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FSML: Construction of Visiting Investigator/ Classroom Building at Darling Marine Center

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Final Report for Period: 09/1999 - 04/2002**Submitted on:** 05/02/2002**Principal Investigator:** Eckelbarger, Kevin J.**Award ID:** 9907560**Organization:** University of Maine**Title:**

FSML: Construction of Visiting Investigator/Classroom Building at Darling Marine Center

Project Participants**Senior Personnel****Name:** Eckelbarger, Kevin**Worked for more than 160 Hours:** Yes**Contribution to Project:**

Eckelbarger was involved in all aspects of the project from selection of architectural firm and contractor to the design and weekly review of the 10-month construction phase.

Post-doc**Graduate Student****Undergraduate Student****Other Participant****Research Experience for Undergraduates****Organizational Partners****Other Collaborators or Contacts**

No other collaborators

Activities and Findings**Research and Education Activities:**

The new 1,300 sq. ft. classroom/visiting investigator building was completed July 7, 2001 and has seen steady use since then. The building is equipped with flowing seawater, computer data ports at each of the 42 student seating areas, and a video projector for transmitting slide, Powerpoint, video, or web-based images directly on to a wall-mounted screen. The building is attached to a new flowing seawater laboratory so students have direct access to a fume hood and specimen sorting lab, as well as a flowing seawater lab designed for experiments or culturing of living organisms. As soon as the building was completed, it was used to support a 5-week Optical Oceanography graduate-level workshop sponsored and funded by NASA and ONR. On Sept. 4, 2001 a 'Semester-by-the-Sea' undergraduate education program used the classroom for the entire fall semester to teach courses in invertebrate zoology, marine ecology, and marine environmental sciences. This program is offered to any college juniors who take a series of field-oriented courses designed to give undergraduates hands-on experience in the ocean environment. In addition, a number of in-state (Colby College, Bowdoin College, Bates College, Unity College) and out-of-state universities (Northeastern Univ., Westfield State College, Smith College, Brown Univ., Gordon College, East Strausburg Univ., SUNY Geneseo) have used the building for field-based marine courses, and a variety of individual visiting investigators have conducted work in there in support of their seasonal field studies in Maine. Recent individuals included faculty from Northeastern Univ. in Boston and curators from the Invertebrate Division of the Smithsonian Institution. The building is also the primary classroom for the Center's new K-12 marine education program that trains local teachers and holds field-oriented workshops for students.

Findings:

The new classroom/visiting investigator building has permitted the Darling Center to offer overlapping courses and to accommodate visiting PI groups throughout the year because it is one of two classrooms equipped for marine-oriented activities on the waterfront portion of our campus.

The Center is used by ~30 outside universities who teach field-oriented courses on site so having a second classroom available allows more outside institutions to have access to marine environments in the vicinity of the Center. The Center also serves a large and diverse group of mostly out-of-state visiting faculty and scientists who need a shore-based facility to support their field work in Maine. The new building gives the Center much needed visitor space where there is access to flowing seawater, work stations, a large inventory of microscopes and video equipment, and access to the Internet.

Training and Development:

Although the classroom building was only completed a year ago, it has already proven its worth by allowing the Center to run the 5-week Optical Oceanography workshop last summer (2001) that demanded far greater space than was available in the past, as well as access to high-speed data lines to accommodate heavy computer use. In the fall of 2001, it gave Semester-by-the-Sea undergraduates far more space for lab sessions and student projects because the new classroom is about twice the size of the Center's other teaching classroom. Since the building is designed for maximum flexibility, it is suitable for conducting courses as well as accommodating visiting scientists because both user groups require fresh seawater, microscopes, computer ports, and work space.

Outreach Activities:

Last summer, the new classroom attracted the attention of the local print media since many of the participants in the Optical Oceanography workshop were from outside the U.S. Approximately 40 tours of the new building have been conducted by Center staff over the nine months to local residents, State officials, visiting investigators, Maine Sea Grant staff, visiting NSF program officers, and ONR and NASA administrators who sat in on the oceanography workshop. In May 2002, the University is holding a media day to promote marine education and research programs which will be attended by in-state and out-of-state science reporters. The new building will be used for all presentations by faculty researchers. In addition, the University of Maine's School of Marine Sciences is having a video produced for prospective undergraduate students that will feature the Darling Center's facilities including the new classroom/visiting investigator building.

Journal Publications

Books or Other One-time Publications

Web/Internet Site

URL(s):

Description:

Other Specific Products

Contributions

Contributions within Discipline:

Contributions to Other Disciplines:

Contributions to Human Resource Development:

The new classroom/visiting investigator building has indirectly contributed to the marine science training of numerous undergraduate and graduate students through an assortment of marine-related classes, as well as K-12 teachers who are learning to integrate marine courses into their curricula.

Contributions to Resources for Research and Education:

The new building provides a state-of-the-art resource for teaching courses and workshops in the marine sciences that is not available anywhere in the area.

Contributions Beyond Science and Engineering:

Categories for which nothing is reported:

Organizational Partners

Any Journal

Any Book

Any Product

Contributions: To Any within Discipline

Contributions: To Any Other Disciplines

Contributions: To Any Beyond Science and Engineering