



# Southern California Marine Institute

Fall 2013  
Newsletter

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## Message from the Director

*By Daniel Pondella II Ph.D.*

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Life is moving at a dizzying pace at SCMI. I'm looking out of my office window at a new dive vessel dock and brand new seawater system. The dock is already full with research vessels and the Vantuna Research Group from Occidental College and its collaborator the Bay Foundation have a new dive boat on the way. The saltwater tanks are holding Dr. Allen's trophy bass for his display tank. As we expected our work to move to AltaSea has invigorated our current programs and facility. As you may know the Harbor Commission and the City Council have approved the master lease for AltaSea and dedicated \$57 million for infrastructure improvements to Berth 57, the future home of SCMI. So, it's not a surprise that hardly a day passes without requests for membership to SCMI and our work with AltaSea. If you haven't been down here recently, come see the new SCMI.

### Important Dates

#### OSI AAUS Summer Research Dive Course:

May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Enrollment Deadline:

April 30<sup>th</sup> 2014

Course Fees:

\$500 OSI member

Institutions students

\$600 Non-OSI member

Institution students

## SCMI Seawater Filtration System is Live



## AltaSea Update

*By Adriana Bell*

The air was full of excitement in Berth 57 of City Dock No. 1 in the Port of Los Angeles during the Mayor event On June 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 unveiling the proposed marine research facility, AltaSea.

The event, hosted by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, introduced the new name and proposed plans for AltaSea to the audience of university and college faculty, students, researchers, community members, and government officials. SCMI's Director Dr. Dan Pondella explained the importance behind the origins of the name AltaSea, "From the Latin root, Alta means high, deep, noble, and profound. Our goal is to forge deep and profound partnerships on every level and engage the entire Los Angeles community."

AltaSea will be developed through a public-private partnership between the Port of Los Angeles, a non-profit organization, and local private and public universities. Phase 1 of the project is estimated to cost \$185 million, \$82 million of the funding has already been committed, \$57 million by the Port of Los Angeles and \$25 million gifted by the Annenberg Foundation. Phase 1 of the project which includes Berth 57 the proposed new location for SCMI is expected to be completed in 2018.

The master lease for AltaSea was approved by the Harbor Commission on November 7, 2013 and unanimously approved by Los Angeles City Council on December 17, 2013. More information on the AltaSea can be found on their website: <http://www.altasea.org/>



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*"A Sea of Opportunity"*

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## CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina

By Adriana Bell

I cannot help but feel a little jealous and amazed when I watched the CSU Marine Biology Ichthyology students snorkeling in the crystal blue waters off Catalina Island. The 13 students and Professor Chris Lowe were positioned around a floating kelp bed observing fish when all of the sudden a pod of five dolphins circled the group. The dolphins followed the class to two other snorkeling sites posing for all the students. The day demonstrated the unique and amazing hands on learning experiences CSU Marine Biology Semester offers its students.

The fall 2013 class of 13 CSU students from 4 CSU Universities (CSULB, CPSUP, SDSU, HSU) were taught by professors; Dr. Chris Lowe from CUSLB, Dr. Bengt Allen from CSULB, Dr. Janet Kubler from CSUN, and Dr. Jayson Smith from CPSUP. The program covered the following Ocean Studies Institute course: Marine Phycology, Marine Ichthyology, and Ecology of Marine Communities. The final 3 weeks of the program students conduct Directed Research. The Directed Research presentations were held on December 10, 2013. The research projects ranged from topics on elasmobranch habitat selection to photosynthetic rates of marine macroalgae.

We are currently accepting application for the fall 2014 semester. For more information on the CSU Marine Biology Semester check out our website: <http://scmi.us/> , call us at (310)-519-3172 or email [osi.catalina@gmail.com](mailto:osi.catalina@gmail.com)



**CSU** The California State University

"Deciding to do the Catalina Semester was the best decision of my college career! It immerses you into the marine biology world and it gives me research and field experience that helped me both get and do my job. It was an all-around amazing experience!"  
—Alissa Pineda, 2008

### IMMERSE YOURSELF

**CSU Marine Biology Semester**  
**Fall 2014**

Come spend 15 weeks On Catalina Island Studying marine biology At the Wrigley Marine Science Center!

**APPLY NOW!**

The CSU Marine Biology Semester program is accepting applications for Fall 2014. The program runs August 25<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014, and is offered by the Ocean Studies Institute.

This is an outstanding opportunity for all third and fourth year marine science, biology, and life science majors to gain hands-on experience at a world-class field station with fully equipped laboratories, daily access to marine habitats, and one-on-one interaction with CSU faculty.

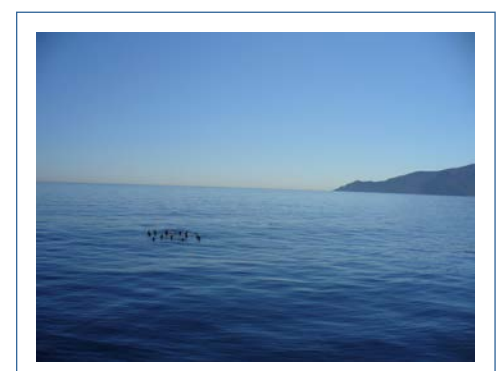
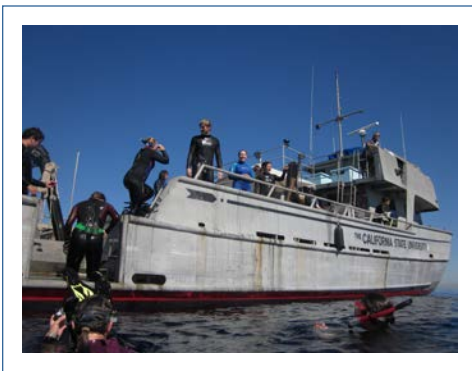
**Courses include:**

- Ecology of Marine Fishes (4 units)
- Invertebrate Zoology (4 units)
- Marine Biology (4 units)
- Directed Research (3 units)

Applications are accepted until spaces are filled. Qualified students are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Go to <http://scmi.us/category/ocean-studies-institute/csu-marine-biology-semester> for information and to download the application.

CSU is a member of the California State Universities, Chancellor's Office, Dominguez Hills, Fullerton, Long Beach, San Diego, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Jose.

Now Accepting  
Applications for the  
Fall 2014 Semester



## Mountain and Sea Adventure Collaboration

For the past 8 months Mountain and Sea Adventures (MSA) has been docking their marine vessel Wilderness Explorer at SCMI. MSA is a marine science educational program that takes K-12 students to Catalina Island to their environmental science camps. There are around 1,000 students from around 30 schools passing through SCMI each month to board their vessel. SCMI is currently collaborating with MSA to offer marine science demonstrations along our wharfs to waiting students. SCMI hopes to grow this collaboration to include classroom lessons, SCMI tours of our aquariums and possible demonstrations aboard their vessels.

More information about this collaboration and additional K-12 programs please contact Carrie Wolfe, Education and Research Coordinator, (310) 519-3172 ext. 81 or email [carrie.wolfe@csulb.edu](mailto:carrie.wolfe@csulb.edu)



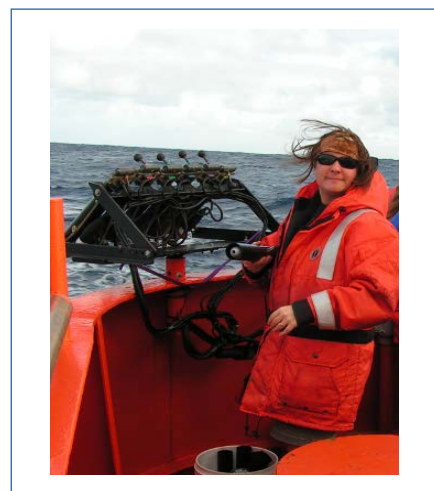
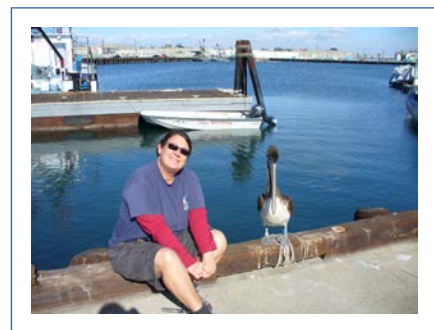
## SCMI Staff Highlight

Meet Carrie Wolfe SCMI's Education and Research Coordinator.

Carrie holds a Bachelors of Science in Environmental Biology with an emphasis in Ichthyology from California State University Northridge. She began working at SCMI in 1991 as a Demonstration Technician on the RV SeaWatch. As SCMI's Research and Education Coordinator Carrie oversees the Port of Los Angeles Water Monitoring Project which monitor various water quality parameters through sensors inside the port. You can find information about the Port of Los Angeles Water Monitoring Project on our website: <http://scmi.us/category/research/pola-water-monitoring-project> Carrie focuses much of her time on K-12 education outreach programs such as Marine Science Career Days at Longfellow Elementary and COSEE teacher training events. Carrie has been working hard on collaboration with the Mountain and Sea Adventure educational group.

Carrie is also a NOAA Ship of Opportunity Program Coordinator where she works with commercial container ships and federal and state agencies on oceanographic projects such as expendable bathythermographs (XBT) temperature studies. Carrie has a talent for locating ships in the Pacific Ocean solely by its XBT data.

If she is not in her office or on a commercial container ship you will most likely find her on the docks with our resident pelican Petunia.



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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Southern-California-Marine-Institute/288351464597980>