
carlson awarded weston fellowship

Caitlin Carlson of Madison, Wisconsin has been awarded the 2006 Carl J. Weston Memorial Scholarship. Carlson is currently working as an undergraduate assistant with Sandra McLellan at the Great Lakes WATER Institute, helping with a UW Sea Grant-funded research project studying the causes of beach closings along Lake Michigan.

“Ms. Carlson has taken on an inordinate amount of responsibility for an undergraduate in terms of coordinating field work, performing the microbiology, and assuring all the data is formatted into a comprehensive database,” said McLellan.

Since spring 2005, Carlson has collected and filtered sand samples from area beaches, tested them for *E. Coli*, *Enterococci* and fecal coliforms, and extracted DNA for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) processing. She said she enjoys the combination of field and lab work, finding it rewarding to follow a research project from beginning to end.

Besides helping with data analysis and field and laboratory work, Carlson has taken on the role of mentor to new undergraduates working in the lab. Over the summer, she taught three undergraduates basic microbiological and molecular techniques, and field collection of samples.



McLellan said Carlson has honed her interests in science and research during her time in the laboratory.

“Her initial interests were in veterinary medicine and animal behavior,” said McLellan, “but as she has been exposed to research on the Great Lakes, her interests have broadened.”

“I have always been passionate about conservation of the environment,” said Carlson. “Lake Michigan is a sizable issue in Milwaukee, and saving the lakes and preserving aquatic ecosystems are very important issues that I am proud to be a part of.”

Established in 1995, the Weston Memorial Scholarship supports undergraduate students interested in Great Lakes and ocean issues. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to the UW Sea Grant Undergraduate Scholarship Fund, please contact Mary Lou Reeb at mlreeb@aqua.wisc.edu or (608) 263-3296.