

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Student Editor: Liam Kopp MLS / Immanuel-Greenville WI

## **Getting Their Feet Wet**



While New Ulm froze over Christmas break, some MLC students were snorkeling and sightseeing in toasty Jamaica! Our for-credit Marine Ecology course, sponsored by both MLC and WLC, ran from December 28 to January 7 at the Discovery Bay Marine Lab. A few students gave me snapshots of their experiences:

"I was surprised at how much I learned and grew to appreciate marine ecology," said **Chris Crenshaw** (*MLS* / *Lola Park-Redford MI*). "Devoting time and effort to studying creatures made me appreciate this field of study so much more."

Crenshaw also mentioned some of the experiences he had

that were unique to snorkeling in Jamaican reefs. "I saw a lionfish up close, got stung by a jellyfish, and swam with a spotted eagle stingray as well as a four-foot-long barracuda." And those creatures don't even begin to cover the depth of the MLC students' dives.

**Jayden Koehler** (*Kettle Moraine LHS / St. Paul-Stevensville MI, pictured*) also enjoyed the incredible underwater creatures. "There are so many wonderful creatures in God's creation. We saw colorful fish, eels, octopi, stingrays, turtles, starfish, and much more. We went snorkeling up to 3-4 hours some days, getting



to see how beautiful God made the reefs of Jamaica."

Jayden also enjoyed learning about Jamaican culture. "Immersing ourselves in their culture and seeing much more than the regular tourist gets to see was an out-of-this-world experience that I will never forget. (And the fruit of Jamaica makes me never want to eat fruit in the States again!)"



But to Jayden and many others, the highlight was being "in a place as amazing as Jamaica, studying God's creation with those of a common faith. It was truly one of the coolest things I have ever done."

Luckily, this is a study trip MLC sponsors regularly. In fact, it will be an option in our new J-term. So if you come to MLC, maybe you'll be in their flippers one day!