Winter 2007

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NSU Oceanographic Center

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Alumna Honored at Celebration of Excellence!

Rosaline H. Marston (M.S./CZM, 1995) received the 2007 Alumni Achievement Award at NSU’s 2007 Celebration of Excellence. Marston is president of A.D. Marble and Co. She succeeded the firm’s founder and first president, Anne Marble, in 2005, having served as executive vice president for the previous three years.

A.D. Marble and Company provides a wide variety of natural and cultural resource services. Their services include National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation, Section 4(f) evaluations; wildlife and forest management; landscape architecture; wetlands, ecology, and farmland assessments; Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD); public involvement; and agency coordination. Their goal is to consistently guide projects through the environmental process effectively, ensuring that the needs of the project are weighed appropriately against current environmental constraints. A.D. Marble and Company’s five offices in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and New Jersey have nearly 100 employees and have averaged a 25 percent annual growth in the past five years. As president, Marston is responsible for the function and operation of the company, including marketing and market development, budgeting and meeting of revenue goals, building and maintenance of client relationships, quality and timing of products, and the development of employees.

A great deal of A.D. Marble and Company’s culture is reflected in its support of various fund-raisers and charities. Many employee-owners participate in athletic fund-raisers for cancer, MS, and other worthy causes throughout the year, including the Fox Chase Cancer Center’s Dragon Boat Race. Several employees actively devote their time and generosity to such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, the Pennsylvania Special Olympics, The Delaware Valley Children’s Charity, and Philabundance.

Marston came to New York from San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1987. She attended college at Cornell University, where she received a bachelor’s degree in biology. She later received a master’s degree in coastal zone management (CZM) from NSU’s Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach, Florida. In addition to being involved with the Society of Women Environmental Professionals, she is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals, the Associated Pennsylvania Constructors, the American Consulting Engineers Council, and the National Association of Female Executives. She is also a board member for Congress de Latinos Unidos, headquartered in West Philadelphia.

The Celebration of Excellence acknowledges the outstanding accomplishments of NSU alumni. Graduates from each of the university’s centers, colleges, and schools
People on the Move

Alex Soloviev, Ph.D., Jane Dougan, and M.S. graduate certificate student Mark Tinsley prepared a poster presented by Soloviev at the Educational Session during the 87th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) held in San Antonio, Texas, on January 12–18, 2007. The poster was devoted to the implementation of the AMS course Online Ocean Studies into the curriculum of the Oceanographic Center’s graduate-level distance course Ocean Observing (CZMT 0686 DE1). This necessitated the supplementation of AMS learning materials to bring them to a graduate level and their adaptation to accommodate WebCT e-learning systems software.

The Online Ocean Studies course was developed by a team of AMS scientists supported by a National Science Foundation grant, as part of their local-national teaching partnership program. The resulting NSUOC graduate distance course (Ocean Observing) is taught every spring. This innovative course gives students a broad earth system perspective on the dynamic physical and biological factors governing the distribution of marine life and how the ocean influences climate variability. In addition to their course Web materials, registered students have access to the AMS Web-based Weekly Ocean News, which provides current ocean data, chapter reviews, and critical thinking questions.

The 2007 spring term begins April 2 and runs until June 22. For information on the Ocean Observing course, please contact Soloviev by email at soloviev@nova.edu or telephone at (954) 262-3659. For information on our distance programs, please contact Jane Dougan at douganj@nova.edu or (954) 262-3621.

On February 12–13, the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) held two public meetings to gather comments and suggestions from the public on projects designed to protect the coral reefs of Southeast Florida—from Miami-Dade through Martin counties. The first meeting was held at the Anne Kolb Nature Center in Hollywood. A second meeting was held at the Loggerhead Marinelife Center of Juno Beach the following evening. Assistant professor and NCRI researcher Dave Gilliam, Ph.D., presented an overview of the projects for the SEFCRI Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts Focus Team. Attendees received information about completed and ongoing projects and had the opportunity to provide feedback.

Many NCRI scientists and student researchers have worked closely with SEFCRI since its inception, providing expertise and leadership for this local group. In 2003, with guidance from the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission coordinated the formation of a team of marine resource professionals, scientists, nongovernmental organizations, and other interested stakeholders to develop the SEFCRI. SEFCRI is defining key threats to coral habitats and is developing local action strategies to reduce those threats.

(Continued on page 3)
NSUOC faculty member and NCRI researcher, Sam Purkis, Ph.D., recently visited Marshall University (Huntington, West Virginia) to deliver a keynote address on the use of remote sensing and GIS in coral reef science. The lecture was part of Geospatial Day, which Marshall uses to promote state-wide GIS technology and a rapidly expanding university curriculum. The address was introduced by former NSUOC professor and associate dean Andrew Rogerson, now dean of the College of Science at Marshall University.

In August, M.S. student Kirk Kilfoyle traveled to the Philippines to attend a workshop and give two presentations at the Bolinao Marine Laboratory, which is part of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute. The workshop is an annual event for the Restoration and Remediation Working Group of the World Bank's Global Environmental Fund Coral Reef Targeted Research project. Working group members traveled from the United States, England, Japan, Singapore, Israel, Tanzania, Australia, and Palau to give presentations on progress made to date and discuss future plans for the project. Project PIs included Ed Gomez, Loc Ming, Tadashi Kimura, Makoto Omori, Andrew Heyward, Buki Rinkevich, Alasdair Edwards, and Aileen Morse. Kilfoyle gave one presentation highlighting some previous work here in Broward County, which tied into a second presentation on the ongoing artificial reef project in the Yucatan Peninsula south of Cancun. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for both project PIs and graduate students to interact with one another and get a first-hand look at the techniques other working group members are using to work toward similar goals.

Oceanographic Students and Professor Deploy Artificial Reef Modules in Mexico

Oceanographic M.S. student, Kirk Kilfoyle, and his major professor, Richard Spieler, Ph.D., were in Mexico in October to prepare and deploy a series of artificial reefs for the World Bank's Restoration and Remediation Working Group. With the help of other members of Spieler's lab (Brian Buskirk, Jessica Freeman, Pat Quinn, Lance Jordan, and Bethany Basten) 48 artificial reef modules were deployed in Puerto Morelos and 12 in Akumal, both small towns south of Cancun. The Puerto Morelos reefs were deployed in the Arrecife de Puerto Morelos Parque Nacional, and the team from NSU worked closely with Parque director Daniella Guevara and several other members of the Parque's field staff. In Akumal, the team was working with Centro Ecologico Akumal, headed by Paul Sanchez-Navarro (www.ceakumal.org).

In December, Kilfoyle and fellow lab member Jessica Freeman returned to collect and place 60 “corals of opportunity” onto a select number of the reef modules. These transplanted corals will be monitored, along with the rest of the array, for growth and mortality for the duration of the project.

The study is part of Kilfoyle's thesis research and will focus on the interactions of fish assemblages, invertebrates, and coral recruitment on the artificial reefs. Spieler and Kilfoyle are traveling to the area again this March to begin the first of many regularly scheduled monitoring trips.
OTHER NEWS

National Coral Reef (NCRI) Researchers Perform Scientific Review, Compilation, and Assessment of Coral Spawning Time in the Atlantic and Caribbean

M.S. student Maureen Trnka and researcher Alison Moulding, Ph.D., undertook a comprehensive review of the coral reproduction literature in order to identify predicted coral spawning and larval duration times in the Caribbean and to help identify gaps in our scientific knowledge. The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) sponsored the NCRI project for the purpose of providing information to managers to help them reduce human impacts during the critical coral spawning window. Modification of the type or timing of activities that introduce nutrients, toxic chemicals, and suspended particles may lead to enhanced fertilization and coral recruitment success. For many of the main reef-building species, information on coral spawning times is known and can be predicted. However, in most locations, this information has not been widely available or previously considered during planning and implementation of human activities. Compilation of this information by species and by region will give managers the information they need to help protect corals during a sensitive phase of their life history. A link to the article can be found at www.nova.edu/ocean/ncri/research/a21.html.

Funding for this project supported the goals of NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

Inmates sanding stakes

Connie Versteeg and Stefanie Ouellette holding check

Sea Turtle Project Happenings

On Tuesday, January 16, and Wednesday, January 17, 2007, the Broward Sheriff’s Office Work Inmate Unit once again helped out the Sea Turtle Project in preparation for the 2007 nesting season. They arrived at the center at 8:00 a.m. on both mornings and began removing decrepit signs from stakes, sanding the 2006 information off the stakes, and re-signing as needed. In the past, they also helped out with sand turnover in the three restraining hatcheries; however, this was not needed this year, since the hatcheries are no longer in use.

M.S. student Michele Blackburn has been promoted to assistant manager of the Broward County Sea Turtle Conservation Program. She had been a dedicated turtle worker since 2002 and was promoted to full-time staff in 2006.

The 10th Annual Marine Turtle Permit Holders Meeting took place on January 26–27 this year at Harbor Branch in Fort Pierce, Florida. Attendees included Lou Fisher (Broward County EPD-permit holder), M.S. alumna Stefanie Ouellette (project manager), and Michele Blackburn (assistant manager). Also in attendance were returning M.S. students Alexandra Burke, Megan Wilson, Laura Wright, and Susan Lewis and new hires Judy Dixon and Karita Negandhi. Due to the new procedures and protocols dictated by the FWCC this past season, we were the talk of the town. Discussions concerning lighting problems and solutions, hatchling disorientations, and hatching success rates of relocated versus in situ nests were a main focus.

For the third consecutive year, the Save the Sea Turtle Foundation, led by M.S. student Connie Versteeg, organized and conducted the Adopt-a-Nest Program in conjunction with our project. Nest adoption costs $40 per nest, with 50 percent of the proceeds donated back to our project. In 2006, 82 nests were adopted, and the foundation donated $1,640 to the sea turtle project.
Guy Harvey Mural Unveiled

On Saturday, January 27, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held at NSU's main campus to officially open the new University Center. Part of the ceremony included the unveiling of a mural within the University Center, designed by artist, conservationist, and Oceanographic Center friend Guy Harvey. The mural, which runs along a wall inside the main lobby, is 200 feet long and covers 10,800 square feet, making it Harvey's largest piece to date. A donation was also presented to the Guy Harvey Research Institute from Bill Shedd and AFTCO Manufacturing Company, Inc. Taking part in the unveiling with Harvey were Richard Dodge, Ph.D., Oceanographic Center dean, and Mahmood Shivji, Ph.D., director of the GHRI.

More Alumni News

Nicole Adimey (1995) works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville, Florida. Her main responsibilities include managing the Manatee Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Release Program; addressing various aspects of endangered species recovery for manatees and sea turtles; and reviewing research permits. Adimey has been with the Service for approximately six years. She has also been collaborating with National Geographic's Crittercam project to conduct her own research study on manatees. The project was initiated in Belize and will begin in Florida in 2007. Prior to moving to Jacksonville, Adimey worked as a contract biologist in Hawaii. Based in Kauai, she commuted to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, where she lived on and off for four years. On the islands, she worked on several projects including monk seal population monitoring, habitat restoration, seabird census, and spinner dolphin behavioral ecology.

Adimey's thesis was titled, “A descriptive study of the percussive behavior of orcas, Orcinus orca, in Johnstone Strait, British Columbia.”

25 Years and Counting!

Two center personnel celebrated their 25th year at NSU. Faculty member Curt Burney, Ph.D., and librarian Kathy Maxson, M.S., were honored for their 25 years at the center at NSU’s Annual Employee Anniversary and Recognition Luncheon held on December 13. Faculty member Edward O. Keith, Ph.D., was honored for his 20 years at NSU, as well.

Also celebrating various anniversary dates were graduate program director Richard Spieler, Ph.D. (15 years); James Thomas, Ph.D. (10 years); director of the distance education program Jane Dougan, alumna Stephanie Ouellette, Ph.D. candidates Vince Richards and Brian Walker, and Bernhard Riegl, Ph.D. (all 5 years).
**Ph.D. Degree Offered**

The Oceanographic Center offers a doctoral degree in oceanography/marine biology. The program requires a minimum of 90 credits beyond the baccalaureate. At least 48 credits must consist of dissertation research, and at least 42 credits must consist of upper-level coursework. Required courses include the four M.S. core courses. Other upper-level coursework is usually in the tutorial mode with the major professor. Tuition is $4,365 per quarter. Additional information can be found at the NSUOC Web site (www.nova.edu/ocean).

**Publications**


Seminars and Defenses

Seminar

Ph.D. Dissertation
Demian Chapman, “From microsatellites to satellite tagging: integrating behavioral ecology into shark conservation.” Committee: Mahmood Shivji, Ph.D. (Chairman); Richard Spieler, Ph.D.; Charles Messing, Ph.D.; Ellen Pikitch, Ph.D. (Univ. of Miami); and Paulo Prodoih, Ph.D. (Queen’s Univ., Belfast, UK). February 2, 2007.


Husain Al Sayegh, “Pseudomanas aeruginosa secretion of exopolymeric substances (EPS) and Acanthamoeba sp. adherence to contact lenses.” Committee: Patricia Blackwelder, Ph.D.; Tomohiro Kawaguchi, Ph.D. (Univ. of South Carolina, School of Public Health); and Joshua Loomis, Ph.D. (NSU Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, Division of Math, Science, and Technology). February 15, 2007.

Capstone


In Memoriam
The Oceanographic Center mourns the loss of two friends and associates.

E. Betty Blaisdell Berry, an active participant in the feminist movement in the United States, died February 8 at the age of 84. She spent her winters in Fort Lauderdale, where she was an active member of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society. She also supported marine archaeological projects and became an assistant to marine archaeologist Peter Throckmorton, now deceased, who was an adjunct professor at NSUOC during the ‘80s. Through this relationship, she became a long-time friend of the center, and then secretary of the newly formed Board of Governors for the center in 1990.

Adjunct Professor Aidan Martin, who taught Biology of Sharks and Rays through NSUOC’s distance learning program, died suddenly in his home in Vancouver, B.C., on February 13, 2007. Martin was internationally recognized for his work on shark biology and behavior and had studied elasmobranch fishes (sharks and rays) for more than 30 years. He appeared on the television show 60 Minutes in December and published more than 130 scientific and popular articles and two books. Friends and colleagues recall that he was “an educator, a scientist, an artist, a writer, and most of all, a true and honest friend to everyone who had the opportunity to get to know him.” His memorial can be found at www.sharkmans-world.org/r_aidan_martin_memorial.htm.

Martin’s course has been one of NSUOC’s most popular distance courses since its introduction in the fall 2005 term. Jane Dougan, director of distance learning, has worked with many distance instructors over the years, but said that Martin’s obvious passion for the subject and dedication to the students shone through in every aspect of his course and his interaction with the students. The many NSUOC graduates from the Biology of Sharks and Rays course will continue to be inspired by their contact with Aidan Martin throughout their lives, and this will be seen through their actions.

We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Anne, who he had said was his partner and inspiration in all of his research and education efforts.
Alumna Nicole Adimey attaching a tracking device to another manatee in Belize, while Kyler Abernathy of National Geographic films her.

Kirk Kilfoyle and Pat Quinn placing cinder blocks into the interior of the artificial reefs to increase internal refuge space complexity.