

Science Teacher aboard Research Vessel Knorr

Robert Bevacqua

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The ocean, science, and boats are three passions in my life. My cruise aboard the R/V Knorr, April 26 to May 1, 2009, enabled me to combine these three passions to create the highpoint of my recent professional life. I loved the cruise. It was an intellectually stimulating experience that provided me with direction for future classroom activities and professional development.

I am a teacher at Kalaheo High School in Kailua, Hawaii, where I teach physics, chemistry, environmental science, and coach paddling. My initial involvement with C-MORE came when my students used the lab kits on ocean acidification. This led to my invitation to a cruise with the STARS program. I also applied for and received a GEMS grant to reimburse my school for a substitute while I was on the cruise. The cruise inspired me to further my interest in ocean sciences. This summer I completed a four-week professional development program for science teachers on coral reefs in nearby Kaneohe Bay.

The most important lesson I learned from STARS was that there is a golden future for oceanographic research, especially research at the microbial level. During these difficult economic times school administrators will balance their budgets by slashing educational programs. Not so for ocean science programs. They are being generously funded and are expected to steadily expand. At the University of Hawaii, for example, new laboratories are being constructed for C-MORE. This translates into continued opportunities in ocean sciences for my students and I.

I recommend the STARS/GEMS experience for any science teacher with an interest in ocean sciences. It is an exciting and rewarding program that could point you and your students to a new future.

Figure 1. STARS teachers Christine Glaser, Lily Edmons, and Bob Bevacqua aboard the R/V Knorr in 2009.



Figure 2. STARS teacher Bob Bevacqua preparing a seawater sample for analysis.

