

# MATE Internship Program Update

*RVTEC Meeting, Corvallis, Nov 17, 2014*

**Nandita Sarkar– Internship Coordinator**

**Tami Lunsford – Advisor**

**Marine Advanced Technology Education (MATE) Center**



# Internship Program Overview

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- **Started with a NSF UNOLS grant in 1999 to fill need for marine technicians; current funding till 2017.**
- **Since 1999, 290 community college and university students have been placed in research vessels, labs and industry settings (almost 200 were placed on UNOLS vessels)**
- **Students demographics over the last 15 years**
  - **45% women and 55% men**
  - **30% underrepresented minority participation**
  - **From 62 colleges and universities**

# 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**

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- **Preference (except for six-month internship) given to technical community college students and marine technology undergraduate students**
  - **2014 Summer: 10 internships**
  - **3 internships were offered to community college students; 1 accepted**
- **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

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- **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**



# 2014 Internships



- **1 long-term intern:**
  - **Nick Matthews on the *R/V Thompson, R/V Kilo Moana, R/V Kanaloa, R/V Knorr, and R/V Atlantic Explorer.***
- **10 other interns were placed on UNOLS and USCG Vessels**
  - ***R/V Knorr (2), Sharp (2), Thompson (1), Oceanus (2), Savannah (1), Pt. Sur (1) and USCG Healy (2)***
- **2 women, 9 men**

# **Mentor feedback on 2014 interns**

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- **100% of 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**
- **87% of mentors said they would hire their intern immediately in an entry-level position.**



# 2014 UNOLS mentors said:

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- *“Great intern. Wish we could've used him longer.”*
- *“I hope that the MATE internship program continues to receive funding. It is a superb way to introduce young (and sometimes older) people to many aspects of sea-going oceanography. It also makes it easier for scientists and ship operators to carry out sea-going research. Kudos to everyone for making this program such a success.”*

# 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
  - Their mentor served as a professional role model for them– WELL DONE!
  - They have increased confidence in working on scientific problems
  - They enjoyed working at sea
- **80% of interns said:**
  - They have increased confidence in working on technological problems



# 2014 UNOLS interns said:

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- “I learned a lot more than originally expected in different subjects.”
- “I didn't expect to be using so much cool technology.”
- “I thought I would be involved less in the ship's operation and maintenance. I'm glad I had a chance to help the engineers and crew.”

# Students getting hired!

- Nick Matthews, our 2014 long-term intern, has been accepted as a Marine Technician at Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences.



# Other accomplishments in 2014

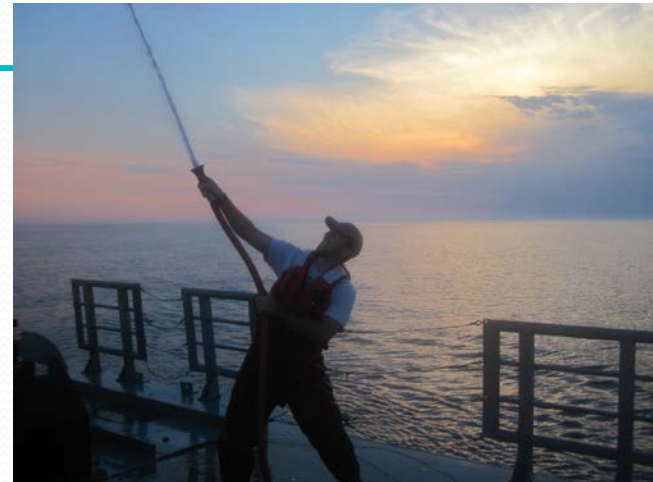
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- Awarded an NSF grant to continue funding for the MATE Internship Program for 2014-2017.
- Brought Nandita Sarkar on board in an official capacity as Tami is now working in a high school classroom again.



# What is happening in 2015?

- The 2015 six-month internship will be posted soon and we are accepting applications through early Jan.
- *Host: R/V Oceanus* beginning in March 2015.



# 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!**





**For more information visit:  
[www.marinetech.org/internships](http://www.marinetech.org/internships)**

**Or contact:  
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