

University of New Hampshire  
**University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository**

---

UNH International Educator Newsletter

Global Education Center

---

Fall 2012

# Fall 2012, An Oasis of Knowledge

Center for International Education

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholars.unh.edu/international\\_news](https://scholars.unh.edu/international_news)

---

## Recommended Citation

Center for International Education, "Fall 2012, An Oasis of Knowledge" (2012). *International Educator: the Newsletter of the UNH Global Engagement Editorial Board*. 143.  
[https://scholars.unh.edu/international\\_news/143](https://scholars.unh.edu/international_news/143)

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Global Education Center at University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in UNH International Educator Newsletter by an authorized administrator of University of New Hampshire Scholars' Repository. For more information, please contact [nicole.hentz@unh.edu](mailto:nicole.hentz@unh.edu).



University of  
New Hampshire

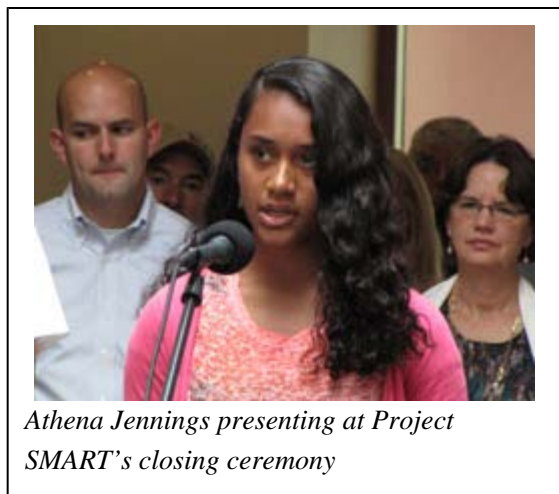
# International Educator

[current issue](#)
[archive](#)
[Search](#)

The UNH Center for International Education Newsletter

Fall 2012

## AN OASIS OF KNOWLEDGE



*Athena Jennings presenting at Project SMART's closing ceremony*

Athena Jennings must be driven four hours one way over narrow roads, which include unlit tarmac that crosses harsh, remote, and isolated desert landscapes, and descends for more than four thousand feet in altitude to reach the north shore of the Red Sea. Needless to say, such educational excursions are rare for this high school student from King's Academy in Madaba, Jordan, who maintains a passion for marine biology despite being raised in an arid homeland.

Jennings' science teacher, Mark Kibler, recognized the sincerity of her early interest and encouraged her to apply to UNH's Project SMART summer program for high school students seeking an academic challenge in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Over the past two decades, the students of Project SMART have benefitted from practicing science with peers who come from diverse backgrounds. Subhash Minocha, the program's co-founder and director, has worked to increase the attendance of students from all around the world – creating and fostering relationships with schools from as far west as Alaska and as far east as Greece and Turkey.

“Providing a forum for personal interaction and networking among students from diverse economic, racial, and geographic backgrounds is paramount to their becoming scientifically literate global citizens,” Minocha said.

Even though this was the first time Jennings and her family were apart for a full four weeks, her mother, Cheryl, took it in stride.

“I had confidence in the university and how things were done,” she said. “And I knew Athena was having a ball.”

In fact, Jennings had the opportunity to experience the complete opposite of her landscape at home.

“We went out to the Isles of Shoals one day and stayed overnight – collecting at night and in the morning,” Jennings said of the research she and her classmates conducted on the species, gender, and size of carapace of invasive and native crabs found in Sandpiper and Smith Coves. “I enjoyed being in an environment with lots of students focused on science.”

“Athena grew a lot. It was really stimulating for her to see how much is out there that can be explored,” according to Cheryl Jennings. “She can use this as a launching pad, and I think she will.” Jennings flew from Jordan with Mark Kibler to congratulate her daughter, her teachers and her classmates at the Project SMART program's closing ceremony.

[Back to index page](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Center for International Education Home](#)

~ Contributed by Victoria Forester Courtland, College of Life Sciences & Agriculture (COLSA)

---

Copyright © 2015, [Center for International Education](#) • The University of New Hampshire  
223 Hood House • 89 Main Street • Durham, NH 03824  
tel: 603-862-2398 • fax: 603-862-0169  
[study.abroad@unh.edu](mailto:study.abroad@unh.edu) • [international.affairs@unh.edu](mailto:international.affairs@unh.edu)