

Review of Second IOCCG Summer Lecture Series (21 July – 2 August 2014)

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I had been told by my lab mates and peers before the trip that this would be a very useful and memorable experience for a young ocean color scientist like myself. My high expectations were quickly exceeded upon arriving in the picturesque Villefranche-sur-mer and meeting the diverse, global community of ocean color scientist attendees and lecturers.

After the first few days of lectures I recall thinking to myself that this is the best preparation for my upcoming comprehensive exams that I could imagine. The material incorporated intuitive reviews of the basic ocean color remote sensing principles from some of the most successful and erudite members of our community before building on those fundamentals with more advanced theory and methodology lectures. The practical sessions that had students rotate between stations were fantastic for confirming and solidifying the theory previously presented. Having the lecturers there to walk students through the stations and explain through their own experiences the concepts we were learning was invaluable, albeit intimidating at times. As an Education Officer for a local volunteer group working with teenagers interested in marine science, some of the practical stations gave me great ideas of how to present remote sensing concepts to young people in exciting and memorable ways.

For my research, the lectures and practical by Kevin Ruddick and his colleague, Quentin, were the most interesting. My group works with MODIS to study coastal water quality, but I also utilize Landsat and WorldView-2 imagery for coastal land-sea interface applications. I was excited to learn about his group's use of Landsat 8 for studying coastal turbid waters, and will follow their work as I hope to adapt it to my own research.

One of the greatest but most understated advantages to experiences like this is the opportunity to meet and get to know other young professional scientists from different countries and cultures. Not only do we all work on different projects, but we've taken different routes and encountered various challenges along the way. Together we can discuss scientific, cultural, social, economic and political circumstances that shape our professional development, and learn about the situations facing peers from different regions of the world. We are very much a global community, but communication through email, phone conversations and conference proceedings does not adequately facilitate the development of professional relationships the way that fully-immersed lecture series like this do.

This was ultimately an invaluable experience for me to learn more about advanced concepts in my field, meet the preeminent scholars whom I hope to emulate, and interface with my generation's scientific community. I feel better prepared as a young ocean color scientist, and believe that I formed good relationships with many of the attendees and lecturers that will last throughout my career. Thank you very much to the IOCCG, administrators, lecturers and colleagues for making it such a useful and enjoyable experience!