Final Report to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Inquiry/Research-based Education of Undergraduates
Quality Enhancement Plan
Academic Year: 2007-2008

Part I: Student impact

As a reminder, the purpose of this project is to create an overview of the fish assemblages in Carter Creek by discovering the relationships between land use and species distribution and abundances in the stream.

Three students have been directly involved in the field and lab work that has already been conducted this far. Caleb Carter and Stephen Curtis have been assisted by Dr. Fran Gelwick at each of their sampling sites and in the lab. Sachi Flores who is a sophomore in the department has also contributed a lot of time in the lab helping sort samples and preserve specimens.

Part II: Learning Outcomes

Students have learned the process of designing and completing a research project by being exposed to the procedures needed to adequately conduct field research and obtain field and laboratory data fundamental to the purpose of their project. Many sampling methods such as seining, gill netting, and electrofishing have shown students techniques that will likely be practiced in their future. In addition, students have gained knowledge in transferring samples from the field sites into the lab by learning how to properly preserve the specimens.

Some of the samples are in the process of being submitted into the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collection. This has allowed the students to learn the proper procedures necessary to submit and document specimens in a natural history collection.

Students will gain experience in scientific writing by submitting their completed project for review to be published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. The skills needed to be able to write scientifically should be practiced and obtained in order to benefit the students throughout their career.

Throughout the project, students have been exposed to many different types of people and have learned the importance of establishing relationships and being able to work in a diverse environment. Cooperating with members of other labs, networking with other professionals in their field, as well as interacting with business owners and the public are ways in which students have built these relationships.

Even more important than these interactions is the relationship that students have built between themselves in order to ensure a successful project as well as have a good time conducting their research. Students have realized that the people they work side-by-side with are crucial in forming a learning environment which keeps them interested in the

work that they are doing. There are many times in the field when relying on each other is a must in order to have a safe and successful sampling run. Communication and trust are key especially during times of stress whether in the field or lab. This project has extended from a six month endeavor to a little over a year showing students that they must be flexible as their plans are not always going to follow the course they had set. Working with each other has been an amazing experience and really allowed the students to build a strong friendship which hopefully will continue throughout their research career.

Part III: Budget

2008 AFS Meeting fees	$90.00
2008 SEAFWA Meeting fees	$250.00
Travel expenses	$300.00
Poster printing (WFSC)	$66.67
Poster printing (SCC)	$45.00
Chest Waders	$207.44
Ethanol (3 gallons)	$22.92
Glass jars and lids	
8 oz jars	$41.20
16 oz jars	$12.20
32 oz jars	$9.31
128 oz jars	$10.14
Shipping on jars	$30.12
Total:	**$1085.00**