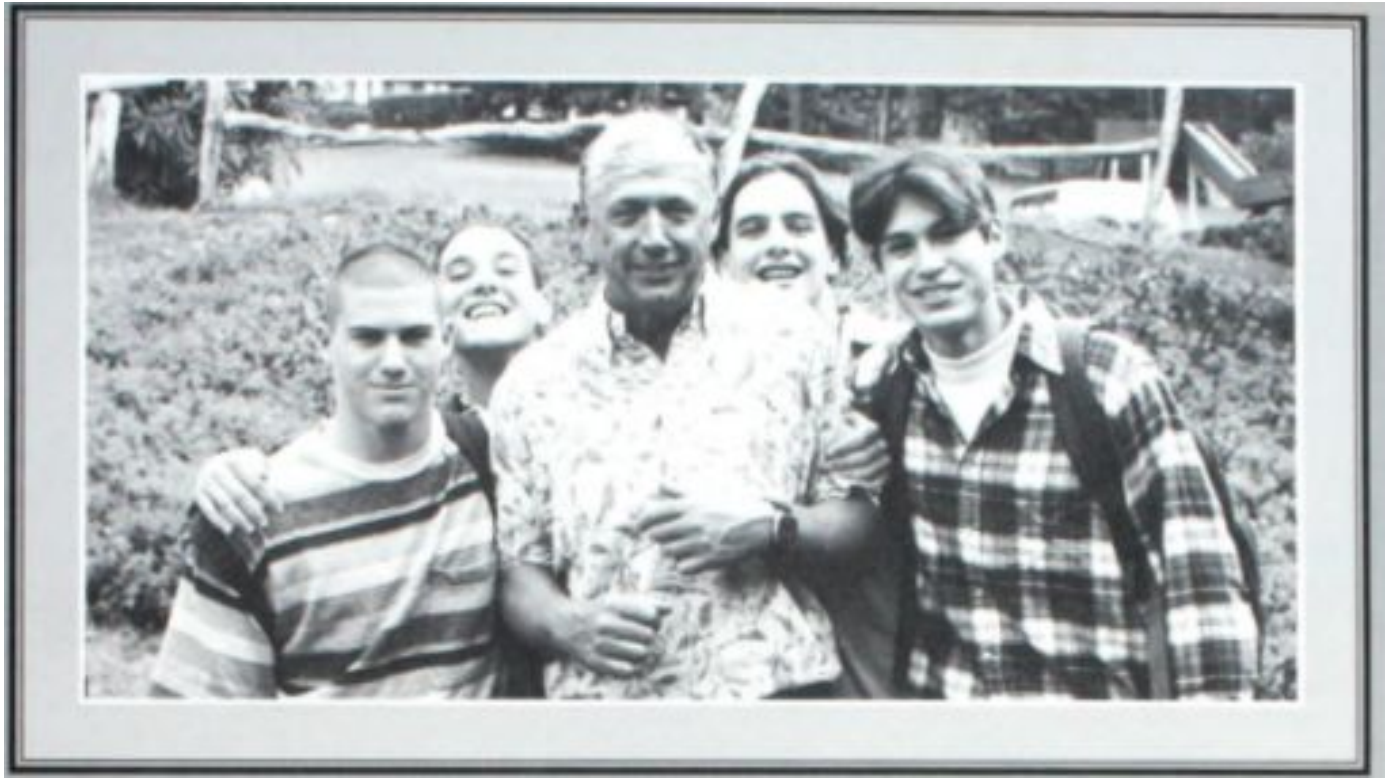
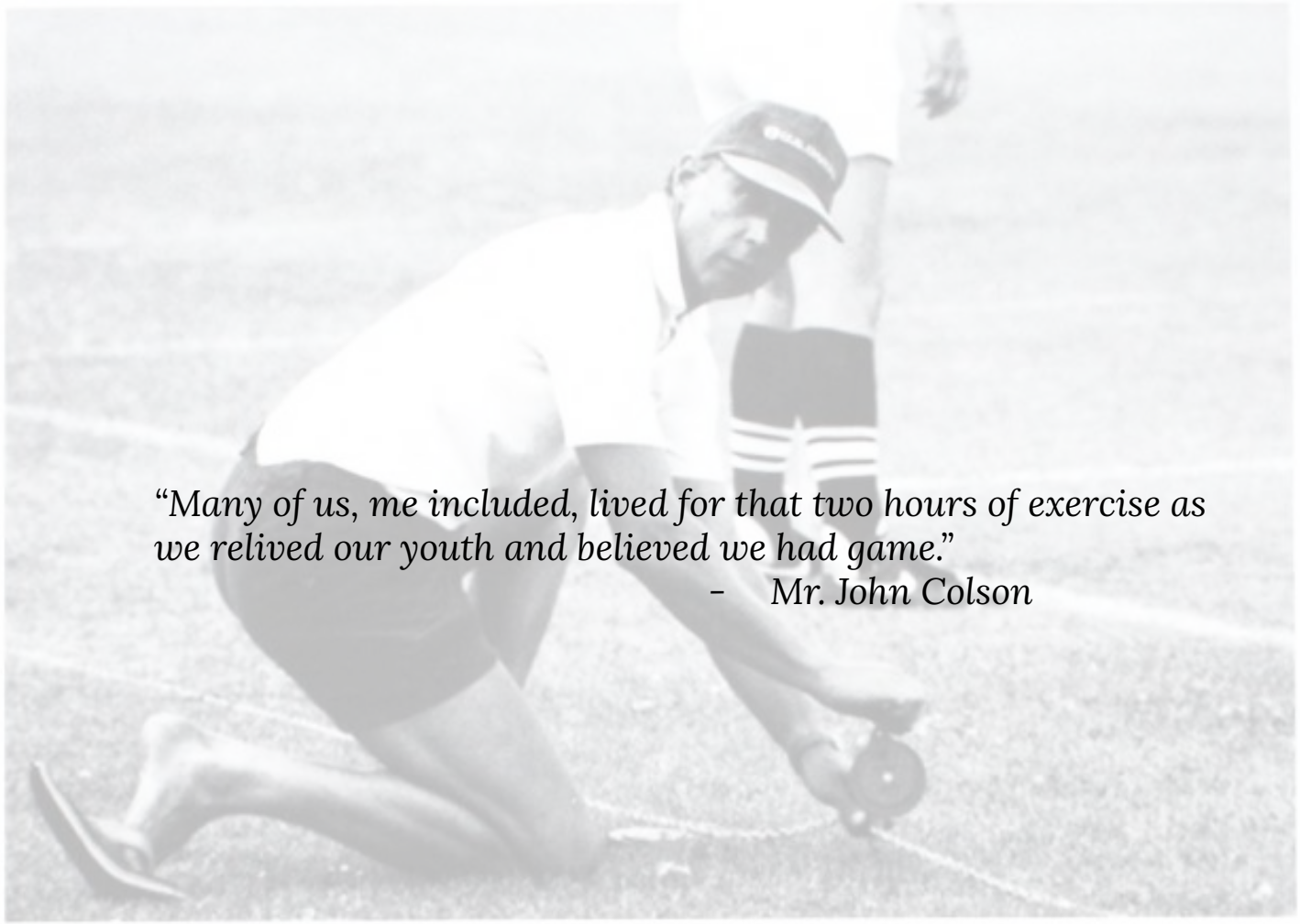

50
YEARS
@ HPA

Mr. Rice



Mr. Rice: "Maybe if I ignore it, it will go away. Do you think they'll notice me?"

Above: With the help of Mr. Rice, we are able to learn about the secrets of the ocean.



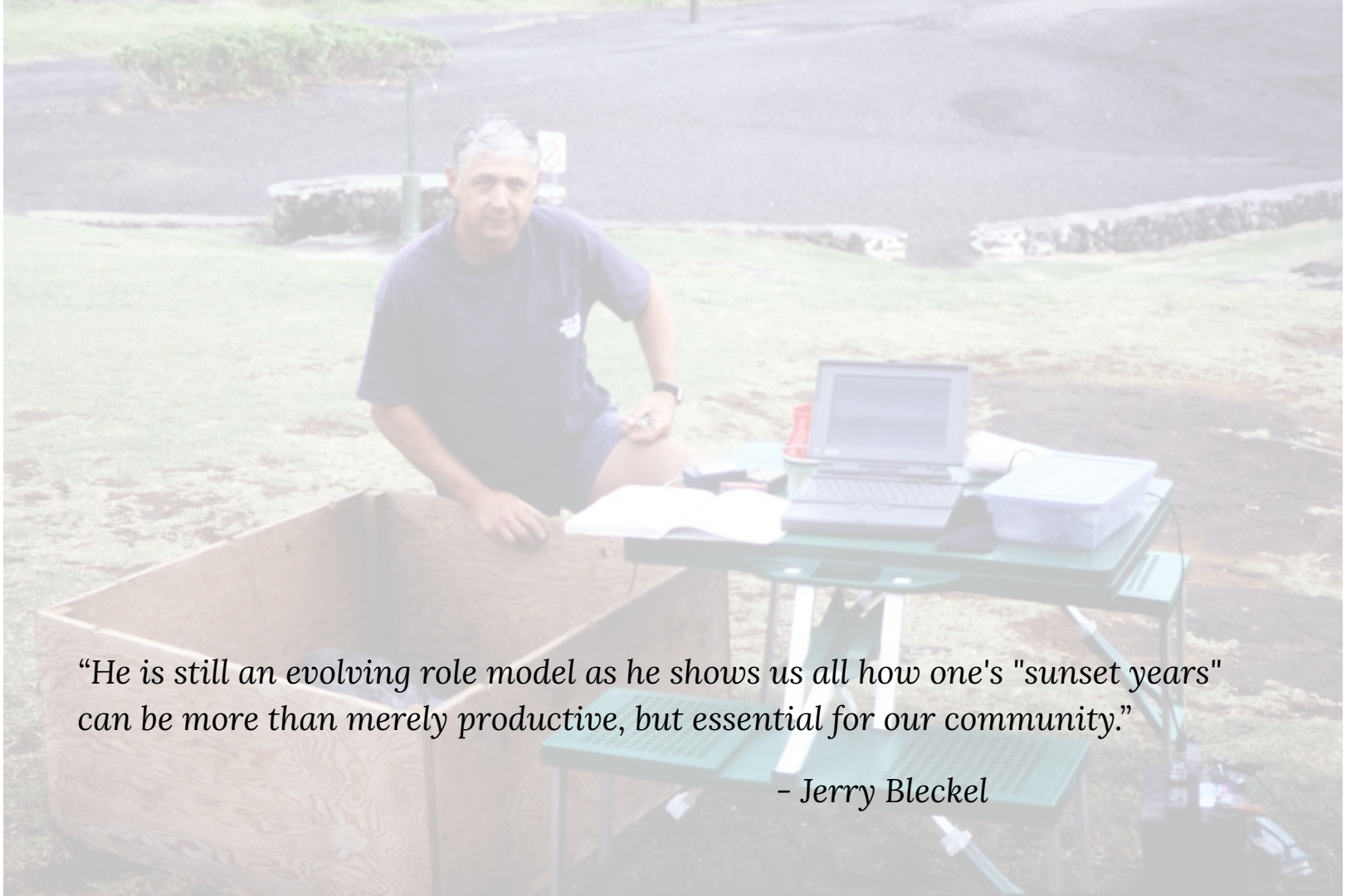
“Many of us, me included, lived for that two hours of exercise as we relived our youth and believed we had game.”

– Mr. John Colson

Pursuit of excellence: striving for the highest and best results

Integrity: living honestly and with moral courage


SAIMU
TRANSPORT

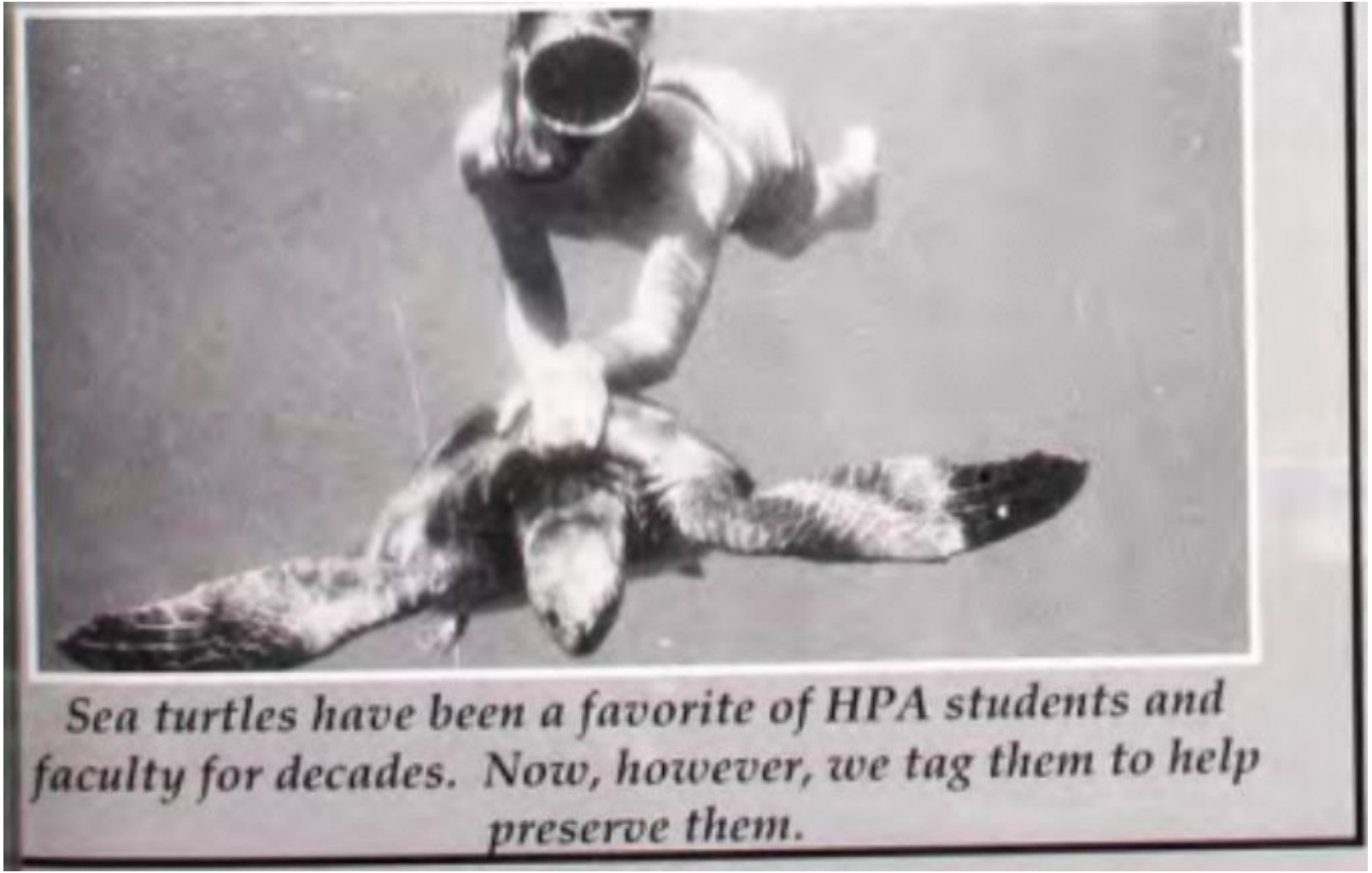


“He is still an evolving role model as he shows us all how one's "sunset years" can be more than merely productive, but essential for our community.”

- Jerry Bleckel

“ Back in the 90s your dad once, by accident, deleted the main database. Fortunately I had a daily backup and was able to restore the database. Needless to say, your dad was greatly relieved.”

- Steve Bernstein



Sea turtles have been a favorite of HPA students and faculty for decades. Now, however, we tag them to help preserve them.

TOP LEFT: Kathryn Treacy reviews images taken by the remote video camera at Puako. CENTER: Marc Rice searches the NOAA database for previous capture data. RIGHT: An MK-10 global positioning system and time-depth-recorder.

FAR LEFT: Marc Rice with Kulia Wooddell (left) and Alima Catellacci in Knossos, March 2006. The students were the youngest presenters at the 26th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium in Crete, Greece.

LEFT: L to r: On board the Norwegian Cruise Lines' "Pride of Hawaii" with Linda Balazs and Captain Evans Hoyt. Balazs and Rice released nine satellite-tagged juvenile green turtles from the ship off the coast of Kaua'i on November 4, 2007.

> “Getting kids out into the field is what this program is all about. While I do enjoy the research, the focus is the students ... involving them, and letting them do the work.”
>
> —Marc Rice, co-director, Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program

SCIENCE BLOG

A Long-Term Partnership Continues Prosperity for Sea turtles, Students, and Scientists

December 06, 2019

NOAA scientists work with students from Hawai'i Preparatory Academy to conduct research on Hawaiian green sea turtles on Hawai'i Island.

Research | Pacific Islands

The morning air is cool in Waimea at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy (HPA), where we are greeted by sleepy-eyed students. We prepare to head out for the day to conduct sea turtle research. The team is quick to wake up and eager to get started, so we pack our gear in the car and take off down the mountain toward the coast.

The students are participants in the HPA Sea Turtle Research Program, a hands-on research experience program that enables students to conduct scientific research side-by-side with NOAA scientists. While driving to our field site, I get a chance to chat with Marc Rice, the director of the program.

> *"I've been a part of HPA's sea turtle program for four years. This is my last year so I'm excited to do this project with everyone from NOAA, Mr. Rice and Ms. Jim… and to teach other students how to take blood samples." –Ivanni, a senior at Hawaii Preparatory Academy*

And Ivanni has been a huge help to the NOAA researchers involved in the program. "I am impressed by how quickly the students learn, their drive for completing the project, and their flawless execution of difficult research methods!" Dr. Allen tells me. "I now feel superfluous because the three students working on the sex ratio project are incredible and make an amazing team!"

Marc and Laura tell me that many student alumni of the HPA sea turtle program expressed that their experience really helped them to map their personal conservation values, as well as their professional goals. The program brings together experienced scientists and our next generation of researchers through real-world research experience, which encourages the students to think about ways they can solve conservation issues.

Ivanni and other students working on the project. They are processing sea turtle blood samples in the laboratory at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy. Photo: NOAA Fisheries/Ali Bayless.

Dear Mr. Rice,
We wrote some time ago about your turtle program and my pre scientific paper. My name is Julian Graziadei and I attended HPA two years ago. I also attended your program and it inspired me a lot, that was essentially the reason why I wrote my paper about marine pollution, specifically on the Green Sea turtle. Therefore, I am sending you my complete pre scientific paper. I just want to tell you that this program in Hawaii was amazing and it fascinated me. Thank you for inspiring me!!!

Sincerely,
Julian Graziadei

Hello, Mr. Rice.
This is Brian Lee from HPA class of 2014. It's been more than 5 years since I graduated high school and I hope you can still remember me.

First of all, I have graduated from Johns Hopkins as a behavioral biology major this May and recently got accepted to Kyoto University Wildlife Research Center for a 2 years master's program. At college, I became interested in primates and was able to participate in a project on social structures of monkeys. In Japan, I will be studying social behaviors of chimpanzees and bonobos and hopefully expand my interest into other species.

I am sending this email to say a sincere thank you for being a great mentor in my career. Looking back at the times at Hawaii, you have provided me such precious opportunities for the research experience on the turtles and the trip to New Orleans, scuba diving, your marine biology classes, and all the other inspirations that you have given me have shaped my current interest in wildlife. I apologize for realizing this and sending a thank you email very late and again, thank you so much.

I am very excited to continue to learn about animals at Japan, so I wanted to share my updates with you, who helped me to realize what I like the most. I hope you and your family are doing well in this chaotic situation.

I hope this email finds you well.

Sincerely,
Brian Lee

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Internationales Symposium über Meeresschildkröten in den USA

Save the sea turtles!

Meeresschildkröten sind ein unentbehrlicher Bestandteil des Ökosystems der Meere und somit auch wichtig für uns Menschen. Deshalb müssen Meeresschildkröten besser geschützt werden, auch in den Gewässern rund um den Inselstaat Vanuatu.

Juli 2019 in Kamuela auf Big Island, Hawai'i, USA: Wiedersehen der IGS-Schülerin Sara Thiel in der Hawai'i Preparatory Academy (HPA) mit Laura Rice Jim und Marc R. Rice. Beide Lehrkräfte der HPA erhielten Kurse während Saras Auslandsschuljahrs 2017/18, wofür sie von der IGS beurlaubt war. In Marc Rices Programm „Sea Turtle Research" beitastete sie sich höchst praktisch im Umgang mit Meeresschildkröten. Beispielsweise lernte sie das Taggling (Kennzeichnen), das zur Feststellung und Pflege deren Bestands diente. Sara und Marc Rice befreiten auf Hawai'i Schildkröten, die in Isoliernetzen gefangen waren, beispielsweise am berühmten Black Sand Beach von Big Island.

Begeistert nahmen Sara, Holly Hoffbauer und Tess Savage das Angebot an, unter Laura und Marcs Leitung im Januar 2018 zu einer 10-tägigen Meeresschildkröten-Exkursion auf den südpazifischen Inselstaat Vanuatu aufzubrechen. Ziel sollte sein, Meeresschildkröten mit einem GPS-Sender auszustatten. Damit könnten ihre Bewegungen im Meer und ihr Lebensraum erforscht werden. Warum auf Vanuatu? „Im die Meeresschildkröten in diesem Bereich besser und zielgerichteter schützen zu können", soweit die Erklärung der Experten. „Dazu ist es wichtig zu wissen, wohin und wie sich die bedrohten Meerestiere bewegen."

Die Expedition gelangte über Vanuatus Hauptstadt Port Vila auf der Insel Efate per Boot auf Moso-Island, eine von 83 Inseln des kleinen Staats. Hier, wo unberührte natürliche Schildkrötenstrände zu finden sind, hatte ein „Chief" aus dem Kreis der Inselbewohner die Erlaubnis erteilt, an den Schildkröten zu forschen und ein Boot bereitgestellt, mit dem die Forscher nach Sonnenuntergang zu verschiedenen Lagerstränden fahren konnten.

Zum Eierablegen steigt jede Schildkröte innerhalb von drei bis fünf Jahren nur nachts aus dem Meer an ihren eigenen Geburtsstrand. Dort musste das Team geduldig suchen und warten. Acht Nächte bescherten Begegnungen mit drei Karettschildkröten, die jeweils mit dem kleinen Sender und einer Antenne ausgestattet wurden. Nur drei? Marc Rice: „Ja wir hatten noch Glück, denn ein Jahr später begegnete das Nachfolger-Team der HPA nur einer Schildkröte." Er zeigt dabei ihre aktuelle Position auf seinem Bildschirm.

Die drei präparierten und auf Sendung gehenden Meeresbewohnerinnen wurden auf die Namen Teslaba, Lucy und Ethano getauft. Ihre Positionen konnte das Team zwischen elf und 14 Wochen verfolgen. Ethanos Signale kamen zuletzt aus Neu Kaledonien, während Teslaba und Lucy die zum Great Barrier Reef vor die aktuellsten Küste schwammen. Im Blog der HPA ist dazu sachlich bis wehmütig zu lesen: „Am 25.04.2018 empfingen wir lediglich Informationen über die Position von Ethana. Wir erhalten keine Informationen mehr von Lucy und Teslaba. Es könnten Batterieprobleme, Algenablagerung auf dem Sender, Zerstörung der Antenne, elektronische Fehlfunktionen sein oder es könnte auch sein, dass sie gestorben sind ... ???". Das wäre kein Wunder, denn zahlreiche Meeresschildkröten landen jährlich in Fischernetzen, in Küchen, auf Tellern und bei Sammlern.

Die weltweite satellitengestützte Meeresschildkröten-Forschung steht erst am Anfang. In Vanuatu war dies die erste Expedition dieser Art. Deshalb waren die gewonnenen Erkenntnisse das HPA-Teams von besonderer Bedeutung für das 39. Internationale Symposium über Meeresschildkröten vom 2. - 8. Februar 2019 in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. Dass Sara Thiel daran teilnehmen durfte, ist unter anderem Marc Rice zu verdanken. Er ist Mitglied der IUCN Marine Turtle Specialist Group, Oceania Region, mit rund 300 Experten aus mehr als 95 Ländern und Regionen (IUCN = Internationale Union zur Naturerhaltung).

Publications:

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Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
Bioprospecting Permit VAN-ENV-03419

Summary Report on Authorized Activity
January 7, 2018 - April 29, 2020

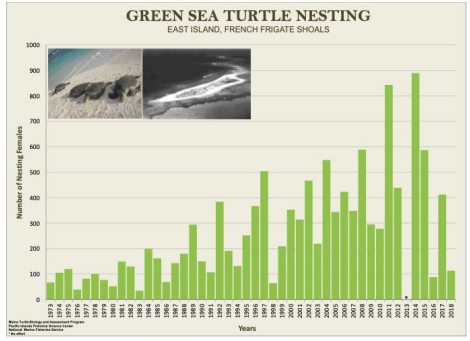
Post Nesting Migrations of Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) Nesting at Moso Island, Republic of Vanuatu

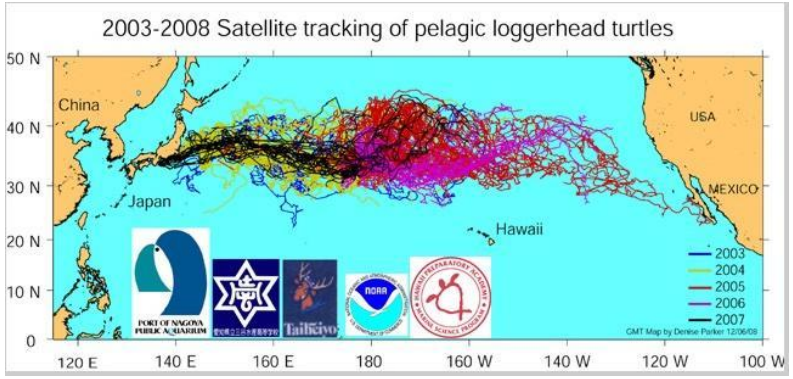
Marc R. Rice[1], Laura M.R. Jim[1], Francis R. Hickey[2]

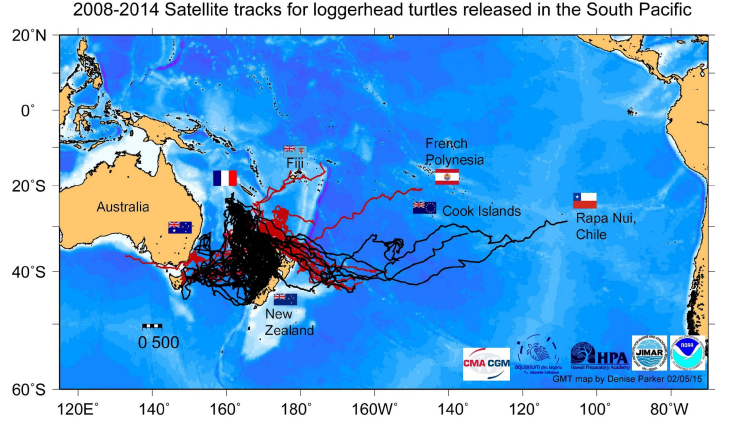
1. Sea Turtle Research Program, Hawaii Preparatory Academy, Kamuela, Hawaii
2. Traditional Resource Management Program at Vanuatu Cultural Centre, Republic of Vanuatu

An American Girl

HPA eighth grader Meimei Nakahara was featured in the September/October 2007 issue of *American Girl* for her work with threatened Hawaiian green turtles. Nakahara has been working with juvenile green turtles at the Mauna Lani Bay Hotel and Resort over the past year as part of the school's Cooperative Sea Turtle Research Program under the direction of Marc Rice, director of HPA's Sea Turtle Research Program, and George Balazs, leader of the Marine Turtle Research Program, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.







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Mahalo nui loa

MARC RICE