New Haven Cyberscientists Help Monitor Turtles in Crete

The monitoring of populations of the turtle *Mauremys rivulata* on the island of Crete is one of the six research projects currently being supported by the Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation through the collaboration initiative between the Natural History Museum of Crete and the Yale Peabody Museum. In April 2004 five New Haven Public School educators participated in the turtle monitoring program, which is directed by graduate student Georgia Mantziou, NHMC Curator Petros Lymberakis and Peabody researcher Theodora Pinou.

The educators divided their time between data collection and fellowship with Greek public school educators. They sampled for turtles at the Pombia sewage treatment plant, an artificial wetland, and at the Almyros River, which is a natural wetland, noting similarities and differences between the two sites. The data collected, along with photographs, were posted on a dedicated website accessible to teachers for classroom lessons and laboratory exercises.

The New Haven cyberscientists are: Timothy Coleman of Career High School; Karen Bietler of Hillhouse High School; Idris Trotman and Donna Schlank of Vincent Mauro Elementary School; and Marc Blosveren, Science Supervisor of New Haven Public Schools. They hope to return next year to maintain their new international friendships and collaborations through the distance learning media in the Museum’s Niarchos Classroom—and to mentor the next group of cyberscientists.