

WINNERS OF THE
2012 COAST SCHOLARSHIPS



Evyan Borgnis



Hayley Carter



Rachel Dorfman



Karen Kayfetz



Christina Pasparakis

Benson Chow

Rita duMais

Chris Ikeda

Robert Vogt

Dr. William Cochlan

Crafting Competitive Research Proposals



William Cochlan received a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of British Columbia in 1990. Before joining the Biology Department in 1998 as a Senior Research Scientist, he was a post-doc at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (UCSD) and an Assistant Research Professor at the University of Southern California. Currently, he is a Research Professor directing a biological oceanography and marine microbial ecology research laboratory at SF State's Romberg Tiburon Center where he researches ocean acidification and the effects on coastal food-webs, harmful algal blooms and fish-killing algae, and marine algae biofuel optimization. His most recent project focuses on a Seafood Safety training project in the Philippines, Guatemala and Indonesia.

Dr. Cochlan also teaches "Research Skills" (BIOL 344/844) which focuses on topics designed to assist beginning researchers in developing professional and efficient means to conduct their research activities from accessing the scientific literature to preparing effective professional presentations of their research results. Student Christina Pasparakis (*photo left*) described his class as "a great introduction to starting a Master's in Biology."

His class also includes a multi-week section on effective research proposal writing where he concentrates on proposals that are "within reach of graduate students, rather than NSF-type proposals." For the Fall 2011 class, Dr. Cochlan used the CSU's Council on Ocean Affairs, Science and Technology (COAST) Scholarship as an opportunity to compose, review and present critiques, and revise student proposals. "Actual submission to COAST was optional," said Dr. Cochlan, "but strongly encouraged."

"Dr. Cochlan taught us how to properly read a funding announcement, and how to identify and address what the funding agency or group will be looking for when choosing successful applications," said COAST awardee Rachel Dorfman. (*photo left*) "Dr. Cochlan demonstrated how a scientist needs to write clearly to guide a reader instead of loading sentences with jargon to sound intelligent," wrote student Evyan Borgnis. (*photo left*) Rita duMais wrote that the class "gave me the chance to have my COAST proposal reviewed, not only by Dr. Cochlan, but also by my peers. The collaborative advice I received was instrumental in my proposal being awarded."

Nine RTC student proposals were awarded. (*See sidebar left.*) COAST Director, Dr. Krista Kamer, credits Dr. Cochlan's class with the successful funding of so many SF State students. "We received 93 graduate student applications for support; 26 were from SFSU. We made a total of 30 awards with ten going to SFSU. This level of success is truly amazing. I believe that Bill Cochlan's grant writing class resulted in many of his students submitting applications, and had a great deal to do with SFSU's success. Bill deserves great credit for motivating students to participate and helping them craft highly competitive applications."

To learn more about Dr. Cochlan, visit: <http://online.sfsu.edu/cochlan>