

NEWSLETTER



The cliffs of Cape Town, South Africa, rise above the ocean. This photo was taken by an OSU student during the 10-week international internship program on marine conservation in Cape Town, South Africa, and was provided by OSU's Office of Global Opportunities (GO). Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO) has partnered with OSU GO to provide a space for GO's peer advising drop-in hours. OSU GO has also compiled a list of marine and coastal-related study-abroad programs for the MACO office to share with students.

From the Academic Development Coordinator's Desk

As we welcome the New Year, MACO reaffirms its role as a catalyst and resource, empowering OSU faculty and departments to develop place-based learning opportunities centered on ocean and coasts. As Academic Development Coordinator, I provide support and guidance to any faculty or unit interested in creating and expanding hands-on coastal learning programs. Leveraging Oregon's coast, these experiences allow students to apply classroom knowledge, develop critical thinking, and connect with ocean professionals.

Summer 2024 was my first year coordinating the course lineup at Hatfield Marine Science Center, where I collaborated with innovative faculty from the Marine Mammal Institute and Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Sciences, providing strategic planning and support to launch three new marine mammal-focused courses. Additionally, I had the invaluable opportunity to observe these courses firsthand, and I was truly blown away by the students' hard work, engagement, and seamless integration into the Hatfield community. Seeing how these courses inspire students, enhance their skills, and open doors to future careers reinforced their immense value. I am deeply grateful to the faculty and instructors who welcomed me into their courses and provided insight into how these programs serve our students.

With planning already underway, I am thrilled for the launch of the 2025 summer course lineup and the introduction of the new "Courses at the Coast" website, designed to help students easily find and explore coastal-based courses. I also want to acknowledge our generous donors, whose support has expanded scholarships and awards, making these opportunities more accessible.



Angela Cicia, MACO Academic Development Coordinator

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Courses at the Coast

The Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO) Program connects faculty and students to Oregon's coast, supporting place-based learning experiences. OSU Academic faculty teach diverse field-based courses at Hatfield Marine Science Center across all terms, providing hands-on, practical experiences that accommodate various learning styles and schedules across disciplines.

Course Offering Formats

Hybrid Learning: FW 469/569 – Methods in Physiology and Behavior of Marine Megafauna

This **fall term extension** hybrid course features a three-day intensive field experience, providing hands-on training in methods and analyses used to study the behavior and physiology of marine megafauna. After the field component, students complete their remaining coursework online, making it a flexible and accessible option for diverse learners and those with busy schedules.

Weekend Exploratory Courses: BI 111/FW 113 – Introduction to Marine Life in the Sea

Two of the most popular winter and spring term offerings are one-credit exploratory courses that bring students to Hatfield Marine Science Center for a weekend of immersive, field-based learning. These courses are designed for newer students interested in learning about marine habitats, organisms, and study methods while also introducing students to other ocean studies and research opportunities at Hatfield. These offerings are a great way for all students to gain exposure to and learn more about the ocean and coasts.

Full-Term Residential Experience: BI 450 – Marine Biology and Ecology

This immersive course is ideal for students and departments seeking an “eat, sleep, and breathe” approach to learning, where students are fully engaged without juggling multiple courses. Each **spring term**, Integrated Biology offers this cohort-based experience taught in two-week blocks by a faculty team. Students live at Hatfield for 10-weeks, immersed in the research community, study marine organisms and ecosystems, and use the Oregon Coast as a living laboratory, concluding with a student research symposium.

3-5 Week Intensives: Summer & Fall Courses

Summer is ideal for those seeking short, intensive three- to four-week sessions. Popular among students from various majors, these courses cover a wide range of topics that fulfill degree requirements. Students can participate as commuters or live on-site at Hatfield, fully immersing themselves in a vibrant, ocean-centered community while benefiting from in-state tuition rates. Similarly, FW 457x/574x – Biology, Ecology, and Conservation of Marine Mammals introduced a new short-term residential course during the **Fall 5A (five-week) term**. This course combines lectures, field trips, labs, and expert talks, offering hands-on learning experiences and career insights in marine mammal science. These five-week courses are ideal for students seeking intensive engagement with a shorter commitment, providing a flexible alternative to a full 10-week term.

Additional opportunities include day field trips and workshops, with expanding possibilities driven by our collective creativity. Interested in incorporating the Oregon coast into your teaching or learning plans? MACO provides support and guidance for anyone looking to integrate coastal experiences into OSU curricula.



Students in the Marine and Estuarine Invertebrate Zoology course (Z 461) look for invertebrates in the intertidal. Photo courtesy of MariAnna Hinojosa.

MACO's 2024 Advancement Awardees

Cultivating Collaboration

MACO's 2024 Advancement Awardees represent a variety of disciplines and backgrounds from four Colleges, Oregon Sea Grant, and Hatfield's Innovation Lab. Thanks to generous support, these 11 projects enabled new experiences for faculty and students. View more information on the 2024 Advancement Award projects at beav.es/GyQ.

The 2025 Advancement Awards are now open!

Apply by March 10, 2025!

- *ART 360: Creative Coast* - Project Leaders: Michael Boonstra and Andrew Myers
- *Human Dimensions in Marine Mammal Conservation* - Project Leader: Lisa T. Ballance
- *Reducing Small-Cetacean Bycatch in Sri Lankan Gillet Fisheries*- Project Leaders: Shanta Shamsunnahar and Joshua Stewart
- *Oregon Sea Grant Student Internship Program* - Project Leader: Tracy Crews
- *Black Rockfish* - Project Leader: Madison Bargas
- *OSU Global Opportunities - OSU Faculty-led, Service learning Spring Break Trip* - Project Leader: Wanda Crannell
- *Assessing Social and Ecological Enabling Conditions for Effectiveness in Oregon MPAs* - Project Leaders: Jenna Sullivan-Stack and Kirsten Grorud-Colvert
- *“The Virtual Field” Bridging Gaps and Expanding Accessibility to Field Stations, Marine labs, and Field Research* - Project Leader: Itchung Cheung
- *Philosophies, Feminisms, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge* - Project Leader: Rebekah Sinclair
- *Building a User-Friendly Research Tool for Marine Research and Education* - Project Leader: Drummond Wengrove
- *Integrating Local Students into Gray Whale and Coastal Ecology Research in Port Orford* - Project Leader: Leigh Torres



Awardee: Leigh Torres. Project lead Allison demonstrating how to setup the Theodolite instrument, used to measure angles, on one of the team's first training days. Photo courtesy of Leigh Torres.



Awardee: Wanda Crannell. OSU faculty, Renee O'Neill (right), Precollege Programs, Rachel Jones (left), CAS Student Engagement Coordinator, and student, Amelia Harper (center), Environmental Economics and Policy, work to separate grass from soil during the installation of a community garden at InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico on the Barranquitas Campus. Photo courtesy of Jamon Jordan.



Awardees: Jenna Sullivan-Stack and Kirsten Grorud-Colvert. Alexis Merker, an undergraduate student supported by the award, presents her research at the State of the Coast conference. Photo courtesy of Jenna Sullivan-Stack.



Awardee: Rebekah Sinclair. Students and faculty display their artwork created during the course. Photo courtesy of Rebekah Sinclair.

Research Internships

Winter is prime time for students to seek summer research experiences and internships. Last summer, 64 students held positions at Hatfield. Marine-related opportunities extend inland and to other coastal locations, such as College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences' Research Experience for Undergraduates in Corvallis and Port Orford Field Station on the southern Oregon coast. With rising demand, MACO is expanding resources to communicate these opportunities. Our updated [website](#) features nearly a dozen summer research and internship programs with opportunities at Hatfield and along the coast. We are excited to further expand this resource over the upcoming months. For summer 2025, we're collaborating with Hatfield's student life and academic support team to offer core programming to support all students, for a cohesive, enriching experience. Continuing the Marine Studies Initiative legacy, MACO sponsors interdisciplinary opportunities for OSU students, including partnerships with the Oregon Coast Aquarium and a new student position with Hatfield's Climate Monitoring Station project to develop interactive, interpretation displays at the Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center.

University-Wide Programs

Marine and Coastal Opportunities (MACO)	▼
National Science Foundation - Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)	▼
Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station (COMES)	▼

OSU College-Specific Programs

College of Veterinary Medicine	▼
College of Agricultural Sciences - VIEW Fellowship	▼
College of Science - SURE Science Program	▼

Public Agency Hosted Programs

NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program	▼
NOAA IN FISH	▼

Explore our new webpage at beav.es/G6R, showcasing research experience and internship programs students hands-on experience at the Oregon coast.

Ocean11 Student Organization

“Ocean11 always has something good goin’ on”, said a now graduated Ocean11’er. This year, more and more students from across Corvallis campus are connecting with each other about the ocean and coasts through Ocean11 efforts. Over 300 students have joined the roster since July to learn more about activities. MACO’s university-wide group provides opportunities to “put the ocean in your major”, raises visibility of experiential learning opportunities, and creates community. About 60-150 students participated in our lively monthly meetings where expert guests shared about sea turtles, the State Whale Watch program, and discovery of compounds in the ocean that kill cancer cells. Amazing stuff! Our Field Trip Team led 50 students on an overnight to Newport to learn about Hatfield and the Oregon Coast Community College’s Aquarium Science Program. The Community Outreach Team organized a Fall Beach Cleanup -- vehicles packed with 50 students eager to get sandy! Thanks to the heart and hard work of our 22-strong Ocean11 Student Leadership Team, these good going’s-on will continue through Winter and Spring!



Ocean11 club leaders kayaking in Yaquina Bay during their 2024 Fall Leadership Retreat.

Meet Hatfield Marine Science Center’s Academic Support Staff!



Sidney Noble, Manager of Student Life and Campus Services for Hatfield Marine Science Center

Sidney Noble is the Manager of Student Life and Campus Services for Hatfield Marine Science Center. She oversees the Hatfield Housing Team and Hatfield Student Support Services. She advocates for the needs of students at Hatfield and works to develop programming, resources, and opportunities that aim to enhance the student experience, foster community and belonging, and provide holistic support. Sidney grew up splitting time between Newport and Eugene, Oregon, where she spent much of her childhood exploring the outdoors. Sidney attended the University of Oregon, where she received her B.S. in Social Sciences, and then attended Oregon State University, where she received her M.Ed in College Student Services and Administration. Throughout her career, Sidney has held a variety of different roles in student affairs, and really enjoys working at Hatfield where she gets to wear many hats. In her free time, Sidney enjoys hiking, kayaking, cooking, photography, arts and crafts, spending time exploring the outdoors, and home improvement projects.



Makenzie J. Morales, Resident Director for Hatfield Marine Science Center Housing

Makenzie J. Morales is the Resident Director for Hatfield Marine Science Center Housing. They assist students, researchers, campus partners, and community members with housing accommodations at Hatfield. She processes all housing applications, coordinates roommate assignments, manages administrative functions, and ensures HMSC Housing is a safe and functional place to live and learn for residents. Makenzie grew up in Macomb, Michigan and graduated from Central Michigan University with her B.A. in International Relations. Their interest in student development and socially-just change in higher education led them to Michigan State University where they earned their M.A. in Student Affairs Administration. Makenzie’s hobbies include being outdoors, hiking, rollerblading, cooking, spending time with her family, and doing yoga. When they have extra down time, Makenzie enjoys playing the guitar, singing, writing, meditating, and reading. They have two cats, Chico and Magnus.



MariAnna Hinojosa, Special Programs and Course Support Coordinator at Hatfield Marine Science Center

MariAnna Hinojosa is the Special Programs and Course Support Coordinator at Hatfield Marine Science Center. Her main role is preparing for and supporting field-based learning experiences, like courses and internships, that use Hatfield as a site of learning. Some of the exciting miscellaneous opportunities that MariAnna has participated in include directing Big Blue Film Festival, offering tours of our fantastic facilities, and planning community events for Hatfield. MariAnna grew up in Oregon, Idaho, and Arizona before returning to Oregon to study marine biology. She spent 2 years at Lane Community College before transferring to Oregon State University where she graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Biology with the Marine Biology and Ecology option and Chemistry minor. Immediately after completing her last field-based course at Hatfield and graduating, MariAnna started working in her current position with the Operations and Academic teams at Hatfield. Some of her favorite hobbies are whale watching and tide pooling on the Oregon Coast! She loves scouting for nudibranchs in the intertidal and scanning the horizon for whale spouts.

Connecting Students with the Coast

Meet the MACO student workers!

Marine and Coastal Opportunities is proud to employ undergraduate student workers, who are integral to advancing our mission! The student employees help with office tasks, communication projects, and tabling at public events for MACO. In addition, each student worker has a special project they primarily work on. Read on to learn more about our wonderful student workers!



Ryan Osha, Media & Communications Technician.
Special project: Event Coordination

“Hey! My name is Ryan Osha and I am a Media and Communication Tech with Marine and Coastal Opportunities. I am a senior and am majoring in Digital Media Creations! I am able to use my skills in graphic design and outreach to make print media like posters and stickers as well as table for MACO. It has been such an amazing opportunity to work here with all the amazing faculty and student workers! I was born in Virginia and have lived in Utah, Florida and most recently Arizona. I am very passionate about the ocean and have always had a deep appreciation for it and all its inhabitants. In my free time, I love to surf and snowboard whenever I can; I also love to cook and read. My favorite MACO memories are helping volunteer at the Big Blue Film Festival and tabling at Road’s End beach for the 4CAST Art on the Beach Competition!”



Ryleigh Johnson, Media & Communications Technician.
Special project: Coastal Course Profiles

“Hello! My name is Ryleigh and I am a Media and Communications Student Tech! My main responsibilities include creating website content and design, and creating promotional content for the various marine related courses OSU has to offer! I was born and raised in Colorado before coming to OSU to pursue a degree in Biology with the Marine Biology and Ecology concentration. After graduation, I plan to follow my passions into something related to intertidal or marine mammal research. Outside of school and work I enjoy crafting and being outdoors in the tide pools! My favorite MACO memory was traveling to coastal field sites and using 360 degree cameras to capture the intertidal to eventually share with others.”



Tommy Bump, Media & Communications Technician.
Special project: Aquaculture

“My name is Tommy Bump and I am one of MACO’s student Media and Communication Tech. I manage and run Oregon State’s Aquaculture website. I grew up in Michigan and Minnesota before attending OSU. I am majoring in Biology with a Marine Biology and Ecology option and minoring in New Media Communications. I plan on attending Oregon Coast Community College after graduation to complete their Aquarium Science Certification before going to grad school. Some of my favorite hobbies are fishing and snowboarding. My favorite MACO memory is tabling at the Hatfield Marice Science Center on Marine Science Day 2024 and interacting with the public.”

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By working for MACO, the student employees gain hands-on work skills, learn experientially, develop professionally. They also build a network of marine-industry colleagues they can utilize post-graduation.



Stefania Daino, Media & Communications Technician.
Special project: Social Media

“Hi! My name is Stefania Daino, and I am currently a social media technician here at MACO. I help create social media posts, graphics, creating newsletters, and helping with tablings. I am from Riverside, California. I love it there, and miss the warmth everyday. My major is Marine Studies, and I am aiming to work for NOAA or overseas studying shark behavior and conservation. I love to go to the beach, hang out with friends, and travel! My favorite MACO memory would be the shark tagging field trip class I took in Fall 2023, it was absolutely life changing. Being on a research boat and getting hands-on experience as well as learning outside the classroom gave me a sense of exactly what I want to do in regards to my major.”



Hailey Francisco, MACO Office Intern.
Intern project: MACO Communication Toolkit

“Hi! My name is Hailey Francisco and I will be working with MACO as an intern during winter term. I will be developing a user-friendly Communications Toolkit to help OSU departments and campuses (Corvallis, Cascades, and Ecampus) inform their undergraduate students about opportunities to “put the ocean in their degree”. I grew up in Seattle, Washington and am majoring in Marine Studies and minoring in Speech Communications. A fun fact about me is for the past three years, I have portrayed Benny the Beaver at various sporting and scholastic events including the Pac12 Tournament (I am retired now, so the secret is out!). My favorite MACO memory was taking the FW 199 Introduction to Sharks class! I am incredibly excited to be joining the MACO this term and extending MACO’s reach across campuses!”

This newsletter is a major collaboration. Simone Burton is managing editor, production manager, and content contributor. Other major content contributors, in alphabetical order by last name, are: Thomas Bump, Angela Cicia, Stefania Daino, Hailey Francisco, MariAnna Hinojosa, Ryleigh Johnson, Cynthia Leonard, Kristen Milligan, Makenzie Morales, Sidney Noble, and Ryan Osha.

Thank you for your support!

We deeply appreciate our generous supporters who help sustain and grow financial awards for student experiential learning. These awards address the challenges students face with the combined costs of university and field studies, such as taking time off work, transportation costs, and paying for housing both at Hatfield and their primary residence. Over the past year, MACO provided awards to 44 students for travel and supplies essential to their academic studies. This included need-based field housing assistance for 12 students at Hatfield Marine Science Center. We also expanded our daily bus ticket award program, offering public shuttle tickets to students traveling between Hatfield and Corvallis for classes, lab work, and seminars. Additionally, students have received awards to support their individual pursuits, such as a senior in College of Liberal Arts' Marine Studies degree program who received funding for a study abroad program in marine mammal conservation.



A student works on a community resilience project in Puerto Rico, as part of a 2024 MACO Advancement Award project led by Wanda Crannell. Photo courtesy of Jamon Jordan.



Taylor Bacon, recipient of a 2024 MACO Student Award, used her funds to purchase equipment needed for a field-based course at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Photo courtesy of Taylor Bacon.

Save the Date: Dam Proud Day 2025!

Join us on April 30, 2025, for a one-day giving event to support more students in hands-on coastal and ocean learning! Or give to our fund any time at: beav.es/G83

Donate online at beav.es/G83 or send a check payable to 'OSU Foundation' with a notation for MACO and list the fund name "Marine and Coastal Opportunities Innovation Fund". Address to Oregon State University Foundation, 4238 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97330.

If you need assistance or details on other gift opportunities, call 800-354-7281 or 541-737-4218. Or email: annual.giving@oregonstate.edu



Oregon State University
Marine and Coastal
Opportunities