

First Year Research Award: **Biology/Marine Science**

Faculty Supervisor: **Drs. Kathy Reinsel & Jim Welch**

Position Title: First Year Research Scholar in Marine Science

Criteria: The Wittenberg University **Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences** will offer a First Year Research Award for the academic year 2025-2026 to an incoming student to work with **Drs. Kathy Reinsel & Jim Welch**. This student will have a demonstrated academic ability and/or research interest in **marine science or ecology**.

Expectations: FYRA Scholarship recipients will devote between 6 and 8 hours per week across their first year to FYRA program and their research-related project, according to the FYRA Learning Contract agreed upon by the sponsoring professor and the scholarship recipient. Recipients will also be expected to participate in a regular meeting of FYRA recipients, present their results in an appropriate forum and submit a copy of their presentation to the appropriate university office. FYRA Scholarship recipients will also participate in an assessment of the FYRA program. (The FYRA Scholarship is not part of a student's work study award.)

Research Activity:

Drs. Reinsel and Welch currently study the seasonal abundance, settlement site choice and behavior of larval fiddler crabs in North Carolina. FYRA Scholarship recipients may assist Drs. Reinsel & Welch with various aspects of their research, including sorting zooplankton samples to isolate larval fiddler crabs and fish, and using molecular tools (DNA extraction, PCR, and gel electrophoresis) to identify the species of individual fiddler crab larvae. In addition, there may be opportunities for literature review, data analysis and presentation of final products at Wittenberg events or regional or national scientific conferences. Inclusion as co-authors on manuscripts submitted to scientific journals for publication is also possible, depending on level of participation. Recipients should be critical thinkers, detail-oriented, reliable and interested in spending considerable time looking through a dissecting microscope. No prior molecular experience is necessary, but willingness to learn those techniques is essential.

Scholarship recipients will receive priority consideration for paid summer research positions and research positions during the 2025-2026 academic year.