

University of Alaska Fairbanks
Pollock Conservation Cooperative Research Center

Project **Title: Matt Myers Memorial Graduate Student Travel Fund**

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Abstract

Matthew (Matt) Myers, a Ph.D. candidate in University of Alaska's (UAF) School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences (SFOS) died in 2007 in the process of being trained for scientific diving certification. This PCCRC project was developed to initiate a travel award in Matt's name, for graduate students. The Matt Myers Memorial Graduate Student Fund would award two \$1,000 travel awards annually to students, with a preference towards students in marine biology or fisheries. This report adds the 2011 awardees to the list of students that have benefited from the PCCRC funded award.

2008 Results:

In 2008 two students were awarded travel awards. 1) Mandy Keogh presented her work at The Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) 2009 in Boston MA. 2) Benjamin Daly presented his work at the National Shellfisheries Association Annual Meeting 2009 in Savannah, GA. Both graduate students were awarded \$1,000 for travel.

2009 Results:

In early 2009 Matt's second chapter of his Ph.D. dissertation was accepted for publication pending major revisions. There was no funding available to finish this work. It was decided to use this year's awards to pay \$2,840 for Ms. Beate Litz one months' salary to accomplish the revisions. The published paper was submitted to PCCRC.

2010 Results:

In early 2010 another \$2,000 was awarded to publish Matt's last chapter of his dissertation. This money was used to pay Kendall Mashburn's salary to complete this manuscript. The published paper is due out in print in November 2011.

In 2010 three students were awarded travel awards. 1) Greg Albrecht was awarded \$500.00 to attend the Alaska Marine Science Symposium at Anchorage in January 2011. 2) Kathryn Brenner was awarded \$1,000.00 to attend the Pacific Fisheries Technologists Conference at Vancouver Canada in February 2011. 3) Gretchen Geiger was awarded \$500.00 to attend the Alaska Marine Science Symposium at Anchorage in January 2011.

2011 Results:

In 2011 three students received awards 1) Adrian Gall received \$1,000 to attend the Pacific Seabird Group Annual Meeting in Honolulu, HI; 2) Kray Van Kirk received \$500 to use at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Boston, MA and the Alaska Science Symposium in Anchorage; 3) Alexandre Ravelo received \$500 to attend the Ocean Sciences Meeting at Salt Lake City, UT.

Future plans

If additional funds are added to award two travel grants, then next year the travel awards will resume to two graduate students in Marine Biology and/or the Fisheries Division. The announcements will go out in early September and the decisions will be made within two weeks of receiving the applications.

Conclusions

Presentations

Study products and references

Myers, M. and **Atkinson, S.** (2011) Temporal variability in organochlorine contamination in both blood and blubber in captive Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*). Mar. Mammal Sci. In Press. DOI:10.1111/j.1748-7692.2011.00466.x

Myers, M.J., Litz, B. and Atkinson, S. (2009) The effects of age, sex, season and geographic region on circulating serum cortisol concentrations in the threatened and endangered Steller sea lions (*Eumetopias jubatus*). General and Comparative Endocrinology. 165: 72-77

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