

Monday, August 7th, 2006

from the USNS Pathfinder



Photo 1: A photo of a bromeliad at the Waimea Audubon Center.

Today is our last day in port! The Sea Scholars began their early morning routine with a quick breakfast followed by a 0900 meeting with local media and television personnel. During this time, Sea Scholar teachers were interviewed concerning their pending sea missions. The Sea Scholars gave comments about the importance of math and science related to the oceans. The reporters were representing local Hawaiian newspapers, such as *The Honolulu Advertiser* <honoluluadvertiser.com>, as well as the local ABC television station, KITV.



Photo 2. Rita Kaplan and Ruthie Hollis are talking to Ben Gutie of news station KITV.

When interviewed by Robert Shikina of the *Honolulu Advertiser*, Sea Scholar, Regina Sumner of Saltillo, MS, commented on the upcoming voyage. “All the surveys we do here we can (share) with students and colleagues. Hands-on experience is what it’s all about. The more you do, the more you learn.” Mary Ruch of Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, was asked about what she hoped to learn as a Sea Scholar participant, she responded, “I teach in a land-locked state. Most of the kids never see (ocean) water, ever. It’s like going to outer space. It’s a new world, a world they never discovered.”



Photo 3: Mary Ruch is being interviewed by Robert Shikina.

Immediately following the morning media session, Chief Mate, Stan Breedlove gave the Sea Scholars a tour of the ship. During this time, the Sea Scholars were advised of the key locations of the ship. The Chief Mate also reviewed safety rules when living and working aboard the ship; he shared the motto "one hand for the ship and one for you." The Chief Mate also escorted the Sea Scholars to the various weather decks and delineated exterior equipment the participating teachers would be using during their science surveys.



Photo 4: Chief Mate, Stan Breedlove, and Senior Naval Representative, Mark Jarrett, give a morning briefing.

After lunch, the Sea Scholars enjoyed a scenic tour along the windward coast enroute to the Polynesian Culture Center. The first item on the agenda was the Rainbow of Paradise canoe pageant which started at 2:30 p.m.



Photo 5: These dancers represent one of villages during the Rainbow of Paradise canoe pageant at the Polynesian Culture Center.

The Sea Scholars individually toured the Polynesian villages of Samoa, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Fiji, Hawai'i, Marquesas, Tahiti, and Tonga, and then gathered as a group to attend the 5:00 Ali'i Luau, "Royal Feast," at Hale Aloha pavilion. Specialties served during the festive luau included kalua pua'a (imu pig-roasted in the ground), poke (marinated fish), lomilomi salmon, pipi kaula (seasoned beef), poi, and taro rolls.

The grand finale was the spectacular 7:30 Horizons Night Show which was held at the Pacific Theater. The performance featured many college students who are attending Brigham Young University on the island of O'ahu.



Photo 6: From left to right. Milo; former Sea Scholar, Jennifer Kocek; and Mark Jarrett were reunited at the Luau.



Photo 7: From left to right: Sea Scholars: Rita Kaplan, Mary Ruch, and Shelia Brown are enjoying the unforgettable evening



Photo 8: Lois Eppich visits villagers in Fiji.



Photo 9: This is an example of an early Hawaiian school house.

The cultural dances performed by over 100 islanders reminded the audience of the shimmering sands, rhythmic surfs, and intangible beauty of the tropics. The experience of the evening left all with a sense of having visited an enchanted world.

Aloha from Ruthie and Lois!