FAU Harbor Branch Summer Intern Program Celebrates 38th Successful Session

Eighteen undergraduate and graduate students from around the country recently completed the 2011 FAU Harbor Branch Summer Intern Program. Each of the students recently delivered their final presentations covering their summer research projects. A wide variety of topics were presented, from methods to target cancer with compounds that Harbor Branch has collected from the ocean to studies of the presence of mercury and antibiotic resistant bacteria in the Indian River Lagoon. The 10-week internship gives participants a chance to design, execute, analyze and present the results of their own original research under the mentorship of faculty from Florida Atlantic University’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. This year’s participants come from as far away as Colorado, Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania, and three of the 18 are FAU students. Fields of exploration include aquaculture, ocean technology, marine ecology and marine biomedical research.

Now in its 38th year, the 2011 FAU Harbor Branch Summer Intern Program is funded primarily through the generosity of the Link Foundation, with the Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation providing the support for interns in marine biomedical research.

HBOI Hosts Lecture on the Decline of Atlantic Sawfishes

FAU Harbor Branch continues the Ocean Science Lecture Series on Wednesday, August 24 at 7 p.m., with a presentation titled "We Hardly Knew Ye: The Decline of Atlantic Sawfishes" by George Burgess of the Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida. Sawfish were once so plentiful along Florida's coast they were considered a nuisance because the saw -- or rostrum -- is easily caught in fishing nets. Over the past century, sawfish populations have plummeted with little scientific attention. Ichthyologist and Fisheries Biologist George Burgess will explain how sawfish decline is a wake-up call to biologists to increase vigilance in assessing population health of species with wide distributions but naturally small populations.

An opportunity to meet the speaker follows the presentation. The lectures are open to the public, free of charge, and reservations are not required. Harbor Branch is located at 5600 US 1 North in Fort Pierce. For more information, call 772-242-2506.