

Two If By Sea Grant



Retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Ph.D., Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA administrator (l.) congratulates NYSG's new Knauss Fellows Brian Weitz (c.) and Mike Snyder (r.).
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New York Sea Grant has not one, but two fellows selected for the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Class of 2004.

Mike Snyder is a dual-degree student who has received a Masters of Public Administration degree (MPA) from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University and expects to complete the requirements for a MS in Ecology at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in the spring of 2004. Mike has been placed in the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation, on the Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries and Coast Guard. He is a former NYSG Scholar who worked on NYSG's applied research project to develop a *Cercopagis* interdiction and prevention protocol with NYSG fisheries specialist **Dave MacNeill** and researchers **Kim Schulz** of SUNY ESF and **Joe Makarewicz** at SUNY Brockport. This team is creating a brochure based on NYSG-funded research to better inform Lake Ontario boaters and fishers of aquatic invader *Cercopagis*. Because resting eggs of the fishhook water flea can be transported from lake to lake even on dried out boat lines, "We're looking at a variety of ways to track *Cercopagis* and reduce their further spread," says MacNeill.

Before his Congressional appointment starts, Mike is working in Washington, DC at the headquarters of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, the parent organization of Sea Grant in the federal government) as part of the Research Participation Program administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Through his current appointment at NOAA's

Office of Education and Sustainable Development, he is helping to establish an agency-wide education program that will promote environmental literacy of ocean and coastal sciences.

Says Mike, "I'm both extremely excited about my placement and grateful to NYSG for their continued support. Sea Grant has earned the respect and admiration of people who are involved in coastal research and stewardship efforts throughout the country. It's an honor to be part of its rich tradition. The Knauss fellowship is recognized by those who work on ocean policy as an outstanding opportunity, and I can't wait to begin."

Brian Weitz received a BA in environmental biology from Columbia University, and then an MPA in environmental policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. For his MPA, Brian worked as a consultant to the Ocean Conservancy, helping to develop their position on potential changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Brian also did research on the Salmon Planning Act which has yet to pass in Congress, but calls for the removal of four dams on the Salmon River to help restore salmon in the Pacific northwest.

Says Brian, "Given the recent release of the Pew Commissions report on the oceans and the expected release of the US Oceans Commission report, I cannot think of a better time to begin this fellowship. Hopefully this next year will see marine issues pushed to the front of public awareness, and there will be a tremendous amount of momentum and enthusiasm in Congress to accomplish what needs to be done."

Like Mike, Brian is assigned to the same Senate subcommittee. Each will be working for a different political party, so they should have a very interesting, and hopefully productive year. Both Fellows are eager to get their feet wet in the program that began February 1.

The Knauss Fellowship, established in 1979, provides a unique educational experience to students who have an interest in ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources. The program matches qualified graduate students with hosts in the legislative and executive branches located in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one year paid fellowship. The program is named in honor of one of Sea Grant's founders, former NOAA Administrator, **John A. Knauss**.

— **Barbara A. Branca**