UPDATE FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE

**USC WRIGLEY INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

Summertime at the Wrigley Marine Science Center is always abuzz with excitement and energy. The lab is bustling with activity from morning (sunrise swims) until the late evening (bioluminescence viewing, late night sampling). We are constantly amazed and inspired by the passion and dedication of the students and scientists as they work their way through the hectic field season. In July, we had the pleasure of hosting another successful International GeoBiology Course, training enthusiastic young scientists participating in our Research Experiences for Undergraduates program, and sharing all of this amazing work with our Trojan family. Never a dull moment!

Sincerely,

Katie Chvostal  
Development Director  
Friends of the Wrigley Institute

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**GRADUATE EDUCATION**

**International GeoBiology Course**

For 15 years, the Institute has been running our international graduate-level summer course in Geobiology—a discipline that looks at how life alters the Earth. This unique program brings top students from around the world together with leading faculty and has literally created the field of Geobiology.

This year’s course included 16 international students from 5 countries and over 25 faculty lecturers, including our own Director Ken Nealson and several past course students who are now leaders in the field. This year’s course began with a field trip to the eastern Sierra (with sampling at Mono Lake), and the Monterey Formation in Ventura, CA. Students followed this field work with lab rotations in Los Angeles to learn state-of-the-art analytical techniques. It's
not all work—the students were also treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, often referred to as “Disneyland for Nerds” by the students.

Finally, the group moved on to the unanimous highlight of the course: nearly two weeks at the USC Wrigley Marine Science Center for data processing, finalizing research projects, and plenty of snorkeling to balance it all out. The students divided into groups to work on four research projects which are used as capstone experiences to bring together all the scientific data collected in the field. Several of these projects will be presented at upcoming scientific meetings.

UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Research Experiences for Undergraduates

A highlight of our summer is always the Wrigley Institute’s ‘Research Experiences for Undergraduates’ (REU) program. Started in 2013, our REU program gives undergrads transformative research experiences, working elbow-to-elbow with faculty and grad students in summer projects at Catalina Island.

This year we’re hosting 12 REU students from around the country. This stellar group is studying everything from ancient water sources on Catalina, to invertebrate and fish ecology, to the role of bacteria in ocean waters, to kelp as a potential source of biofuel.

On top of their busy research schedules, the REUs are becoming a close-knit group of young scientists. They’ve been finding plenty of time to document the local wildlife and battle each other in epic nightly volleyball games (including some great matches with the GeoBiology students!). When the program ends, we know they will take home a ton of vital new research skills, beautiful photographs (like the one here by REU Hunter Ramo!), and friendships with mentors and each other to last a lifetime.

REU Blogs >

OUTREACH
USC Wrigley Day

A special thank you to everyone who attended this year’s ‘USC Wrigley Day’ on July 28th, presented by the USC Associates and USC Dornsife Alumni Association. It was a wonderful opportunity to reunite with old Wrigley Institute friends and meet many new ones.

Over 150 Trojans and their families joined us at the island for this special day. Wrigley scientists gave informal research talks, both in the lecture hall and in interactive displays across campus. Visitors got to enjoy guided tours of our Sustainability Park, build and fly remotely operated vehicles, tour the hyperbaric chamber, and go on nature hikes guided by the Catalina Conservancy. Director Ken Nealson engaged a large crowd throughout the day at the Boone Center with his many (many!) conversations regarding our new Sustainable Campus Initiative. To beat the heat, folks also jumped at the chance to snorkel in our beautiful marine reserve. All in all, it was a day of discovery, inspiration, and fun! A wonderful opportunity to spread the word about the important work we do!

For more information on how you can support Friends of the Wrigley Institute and the Wrigley Institute’s sustainability initiatives, please contact Katie Chvostal at chvostal@usc.edu or (310) 510-4015.

TO SUPPORT WIES TEXT WRIGLEY TO 41444

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 26, 2018 - September 1, 2018*
* excluding July 28

Saturdays at the Lab

The Philip K. Wrigley Marine Science Center hosts an open house Saturdays at 10:00 am, Memorial through Labor Day weekends, for visitors who want to see the inside of a working marine lab. This two-hour tour is free of charge and begins in the lecture hall of the Wrigley Marine Science Center, two miles east of Two Harbors on Catalina Island. During the tour, a graduate fellow will talk about their research, educators will introduce Catalina’s local species at the touch tank, and visitors can tour the new Sustainability Park and Hyperbaric Chamber (unless the chamber is being used for treatments). Can’t make it out to the island? Presentations will be archived on the Saturdays at the Lab web page.
Friends of the Wrigley Institute Labor Day Weekend Social

Please join us at the Philip K. Wrigley Marine Science Center at 4:00 pm, Saturday, September 1st to meet Director Dr. Ken Nealson and learn about WIES sustainability initiatives. This invitation is open to Friends of the Wrigley Institute and their guests. Please RSVP to Katie Chvostal at chvostal@usc.edu or (310) 510-4015 by August 27th.