

[student] voices

Students Present Research in Greece

By Alima Catellacci '07 and
Kulia Wooddell '07

As the sun was rising over Mauna Kea on a clear Big Island morning, we were suiting up for a dive at Puako, Hawai'i. Our friends and classmates were preparing for a typical day at school while we were testing scuba tanks and fitting masks. As the air bubbles cleared from our plunge into the deep blue of the Pacific, the familiar coral, sand, and marine life of the Puako turtle cleaning station came into view. Video camera ready, we approached our viewing area 30 feet below the surface and began the wait for a turtle to appear for cleaning. We could see clusters of the yellow tang and the golden ring surgeonfish, the most commonly documented cleaning fish. And there, just a shadow at first, slowly and gracefully approaching, the first turtle emerged from the vastness of the underwater world.

For the past year, under the guidance of Marc Rice, we have been studying and documenting the interactions between Hawaiian green turtles (*honu*) and reef fish at Puako. Commonly referred to as "cleaning symbiosis," both the turtles and the fish benefit in this mutualistic relationship. Turtles from the Puako area come to the cleaning station where herbivorous reef fish remove algae from their shells and soft surfaces. We were interested in a number of things related to this process.

First, we wanted to know which fish most frequently cleaned the turtles. We discovered that the yellow tang and the golden ring surgeonfish were the leaders among the Puako fish in cleaning green sea turtles. Then we wanted to know just what a turtle had to do to attract fish for cleaning.

Over the course of our study this year, we documented, through video, and countless hours of data analysis, four specific behaviors the turtles exhibited when they entered the cleaning station to attract fish. One of the most beautiful sights we saw was a gathering of three turtles, one floating



Above: Marc Rice, Alima Catellacci (center), and Kulia Wooddell in front of their exhibit at the symposium.

Top: Getting ready for a dive with symposium researchers in the Aegean Sea in Crete.

above the other, surrounded by clusters of yellow tang and golden ring surgeons, busily doing their job of cleaning the patient turtles. We also began to recognize individual turtles by their face markings and identified 96 individuals using their head scale patterns.

All our work—the many dives, the missed classes, the hours in front of the computer organizing our data—was rewarded by a trip to the island of Crete, Greece, in March 2006. We were the youngest presenters to attend the 26th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium, which was held this year in Aghia Pelagia, Crete. Scientists from around the world gathered to address the issues confronting endangered sea turtle populations. We prepared a poster and a video of our research and were part of a comprehensive poster presentation on sea turtles living in the oceans and seas of our planet.

There we were, in a room full of the most prestigious marine scientists from Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe, North and South America showing research and information

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on the *honu*, the loggerhead, the leatherback, the Olive Ridley, the Kemps Ridley, the flat back, and the hawksbill turtles. Not only were we among these scientists, they asked many questions and were very interested in our research project as well. We met many dedicated scientists and learned so much about sea turtle populations and conservation efforts. Our video was well received, and copies of it are now in Nigeria, Syria, and Belgium.

One of the most interesting people we met was Dr. Bolu Solarin, Head of Fishing Technology at the Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research. He came to the symposium to present his country's progress in developing a shrimp trawl that would allow captured sea turtles to escape. He also came to learn what other countries were doing around the world to preserve and protect sea turtle populations. He gave us a photograph he had taken of a turtle that had been trapped and then freed by the Nigerian

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to know that the CSU wool judging team had “a very successful season,” having recently returned from the Houston Livestock Show. LUCIA POLAK says she had a good year at Santa Clara where she is majoring in mechanical engineering and minoring in dance. Lucia will be home in Waimea for the summer. It seems RYAN HANSON-SWANER hasn’t strayed far from the Pacific. She says she’s been “surfing and working” in California and Hawaii. Next year she will be back at UH playing water polo and living with JULIE MCGEE. They have big plans to work on their tans. Speaking of California, we heard from JESSICA GRAYBILL in Santa Barbara. She will be attending school in the fall to study early childhood education. We also heard from NICK QUAINANCE again. He wanted to share a photo of himself at Camp Pendleton (please feel free to send us pictures with your news!). BEN HONEY is

relieved to have finished up his year, well, academically. This summer Ben has an engineering internship at the W.M. Keck Observatory in Waimea. EMILY COHEN is looking forward to picking up a tennis racket again and asks that all film producers please contact her at the above address.

2006

Emily Hart

P.O. Box 2128 Kamuela, HI 96743
ehart@hpa.edu

Welcome to your first edition of the Ma Ke Kula as an alumnus or alumna. We did it! I’ll be sending out an email in September asking for news for the Fall issue of the Ma Ke Kula, so please be sure to answer. We may even have a little room for some photos so be sure to send jpgs, too. Have a wonderful summer and exciting adventures in fall! ■

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people. Dr. Solarin became our friend during our week in Crete, and we enjoyed hearing his stories about Nigeria.

Greece is a wonderful country and we had many great adventures while we were there. Before the conference, we were able to see Athens, visit the Acropolis and the Agora, and see the famous Archeological Museum. We traveled by ferry from Athens to Paros, where we toured the island on four wheelers. From Paros we went to Naxos, where we saw a 35-foot statue that was 2,500 years of Apollo, in the remote mountainous interior of the island.

From Naxos we ferried to Santorini, where we took a small boat trip around the volcanic island and actually jumped into the Aegean sea for a freezing swim! We finally landed on Crete, where we explored as much of the island as we could before the symposium started. A memorable experience was our journey to Mount Ida, where we explored the cave where the mythological Zeus was supposedly raised in safety from his ravenous father, Cronos.



Kulia Wooddell (left), Alima Catellacci, and Marc Rice with ancient pots used by Minoans in Knossos.

With Mr. and Mrs. Rice, we went to the Palace of Knossos, and the Archeological Museum of Crete. We even went for a dive with Mr. Rice in the cold waters right off shore from our hotel, the Capsis. Thanks to Mr. Rice and his faithful mentoring, we have been able to do this research and have this unforgettable experience in Greece. Greece is an awesome place, with friendly and generous people, fantastic food, and incredible natural beauty.

Our research will continue this next school year, as we focus on specific turtles and their daily behaviors and habits. We plan to use time depth recorders and GPS technology to more accurately record turtles’ movement, feeding habits, and frequency of visits to the cleaning station. ■

Mahalo

The Office of Admissions would like to thank the following alumni for interviewing applicants to HPA for the 2006-2007 year. Your involvement is greatly appreciated. Scott Andrews ’93, Jean Adler Burgess ’81, Kimberley Giffin ’94, Farris Bogue James ’91, Lance Jeffery ’89, Kosei Kobayashi ’92, Eric Marconato ’95, Amy Nakamaru ’90, Jenny Santoro ’89, Doug Sheehan ’65, Cathie Toyoda Summers ’92, David Wilson ’98. If you would like to be involved in student interviews, please send an email to Stephanie Rutgers ’89 at srutgers@hpa.edu. We’re in this together! It’s a great way to stay connected with HPA and to interact with the next generation of HPA students.

Please cast your vote on our alumni site (alumni.hpa.edu) for members of the Alumni Association Executive Committee who are up for election. Voting ends September 1, 2006.

Luau in California!

Start planning now to get together for Hawaiian food, music, and fun at Celia DeBenedetti’s home in Los Altos on Saturday, May 26, 2007. Watch the alumni site and the winter and spring issues of the Ma Ke Kula for more details.

Save The Date

32nd Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend coming your way on June 1-3, 2007. Reunion years for ’57, ’62, ’67, ’72, ’77, ’82, ’87, ’92, ’97, and ’02. Start planning now!

Lights! Camera! Action!



Dick Solmssen performs in the Davies Chapel as documentary filmmaker Bill Kubota captures the moment. Solmssen was interviewed for a documentary about architect Vladimir Ossipoff, who designed many of the buildings on campus. The documentary is being produced in conjunction with an Ossipoff exhibition at the Honolulu Academy of Arts scheduled to open in the fall of 2007—Ossipoff’s centennial.