Maritime Laboratory Class Termed Unique

A&M's Seaside School Initiated

ON DINO'S TAIL
Student assistant Anita Sievers of Galveston and Dr. Sammy Ray, Marine Laboratory head, examines flasks containing dinoflagellates, a family of organisms which can be toxic to valuable fish. They also can contaminate oysters, which then become a public health problem.

Texas A&M's Marine Laboratory in Galveston conducted its first regular classes of instruction this summer.

The facility, quartered in one of historic Fort Crockett's remodeled buildings, has been devoted entirely to research since its establishment in 1958. But now courses are being offered by the university's Wildlife Science Department, Biology Department and the Institute of Statistics.

A&M also has another unit at the fort — the Texas Maritime Academy. In the same complex of buildings is the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Laboratory, which makes its facilities available to the Marine Laboratory.

Dr. Richard J. Baldauf, who supervises courses offered by the Department of Wildlife Sciences, said instruction was added to the research activity at the laboratory to put students closer to their subjects. Classrooms look over the greenish-blue Gulf of Mexico where sports and commerical fishing are major enterprises.

Dr. R. C. Potts, assistant director of instruction in the College of Agriculture, and Dr. Sammy Ray, head of the Marine Laboratory, believe the program is unique. They praised the cooperation of the Bureau of Commerical Fisheries.

"There is nothing like this lab and teaching service is the whole western Gulf area," Ray said "The lab is serving as a marine outlet for all colleges and universities in this area, and I think the system is better than each institution trying to set up and operate its own marine lab.'

He said that in addition to A&M, students were enrolled from Southern Methodist University, University of Texas, University of Houston and from several out-of-state schools this summer.

One of those students was a celebrity — Phyllis Johnson of Galveston, also known as Miss Texas in the 1965 Miss Universe Contest.

Potts described the research and teaching program as "breaking new ground in the educational field with help of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries."

Milton J. Lindner, who heads the Bureau, said the help and cooperation is coming from both sides in the arrangement.

Baldauf said 27 graduate and advanced undergraduate students were enrolled in the first six weeks summer session and 20 the second six weeks. Most of them took a minimum of six hours of instruction. Fifteen were in wildlife science and 12 in biology. Courses taught were marine ichthyology, population dynamics, and advanced invertebrate zoology.

Instruction during the second summer term concentrated on statistics, molluscan biology and research problems. Undergraduate students had the opportunity to conduct research with guidance of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries technical staff. Equipment included the Bureau's chartered shrimp trawler.

Students were almost constantly exposed to research, which is and will remain the Marine Laboratory's main purpose. Many studies are underway, but the following are the major projects.

(1) A study of toxic dinoflagellates, a group of organisms which kill valuable fish. One of the organisms causes the well known red tide off the west coast of Florida.

Dinoflagellates also can be a public health problem. They sometimes infect oysters, which are then toxic to humans when eaten.

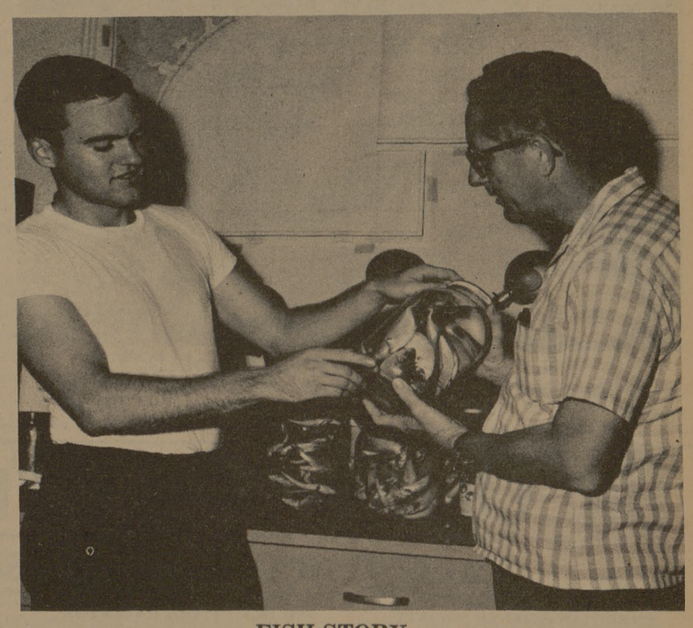
(2) Studies of effects of various antibiotics on Dermocystidium marinun, a fungus parasite of oysters in the Gulf of Mexico. The antibiotics are used for control work in the laboratory.

(3) Investigations of the effect of water quality on the snail vector of schistosomaisis, a tropical disease of humans. The snail is the host for a fluke which causes the ailment.

(4) Studies on an oyster malady known as Malpeque Bay disease.

Regular courses at the Marine Laboratory are offered only in the summer.

Special non-credit extension work will be given this fall and spring.



FISH STORY
Student Lloyd Dean Koen of San Angelo discusses fish that didn't get away with Dr. Richard J. Baldauf of the Department of Wildlife Science. Koen is majoring in wildlife science with a fisheries biology option.

CHARTER BOAT
This chartered shrimp trawler, Gus III, carried technical staff of the U. S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries and A&M Marine Laboratory students on research trips into the Gulf of Mexico this summer. The Bureau is concentrating on studies of the life history and effects of water quality on shrimp.