

# Knauss Fellows Go to Washington



**Gabrielle Dorr, pictured on Heron Island in the southern part of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, is currently in Washington assessing how NOAA manages deep sea coral reef habitats. The former Stony Brook University graduate student is one of three Sea Grant Knauss Fellows from New York this year. Photo courtesy of Gabrielle Dorr**

Early last month, New York Sea Grant sent three fellows to Washington to join a class of 40 from across the country to work in the federal government.

**Katherine McFadden, Lelia Hatch, and Gabrielle Dorr** were each awarded one-year, \$40,000 Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowships. The fellowships were given based on each of their interests in ocean, coastal and

Great Lakes resources and in the national policy decisions affecting those resources.

McFadden, a Columbia University doctoral graduate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, was placed in NOAA Research's Office of Scientific Support. "My first month on the job has been a real eye-opener," she says. "Every day I learn something new about NOAA, its organization and incredible breadth of research." McFadden's role is to integrate new ways of ecosystem management in NOAA's future research plans.

With a recent doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell University, Hatch is working for the House Committee on Resources' Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans. She drafts questions, memos and legislation for the subcommittee's minority (Democratic) members and participates in briefings, hearings and meetings for issues put forth

by both her sub and full committee as well the Senate and executive branch. "My involvement in these activities is giving me a better understanding of how legislation on marine resources is crafted by our 109th Congress," she says.

Dorr, who holds a Masters of Science in Marine Environmental Science from Stony Brook University, works at NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation, where she assesses how NOAA manages deep sea coral reef habitats. These habitats, which provide shelter for marine animals, are being destroyed by fishing techniques such as bottom trawling. "I am particularly interested in helping devise management strategies to protect and conserve these highly diverse habitats," she says. As for her future, Dorr adds, "I'd like to pursue a career in coral

reef conservation, either in the government sector or with a non-profit organization. An outreach position would be ideal because I feel that education is an important key to successful conservation."

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*I'm gaining experience in how natural resource decisions are made in the face of competing constituent interests.*

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— **Katherine McFadden,**  
**Knauss Fellow**

The Knauss Fellowship Program, established in 1979 in honor of one of Sea Grant's founders, former NOAA Administrator, **John A. Knauss**, provides a unique educational experience to qualified graduate students. The program matches students with ocean, coastal and Great Lakes resource and policy hosts in the legislative and executive branches or appropriate associations or institutions in the Washington, D.C. area, for a one year paid fellowship.

— **Paul C. Focazio**