



GUY HARVEY SCHOLARSHIP



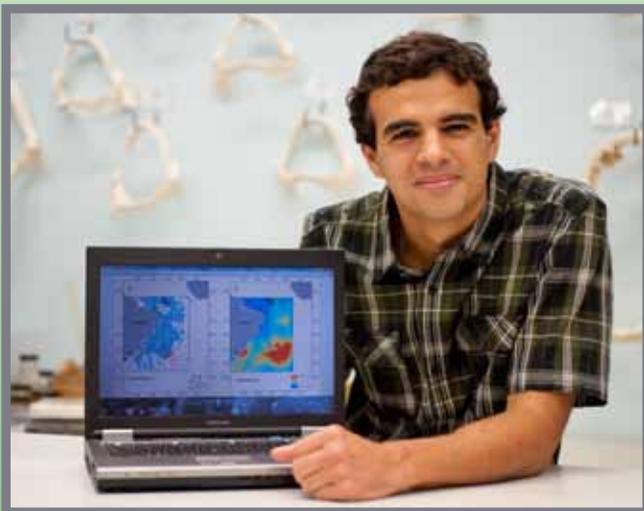
The Guy Harvey Scholarship recognizes full-time undergraduate and graduate students at Florida universities who are working to better our renewable, finite marine resources through science. Students researching marine fish are encouraged to apply through Florida Sea Grant, which manages the award program.

Since the award was established in 2010, \$44,000 in scholarships has been given to 10 students from seven Florida universities.

In addition to the \$5,000 scholarship, recipients receive a certificate designed and signed by Guy Harvey. In 2013, we anticipate that up to 10 highly qualified students will receive \$5,000 scholarships.

To learn more about the scholarship, visit the "Students" tab at flseagrant.org and follow the link to "Scholarships/Fellowships." Applications will be accepted beginning in November 2012. Look for the announcement on our website or Facebook page.

2012 SCHOLARS



FELIPE CARVALHO

Felipe Carvalho holds a master's degree in fisheries and aquatic sciences from the University of Florida, and is now a doctoral student there, continuing his research on blue shark populations in the Atlantic Ocean. His research is aimed at training scientists and technicians to use remote sensing methods to track movement of these large predators. Among his accomplishments, Felipe has served six times as the national representative to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, the organization that focuses on the management of tunas and other species such as sharks caught during tuna fishing.

"The scholarship covered all my travel expenses to South Africa to promote a workshop on statistical analysis of fisheries data. As a result, cooperation between the South African Department of Fisheries and the University of Florida was strengthened, and the assessment of commercial fishing impact on shark populations in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean was greatly improved."



SARAH STEPHENS

Sarah Stephens is an M.S. student in the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences program at the University of Florida. As part of her research, she organizes Florida's conservation tagging program for permit, one of the state's most economically valuable recreational fisheries. The program relies on recreational anglers to report data on tag-and-capture locations when they land a previously marked permit, which in turn generates information that researchers use to assess fish populations and movement patterns. For her thesis research, Sarah plans to extend the tagging program to Belize and Mexico, where permit are among the high-profile species that sustain a lucrative fly fishing industry catering to international visitors.

"The Guy Harvey Scholarship was integral to extending my research to an international scale. I am excited to have the opportunity to share conservation strategies with guides and anglers in Belize and Mexico while expanding the scope of my project to incorporate pelagic migration patterns in permit."

KIER SMITH

Kier Smith is an M.S. student in biological sciences at Florida Atlantic University. His research seeks to reduce the incidental catch of sharks and rays in longline commercial fisheries. Research has shown that fishing hooks treated with rare-earth metals react in saltwater and produce a stimulus that a shark's peculiar electrosensory system can detect and avoid. Kier and his research professor have a preliminary patent on a technique they think mimics the deterrent properties of rare-earth metals in a more cost-effective way.



"The Guy Harvey Scholarship has provided the funding necessary to run field trials using a novel shark bycatch mitigation technique. If proven effective, this could be a useful tool for reducing the impact of longline fishing on shark populations worldwide. It is extremely exciting to have been chosen for this award, and I look forward to my future collaboration with Florida Sea Grant and the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation."



LAURA HABEGGER

Laura Habegger holds a master's degree in biology from the University of South Florida, and is now a doctoral student there. Her research is the first ever to study the bill mechanics and feeding adaptations in marlin, swordfish, sailfish and other pelagic predators. Laura's career goal is to become a full-time researcher working at a museum or government entity, continuing her work on the form, structure, and mechanics of feeding in fish.

"In addition to helping me acquire supplies for the completion of my experiments, the Guy Harvey Scholarship helped me incorporate an innovative modeling approach that will contribute to understanding the feeding biomechanics in billfishes. The funds will also allow me to present my doctoral research results at several national meetings."



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SEAN BIGNAMI



Sean Bignami is pursuing a doctorate in marine biology and fisheries at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. His research is attempting to quantify for the first time the effects of ocean acidification on the development, growth and behavior of two popular catches of marine fish, cobia and mahi-mahi. Sean plans to dedicate much of his career to sharing the results of his research with decision-makers to ensure marine resources are managed effectively.

“This scholarship enabled me to purchase the aquaculture and laboratory equipment needed to sustain my final chapter of research, and helped me produce results which will be presented at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium and the 3rd Symposium on The Ocean in a High-CO₂ World.”

Past Fellows

CHELSEA BENNICÉ

Chelsea Bennice is pursuing an M.S. in biological sciences at Florida Atlantic University. Her thesis research is titled “Habitat selection among fishes and shrimp in the pelagic *Sargassum* community: the role of habitat architecture and the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.” To further her education as a marine ecologist, she plans on pursuing a Ph.D. in the same area of her master’s research.



“The Guy Harvey Scholarship allowed me to buy field sampling gear to conduct my thesis research. I have to take frequent field trips to collect sargassum, fish and shrimp to run my experimental trials in the lab. It has also enabled me to include observational field video and still shots in my research.”

MARK SQUITIERI

Mark Squitieri is an M.S. student in the College of Marine Sciences at the University of South Florida who plans to graduate in 2012. His research project is titled “Detecting fish oil spill exposure using elemental crude oil markers recorded on otoliths.” His research focuses on analyzing the chemicals that appear in fish otoliths, or ear bones. As fish grow, dissolved trace elements from water become incorporated into their otoliths, making them live recorders of environmental disturbances such as oil spills.

“The scholarship allowed me to expand the scope of my study, incorporate pelagic species, and hopefully provide a more complete understanding of how fish movement and water chemistry affect otolith micro chemistry.”



CHRISTINA WALKER

Christina Walker graduated from the University of North Florida with a master's degree in biology. For her master's thesis she examined the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on cartilaginous fish like sharks, rays and skates using a biomarker approach. Of the 15 species she analyzed, only blacknose sharks showed statistically significant differences in biomarker transformation before and after the oil spill. It was concluded that the observed differences were likely due to exposure to oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill.



AUSTIN TODD



Austin Todd graduated from Florida State University with a Ph.D in physical oceanography. His research focused on the effects of ocean currents on the early life stages of gag grouper in Florida's Big Bend region. The main accomplishment of his research included the development of a hydrodynamic ocean modeling system for the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, which will be used to study processes that relate to reef fish productivity. He also constructed a conceptual model of potential fish larvae behavior patterns to test within the framework of the modeling system.

MELINDA DONNELLY

Melinda Donnelly graduated from the University of Central Florida with a Ph.D. in conservation biology. Her dissertation focused on the ecological interactions among mangrove plants and organisms in an effort to improve the success of saltmarsh restoration efforts in Florida's Indian River Lagoon system.



The Guy Harvey Scholarship is creating new stewards of the marine environment by helping future scientists develop novel strategies for sensible fisheries management. The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation is an organization of philanthropists, conservationists, scientists and educators focused on developing strategies for promoting the conservation of our oceans and nurturing the next generation of marine scientists and guardians of our seas. Through the philanthropy inspired by Guy Harvey's art, the foundation funds research and educational programs developed by universities, colleges, institutes and nonprofit organizations.



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