



FELLOW NEWS

News for and about the NOAA Fellows

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April 2007 Issue 33



FOCUS ON FELLOWS: Terry Yasuko Ogawa



In a serene spot where the land meets the water, Coastal Fellow Terry Yasuko Ogawa finds perfect contentment. Growing up on a once-rural sea island in South Carolina, Terry has borne witness to the incomparable beauty—and fragility—of sea island communities now threatened by the rapid pace of coastal development. It is a lesson, learned young, that has fueled Terry's passionate interests in preservation and environmental justice.

Growing up on James Island, located several miles from historic downtown Charleston, Terry became keenly aware of the area's beauty and history. At that time, large swaths of island property had been passed down for generations within the families of African-American slave descendents. Those spacious tracts have largely disappeared as coastal development has rapidly intensified.

"I was lucky to live on a barrier island—the edge of the harbor and the marsh were my playgrounds growing up. I now realize I was blessed that we were not allowed to have video games, because I biked a lot, explored old cabins in the woods, and found a big tree rope that swung me out over the water," she says.

After graduating from high school, Terry was torn about her future direction. "I attended the University of South Carolina my freshman year, but my interests were all over the map—psychology, marine biology, religion. Then a minister from my church called and said, 'You might be interested in applying for Project Oikos.'"

Project Oikos was a nine-month-long ecumenical experiment involving participants, ages 18 to 27, from all over the world. "We examined issues of environmental justice, economic justice, the church's role in society, and justice for women. This project was a coming-of-age experience for me,

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NOAA Coastal Services Center
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

and I don't know who I would be if I hadn't participated," says Terry.

With Oikos, Terry spent several unforgettable months in the Philippines living in indigenous communities, where residents experienced severe health and environmental problems brought on by the practices of international gold-mining corporations.

"When that trip concluded, I felt I had no choice but to learn more about the global economic and environmental climate," says Terry. She began an interdisciplinary program in urban studies at the College of Charleston, concentrating on social problems and community development.

Her B.A. completed, Terry attended an eco-justice conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the National Council of Churches. Soon after, she was offered a fellowship in environmental justice sponsored by the United Church of Christ.

"I worked on Capitol Hill for two years, and it was quite an experience," says Terry. "I would walk into rooms and the major architects of the environmental movement would be sitting around the table—and there was little old me! It was a wonderful growth experience, but I realized I did not want to be a lobbyist," she adds.

Terry is completing an M.S. in natural resource policy, concentrating in environmental justice at the University of Michigan. "My thesis asks the question, 'How do you develop land responsibly?' I specifically study the role of land in slave-descendent African-American communities in South Carolina, and how rapid development is



*Terry gathers periwinkle snails to sauté for a breakfast omelet. Her inspiration? Euell Gibbons' 1964 book about searching for sea edibles, *Stalking the Blue-Eyed Scallop*.*

threatening the existence of that culture," she says.

Terry first heard about the fellowship program through Don Scavia, director of Michigan's Sea Grant Program. "I was instantly excited about the prospect of honing my coastal development knowledge. I saw that the fellowship could bring together my previous experience and education, plus I could build a whole new skill set," she notes.

Terry was placed with the Office of Long Island Sound Programs in the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection. Her task is to create a methodology to assess the visual impact of development on the Connecticut coast around Long Island Sound.

The work has been gratifying, as well as challenging. "I'm developing a methodology that will systematically evaluate visual impacts, a component addressed in the Coastal Management Act.

In doing this, I have to consider the concepts of beauty and sense of place—so important, but hard to talk about within the limits of a systematic methodology! The challenge, for me, is in trying to quantify these things in a way that will be legally defensible—for instance, when staff members evaluate dock applications or planners assess coastal areas."

In her work, Terry has been given great support by other fellows. "I feel so lucky to call these people my peers. They're passionate and driven and creative in their approaches to coastal problems. I also have to thank my mentor, David Blatt, and NOAA fellowship advisor, Margaret VanderWilt. For the fellows, Margaret is there to laugh with you, to cry with you, to say, 'I know.' And I also need to thank Kevin Doyle from the Environmental Careers Organization—if you can dream it, he will try to make it happen." 📍

FOCUS ON FELLOWS:

Romina King



Coral Fellow Romina King lives and works on the island of Guam, a place where she feels right at home. According to Romina, who loves to surf and kiteboard, “The earth is my playground. It’s a personal responsibility to keep my playground clean and healthy. Guam and the ocean have given me so much, and I would like to give something in return, to make this place a little better for future generations.”

Romina’s love of sea and shore began early in life. Born in the Philippines, she and her family moved to New York State when she was two years old, and she spent most of her childhood living on Long Island, minutes from the Atlantic Ocean. A 2001 Boston College graduate with a B.S. in economics, Romina sees a link between her undergraduate major and current work as a coral fellow.

“I knew I wanted to do something with respect to the environment as part of my

livelihood,” she says. “Economics is the study of the allocation of scarce, finite resources, and coral reefs are very important resources, especially to small island communities. Prudent natural resource management is a key aspect of sustainable economic development.”

Romina had been employed for nearly two years as a geographic information system (GIS) analyst with the Guam Environmental Protection Agency when she applied for, and was accepted to, a coral fellowship through the Guam Coastal Management Program. Of the many different projects Romina manages as a coral fellow, the one closest to her heart is the Guardians of the Reef.

“The Guardians are high school seniors and juniors who visit many third-grade classrooms on Guam. They use custom-made presentations to educate the students about coral reefs,” says Romina. “Linda Tatreau, George Washington High School’s

marine biology teacher and advisor to the Marine Maniacs [a high school science club], has been a wonderful and dedicated environmental education partner. Her work has been crucial to the success of my project.”

Romina has also received extraordinary support from her mentor Evangeline Lujan, an administrator for the Guam Coastal Management Program and the point of contact for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force for Guam. The fellowship has provided Romina with many opportunities to widen her circle of friends and colleagues who are similarly committed to coral reef conservation.

“I have met so many wonderful and exciting people through this program—from the local fishermen to the governor of Guam,” says Romina. “Also, the personal development training has increased my skill set and made me more marketable for future employment opportunities in natural resource management.”

Romina is currently attending the University of Guam to complete an M.A. in Micronesian Studies. Her future aspirations may include a Ph.D. in GIS or a stint in the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, a group that works on NOAA ships or aircraft to support the agency’s missions. “Either of these plans would take me away from the islands for a couple of years, but eventually I would return,” notes Romina. “I love the islands—this is the place I call home.” 

FOCUS ON THE CORAL FELLOWSHIP: Coral Updates

American Samoa

Sharon is currently coordinating the assembly of a coloring book and a storybook that will be used as part of American Samoa's Coral Reef Advisory Group's outreach efforts. The coloring book features pictures of species found in and around the reefs of American Samoa. The storybook, written by Charlie Damitz, provides information on the two species of sea turtles that nest locally. Both books will showcase artwork done by local community college students and will be distributed to schools and to the community during outreach events.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

As part of the Talakhaya Revegetation Project, Lihla is coordinating the development of a water quality monitoring plan to begin this month in preparation for large-scale planting activities in 2007.

Lihla recently facilitated the creation of an International Year of the Reef 2008 poster. Concurrently bolstering support for the Micronesian Challenge outreach and education needs, the coral reef food web poster is a cooperative effort between College of the Marshall Islands and the three environmental agencies in CNMI that host the fellowship: Division of Environmental Quality, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Coastal Resources Management Office.

Hawaii

New fellow Petra MacGowan has been busy providing support for the five local action strategy (LAS) coordinators as they work toward implementation of the different strategies. She has organized a workshop in conjunction with the Fisheries LAS and NOAA on performance measures and the incorporation of new guidance into LAS procedures and upcoming revisions. Petra also coordinates the Coral Reef Outreach Network (CRON), a partnership of outreach providers in the state. She participates with local nongovernmental organizations in the Managing Better Together (MBT) network to identify partnerships and provide support for coral activities. She is participating in initial International Year of the Reef (IYOR) planning and coordination for Hawaii.

Puerto Rico

Marimar continues to develop the marine component of the Mona Island Natural Reserve Management Plan. She has been focused on meeting with the different stakeholders and obtaining their input for the plan. She also participated in a capacity-building workshop on federal coral reef laws in Puerto Rico. Marimar recently finished writing a section about marine protected areas in Puerto Rico for a new publication of the Coastal Zone Management Program of the Department of Natural and



Environmental Resources (DNER). She is participating in a variety of activities conducted in natural reserves, such as the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in southern Puerto Rico, the most successful protected area jointly managed by NOAA and DNER.

U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI)

New fellow Karlyn Langjahr has been housed within St. Croix's Division of Coastal Zone Management. She acts as the liaison between her agency and two nongovernmental organizations, the Nature Conservancy and the Ocean Conservancy. Together they are implementing partnered projects to establish socio-economic and ecological baseline information for coastal zones being considered for a territorial marine protected area network.

Karlyn is also the coordinator of the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE) for all three islands in the USVI. She is developing a workshop to build capacity in outreach and education for VINE members and planning activities for the upcoming Agriculture Fair and EcoFair.

FOCUS ON THE CENTER

Understanding the Human Element

Want to know more about the social science implications of coastal resource management? The resources listed below explore the complex interactions between humans and ecological systems.

- ♦ **On the Web** – The Center’s on-line resource, *Applying Social Science to Coastal Management* (http://maps.csc.noaa.gov/socialscience_2/), features information on coastal recreation, watersheds, and hazards, as well as links to applicable Center tools and trainings.
- ♦ **On the Wheel** – “Understanding the Human Dimensions of Coastal Management Using Social Science” is a printed, handheld wheel resembling the “dial-o-matics” of the past. Simply turn the wheel to find useful guidelines for identifying major coastal stakeholders, measuring social impacts of coastal use, understanding local traditions and culture, and addressing other concerns. To order a wheel, visit http://maps.csc.noaa.gov/socialscience_2/wheel.htm.
- ♦ **On the Horizon** – The Center is leading a national and international effort to create an interagency portal addressing the human dimensions of natural resource management. The portal, *HumanDimensions.gov* or *HD.gov*, will serve as a peer-reviewed, central resource for social science materials and will be available in summer 2007. It will also guide users to on-line information addressing specific needs. For more information, contact Hansje.Gold-Krueck@noaa.gov or Tom.Fish@noaa.gov.

Hundreds Attend Sold-Out Coastal GeoTools 2007 Conference

Last month, approximately 400 coastal resource management professionals from around the nation attended Coastal GeoTools 2007 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Coastal GeoTools 2007, hosted by the Center, featured a plenary panel and speaker on creating resilient coastal communities, as well as 96 oral presentations, 21 exhibitors, more than 50 posters, and the Geospatial Technology Help Clinic. The collaborative environment at the conference encourages participants to share best practices in geospatial data access, interoperability standards, and application development. To view the 2007 conference proceedings, visit www.csc.noaa.gov/geotools/pdf/geotools_final.pdf. For more information, contact Hamilton.Smillie@noaa.gov.

FOCUS ON THE COASTAL FELLOWSHIP: Sea Grant Endorsements

The NOAA Coastal Services Center has received the 2007–2009 Coastal Management Fellowship endorsements from Sea Grant. The Center received 19 applications from 14 Sea Grant programs across the country. Using four criteria—academic performance and diversity of educational background, endorsement by the applicant’s Sea Grant director, support from two letters of recommendation, and content of the applicant’s goal statement—12 finalists will be selected from among these candidates.

A workshop to match states with fellows will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, from April 16 to 20, 2007. Of the finalists selected, five will be placed with a host state. Each of the selected host states will send its fellow mentor to the placement workshop, and the finalists will be brought to the workshop at the expense of the Center.

The workshop consists of an orientation, project proposal presentations, finalist presentations, finalist and host state interviews, and fellow matching. If a state does not find a suitable candidate during the workshop, it will be given the option to defer fellow placement for one year. States will only be allowed one deferment before they have to reapply. No contact between prospective hosts and finalists should be made before the placement workshop.

This year, the host states are California, Connecticut, North Carolina, Oregon, and South Carolina. For more information on 2007 state projects, please visit the fellowship Web site at www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/fellows/07_stateprojects.html or contact the fellowship coordinator at csc.fellowships@noaa.gov.

CREDITS AND INFORMATION

Fellow News is published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coastal Services Center to relay information about the fellowship program and provide a forum for information exchange among fellows, mentors, Sea Grant, and the Center.

Please send your questions and suggestions for future editions to csc.fellowships@noaa.gov

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

APRIL

2 to 6: **National Hurricane Conference**
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.hurricanemeeting.com

17 to 21: **Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting**
San Francisco, California
www.aag.org/annualmeetings/SF2007/index.cfm

23 to 27: **Second National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration**
Kansas City, Missouri
<http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/NCER2007/>

April 29 to May 2: **2007 National Flood Conference**
Denver, Colorado
<http://bsa.nfipstat.com>

MAY

2 to 4: **Restoration 2007: Innovation, Leadership, and Networks for Post-Disaster Recovery**
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.restoration2007.org/en/index.aspx

7 to 11: **American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing Annual Conference**
Tampa, Florida
www.asprs.org/tampa2007/

9 to 11: **Working Waterways and Waterfronts 2007 Symposium**
Norfolk, Virginia
www.wateraccess2007.com

13 to 17: **Coastal Sediments 2007**
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.asce.org/conferences/cs07/

20 to 23: **Second National Forum on Socioeconomic Research in Coastal Systems**
New Orleans, Louisiana
www.cnrep.lsu.edu/pdfs/CNREP_abstracts07.pdf

JUNE

3 to 8: **Association of State Floodplain Managers 31st Annual Conference**
Norfolk, Virginia
www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/norfolk.asp

18 to 22: **27th Annual ESRI International User Conference**
San Diego, California
www.esri.com/events/uc/

17 to 21: **13th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management**
Park City, Utah
www.isrm2007.org

June 30 to July 3: **13th International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment**
Portland, Maine
www.icaonline.org/conference.htm

For more information on upcoming events, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov/cms/conferences.html.

NOAA COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TRAINING

Project Design and Evaluation
April 11 to 12
Watershed Agricultural Council
May 9 to 10
National Sea Grant Office
June 26 to 27
Lake Michigan Coastal Program

Coastal Community Planning and Development
May 1
Mission Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve

Public Issues and Conflict Management
May 5 to 6
The Ocean Conservancy

Negotiating for Coastal Resources
April 26 to 27
Georgia Coastal Resources Division

Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts
May 22 to 23
University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension

Introduction to ArcGIS
April 10 to 11
University of Southern Mississippi's
Center of Higher Learning
May 15 to 16
NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic
and Meteorological Laboratory
May 21 to 22
NOAA Coastal Services Center

Coastal Applications of ArcGIS
April 12 to 13
University of Southern Mississippi's
Center of Higher Learning
May 17 to 18
NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic and
Meteorological Laboratory
May 23 to 25
NOAA Coastal Services Center

For more information, please visit www.csc.noaa.gov/training/.

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