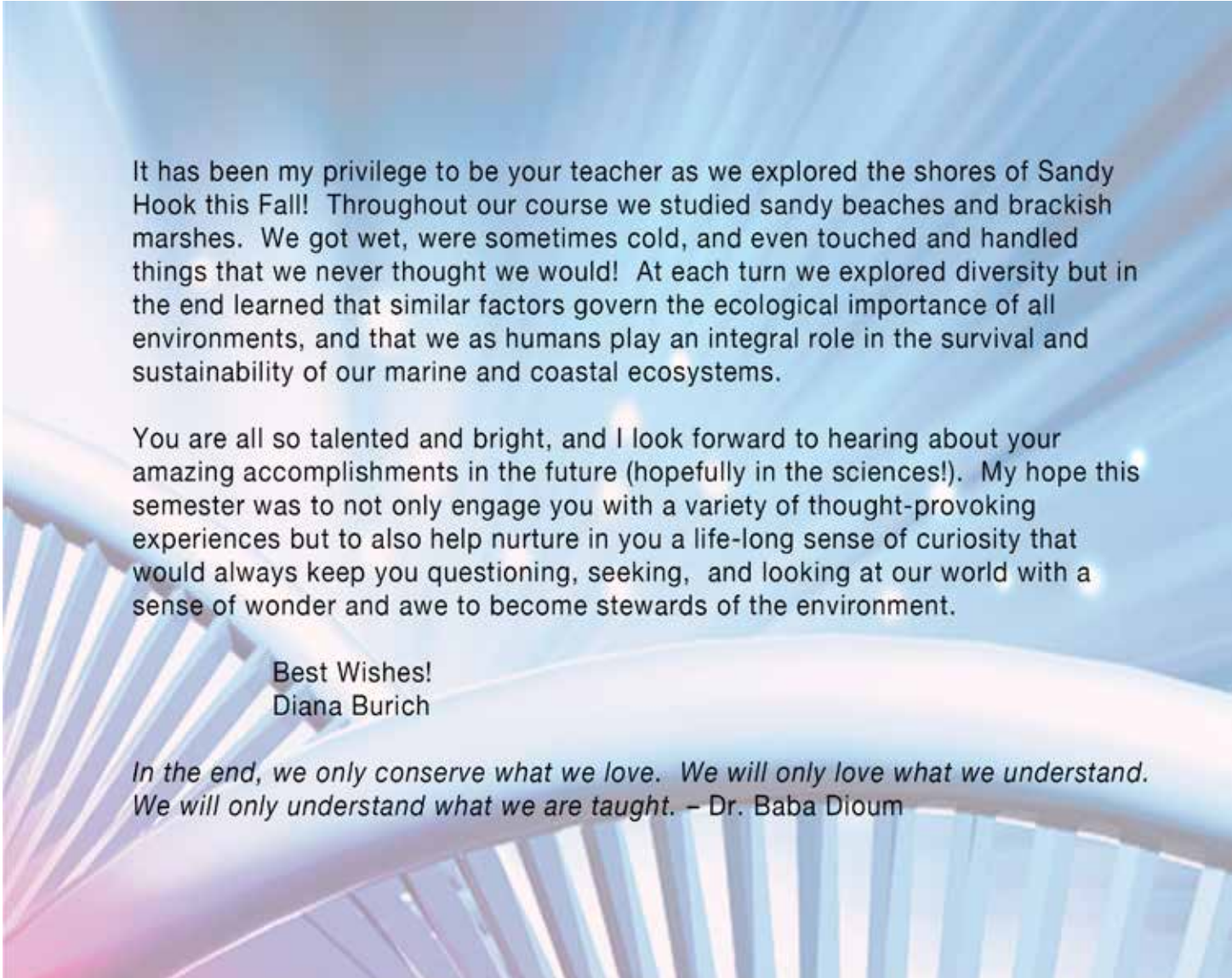




the stars
challenge

Explore Our Shore
Like Never Before
Fall 2016





It has been my privilege to be your teacher as we explored the shores of Sandy Hook this Fall! Throughout our course we studied sandy beaches and brackish marshes. We got wet, were sometimes cold, and even touched and handled things that we never thought we would! At each turn we explored diversity but in the end learned that similar factors govern the ecological importance of all environments, and that we as humans play an integral role in the survival and sustainability of our marine and coastal ecosystems.

You are all so talented and bright, and I look forward to hearing about your amazing accomplishments in the future (hopefully in the sciences!). My hope this semester was to not only engage you with a variety of thought-provoking experiences but to also help nurture in you a life-long sense of curiosity that would always keep you questioning, seeking, and looking at our world with a sense of wonder and awe to become stewards of the environment.

Best Wishes!
Diana Burich

*In the end, we only conserve what we love. We will only love what we understand.
We will only understand what we are taught. – Dr. Baba Dioum*



Learning about the productivity of New Jersey's estuaries by examining the diverse species caught with seine nets in Sandy Hook Bay.



Explore the Shore's Fall 2016 class at their best! Thank you to our teaching assistant, Elijah Smith (back left), for taking this journey with us!



Looking at the natural processes that shape our shorelines: beach profiling to measure sand erosion and accretion, and examining biomass of dune plants.



North Beach, Gateway National Recreation Area -- Sandy Hook Unit



Identifying plankton on a chilly fall day.



Examining the intricacies of sand from all over the world -- minerals and environmental conditions make each grain different from the next.





Predator-prey relationship study using surf clam and moon snail shells.



Experimental engineering design at work as students design, build and test underwater remotely-operated vehicles (ROVs).





All hands are needed as (National Park Service) Ranger Hillary fills up the ROV test pool at Building 22.



Learning about fish anatomy and morphology.



Comparing estuarine species diversity in late October to early October... what did we discover?





Earth's rotation, temperature and salinity are factors that play roles in ocean water movement around the globe.



A semester of exploring and learning!



