Measuring Nutrient Dynamics Optically:
Towards an Understanding of In Situ Relationship Between Nitrate and Phytoplankton
Reflections on the Ocean Sciences Meeting 2012 in Salt Lake City

Amy M. Anderson, 2012

In February 2012, I made the trip cross country to the land-locked state of Utah to immerse myself in ocean research. The experience of being at a professional research conference was a crowning moment in my college career. Having worked for the past two years on a research project here at Bowdoin College, I gained the knowledge and experience in the lab to reach the point of presenting my work to the greater community. An active part of research is presenting the findings to the scientific community. By attending the Ocean Sciences Meeting, I participated in the active discussions involving scientific findings on the oceans.

During the course of the meeting, I delved into learning as much as I could absorb about the ocean. On my first day at the meeting, I attended the plenary talks. These talks brought wide-ranging topics before all of the participants of the meeting by showing different perspectives of the oceans and its dynamics. During the other morning and afternoon sessions, I attended talks about a variety of research projects. The research talks were exciting to attend as I learned about a diverse group of topics that previously I had little knowledge on. The presenters had so much energy and passion for their research that it was contagious to the audience, including myself.

On the Thursday afternoon, I had the opportunity to present a poster on my research project. The people that came to my poster were very receptive to my work and enjoyed learning about my research. The experience of presenting my work was truly amazing as it connected me with a different area of the research experience. Additionally, I appreciated the feeling of a community from the oceanography contingent. The people that I met wanted to share their experience and advice with me as I progress into my future. I am grateful for the great advice and people that I met; they provided a new perspective on the dynamics of the field.

Based on my entire experience of the meeting, the community involved in oceanography is awesome. Internally, I have found that I want to be with this community as the research is interesting, and the people are amazing. I had a great time at the meeting, and now look forward to the potential opportunities to take part in the future.

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