



# NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## Students Selected for NOAA Class of 2009 Graduate Sciences Program

September 10, 2009



Front Row (L-R): Adyan Rios, Carina (Micki) Ream, Jo-Ann Rosario-Llantín. Back Row (L-R): Jonathan Martínez, Claudette Ojo, Samuel (Kersey) Sturdivant. Not pictured: Nelsie Ramos, Brandis Matthews, and Melanie Harrison.

[High resolution](#) (Credit: NOAA)

- Jonathan Martínez, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Claudette Ojo, Columbia University
- Nelsie Ramos, Howard University
- Carina (Micki) Ream, Stanford University
- Adyan Rios, Virginia Tech
- Jo-Ann Rosario-Llantín, Florida Institute of Technology
- Samuel (Kersey) Sturdivant, College of William and Mary

Nine exceptional graduate students have been selected by NOAA to participate in the agency's 2009 Graduate Science Program. The GSP students are pursuing graduate degrees in atmospheric, environmental, or oceanic sciences or remote sensing technology – scientific fields that are integral to NOAA's mission.

The Graduate Science Program, one of several scholarship programs at NOAA, provides students with tuition through completion of their master's or doctorate degree, plus a housing allowance, travel expenses and salary during an annual 16-week work period at a NOAA laboratory. Students also are mentored by NOAA scientists while conducting their research.

The Class of 2009 GSP participants are:

- Melanie Harrison, University of Maryland - Baltimore County
- Brandis Matthews, North Carolina A&T State University

"This program is a win-win situation for NOAA and the students," said Louisa Koch, NOAA's director of Education. "The students get practical experience working with our scientists plus significant financial assistance – and NOAA benefits by having these talented young scientists commit to working for our agency following graduation."

Fifty-one graduate students majoring in NOAA-mission related sciences have been placed throughout NOAA since the program was reinstated in 2000. One student from the 2006 class, Dr. Michael Erwin, earned his Ph.D. in biology from the University of South Carolina. He is currently working as a fishery biologist with NOAA's Fisheries Service in Gloucester, Mass.

"The experience and insight I gained while working at [NOAA's Fisheries Service Northeast Regional office](#) was incredibly valuable," said Erwin. "My time with the protected resources office allowed me to observe and participate in the utilization of genetics data I was able to use in preparing for my doctoral dissertation and information that is one of the primary tools to assist in scientific based fishery management decisions."

In 2007, Congress passed the America COMPETES Act that provided [NOAA's Office of Education](#) with a mandate to educate the public about ocean, coastal, Great Lakes, and atmospheric science and stewardship. As a world leader in understanding these issues and how they impact our health, our economy, and our future, NOAA embraces the opportunity to expand the public's understanding of Earth's natural systems.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources.