

Coastal Institute IGERT Program

Opportunities For Our Non-Academic Partner Institutions

What is it: *The University of Rhode Island Coastal Institute IGERT Program (CIIP) has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to develop and administer an integrated, multi-disciplinary graduate curriculum to enrich the education of PhD students who show potential for leadership in solving environmental problems in coastal ecosystems. The fundamental goal of the CIIP is to integrate the traditionally disparate disciplines in the natural and social sciences to form a coherent, multidisciplinary framework for coastal research. This framework will sharpen the focus of basic research in the sciences by identifying the critical questions and information needs of resource managers. Similarly, research in the social sciences will be advanced by bringing scientific literacy to the assessment of economic and social dimensions of coastal environmental problems. Working closely with each other and with our non-academic partner institutions, students from oceanography, the natural sciences (ecology, biology, fisheries, natural resources science) and the social sciences (economics, governance, planning, coastal policy) will acquire competence in developing, implementing, and monitoring programs and policies that promote the vitality of coastal regions. To accomplish this our students must be able to anticipate and negotiate points of conflict among environmental, social, and economic perspectives on issues of coastal science and management. The CIIP uses tools and disciplines in the humanities -- communication sciences, ethics, social equity, aesthetics, leadership -- to provide students with skills and perspectives that are fundamental to bridging science and public policy in practice. The integrated research and training in the CIIP will produce practical solutions to environmental problems that are relevant to much of coastal America.*

Program Goals: *The goals of the CIIP are:*

- (1) To train a generation of PhD students who understand the full suite of dimensions to complex coastal environmental issues -- the scientific, social, economic, and human.*
- (2) To train the CIIP Fellows to communicate with a diversity of audiences that includes scientists, decision-makers, business professionals, and citizens.*
- (3) To provide our students opportunities to work on complex, multidisciplinary coastal environmental issues with our non-academic partners.*
- (4) To leverage the IGERT grant as a recruiting instrument to enhance the diversity of advanced graduate students at URI.*

URI CIIP Team:

*Peter August, Coastal Institute and Natural Resources Science, Co-Director
Judith Swift, Coastal Institute and Communication Studies, Co-Director
Dorothy Q Kellogg, Natural Resources Science, CIIP Postdoc
Candace Oviatt, Graduate School of Oceanography
Cheryl Foster, Philosophy
Art Gold, Natural Resources Science
Jim Opaluch, Resource Economics
Rick Burroughs, Marine Affairs,
Rick Rhodes, College of the Environment and Life Sciences
Mark Wimbush, Graduate School of Oceanography*

Our Students: *Students who have received CIIP fellowships are some of the University's best young scholars in coastal ecosystem science and management. They are awarded CIIP funding early in their graduate program and prior to beginning their dissertation research. They work in the natural or social sciences with interest in many dimensions of coastal ecosystem management. Their experience with our CIIP non-academic partners is crucial to CIIP goals in that it will broaden the Fellows' research vision and they will, in many cases, choose dissertation research topics of relevance to our partners and society.*

The National Science Foundation supports each student for two years. Their work with non-academic partners is paid by the NSF grant. The grant can also cover modest travel expenses for the students in support of their work with CIIP non-academic partners.

The 2005 cohort of CIIP Fellows and their areas of expertise are listed below. Their vitas are available on the CIIP web site (www.ci.uri.edu/ciip)

CIIP Fellow	Program and Interest	Advisor
Abigail Anthony	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, conservation and economics	Professor Swallow
Stephanie Koch	Natural Resources Science, wildlife management and conservation	Professor Paton
Jason Krumholz	Biological Oceanography, Graduate School of Oceanography, estuarine ecology	Professor Oviatt
Erika Lentz	Geological Oceanography, Graduate School of Oceanography, coastal geology	Professor King
Cathy McNally	Natural Resources Science, marine protected areas, watershed dynamics	Professor Gold
Ronan Roche	Marine Affairs, coastal fisheries	Professor Pollnac
Karen Sullivan	Environmental and Natural Resource Economics, experimental economics	Professor Opaluch

Opportunities For Our Non-Academic Partners: *Students supported by the CIIP program are required to spend substantial time working outside of the University setting with our non-academic partners helping develop solutions to complex coastal environmental problems. CIIP students are expected to work 20 hours per week with their host institutions. CIIP student activities with non-academic partners are:*

White Paper Development – *Each CIIP student will work with a non-academic partner during his/her first Spring semester (January through April) on developing a white paper analysis of a policy issue or science question assigned by the partner. Host partners will assist in providing direction to the student and periodically reviewing his/her work. At the end of the semester, partners will review and critique the white paper produced by the student and assist in communicating the results of this work within their institution and the coastal community. Each student will research the topic with CIIP colleagues. The science question or policy issue assigned to a student should include the following characteristics:*

- ❖ *Of immediate importance to society and the partner institution;*
- ❖ *Contains multiple dimensions, e.g., scientific, ethical, economic, legal, policy, political, aesthetic;*
- ❖ *Relevant to coastal ecosystems locally, regionally, or globally.*

Non-academic partner hosts are expected to provide guidance to the student. In turn, the CIIP student is expected to use this exercise to demonstrate creativity, ingenuity, independence, and leadership in solving coastal problems. Partners need not provide working space for CIIP students during the white paper assignment. It will be the responsibility of the host partner to provide specialized work materials (software, data, instruments) if such are required.

Internship – Each CIIP student will work in residence with a non-academic partner for 6 months (February through July) in the second year of the Fellowship. Student responsibilities and learning goals will be established between and among the host, the student, and the CIIP Council prior to the internship. The project will cover student salary for up to 20 hours per week work commitment. The host will provide desk space (if appropriate), supervision, and assessment of student work. The purpose of the internship requirement is to provide students with hands-on, in-the-trenches experience working with agencies and individuals who are on the front-line of coastal environmental problem solving.

How to Recruit a CIIP Fellow: *Contact us if you are interested in hosting a student for the white paper or internship opportunities. It is possible to engage the same student for both the white paper and internship, different students for each activity, or a student for just one of the activities.*

Seven students will be available for white paper projects in the Spring 2006. The first cohort of interns (7 students) will be available February 2007.

We will discuss your project ideas with you and recommend a CIIP Fellow who we believe to be a good fit for your organization and the identified assignment. Of course, you will want to meet the student and determine if there is a good chemistry and common interest. It is important to make contact early in the academic year (September or October) so we can ensure a good match between the partner and student.

Once a student and non-academic partner agree to a topic of the white paper or internship assignment, we will ask each of you to sign an agreement ensuring that both parties understand the terms and limits of their partnership. If there will be any project costs not already covered by the NSF grant that will be paid by the host, these will be identified in the project agreement as well.

Partners will mentor students through the white paper or internship experience. Partners are also asked to participate in the Spring CIIP Colloquium (May each year) where students report on the projects they have undertaken. Partners will also assist in providing critical review of student progress and achievement.

Questions? Contact:

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