Where are they now?

Megan Anne O'Brien
Wisconsin State Winner
2006 & 2007

Zebra Mussels vs.Quagga Mussels: Their survival in oxygen
deficient conditions (2006)
The Light Factor The Relationship of Bivalve Shell Composition
and Color (2007)

What are you doing now?

Currently, I am living in Isafjorour, Iceland while doing a masters program in Coastal and Marine Management at the University Center of the Westfjords. Before here, I went to the University of Rhode Island, where I studied Marine Biology (BS) and Evolutionary Biology (MS). I never made it to Stockholm, but I have found my way to Scandinavia none the less!

How did the SJWP competition effect, or influence you?

In high school, I developed a passion for coastal and water related issues and have continued to pursue this interest and the issues in the field today. It is fantastic that I showed up in college with laboratory experience, and it opened doors all along the way. The SJWP encouraged me to stay in the sciences but also to consider the human dimension. As a scientist I aspire be not only active in my field, but also involved in the policy process and engaged with the public. My CV has gotten longer, but the US-SJWP and the student Journal: For the Future, From the Future, still has its place among my publications. There is no doubt that having the SJWP experience made me a great applicant for colleges, scholarships and fellowships far down the road.

Would you care to give a testimonial about the SJWP?

The competition was a chance for me to see all the other students from around the country who spent their Friday nights researching and checking samples. It was a group of people I could relate to and it gave me hope for the future. It was a room full of active and bright minds. In a way the US-SJWP competition was a reward for all the hard work and hours put into our projects. Following my participation in the 2006 competition, I was given a speaking spot at the Central States annual meeting. This was a huge privilege and I made many great contacts.