

2011

Aboard GSO: A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography for Winter 2011

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ABOARD GSO



A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of the University of Rhode Island's Graduate School of Oceanography

Knauss Busted!

Don Gorden, M.S. 1962

At the recent GSO 50th anniversary celebrations in June, a bust of John Knauss was unveiled and placed on display in the new Pell Science Library. Both John Knauss and the artist, Ellsworth (Bud) Wheeler, were present. The full-sized bust is a wonderful representation of John, complete with his customary bowtie.

Many in the GSO community may not be aware that Bud is an alumnus of GSO. After graduating from Dartmouth College in 1957 and spending four years in the U.S. Air Force, Bud arrived at GSO in 1962 just a few weeks before John Knauss and his family arrived from California. Bud was a member of the first class

that took John's core course in physical oceanography taught in the "jail," then, and now, the home of the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society. For his dissertation, Bud studied deep-sea zooplankton under the supervision of Ted Napora, which required a lot of time at sea on the *Trident* and was awarded his Ph.D. in 1968. He began his professional oceanographic career at the Hopkins Marine Station in Pacific Grove, CA, and then in 1970 moved back to the east coast to join the Department of Zoology at the University of New Hampshire. After ten years in academia, including time at sea on the *Te Vega*, *Westward*, and *Eastward*, Bud decided to make a major career shift and opened a

pottery business at Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH. Then in 1987, he moved to Charleston, SC, and while working as a librarian at the Medical University of South Carolina, he gradually developed his sculpting skills and now creates sculptures under commission. For more information on Bud and his work google "Wheeler Portrait Sculpture."

John Knauss used to say that true oceanographers are renaissance people who can move in different directions and effectively tackle various challenges. By contributing creatively to both the science and arts communities, Bud has set a fine example for other GSO graduates to follow. ■



50 1961-2011
50 Years of Oceanographic Excellence
University of Rhode Island
Oceanography

INSIDE

- 2 ON THE JOB
- 4 BOAT BURNING
- 5 NISKIN CUP 2011
- 6 GSO CELEBRATES 50 YEARS
- 8 ALUMNI NEWS
- 10 AWARDS
- 12 2010-2011 ALUMNI HONOR ROLL
- 14 IN MEMORIAM
- 15 CERF 2011
- 16 UPCOMING EVENTS

On The Job

My Journey Back to URI

Working for NOAA's Ocean Exploration & Research Program

Catalina Martinez, M.S. 1999

Right: Catalina Martinez hosts a media event in the URI Inner Space Center while interacting live with personnel aboard the NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer* working in the Caribbean Sea and the E/V *Nautilus* working in the Black Sea.

Below: Catalina waves the *Okeanos Explorer* into her new home port in Davisville, Rhode Island.

When I graduated with my second master's degree from URI in 2001 and headed to Maryland to start my year as a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration (OE), I never dreamed I would have the opportunity to come back to the amazing URI Graduate School of Oceanography campus within a few years to manage a regional office for the program, but that's exactly what happened. OE was only in its second year when I joined as a Fellow and I had much to learn, but as it was a new, exciting program just beginning to establish itself within NOAA and the Oceanographic community at large, there were wonderful opportunities to work as part of several hard-working teams to carve some unique paths forward for the program. I was hired after my Fellowship year and I've been working for OE (now called Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) through a merger with the National Undersea Research Program), ever since.

In the first few years, I helped develop an operational component to OER's granting program out of the home office in Silver Spring, Maryland, and sailed as expedition coordinator on various cruises about two-three months per year. During that time, I quickly learned that my human service training prior to studying oceanography was equally important while navigating the inevitable challenges associated with bringing people together at sea. I also participated in education and outreach



directly in line with the mission of the OER program, there was natural synergy that resulted in the development of a formal partnership. This led me back to the URI GSO campus in 2004 to establish a regional office for OER, coordinating NOAA's work with URI and IFE to initiate a systematic program in ocean exploration. The main focus of this collaboration has been the development and application of telepresence technology and its associated shore-based facilities for the purpose of ocean exploration and research, as well as public outreach and education. Telepresence technology, as it is applied through our joint projects, is the use of satellite technology and high bandwidth Internet2 to transmit data in real-time from remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) working at depth to a variety of receiving stations on shore. It's important to note that Dr. Ballard originally envisioned the use of satellite technology in this way more than 25 years ago, and although new applications continue to evolve, the technology has proven quite effective at providing a portal into the excitement of oceanographic discovery, and helps demonstrate to the general public, the importance of exploring our largely unknown ocean—the value of which, cannot be overstated.

Our research and development years also included outfitting two ships dedicated to ocean exploration; the NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* and the Ocean Exploration Trust's Exploration Vessel (E/V) *Nautilus*. Both are equipped with the tools, systems, and personnel to fully realize this vision of sharing data from the bottom of the ocean with audiences on shore in real time. Land-based Exploration Command Centers were also developed in strategic locations mostly within the United States, but also in other parts of the world, to enable ship-to-shore mission capabilities from both ships during telepresence-enabled expeditions.

—continued next page



efforts associated with the expeditions, mostly focused on developing opportunities for underserved and underrepresented students, and became a regular contributor to the award winning NOAA Ocean Explorer Web site (oceanexplorer.noaa.gov).

Early on I was introduced to Dr. Robert Ballard, as he was an integral player in the development of the NOAA OER program through his participation on the President's Panel on Ocean Exploration and also as a member of NOAA's Science Advisory Board. As Dr. Ballard's long, distinguished career as an oceanexplorer and the technology development efforts being conducted through his Institute for Exploration (IFE) were

ABOARD GSO newsletter is funded by the GSO Alumni Association, Friends of Oceanography, and the Dean of GSO to keep friends, alumni, and the community informed of what is happening at GSO.

For more information about the Alumni Association, contact Walter Berry, Chair (berry.walter@epamail.epa.gov). To learn more about Friends of Oceanography, contact Deb Coty (debim@gso.uri.edu).

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The Ocean from Above

Jim Hain, Ph.D. 1975

It is a glorious day off the coast of Florida. Off to the right, the coastline, piers, and condos pass in a moving panorama. We, the Marineland Right Whale Project, are searching for right whales. This is the area and the season where this endangered species come to have their calves. Our eyeballs are scanning, but not much is moving. An uneventful day. The aircraft passes through its waypoint off the Canaveral Seashore and turns east on the outbound leg of our survey pattern. Abruptly, the voice of the pilot comes to life in my headset: “Sight, dead ahead, one mile.” We spring into a familiar but always exciting routine. I reach for the camera, pull back on the zoom lens, and prepare for the photography, which will be to the left. “Mother-calf pair,” the pilot calls. The plane begins a series of slow, quiet orbits with the closest segment of the curve positioned to give me, the photographer, the “whales down-sun” view that we need. Not always easy because this has to be coordinated with the diving and surfacing pattern of the whales. The pilot is skilled and we have done this many times. I have the pair in the frame, and push out on the zoom lens for the required full-frame shot of the mother’s head and the pattern that will allow us to identify the individual. After about 15 minutes of photography, observations, and logging of GPS positions, I announce, “All set, thank you.” The plane straightens, points north, and we rejoin the survey track. There will be one more sighting this day before we complete the pattern and land back at the grassy airfield and our hangar just west of Marineland, Florida.



I began flying surveys in Professor Howard Winn’s Cetacean and Turtle Assessment Program (CETAP), 1978-82, based at GSO. In the decades since, I have flown in various aircraft, including blimps and helicopters. Projects and methods evolve. This particular aircraft is interesting. The AirCam type was originally designed for wildlife surveys and photography in Africa. In addition to all the characteristics that make for a good survey and photographic platform, there was one more thing: the highest level of safety and reliability—as the remote jungles of Africa were not a location where one would want any untoward events or surprises. The same is true for overwater surveys, often at some distance from land. It was the combination of capability and safety that led us to purchasing an AirCam in late 2006. We are now in the 5th year of using an AirCam for ocean studies. The plane is used for right whale and manta ray studies, and the flights and sightings data are typically coordinated with sea-surface-temperature data from satellite imagery and data-buoy stations.

In a time when “keyboard science,” predictive modeling, and other characterizations of reality are in vogue, the real bread-and-butter of our chosen profession are the field studies. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the GSO, an inventory of the several hundred GSO graduates would include many innovative and effective advances in methods and platforms. Contrary to what the Gilbert and Sullivan lyrics (as adapted for oceanographers) describe: “Stick close to your desk and never go to sea, and you’ll get ahead in oceanography”—the excitement, rewards, and yes, (sometimes) the fun, are when we go to sea. We may be in, under, on, or over the sea. Either way, it is what we do. And GSO is almost always at the core. ■



Jim Hain, GSO 75, Associated Scientists at Woods Hole, Woods Hole, Massachusetts

Below far left: The pattern of callosities (skin eruptions inhabited by whale lice) on the head of this female allow us to identify this individual as Catalog #3430, age 7, with her first calf.



Left: The AirCam, a quiet, twin-engine, open-cockpit aircraft allows for unobtrusive observations and photography of endangered right whales and other ocean life. The plane is currently based in Florida.

Catalina Martinez —continued from p. 2

Bringing these extraordinary efforts full-circle, the *Okeanos Explorer* recently arrived in her new home port in Davisville, Rhode Island, and the newly developed state-of-the-art URI Inner Space Center (ISC) is fully operational as the hub for all of this exciting telepresence technology. Located in the Ocean Science and Exploration Center on the URI GSO campus, the ISC includes a production studio for live and post-produced education and outreach efforts and a Mission Control Center for ship-to-shore connectivity to support telepresence-enabled expeditions on the *Okeanos Explorer*, the *Nautilus*, and other ships

at sea using this exciting technology. Our NOAA OER office is conveniently located adjacent to the ISC Mission Control Center, with a lovely view of Narragansett Bay. I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have had the opportunity to help pave the way for this special partnership, and to see these unique capabilities realized within NOAA and at URI. It’s been quite a journey! ■

For more information:

www.oceanexplorer.noaa.gov www.isc.gso.uri.edu
www.moc.noaa.gov/oe www.nautiluslive.org

Boat Burning 2011

Brita Jessen

The fire on the beach was in full swing, but several onlookers were noticing a blaze at the horizon. For a brief moment, we wondered if the city of Newport was trying to rival our boat burning celebration with a bonfire of its own. Soon we realized it was the burnt-orange glow of the rising moon. As our fire continued through the evening, the moon rose high and overlooked the GSO community celebrating its 50th year at the start of a new fall semester. A calm sea and the brightly lit R/V *Endeavor* stationed at dock completed the picture-perfect scene.

The evening was heralded with an opening speech by Dr. John Merrill, professor of atmospheric chemistry and climate science. Dr. Merrill returned to a classic subject of boat burning gatherings, the role of black carbon in our global system. After bravely inviting questions from the attendants, Dr. Merrill stepped aside for the well-findered flames to take center stage. Around the fire, newcomers and long-standing members of the GSO community participated in friendly discourse mixed with quiet reflection.

The success of the evening was due to the dedicated efforts by a new organizing committee: GSO students Anne Hartwell, Justine Sauvage, and Henry Wladkowski, along with student volunteers and members of the student organization Chowder and Marching. Although the definition of a “boat” might be se-



lectively applied to this year’s offering, the organizing committee carefully determined that the two small craft were seaworthy at some point of their existence. (Old wooden boats at the end of their use are becoming increasingly hard to find, so if you know of one that is ready to be scraped, please let Chowder and Marching know!) The organizers were proud to continue the new tradition of using biodegradable plates, cups, and utensils that will be turned into compost at nearby Casey Farm.

As the fall semester draws down, it is great to remember that early September evening, with new faces that have now become familiar, and a blazing moonrise that matched our shore-side celebration. We look forward to a new gathering next year. ■



Niskin Cup 2011

Rich Bell, Ph.D. 2009

March 19, 2011, the Narragansett Bay Blades defeated the WHOI High Stickers 5-1 in the first game of the 30th anniversary of the Nicken Cup. The home crowd was witness to some great play between the pipes by Jason Krumholz and two goals by Jeff Mercer. The forward line of Rich Kaiser, Jeff Domingoes and Bud Vincent combined for the other three. Mike St. Laurent might have had a few more had the opposing team not physically moved the net out of the way when they saw him coming.

Two games are played annually by current and former faculty, staff and students of the Bay Campus. As the competition is between oceanographers the trophy, which is proudly hanging in the Trident room, is an actual Nisken bottle. Per the secret charter signed in blood eons ago to ensure that only true oceanographers are involved, the losing team may question the saltiness of any



member of the winning team. The selected individual must step forward and properly cock and release the Nisken cup. Failure to do so has grave consequences. (editor note: no one was keel hauled this year, thought that may have

been because no one wanted to mess up that shiny new blue paint job.)

Special thanks to Dave and Parker Smith for running the clock and to all who attended. The home crowd was great. ■



The Bay Blades (light jerseys) and Woods Hole high stickers (dark jerseys). Photos: Katy Croff Bell.

An Evening to Remember 50th Anniversary Dinner

Saturday night of the celebration weekend, a gala dinner on the GSO quadrangle was an affair that it may take 50 more years to ever see the likes of again. More than 500 people, dressed to nines, strolled the open-air party, sipping cocktails, renewing old friendships, and greeting long-lost colleagues from years past who had returned for the special occasion.

After settling in their seats under a tent that would have done Ringling Brothers proud, a high-end buffet dinner

was served featuring fresh seafood and gourmet edibles from local restaurants, growers, and purveyors that were familiar to many in the crowd, and no strangers to the GSO community.

During the meal, the new GSO video, *Keeping an Eye on the Ocean: 50 years of Discovery*, was screened for the assembled diners, receiving the best possible review by virtue of halted conversations and the lack of the sound of utensils on clacking plates as the audience gave the video its full attention.

Dinner was followed by more partying as fireworks exploded over the Bay, The Life of Riley began to play and the revelers began to dance until the midnight hour. ■



1

1. More than 90 GSO Alumni were present for the celebration weekend. Here are some of you! Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.



2

2. All the Graduate School of Oceanography deans were there to honor John Knauss, GSO's first dean (seated). From left to right, Robert Duce, John's successor, David Farmer, GSO's most recent dean, Margaret Leinen, Ph.D. 1980, and James Yoder, M.S. 1974, Ph.D. 1979. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.



3

3. More than 800 people explored the "touch" tanks and toured the EPA vessel docked at GSO for the event. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

4. A young girl gets to feel like a shark!

Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.



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6. Almost 500 people gathered under a huge tent for the Saturday night dinner celebration featuring local Rhode Island vendors' appetizers and food. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

7. Kathy Donohue, Ph.D. 1996, center left, and friends get ready to enjoy the evening meal. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

8. Matt Horn, Ph.D. 2011, center, and friends had a nice table under the tent. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

9. John Knauss and Joan Pilson enjoyed a dance to the music of The Life of Riley with alumni guest player Christopher Deacutis, M.S. 1977, Ph.D. 1982. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

10. Alumni, faculty, staff, and guests danced until midnight. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

11. On Sunday, The James Montgomery Blues Band with guest Shorty Billups rocked the Quad. Perry Jeffries, M.S. 1955, cut a mean rug. Photo courtesy of Veronica Berounsky.

12. Arthur Mariano, Ph.D. 1986, watched the magnificent fireworks display over the bay. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

13. Some of the concert goers enjoyed relaxing on the Quad listening to the blues. Photo courtesy of Michael Salerno.

Alumni News

Robert Bird, M.S. 1991, Ph.D. 1994 is back in Jakarta working for Murphy Overseas Ventures, Inc. His son Robbie is in Nova Scotia at St. Francis Xavier University studying business, his daughter Leah is doing a teaching degree at the University of Notre Dame (but this one is in Fremantle, Australia) and daughter Anna is in Year 12 (she's the Rhody so she could even go to URI!). Leah and Anna live at home, so for the moment Mary is still in Perth and Rob's doing a long commute. Home base is North Lake, Australia!

Leslie Bulion, M.S. 1984 has just written a new book, *At The Sea Floor Cafe: Odd Ocean Critter Poems*, published by Peachtree on April 1, 2011. The "book blurb" says "This clever collection of poems describes the devious and sometimes surprising methods ocean denizens use to forage for food, capture prey, trick predators, and protect their young. The poems swim effortlessly from page to page, leading us from the snail shell home of the jeweled anemone crab on the ocean floor to a violet snail hanging upside down in its bubble house on the sea's surface. *At The Sea Floor Cafe* includes science notes with details about each animal's behavior, a glossary, and an appendix explaining the forms of poetry that appear on each spread. Striking linoleum prints round out this title, which can be used across the curriculum." The website is www.lesliebulion.com.

Jessica Dombroski, M.S. 2004 was married on June 18, 2011 and is now Jessica DiNola. Congratulations!

Ardia Elskus, M.S. 1985 is still in Maine after 7 years. For those of you who know her and Larry Leblanc, M.S. 1989, you know that they are notorious for seldom being in one place more than 5 years at a time. They have grown deep roots in Maine. Larry is, as always, combining environmental chemistry with his music. His band, NEVAH, is playing around the area as an "atypical bluegrass band" – 8 guys who are 50+ are having the time of their lives! Ardia has branched out to work with USGS colleagues in California

and beyond, working on fungicides and their toxicity to non-target organisms.

Scott Freeman, M.S. 2001 says a lot has happened in his life recently... He changed his job, his location, and his marital status, and went on a long research cruise in the Arctic. He is now living in Alexandria, VA, working at NASA in Greenbelt, Maryland with Dr. Joaquin Chaves, and he married in May, 2011.

Kurt Hanson, M.S. 1996 and his wife are still celebrating the birth of their second child, Tavo, this past spring. Karina and Kurt both took 14 weeks off from work—an amazing summer—filled with baby talk, trips to the beach, and occasional 3:00 a.m. bonding sessions.

Nancy Friday, Ph.D. 1997 continues to work at the National Marine Mammals Laboratory, AFSC, NMFS in Seattle, WA, studying abundance and distribution of large whales. She and Mark have two daughters. Miriam is six and in first grade and Margalit will be two in January.

David Johnson, Ph.D. 1973 retired from ESF after 35 years. He started a sustainability company, SKD Environmental Systems and a not for profit, Trinity Sustainable Water Systems.

Christopher Langdon, Ph.D. 1988 was recently promoted to full professor at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami.

Ernest Lorda, Ph.D. 1983 has been retired for a few years now and is enjoying it immensely. He did miss his work and coworkers the first 2–3 months, but now would recommend retirement to anyone able to do so. Besides gardening and photography, Ernest has been traveling abroad twice a year.

David Muerdter, Ph.D. 1982 is still consulting in Geophysics—he's been doing for the last 15 years (details at www.luminterra.com). A couple of years ago he developed a one week class entitled "Seismic Velocities and Depth Conversion" for PetroSkills, a company that has a wide variety of training classes for the Petroleum industry. Dave said he learned so much while putting together the class and

updating it after getting feedback from his attendees. For the last year and a half he's been traveling to teach the class in Houston, London, Dubai, and Kuala Lumpur plus where ever a company wants the class taught. This plays right into his love of travel and sometime his wife, Nancy, gets a chance to travel along if she is not busy with her work in the Oceanography department at University of Washington (www.ooi.washington.edu).

Christopher Popham, M.S. 2006 was married on July 6, 2011 to Jamie Smith Popham and started work at the Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, AK, on August 15, 2011.

Michael Prager, Ph.D. 1984, sends greetings from Oregon! In April, 2010, he retired from NOAA after 21 years of service -- in La Jolla, CA; Miami, FL; Tiburon, CA; and finally Beaufort, NC. Continuing their east-west oscillation, he and his wife Juanita moved to Portland, OR, in July, 2010. In September, 2010, Mike was given the Oscar Elton Sette Award of the Marine Fisheries Section of the American Fisheries Society for "sustained excellence in marine fishery biology."

In March, 2011, he was given the NOAA Distinguished Career Award "for twenty years of cutting edge analytical techniques to evaluate fisheries populations as the basis for scientifically rigorous stock assessments." He and Juanita are enjoying Portland's cultural life and many excellent restaurants, not to mention the trails of the Columbia River Gorge, Cascades, and Coast Range. He asked that GSO friends to contact them when in the area. Mike can be reached at mike.prager@mhprager.com.

Neil Savage, Ph.D. 1975 writes, "I am about to embark on my 16th Coastal Cleanup with the Coastal Rompers, that Girl Scout interest group, devoted marine education and conservation, represented on the front page of an issue of *Aboard GSO* some years ago. The girls just returned from a day trip to Shoals Marine Lab, on Appledore Island—seven miles from the NH coast, and said to be the largest field marine station for under-

graduate studies in North America. On Saturday, 15 October, the Coastal Rompers will direct more than 90 Girl Scouts and adult volunteers, to survey and remove trash from nearly a mile of shore in Rye, NH. I am semi-retired, working part-time, culturing minnows and invertebrates [selling the young for bioassay and toxicity testing] and teaching courses at local community colleges, including environmental issues. I have three elementary school-aged granddaughters, and a 15-month old grandson named Gavin. Happy 50th Anniversary to all!

Alina M. Szmant, Ph.D. 1980 semi-retired in June of 2011 and is now working as a phased retirement faculty. To her, it seems like she's had almost as much to do as before—still now time to take up typical retirement activities such as painting, pottery, or reading for fun.

Douglas Vaughan, Ph.D. 1977, received ASMFC Excellence Award and Retired on 3 August 2011! He earned a BS in Mathematics from the University of New Hampshire (1968), and a MA in Statistics from Penn State University (1970). He then worked for the US EPA in Washington D.C. for two years, before returning to earn a PhD in Biological Oceanography from URI's Graduate School of Oceanography. His dissertation was on population modeling of Atlantic menhaden. He then worked for the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee for over five years, primarily on power plant impacts on fish populations, and particularly on the Hudson River Power Plant Case. He went to Beaufort in 1982 to work on menhaden, and found no reason to move on. He spent much of my professional career working for NOAA Fisher-

ies at the Beaufort Laboratory, going on 29 years. He worked on one last menhaden assessment—gulf menhaden—as he went into retirement. Early this year, Doug received the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Annual Award of Excellence in the Scientific, Technical, and Advisory category because of his work on Atlantic menhaden over the years. He hopes not to completely disappear in retirement, and will be found at the upcoming annual American Fishery Society meetings. He's currently President-Elect for the Marine Fisheries Section (2011–2012) to be followed by two years as President (2013–2014). It has been fun!

William Woityra, M.S. 2005 was selected to be a Coast Guard attaché to Malta. He will report to the embassy sometime in 2012. ■

Sachs Receives Master's Thesis Award

Victoria Paris Sacks is this year's first place recipient of the prestigious Montgomery Watson Harza Consulting Engineers/AEESP Master's Thesis award. This award annually recognizes the first and second most outstanding M.S. theses that contribute to the advancement of environmental science and engineering. A selection committee of three AEESP members reads and judges each thesis on the scientific and technical merit, originality of research, contribution to the advancement of environmental engineering, and clarity of presentation.

Victoria's thesis, entitled *Validation of Polyethylene Passive Samplers for the Detection of Emerging Contaminants* focuses on developing polyethylene passive

samplers (PE) for measuring emerging contaminants such as triclosan, alkylphenols, and PBDEs in water and sediment porewater. To be able to use PE in the field, the polyethylene-water partitioning constants (KPEw) must be known for each compound of interest. Victoria measured these KPEw at different temperature, pH and salt conditions in the laboratory. Samplers were then deployed in surface and bottom waters of Narragansett Bay, RI, and incubated in sediment for porewater measurements. Using KPEw, environmental concentrations were calculated (e.g. pg L⁻¹) and by comparing contaminant activities in surface, bottom, and porewater from samplers deployed at the same location, environmental gradients were determined. ■

CERF '11 Daytona Beach, Florida



The GSO lab with probably the highest attendance at CERF '11 was the Nixon lab: front row, left to right: Lindsey Fields, Courtney Schmidt, Scott Nixon, Kelly Henry, Veronica Berounsky. Back row, left to right: Fred Short, Leanna Heffner, Steve Hale, Autumn Oczkowski, Lora Harris, Mark Brush, Wally Fulweiler, Jack Kelly. See page 15 for details. Photo: Veronica Berounsky.

New London— Among the four new members of the U.S. Coast Guard International Ice Patrol welcomed during the summer transfer season was **Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Worst**, of Connecticut. Worst reported from the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island to serve as the deputy commander.

Alumni and Faculty Honors

Ted Smayda Festschrift



In honor of Ted Smayda's contributions in the field of phytoplankton former students and colleagues of his organized a "Festschrift" for him during this past year, the year of his 80th birthday. This included a series of public lectures, some of which are being published in a celebration volume by the journal *Botanica Marina*. The event took place at GSO during the two days immediately prior to the 50th Anniversary celebrations at GSO allowing attendees of the Festschrift to participate in the latter event. Most of his former students participated making for a happy reunion of people who, in some cases, had not seen each other for years.

A wide range of topics were covered in the presentations, some scientific, some retrospective, and an interest-

ing one comparing the scientific approach to that of law by Ellen Deason who left science for law and is presently a professor at Ohio State University School of Law. The event was partially sponsored by Rhode Island Sea Grant in recognition of Ted's contributions.

A clambake at Ted and Marilyn Smayda's house in Jamestown, and a barbeque at Ted and Maria Durbin's house in Kingston, provided venues for more informal celebrations and raconteur-ing of stories. Thanks go to former students Carmelo Tomas, a professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, and Tracy Villareal, a professor at the University of Texas at Austen for providing the impetus for the event. ■

One for the Books

President Obama Honors Outstanding Early-Career Scientists



Jeff Book. Photo courtesy of Naval Research Laboratory, Stennis Space Center.

Shortly after disembarking from a research ship in Italy, Jeffrey Book, MOS '98, Ph.D. '07, a civilian physical oceanographer at the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) at Stennis Space Center, Miss., flew to Washington, D.C., where he was awarded a Presidential Early Career Award. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on scientists and engineering professionals in the early stages of their research careers.

Jeff's journey to the White House began in a small town near Cincinnati where, as a young boy, he often pretended to be Jacques Cousteau-like, researching undersea biology in his backyard.

The path veered to physics studies at the University of Missouri-Rolla. After graduation, he applied to several graduate schools, including the Graduate School of Oceanography. GSO and oceanography were not his first choices originally, but all that changed when he visited the campus. You could say it was love at first sight—with the school and later that summer with Majorie Kelner '96 B.A., his future wife.

Mark Wimbush was Jeff's advisor for his master's thesis and his Ph.D. dissertation. "Mark's teaching and mentorship has played a huge role in my "early career" and I try my best to model his dedication to learning, teaching, and excellence in science. My training at GSO influences nearly all of my work, especially the emphasis on understanding ocean dynamics through observation," says the award winner.

Starting full time at the NRL in 1999, one of Jeff's first assignments was a continuation of his collaboration with Wimbush and GSO's Randy Watts in the Sea of Japan.

His work as principal investigator for the Navy lab project, Dynamics of the

Adriatic in Real Time, with the NATO Undersea Research Centre and 23 other institutions, has led to an improved understanding of how waters of different characteristics interact when they meet at ocean boundaries and form complex flow structures that can affect activities taking place in the sea. Those observations can be used to evaluate our ability to predict the ocean in the short term with numerical models.

Jeff contributed to the development and use of new technologies to measure ocean structures and provide the data in real-time so it can be immediately used by prediction models to make more accurate forecasts of ocean conditions.

Jeff is continuing such work off the North West Shelf of Australia, studying the effect of strong tides on ocean predictability, but early in 2012 he will shift gears a bit for a case study on ocean fine structure off South Africa. "My recent work on the Agulhus Return Current has brought me full circle to my URI masters thesis work on the Kuroshio current, as once again I am working on Western Boundary Current Dynamics," the oceanographer says. ■

Rosby called ‘most innovative ocean engineer of 20th century’

The Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island celebrated the recent retirement of one of its longest serving and most distinguished professors last week with a day-long symposium in his honor.

Former students, postdoctoral researchers, colleagues and mentors of H. Thomas Rossby, who one called “the most innovative ocean engineer of the 20th century,” celebrated his long career with what they termed a “Rossby Symposium,” during which select participants gave presentations about research they were conducting that was inspired by the URI scientist. Speakers traveled from five countries to participate.

A native of Boston who now lives in Saunderstown, Rossby spent his career studying ocean circulation, especially the Gulf Stream, and how it affects weather and climate around the world. As several speakers noted, he not only conducted research on ocean circulation, he also invented numerous devices and techniques for doing this research.

Rosby’s scientific contributions include the development and deployment of neutrally buoyant floats that take advantage of the distribution of sound velocity in the ocean, instruments that enable scientists to monitor fish movements by tracking tagged fish, and determining phenomena occurring at the sea surface via acoustic instruments below the surface. Later in his career he devoted his efforts to a

worldwide program that uses instruments mounted on commercial ships to make oceanographic measurements as the ships cross the ocean repeatedly between two ports.

Rosby has earned many of the highest honors bestowed upon scientists in his discipline, including the Ewing Medal from the American Geophysical Union, the Munk Award from The Oceanographic Society and the Suomi Award from the American Meteorological Society. He is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society and the American Geophysical Union and a member of the American Academy of the Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering. He earned his engineering degree in applied physics at the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, and a doctorate in oceanography at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

According to URI Oceanography Professor D. Randolph Watts, who organized the symposium, Rossby is “a very positive, supportive gentleman who is liked and respected by all and who loves to go to sea to conduct his research. Tom has a firm belief that you have to actually measure the ocean to know what is happening in the ocean.” Rossby has traveled aboard the URI research vessel *Endeavor* about 40 times, more than any other scientist.

Rosby retired from the Graduate School of Oceanography last June, but he continues to maintain an active research program. ■



Leinen Honored

In recognition of her accomplishments and global leadership, Margaret Leinen, a leading climate change scientist and executive director of the Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, and Associate Provost of the university’s Marine and Environmental Initiatives, was awarded an honorary doctor of science during the URI Graduate School commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Prior to her current position, Leinen founded and led the Climate Response Fund to increase awareness and funding for promising climate engineering research, and served as chief science officer of Climos, Inc. Before that she was assistant director for geosciences and coordinator of environmental research and education for the National Science Foundation.

Once known fondly in Rhode Island as the “Dean of the Deep,” Leinen had served as the dean of the University of Rhode Island’s Graduate School of Oceanography—her alma mater—for nine years. As dean and vice provost of Marine Affairs, Leinen spearheaded the University’s efforts to build a cohesive interdisciplinary marine and environmental focus. When she was appointed dean in 1991, she was the first woman to head what was one of the nation’s select 10 Joint Oceanographic Institutions. Leinen received her bachelor’s degree in geology from the University of Illinois; her master’s degree in geological oceanography from Oregon State University; and her Ph.D. in oceanography from URI. ■



2010–2011 Graduate School of Oceanography Alumni and Friends Honor Roll

Graduate School of Oceanography Alumni Donors

Many thanks to GSO's generous alumni who contributed to the 2010-2011 Annual Fund. Your contributions will support scholarships, awards, and the Pell Library.

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In Memoriam



Mary Sinnamon Michelman, M.S. 1988, an Acton resident known for her volunteer work on environmental issues, died December 17, 2010, after a recurrence of breast cancer. Friends, family members and colleagues remember Michelman as a fighter on the issues she cared about and a lover of calming things: Biking, reading and the ocean.

Michelman, 50, was the president of Acton Citizens for Environmental Safety (ACES) for seven years and acted as an environmental watchdog on the W.R. Grace pollution cleanup and analysis. Michelman, an oceanographer by training, grew up in Manchester, Conn. She married her husband, Tom, in 1986 and was a mother of two girls, Julie, 22, and Valerie, 19.

While Michelman used her master's degree in biological oceanography for consulting work and on her graduate projects, she mainly put her scientific knowledge to work as a volunteer for her community.

Michelman was a member of the choir at Acton Congregational Church. When she wasn't going through binders of data at Acton Memorial Library, she enjoyed organic gardening, walking and cycling.

Her husband described her as gracious and unassuming, adding that she hated being on the front page of *The Beacon* — she would prefer just to focus on the work. © 2010 *The Beacon*.

Colin Y. Shen, Ph.D. 1977, a student of Dr. Stern.
—January 11, 14, 2011, in Falls Church, Virginia.

Richard A. Cooper, M.S. 1961, Ph.D., 1965, beloved husband for 50 years of Patricia (Davis) Cooper, passed away suddenly on Friday, Jan. 28, 2011, at his home.

Richard "Dick" was an oceanographer and Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut. Early in his career Dick was a biologist at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole, Mass., where he led the Manned Undersea Science and Technology group. During this time he was involved with many of our nation's first experiments in saturation diving and undersea habitation. In 1982, he received the prestigious NOGI Award for Diver of the Year in Science. Dick was also a former director of the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut where

he implemented research programs using underwater vehicles across New England, the Great Lakes, and in places around the world. He founded the High School Aquanaut Program that created once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for hundreds of high school students and teachers in ocean sciences. Starting in the mid-1990s, Dick became director of the Marine Sciences and Technology Center at UConn for 10 years where he was instrumental, among other things, in the construction of two new state-of-the-art research and education buildings in addition to the university's flagship research vessel, the R/V *Connecticut*. Finally, Richard was the founder and driving force behind Ocean Technology Foundation and the SeaBase1 Corp. Most recently, Dick was nominated for Diver of the Year award from *Beneath the Sea*. On his behalf, the Cooper family accepted the award during a ceremony in March.

Richard Heavers, Ph.D. 1972, of Charlestown, died Monday, November 14, 2011, at home. He was the beloved husband of Barbara (Wegener) Heavers, PhD, for 40 years. Born in Troy, New York, he was a son of the late Michael J. and Florence K. (Walsh) Heavers. Dr. Heavers was educated in Catholic schools in Troy, New York. He received his undergraduate degree in physics from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy and his Master's degree in physics from the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, as well as a Doctorate degree from the URI School of Oceanography. Dr. Heavers was a professor of physics at Roger Williams University in Bristol, for the past 30 years, and prior to that he was an oceanographer for the Naval Oceanographic Office in Washington, DC. He was a member of Christ the King Church in Kingston, and in his spare time enjoyed sheep farming, beekeeping, tending to his apple orchard, singing and playing music, and travelling the world. Dr. Heavers was an avid hiker and had climbed all of the 48, 4,000 foot mountains in New Hampshire earning the title of "Peakbagger." Besides his wife he is survived by three children, Katherine M. Heavers of New Jersey, Nathan M. Heavers of New Jersey, and Ian R. Heavers of Baltimore, MD; three grandchildren, Ellen, Robert, and Anne; a brother John Heavers of Tennessee; and a sister Eileen Heavers of Troy, NY. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 AM Saturday, November 19th, at Christ the King Church, 180 Old North Road, Kingston. Memorial donations may be made to the URI Catholic Center, for the mission trips to Nicaragua, 90 Chapel Way, Kingston, RI 02881-1226. (Published in The Providence Journal on November 16, 2011)

CERF 2011—

GSO Alums are Hot!

Veronica Berounsky, Ph.D. 1990

It's a fact. GSO alums are hot—as demonstrated by their attendance at the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation's 21st Biennial Conference (CERF '11) in Daytona Beach, Florida, this past November. In one sense, I am talking about the weather—nothing like some summer weather in November to bring out the sandals, short-sleeves, and sunglasses for New Englanders used to daily drops in temperatures—but also in the range and variety of presentations at CERF '11. Talks, posters, and sessions by GSO grad students, GSO faculty, past and present GSO staff, GSO alums, and even students of GSO alums were hot topics in the scientific program that was co-chaired by David Rudnick, Ph.D. '84. Many of the presentations were on nitrogen, but seagrasses, habitat restoration, modeling, benthic-pelagic coupling and both nutrient enrichment and nutrient reduction were also discussed. Some of the data sets analyzed were very recent (a few weeks previous) and at least one was from about 25 years ago (GSO's MERL lives!). And this research took place in ecosystems as varied as urban Boston Harbor to the Florida Everglades, and as familiar as Narragansett Bay and as new to New Englanders as Caloosahatchee Estuary that empties into the Gulf of Mexico. In addition to the research presentations, the keynote speaker for the Women in Science Lunch was our own Margaret Leinen, Ph.D. 1980, Hon. 2011, and GSO Dean 1991–1999 who gave a great talk about lessons she has learned from people at all stages of her life.

On Tuesday evening, Nov 7, at the Hilton Daytona Beach Oceanfront Hotel we celebrated the GSO's 50th Anniversary and our time at GSO. It was a wonderful evening for catching up with alums that could not make it to Narragansett for the 50th events. It was also an opportunity for people who left GSO years ago to meet present students and recent alums. We also had three laptops loaded for viewing—the official GSO 50th Anniversary video, a collection of photos of GSO people from the early days to about 10 years ago, and photos of the GSO 50th Celebration weekend last June. The GSO Alumni would like to thank recently retired GSO Dean David Farmer and GSO Interim Dean Steve D'Hondt for allocating funds for this reunion. We would also like to thank Sara Hickox of GSO's Office of Marine Programs for providing many GSO Bookstore items (including GSO 50th Anniversary t-shirts and water bottles) that were given away as door prizes. The prize for the person coming from the shortest distance was a tie between the aforementioned David Rudnick and colleague Peter Doering Ph.D. '81 both of South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach, FL. The person coming the farthest was Tara Schraga, MS '97 of USGS in San Francisco, CA. And thank you to all who came—we could not have a GSO reunion without you! ■



Looking over the prizes they won are Peter Doering and Tara Schraga with Carleton Hunt and Fred Short. Photo: Veronica Berounsky.



People who worked hard for CERF '11 included GSO student Leanna Heffner who ran several student events and maintained the facebook page, Dave Rudnick '84 who was one of the scientific program co-chairs, and CERF Executive Director Joy Bartolomew. Photo: Veronica Berounsky.

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Upcoming Events at GSO

Renewable Energy Siting Partnership (RESP) Library Lecture Series

Tuesday, January 24, 2012, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

North Kingstown Free Library, 100 Boone Street, North Kingstown, RI

What's in the Wind? Meteorological Observations for Energy Siting

Before a wind turbine can be sited, a great deal of information must be known about the power source—the wind—at any given site. URI researchers John Merrill and Annette Grilli will share the science of wind measuring and how and why it works.

Wednesday, February 15, 2012, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Rogers Free Library, 525 Hope Street, Bristol, RI

Science for Siting: Engineering for Locating Wind Turbines

Besides an overview of land-based energy resources in Rhode Island, URI researchers Malcolm Spaulding and Gopu Potty will share a strategy for siting wind energy facilities that considers wind resources, technological and development constraints, and ecological issues.

Thursday, March 8, 2012, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Kettle Pond Visitor Center, Charlestown, RI

Wind Power and Wildlife: Assessing Potential Impacts on Birds and Bats

Science provides some answers, sometimes surprising, regarding how these animals respond to infrastructure such as wind turbines. URI bird scientist Peter Paton will share this science, as understanding these responses can inform the community dialogue about renewable energy choices.

RSVPs are required.

To register, please contact Amber at amber@crc.uri.edu or 401-874-6106.

Learn more about the RESP at <http://seagrant.gso.uri.edu/resp/index.html>.

Office of Marine Programs

Saturday, July 21, 2012, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 18, 2012, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Free Family Beachcombing Program

Join University of Rhode Island Marine Outreach Scientists on a summer day at low tide for a two-hour beach investigation experience. Explore Fort Getty, one of Rhode Island's unique coastal beaches. This program gives young people a special chance to have their questions answered about the plants, animals, and minerals found on the beach. Free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. To register, call the Office of Marine Programs at 401-874-6211. More information will be sent to registered participants via email.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 8, 2010, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Historic South Ferry Walking Tours

Relive the history of a once-thriving village on Narragansett Bay by taking a South Ferry Walking Tour. The program will begin with a short slide presentation and lecture in the large conference room in the Coastal Institute Visitor Center on the URI Narragansett Bay Campus. Historians Wayne and Bernice Durfee of Narragansett will guide participants through the historic sites at South Ferry, including the old ferry landing, the WWI military bunkers, the campus of the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, and the South Ferry Church. In addition, participants can visit the Coastal Institute Bookstore, which will be open during the day of the walk. The South Ferry Walking Tour is open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. For information or directions, call the URI Office of Marine Programs at 874-6211, or visit our website at: <http://omp.gso.uri.edu>