

I can't believe this program has come to an end. I am so glad I was a part of it and that I got to meet so many new people and make so many new friends. This was an unforgettable experience that has given me lots of new memories.

Sadly, our internship was concluded this Thursday. The short amount of time I spent with everyone was very valuable to me. The presentations I saw were so interesting, and taught me a lot about body size evolution. They opened my eyes to so many new ideas and questions that I have about how the Earth works. For example, what other factors might be affecting body size? Besides ecophysiological aspects, are there other traits that could be examined to answer this question? From mine and my partner's presentation, I learned that air breathing marine genera tend to be much larger than water breathing marine genera. Furthermore, I learned that having a closed respiratory system also helped to increase body size after breathing air. Without this experience, I never would've even thought about what a closed circulatory system *is*. I never would've learned this about marine genera.

As an upcoming senior in High School, this experience has exposed me to so many new concepts, and has shown me what it is like to be able to research and develop a scientific paper. I am so thankful for being able to participate in this internship with so many amazing interns and mentors. This was a great summer!