

MATE Center Update

Tami Lunsford
Internship Coordinator

Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center



Internship Program Overview

- **Started with a NSF UNOLS grant in 1999 to fill need for marine technicians, new funding through 2014**
- **Since 1999, 253 community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (165 were placed on research vessels)**
- **Students demographics over the last 11 years**
 - **48% women and 52% men**
 - **32% ethnic minority participation**
 - **From 53 colleges and universities**



Internship Program Overview

- **Plans for 2011-2014**
 - **Host 12-16 interns in 2-12 week internships each summer; support to lengthen internships beyond one research cruise at each site**
 - **Host 1 six-month intern each year on 1-2 host vessels each year (2012 hosts are *Kilo Moana* and *Endeavor*)**



Intern selection process

- **Preference (except for six-month internship) given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students**
 - **71% 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**



Selection for 6-month interns

- Alice Doyle at UNOLS and I 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



Knowledge, skills & experience 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**



2011 Internships



- **2 long-term interns:**
 - Erik Arnesen on the *Wecoma*
 - Kyle McDermott on the *Cape Hatteras & Knorr*
- **12 interns were placed on UNOLS and USCG vessels**
 - *Endeavor, Knorr (2), New Horizon, Pelican (2), Sharp (3), Thompson, Walton Smith, USCG Healy*
- **5 placed on other research vessels: *E/V Nautilus (2), R/VIB Palmer (2), and NOAA's R/V Fulmar***
- **5 women, 14 men; ages 18-56**

Mentor feedback on 2011 interns

- **100% of mentors said:**
 - **They would hire another MATE intern in the future**
 - **It was beneficial to their organization to host an intern**
 - **They were impressed or very impressed with their intern's knowledge and skills**
 - **The intern developed skills that increased their chances of employment in the field**
 - **The intern was very professional or outstanding**
 - **They would hire the intern immediately in an entry-level position!**



2011 UNOLS mentors said:

- *“I very much wish we were hiring an entry level employee; this intern is exactly the hard working self starter we would like to train. He has so much to offer both the deck and engineering departments.”*
- *“At the end of his internship I was sad to see him go! And, as always, the MATE internship program was instrumental in making this happen and I have nothing but good things to say about it!*
- *“I think it’s a great idea for a program and hopefully something that can continue in the future. What better way to gain experience than hands on.”*



Student post-internship survey results

- **100% of interns said:**
 - The internship prepared them for future jobs in marine technology
 - The internship was a valuable learning experience
 - They have increased confidence in working on technical problems
 - They enjoyed working at sea (fourth year in a row!)



2011 UNOLS interns said:

- *“Far exceeded my expectations.”*
- *“My experience was better than I ever could have expected! I didn't know I would meet such dear friends, or develop such an attachment to my environment.”*
- *“My mentors were extremely helpful and competent so I learned very much, very fast.”*
- *“It was much more hands on than I expected and I worked constantly. Almost every day I was out there I did not get more than 4 or 5 straight hours of sleep; usually it was less. It was a great and realistic experience of what research is like at sea.”*



Students getting hired!

- 4 interns were hired immediately following their internships!
 - Ashley Stinson is currently out on the *Thompson*
 - Nick Tosto was hired temporarily by the *Endeavor*
 - Erik Arnesen was hired on the *Wecoma*
 - Alex Kavanaugh was hired by the Nautilus for next summer
- 6 others have reported possible job opportunities that have become available because of their internships



Other accomplishments in 2011

- **Edited the MATE/UNOLS Internship Guidelines created for the 6-month internship**
- **Created videos of life at sea using intern videos from the last two years**
- **Working with a professional videographer to edit footage from the *Sharp* this summer into videos on the MATE program and life as a marine technician**



Other accomplishments in 2011

- In order to better understand the reasons for and solutions to low levels of underrepresented minority applicants to the MATE Internship Program, we have completed surveys of over 140 students in technical programs.
- The results have led to some modifications to the program and will be presented at conferences & webinars



Website modifications

- **More extensive use of MATE Internship Program Facebook page**
- **Page added with information for families (available in English and Spanish)**
- **Information for prospective students about life on a ship: virtual tours, blogs, photo gallery, videos**
- **More personal “touch” from the Internship Coordinator (photos, first name use, etc.)**

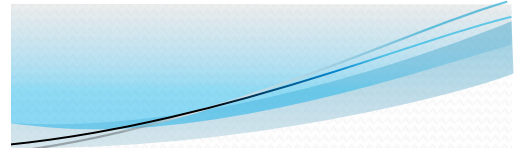




MATE Internship Program

Open Group

61 Members 37 Photos Docs



Write Post Add Photo / Video Ask Question

Write something...



Tami Lunsford

RVTEC meeting in New Orleans next week-- I hope to see a

Like · Comment · Unfollow Post · 59 minutes ago



David Moore

I interned in 2009 as a marine technician aboard R/V Oceanus. Currently sailing aboard the RVIB Nathaniel B Palmer as a mariner on the US Antarctic Program.

Unlike · Comment · Unfollow Post · October 29 at 9:19am

You like this.

View all 4 comments



Tami Lunsford David, They are both on the Palmer cruise. At least YOU know what is going on... even if you can't keep up with all the great things you all do afterschool. :)

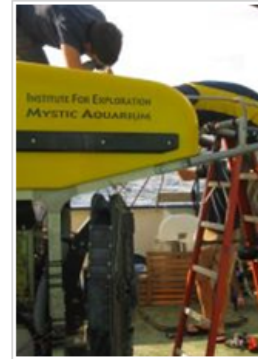
October 30 at 10:58pm · Like



David Moore Ahh, excellent! We got into Punta Arenas this morning, so I'll be on the lookout for them soon! =)

November 5 at 12:59am · Unlike · 1

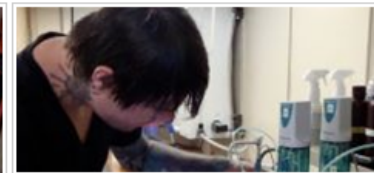
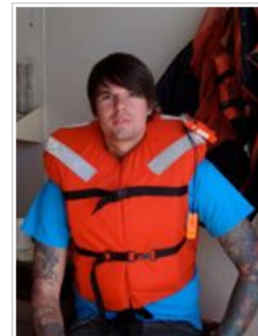
Write a comment...



Like · Comment · Follow Post · July 26 at 1:43pm



Corey Bryant





MATE Internships

Group Pool Administration Discussion 25 Members Map Invite Friends

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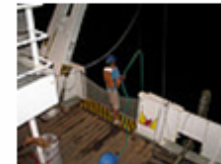
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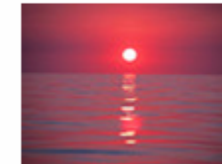
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We need your input!

- **We have been hearing comments about the lack of upward mobility at some institutions for technicians with Associates degrees.**
- **MATE is trying to determine how best we can help the students and UNOLS with this issue.**
- **Would it make sense to offer a Bachelor's of Technology degree for technicians that have completed an applied science or engineering technology Associate's degree?**



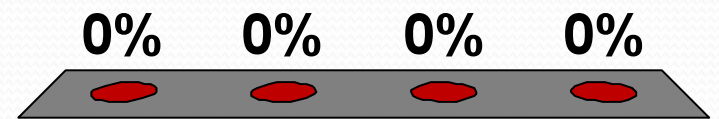
Bachelor's of Technology?

- The program would be modeled after existing Canadian programs focused on students with applied associates degrees.
- 100% of Associates degree would transfer and the remainder would be online
- Courses would focus on business and technology management skills: technology assessment, occupational health and safety, project management, technical communication, etc.
- See <http://www.mi.mun.ca/btech/courses/> for an example.



Is this something your institution would recognize for promotions?

1. Definitely yes
2. I think so
3. I have no idea
4. Definitely not



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27													

Definitely yes

I think so

I have no idea

Definitely not

Ways you can still help us

1. Please commit to providing internship opportunities as early as possible in 2012 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 research. Top-left: Three people in blue hard hats and orange life jackets on a ship's deck, handling a large, complex scientific instrument. Top-right: Three people in a small inflatable boat on the water. Bottom-left: A woman in a white lab coat holding a large framed image of a colorful, textured surface, possibly a biological specimen or a geological sample. Bottom-right: A person in a red hooded jacket and orange pants standing on a ship's deck next to a large, cylindrical piece of equipment.

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

Or contact:
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