



Photo by Zsuzsanna Pusztai

**"The world we have created is a product of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking."  
- Albert Einstein -**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Issue # 18 - Summer 2011**

**Bill Wildin Travel Award**

Volunteer intern Fadilah Ali receives the travel award to continue to do research on the Lionfish invasion in Bonaire.



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**Summer I**



Meet our Summer I students who are spending 3 weeks in Bonaire and will learn all about safe scuba diving and field research methods.

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**CIEE Research Station Alumni**

What do former CIEE students get up to and where in the world are they today?



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**STATION NEWS**

**The Bill Wildin Volunteer Internship Travel Award**

Following the sad death of Bill Wildin on the 25th December 2009 his wife Prawphan wanted to create a lasting memorial to his life. In recognition of Bill's love of the Bonaire reefs a couple of friends organized a collection to produce a plaque in his memory. The plaque has been placed in the entry hall at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire where students come to learn about coral reef ecology and conservation. The balance of the money donated to Bill's memory was used to establish the Bill Wildin Volunteer Internship Travel Award in conjunction with CIEE.



Prawphan and Bill Wildin

The Award of \$1250 will be presented to Ms. Fadilah Ali from Trinidad, a graduate student at the University of Southampton, by Prawphan Wildin at a public presentation at CIEE. Fadilah will be presenting some of the work she did on Lionfish for her Master's of Environmental Science degree. This summer, Fadilah will be working on Lionfish feeding ecology to gain a better understanding of the impact the Lionfish are having on the reefs Bill loved so much.

Prawphan would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to all the friends and family who so generously contributed to the collection and made this award possible.



**SUMMER 1 STUDENTS** (from left to right): Catherine Knight (Mills College), Catherine Buckthal (Washington and Lee University), Julia Livermore (Bowdoin College), Suzanne Ball (University of Vermont), Caitlin McGeever (University of Colorado at Boulder), Shelby Sharpnack (Duquesne University), Kristen Callender (Mills College), Katie Weiler (University of Vermont), Amy Kivela (Trinity College CT), Jennifer Aiello (Ohio Northern University)



Orientation on the first Sunday of the summer 1 course includes a barbecue on one of Bonaire's beaches on the east side of the island. May and June are witness to some spectacular sunsets.



At least 3 types of turtles may regularly be spotted while diving or snorkeling in Bonaire's clear waters. This green turtle was foraging for food when the students came upon it. The turtle slowly circled the group of divers and came in for a closer look before surfacing to get a breath of air.



Students learn to work with the T-BAR for AGRRA research.



During summer courses students learn excellent buoyancy control.



A student buddy team ascending safely and slowly to the surface.

**ALUMNUS - JULIE SICKELS (ECKERD COLLEGE)**



After studying abroad with CIEE in Bonaire, I worked at the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary in Indian Shores, FL. I worked as an outside aviculturist, rehabilitating wild seabirds. The fish identification skills I learned in Bonaire helped me identify fish that unfortunately get caught as by-catch in nets as well as the fish we feed the pelicans. We have successfully breed the endangered Eastern Brown Pelican in captivity. All of the baby pelicans, as well as the other birds we are able to successfully rehabilitate, such as Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Night Herons, Green Herons, Cormorants, Anhingas, Osprey, as well as land birds such as owls and hawks are released to the wild as soon as possible. After three months working at the Seabird Sanctuary, I returned to Bonaire for vacation before returning back to school.

After a relaxing week in Bonaire I moved back to Eckerd College for my senior year. I worked on several research projects, including testing the water quality around Tampa Bay and Decorator Crab breathing patterns in and out of water (bradycardia, tachycardia). I also volunteered at the Lowry Park Zoo, helping out in the monkey section. I graduated in May of 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology. I worked at the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary for three more months before starting vet school at St. George's University in



Grenada, West Indies. I am currently in my second semester and loving it.

Bonaire was a huge help in getting used to island life. There aren't any flamingos, but it's just as great of a place to study. A couple weeks ago I completed a 1.6 mile swim from the harbor to Grand Anse Beach, which was really fun; something I never got to do in Bonaire was the Klein Bonaire swim. Thus far, I have dissected a dog and a cat, and patiently waiting to do a bird and fish next semester. After completing three years in Grenada, I will proceed to a U.S. vet school to complete my fourth year. In 2015, I will be able to add DVM to the end of my name. I hope to specialize in exotics, specifically birds and marine mammals. Unfortunately I haven't had much time to scuba dive in Grenada; a trip to Bonaire is in store!