



Marine Science Student Interview

Name: Kelly Taylor

Undergraduate institution and program: Wilmington College in Wilmington, OH with a bachelors of science in Chemistry

What made you choose UNCW?

The beach, of course – also not a huge university (student population)

What is the difference between marine science as a Masters program and something like Marine Biology, Chemistry or Geology?

A huge general base of knowledge – includes all the primary disciplines which are so integral anyway: biology, chemistry, geology, and physics. More interesting and definitely puts me at an advantage with such a broad base of knowledge – not so disciplined or narrow subject content.

Describe your schedule, what is a normal week like at UNCW?

Well for the past 2 semesters I've not had any classes. I finished my classes the 1st year and have just been working on straight research. Honestly, it's the way to go. Without the pressure and schedule of classes I definitely have a more open schedule as far as sampling and research go. My schedule is not hectic, usually.

How do you meet the cost of study?

Well the 1st year I received a tuition waver so that I was just paying in-state tuition. I also had a TA position for both semesters and took out a tiny, small loan to make up the difference of tuition.

What are your plans for after graduation?

Try to find a decent job in this overcrowded city for a couple years and then move on. Hopefully it will involve some type of environmental work with me leaving a positive impact on something we're so quickly destroying. I would like to make a difference, even if only a small one.

What have been the highlights and low lights of the program so far?

It really is an excellent program. The marine science graduates are all over the place because of their different backgrounds (chemistry, biology, geology). So there's not as much interaction between marine science grads as there are between chemistry grads or biology grads. We are really creating our own niche.

What advice do you have for students thinking of applying to the MS Marine Science program at UNCW?

Look into the program, talk to Dr. Willey about what it has to offer them and look into the research the professors are doing to make sure it interests them.