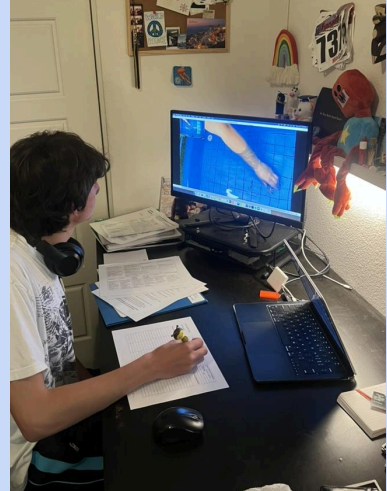
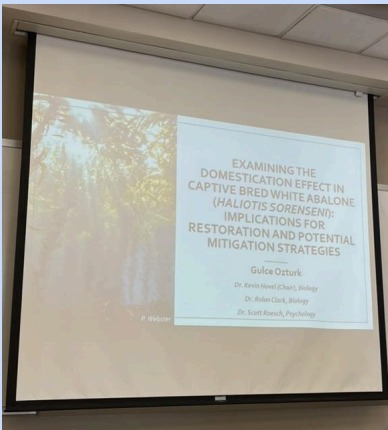


Hello!

My name is Dorian Marquez and I am a student at San Diego State University! This summer I had the amazing opportunity of being an intern at the SDSU CMIL and am sad to be ending my experience so soon but am happy to remember the moments I had. I worked under the guidance of my MURP mentor, Gulce Ozturk. Gulce is a master's student at SDSU and her research studied the behavioral plasticity of the white abalone which is a highly endangered species in California. My job under Gulce's supervision was to watch a flash drive full of videos that Gulce had recorded of interactions with various white abalone and observe any behavioral activity that abalone displayed when either being stimulated or not. Watching how abalone interact was very interesting and getting the chance to help a graduate student with their research and then present it made me feel the most fulfilled! The majority of my experience in CMIL MURP was virtual but with the virtual environment I was able to have a flexible schedule and balance out my school, homelife and work all at once.



Throughout the summer, I sought to achieve new skills that would help me understand better how the life of a marine biologist may look like. I will say that this summer absolutely helped me gain this insight and has become one of my most memorable learning experiences. I learned how to utilize an application called Trello that helped me and my team of other observers to keep track of all of the videos to watch. I had a total of 70+ videos to watch over the summer that all contained abalone interactions with or without tongs poking at the abalone every 30 seconds. After observing each video I would upload my observations on excel where I would then track if I saw the epipodial or cephalic tentacles of the abalone extend, if the abalone would move around, if they would stay suctioned after being poked and even if they ran towards shelter (the ultimate goal)! I would say that the process of watching each little video made me eager for the next one to find shelter and perform a desired behavior. The overall experience was very breezy and in a way quite fun! One of the things that stuck with me most throughout this whole working experience was actually getting to know a marine biologist. Gulce's work fascinated me because one of the main reasons why I chose to center myself around marine biology is because I want to see a better environment and world for the generations to come and for the wildlife that has long existed before us. Gulce's project being centered around helping a species at the risk of extinction gave me



hope and showed me that there are amazing scientists like Gulce that are also at work for a better world.

Not only did getting to know a marine biologist help me to learn about the career itself, but getting to know the workload and the opportunities that are available for students also made me realize how broad the field is. As a GIS (Geographic Information Systems) major, my department has told me how applicable GIS is to many realms of science and especially in marine science. This entire MURP experience already showed me a little insight into some of the technologies that are used for ecological related activities and how data and keeping track of data is very important in the scientific realm. As I begin to dedicate my studies towards ecology and marine related sciences, I realize now that working as a marine biologist means regressing a lot more skills that you might not even know apply! Some other skills I learned under Gulce's guidance are how GIS is very useful in the field of marine science, how one could achieve their dive certificate and a ton of other resources and opportunities that don't simply just stick with marine biology.

The entire MURP experience was an amazing learning experience from not only Gulce but other marine scientists at the CMIL. I especially highly appreciate the CMIL staff for having a workshop on careers in marine science and especially graduate school. Learning from different CMIL staff members on their unique graduate program, what they studied, where they studied and the steps they took to apply for graduate school, made me realize there might be a hope for my educational future! Graduate school has always been something on my mind that I never thought would be a possibility to pursue. However, after being informed on the steps one should take, I think it's very possible now and might be something I want to pursue.



Ultimately I will have to say goodbye to this lovely program but I will not be saying goodbye (and maybe instead hello) to the world of marine science and the unknown that is yet to be uncovered.

Thank you to MURP for showing me an amazing summer!

Dorian M.