Student Research Grants

One way that NSA encourages student participation is by funding two research grant programs. NSA student members in good standing are eligible to apply for these annual competitive grants of $1250 for non-travel related expenses associated with undertaking their Master's thesis or PhD dissertation research. Recipients are expected to present their research at a future NSA Meeting. Funding for the program comes from the general NSA revenues and the award is granted once per year.

Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant

The Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Grant is a competitive grant that is awarded annually to recognize a student's excellence in the area of shellfish research. The grant was established in 1998 and honors one of the Association's most inspirational and distinguished members, Mel Carriker (1915-2007). For more than 50 years Mel served the NSA in various capacities, including Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President and President, and he was instrumental in formalizing the regular publication of the Association’s meeting notes as the Proceedings of the National Shellfisheries Association. During his prolific career Mel published over 160 scientific papers and several books. In 1978 Mel received the Honored Life Member Award. Well into “retirement” he continued to serve the NSA as Historian, and in this capacity he researched and compiled a chronological account of the Association from its inception in 1908 through 2003 entitled “Taming of the Oyster”, published in 2004.

Melbourne R. Carriker Grant Recipients

2002  Lisa Milke
University of Oklahoma
Assessment of habitat change on cockle populations in New Zealand

1999  Gwynne Day Brown
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Identification, characterization and expression levels of serine protease gene(s) among cultured isolates of Perkinsus marinus

1998  Rondi Butler
University of Maryland
Investigation into a relationship between metallothionein (MT) gene expression and the immunotoxicity of cadmium in hemocytes from the eastern oyster, Crassostrea virginica

Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research

The Michael Castagna Student Grant for Applied Research is a competitive grant awarded annually to recognize a student’s excellence in the area of shellfish research with an emphasis on applied research. The award was established in 2002 in honor of one of the Association’s most distinguished past Presidents (1976-7), a recipient of the Wallace Award (1983) and an Honored Life Member (1990) who was a pioneer in developing hatchery technology and aquaculture. Mike Castagna (1927-2004) published over 100 papers, co-edited two marine culture textbooks, and spent 16 years as Chair of the NSA Publications Committee. He was an exemplary mentor and champion of student participation in NSA.

Michael Castagna Grant Recipients

2009  Andrew Ray
The University of Southern Mississippi
The effects of physical substrate area and carbohydrate addition on shrimp (Litopenaeus vannamei) production and nitrogen cycling in superintensive, zero-exchange culture systems

2008  Aaron W.E. Galloway
University of Washington
Culture practices and structure effects of intertidal geoduck aquaculture operations in Puget Sound: an evaluation of influence on mobile macrofauna

2007  Brandon Puckett
North Carolina State University
Assessing the efficacy of marine reserves for oyster restoration: theory and application

2006  James Reinhardt
University of Connecticut
The control of biofoulers in shellfish aquaculture: the use of acetic acid and gastropod biocontrols

2005  Helene Hegaret
University of Connecticut
The persistence of cysts and cells of harmful dinoflagellates after ingestion by bivalve mollusks and their transport through transplanting of bivalves

2004  Scott Gifford
University of Newcastle, Australia
Influence of pollutants on pearl quality in the Akoya pearl oyster, Pinctada imbricata

2003  Megan Stewart
University of Auckland, New Zealand
The impacts of habitat change on cockle (Austrovenus stutchburyi) populations

2002  Lisa Milke
Institute for Marine Biosciences, NRC, Halifax
Algal diets and nutritional requirements of early life-history stages of the commercially important sea scallop, Placopecten magellanicus, and bay scallop, Argopecten irradians