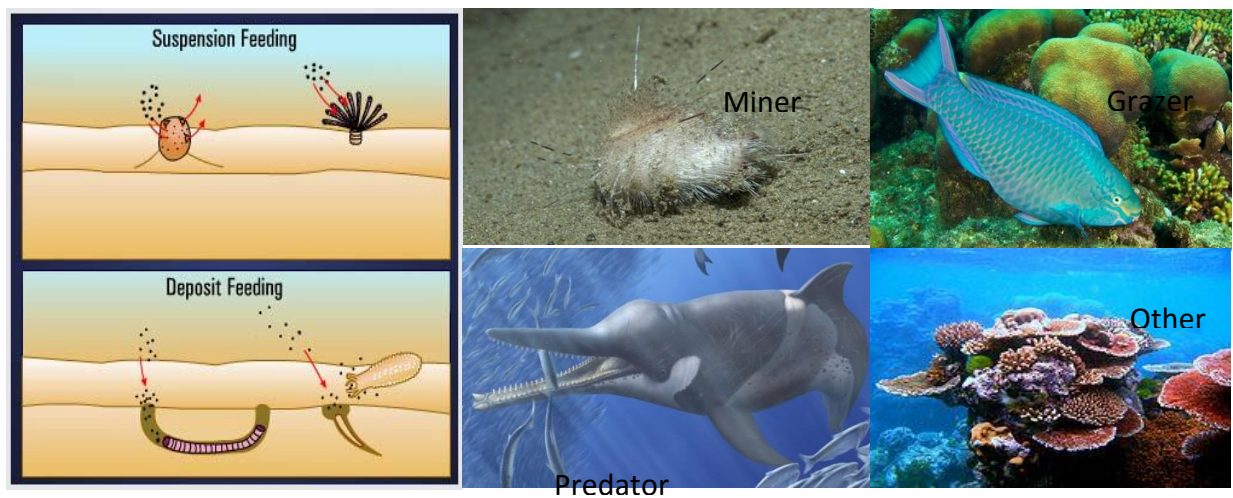


Projects, Presentations, Sharks and Manta Rays

Even after several weeks in Braun Hall, I was still finding new facts about the building. One morning, after I entered the building, I found the staircase was sealed off with a notice that there was fresh paint (to which Dr. Heim stated that the paint was likely dried). After going around the building to find a different staircase to go to my classroom in the second floor, I stumbled upon the elevator, which was located next to the sealed staircase. I did not realize that an elevator is available in this building.

In the classroom, we were busy working on our project. My partner Ashli and I were evaluating the effects of feeding types on body sizes of the marine organisms throughout the Phanerozoic. There were six categories of marine feeding types called suspension, surface deposit, Miner, Predator, grazer and other.



We used R to graph different correlations to study the connections between feeding types and the body sizes using the data provided by Dr. Heim; the data was collected over several years. We found out that Suspension feeders, Mining feeders and Predators have steadily increased over time while surface deposit and grazing feeders do not show any trend. We did not have

enough data to determine other feeders. We also studied whether the mobility of the organisms have any effect on the suspension feeders and found that mobile organisms increased in size over time.



We went to our final field trip on July 23, 2018 and it was the Voyage on San Francisco Bay with the Marine Science Institute. We all worked in groups of six and we used

several different mechanical objects, such as a meter that measured depth and salinity. We also fished up mud by roping it up in sync. Some people found strange things in their mud, such as sea grapes, isopods, and somebody even found a decently large crab! Finally, we worked in sync once more to rope up a fish. Our group ended up pulling out a baby leopard shark as well as a manta ray, along with some other things like flounders.



Our final week was a fun week. We had a pot luck in the class room on Monday. Dr. Heim brought ice cream but unfortunately it was mostly melted(I guess we could have used it in an ice cream shake). On Tuesday, we went to the Stanford farm in order to view Nic's mushrooms and other activities. Nick clearly stated that some of the spores from his Mushrooms were capable of killing humans, but that made them more interesting to me. After Nic's talk, we went and made our own pizzas! I put far too much cheese on mine because I didn't know when to stop. We also received a talk from Allen about his self watering irrigation system. The chickens around the farm kept trying to steal food from us, but they didn't want to be petted either. We had our final presentation on Thursday which was the curtain call for our fun time in summer. Now I look forward to exciting things such as summer reading for school, studying for tests, doing homework and taking the SAT.