scientist at
Marine at Science
Applications
International
Corporation (SAIC)*

Successes in 2008

We want to thank you for your help in making this year a great success for the internship program.

1. The technicians/mentors have been great at committing to opportunities for students and providing the information to MATE early in the spring!
2. UNOLS has created a website with educational opportunities beyond our internship program.
Thank you.



Successes in 2008

Based on the input from UNOLS last year before, during and after the RVTEC meeting, we have made some improvements to the MATE Technical Internship Program

Successes in 2008

UNOLS Concern: The number of interns applying for positions on UNOLS vessels (not just ROV jobs) after their internships

MATE Answer: Focused recruitment on community college partner students (57% of interns this year) and students near or past graduation

- This was the first year that we accepted graduates of partner programs, which has greatly improved interest in applying for jobs and offers the interns received.

Successes in 2008

UNOLS Concern: Interns did not understand the nature of marine technician work or the equipment used prior to the internship

MATE Answers:

- Revised the intern application to include career goals
- Created a mandatory “quiz” on marine technical careers and equipment for students prior to their internships
- Working with partner college faculty on how best to support and prepare their students

Ways you can still help us

1. Please commit to providing internship opportunities as early as possible this year so we can recruit and place the best students
2. Look through the “quiz” and offer any edits or suggestions today or via email
3. Provide us with a copy of the “how-to” manuals for equipment that you have or develop so we can modify them for students and give them to new interns
4. Offer to be interviewed for the MATE website

Ways you can still help us

1. Encourage mentors to interview the top 2-3 students when selecting their intern
2. Provide your intern with detailed information on the tasks they will have and equipment they will use prior to the internship
3. Use the internship to promote marine technical careers— you are great mentors and role models. **THANK YOU!**



For more information visit:
<http://www.marinetech.org/careers/internships.php>

Or contact:
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