Ocean Mammal Institute (OMI) Internship Program 2016

Internship title: Hawaiian Humpback Whale: Field Research

About OMI: (www.oceanmammalinst.org)
OMI was formally established in 1994 as a non-profit organization designed to assist in narrowing the gap between individuals, science and technology, and to increase heartfelt connections with the natural world. As Rachel Carson observed, "You must love nature before you can preserve it."

We believe efforts to protect a specific species are an effective way to address the abstract issues of biodiversity and ecosystem protection.

This internship was created with the following intentions:
1. Teach students proper field research techniques.
2. Study the impact of human marine activities including noise pollution on whales.
3. Become aware of human impact on the environment and how human psychology affects the decisions we make about the environment.

If our programs are successful, people will think more carefully about decisions that may result in polluting the environment and will be empowered to act responsibly.

Internship instructor:
Marsha Green, Ph.D. is OMI's President and founder. Dr. Green holds a doctorate from Temple University in animal behavior and physiological psychology. She is a licensed psychologist and Professor at Albright College in Reading Pennsylvania. Here she has taught for 30+ years, founded the Psychobiology and Environmental Psychobiology programs and currently Chair of the Psychology Department.

Since 1986, Dr. Green has been conducting research on the impact of human behavior on humpback whales and spinner dolphins in Hawaii. She has gained international recognition for her ground breaking studies linking human compassion with scientific field research to benefit whales, dolphins and their environment.

Internship size:
- 40 students broken into teams of 5. Each team has a Teaching Assistant with them for the entire time while conducting the field research in the field.

Internship workload:
- All the work is done on land with the exception of the whale watch tour (weather permitting)
- This is a basic field research course.
- Students will be conducting shore-based data collection. This involves tracking whales and boats with a theodolite and recording whale behaviors.
- Students are taught how to use the theodolite and how to record the whale data.
- Students are expected to plot and graph their data daily in addition to reading and discussing articles for the evening discussion.
- There are over 70 articles in addition to the book students are expected to read. Evening discussions are conducted every night and last approx 2 hours.
- Additional requirements within the course:
  1. 2 written exams (Midterm and Final).
  2. A team research paper developed using all the field data the team has gathered from their 3 weeks in the field.
- This is a college course packed into 3 weeks with NO days off.
Internship credit:
- Students taking this course for credit must receive their credit from your school, not OMI.
- Most students take our program as an Independent study or Internship course at their school.
- Not everyone takes this internship for credit. We have had students take it pass / fail or no credit. It all depends on what the student and faculty advisor decide.
- All students are required to do all the work identified in the syllabus and take the exams, whether they take this course for credit or not.
- Since our program is only 3 week long, some schools have added their own requirements such as a daily journal or presentation to other students since our program may be only a part of their semester course.

Questions: Contact Joyce O’Neal, Chief Operations Manager at joneal@pa.net / 302-945-6341
Ocean Mammal Institute expected course hours for 2016

Course Description:
This course looks at the behavior of humpback whales, the impact of boats on whales and how boats affect whale behavior. The course reading material covers whale behavior, how humans affect that and looks at all environmental issues around the oceans. It also focuses on human impact on the environment and how human psychology affects the decisions we make about the environment.

4 Jan 2016 - Arrive
5-6 Jan - Preparation
  - Lecture - 2 hrs each day (4)
  - Field training - 4 hrs 1 day (4)
  - Evening discussion - 2 hrs each day (4)
Total 12 hours

7-20 Jan - Internship field research conducted - total 14 days. (Includes whale watch trip)
Each day for 14 days:
  - 4 hours conducting field research
  - 2 hours (a minimum) plotting and analyzing field research data:
    o Plot # of whale behaviors / minute
    o Calculate whale down time
    o Whale interactions with boats:
    o Before, during and after boat impact
    o Within / outside ½ mile of boat impact
  - 2 hours evening lecture and discussion
Total 112 hours (14 x 8 = 112)

21 Jan – Turn in research paper, no field research conducted
22 Jan - Depart

Total hours: 12 + 112 = 124

Graded Requirements:
The student’s preparation and study time for these events are NOT included in the total course hours provided above:
  Midterm exam
  Final exam
  Team research paper