3-A. What types of educational activities/opportunities (K-12, undergraduate and graduate students) does the institute offer on an ongoing basis?

JIMAR has a limited state budget, comprised exclusively of recovered indirect costs and, therefore, has limited resources for targeted educational programs. However, JIMAR has been able to incorporate students (undergraduate and graduate) in a variety of projects and capacities. We currently support 18 graduate research assistants and 22 undergraduate assistants. There are two graduate assistantships funded via targeted recruitment. Each is supported by the PFRP, one in oceanography and one in social sciences. Between 1993 and 2003, JIMAR supported a number of graduate assistants via the NWS Pacific Region Fellowship Program. The funds were provided in lieu of rent as part of the agreement between the University and NWS, which governed the relocation of the Honolulu Forecast Office to the Manoa campus. These “NWS education funds” supported the instructional efforts of three academic programs, Geology and Geophysics, Meteorology, and Oceanography. A recent Inspector General (Commerce) ruling has declared the financial arrangement inappropriate. The University and NWS are negotiating a new agreement which will not include a JIMAR role. The NWS Fellowship program had been highly successful. A number of excellent theses have been completed, and a number of these graduates are pursuing careers within the NWS.

Undergraduate students are employed in a variety of endeavors ranging from clerical to hands-on research. One undergraduate assistant is lead author of a paper conditionally accepted by the Journal of Physical Oceanography (co-authors include two JIMAR Senior Fellows). This same student presented these results as a poster at the 2003 International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics Congress in Sapporo, Japan. JIMAR also hosts summer interns as targets of opportunity. These students are
typically from European universities and have a practical experience requirement which they fulfill with JIMAR. In some instances these students have returned as full-time graduate students.

The PFRP has strongly supported the development of an MS program in Fisheries and Aquaculture at UH. Program planning dates back to the late 1980's but languished as the UH budgets suffered during Hawaii’s continuing financial crises. The PFRP steering committee recognized the need for training of fisheries scientists and decided to use PFRP funds to help move the program along. JIMAR/PFRP funded a Specialist (a UH faculty classification) to develop this program.

JIMAR scientists have also participated in the creation of a graduate certification in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (DMHA) within the UH College of Social Sciences. JIMAR scientists are also participants in a proposed graduate degree program being planned in that same area. DMHA brings physical and social scientists together to address a wide range of subjects, including natural disasters and disaster mitigation.