

Cobb Endowment Award Competition – Spring 2008

The Cobb Endowment Committee is proud to announce two new awards available to URI undergraduates to support experiential education in marine biology: **The Cobb Endowment Independent Research Award** and the **Cobb Endowment Field Study Award**.

Applications are **Due on March 10, 2008** and decisions will be announced by April 1, 2008.

Completed applications (hard copy, no e-mails) should be submitted to Dr. Jacqueline F. Webb, Coordinator – Marine Biology Program, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI 02881. Letters of recommendation should be sent via traditional mail (or via-email followed by hard copy) so that they are received by the deadline.

1) Cobb Endowment Independent Research Award

Undergraduates conducting independent research in marine biology or marine ecology are invited to apply for the Cobb Endowment Independent Research Award. This award will provide funding for costs of conducting an independent research project, including travel to research site, housing, supplies and equipment (and costs of getting materials to and from the research site), and lab/facilities/diving fees; the cost of food/meals will not be covered. The award is intended to provide the sort of support that is not available through other URI student research programs (e.g., Coastal Fellows, EPSCoR, ENBRE, etc.).

Application must include:

- 1) A cover letter, with all pertinent contact information, and the names of those providing letters of support (see items 5 and 6, below)
- 2) A two-page Research Proposal (plus appropriate literature citations) indicating the title of the project, the name of the faculty member sponsoring the project, the research question being asked, the rationale for the choice of research site/facilities, the methods being used, anticipated outcomes, the significance of the project to the field of marine biology, a timeline for the collection and analysis of data, and a proposed plan for the presentation of the results of this project in an appropriate scholarly venue (e.g., student or professional conference).
- 3) A Budget indicating the costs of: travel to and from the research site, housing at the site, supplies and equipment (and costs of getting materials to and from the research site), and lab/facilities/diving fees. A statement of the level and type of similar support being sought elsewhere, and anticipated dates of notification must also be included with the Budget.

4) An unofficial copy of the student's URI transcript

5) Letters of support from the student's URI academic advisor **and** (if not the same person) the faculty member/scientist sponsoring or supervising the research, including a statement about the need for Cobb Endowment research support (e.g., unavailability or insufficient funds from other sources), the probability of success of the proposed research project, and how this experience will enhance the student's education and plans for future study. These letters should be sent directly to Dr. Jacqueline F. Webb, Coordinator, Marine Biology Program, Department of Biological Sciences, URI, Kingston, RI 02881, Jacqueline_webb@mail.uri.edu

6) [if appropriate] an additional letter of support from a scientist or administrator at the site where the research will be conducted (e.g., park, field station, etc.) indicating support for this research project, and willingness to provide space/facilities and/or supervise or oversee the research.

A final report of the completed research (including documentation of the presentation of the research in a student/professional conference) will be submitted to the Cobb Endowment Committee no later than one year after the award is made. In addition, recipients of this award will be asked to present their research and a summary of their experiences to fellow URI undergraduates.

Cobb Endowment Field Study Award

Undergraduates seeking to take courses in marine biology at a field station (other than those associated with URI, e.g., BIOS) are invited to apply for the Cobb Endowment Field Study Award. The purpose of this award is to broaden opportunities for URI students to take field courses that are essential for training in marine biology, but are not currently offered by URI. This award may be used to defray the cost of tuition and room/board (e.g., fixed fees) for one or more courses for which credit can be transferred to URI.

Application must include:

1) A cover letter, including all pertinent contact information, and the name(s) of those writing letters on the student's behalf.

2) A one-page application indicating the courses to be taken, the rationale for the choice of field station and courses, a statement of the significance of this experience to the student's education and future plans, a budget indicating the cost of tuition, room and board, for the desired courses, and a timeline for application and notification of acceptance and financial aid.

3) An unofficial copy of the student's URI transcript

4) A letter of support from the student's URI academic advisor, which includes a statement about how this experience will enhance the student's education and plans for future study. This letter should be sent directly to Dr. Jacqueline F. Webb, Coordinator, Marine Biology Program, Department of Biological Sciences, URI, Kingston, RI 02881, Jacqueline_webb@mail.uri.edu

5) A copy of the admissions application and application for financial aid from the field station (indicating the level of financial aid available), and/or letter of acceptance indicating the level of financial aid awarded.

A final report about the student's experience will be submitted to the Cobb Endowment Committee no later than 3 months after the completion of the field course(s). In addition, recipients of this award will be required to make a presentation to fellow URI undergraduates describing their experiences.

The Cobb Endowment Committee reserves the right to not make an award if appropriate applications are not received.