Andrew Nosal
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Andy is a marine biologist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. His research focuses on the behavior and ecology of sharks and rays. Specifically, he is interested in the causes and consequences of movements of these animals. His main study species is the leopard shark, which is plentiful in La Jolla and a good model species for testing hypotheses on movement patterns.

What inspired you to work in your current field?
I have always been interested in the ocean and what lives in it. Sharks have always fascinated me and when I was in Australia in 2005 for a study abroad program I got to see sharks in the wild. This made me more interested in them and I decided to pursue my Ph.D. in marine biology with a focus on shark behavior and ecology.

Please describe the path that led you to where you are now (including schools, internships)
I received a B.S. in biology from the University of Virginia in 2007. During that time I did a study abroad program at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia for one semester. I took classes in marine biology and zoology and
had the opportunity to conduct field research on the Great Barrier Reef. During the summer after my third year I did a research internship at the University of Southern California called “Research Experience for Undergraduates,” which was funded by the National Science Foundation. Later I was accepted to Scripps Institution of Oceanography, where I received my Ph.D. in marine biology.

**What experiences helped prepare you for your career?**
Real-world experience is very important as an undergraduate to prepare you for graduate school if you want to get a masters or doctoral degree. Studying abroad in Australia broadened my horizons and gave me the opportunity to study marine biology in an amazing place. Internships and research experience prepared me for similar work that I would be doing as a Ph.D. student and later as a researcher.

**Please share any funny/inspiring stories or favorite things about your career.**
My favorite part of my career is getting work hands on with amazing animals like sharks. Working in the field is also unpredictable, which can be exciting. You never know what sorts of animals you might see, like other sharks, whales, dolphins, sea lions, mola mola, etc.

**Do you have advice for middle school and high school students interested in a career in science?**
Get a BROAD education in science and other subjects. Do NOT specialize too soon. That is what grad school is for. To be a good scientist in any field, especially biology, you need to understand chemistry, physics, statistics, calculus, and you should take all of these courses. Did I mention statistics? You also need to be good communicators so take every opportunity to practice public speaking as well as writing.

**Are there any resources you would recommend for students looking at a career in ocean and earth science, especially at UCSD and SIO?**
The SIO website as a great resource to check out. You can see what researchers at SIO do and you might contact them to ask them for a brief meeting to learn more about what they do on a regular basis and how you can prepare for a similar career.

**Favorite quote?**
Truth cannot contradict truth.

And...

That’s a lovely accent. New Jersey?