Winter 1999

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NSU Oceanographic Center

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A New Dean Takes the Helm as We Bid Aloha to Julian McCreary

On January 19, Dr. Richard (Dick) Dodge was officially named Dean of the Oceanographic Center. Professor Dodge joined Nova University in 1978 and is the director of the Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies at the center. Dodge replaced Dr. Julian McCreary who resigned from the position in July.

A graduate of the University of Maine and Yale University, Dodge is the geological editor of the scientific journal *Coral Reefs*. He also serves as advisor to the Federal Southeast Fisheries Management Council on Coral Reefs and board member of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF).

Dodge’s research over the last three decades has centered on the growth rates of reef-building corals, coral reef structure, fossil coral reefs, the ecology of recent coral reefs, and techniques of coral reef assessment. He is executive director of the newly formed National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI), which is dedicated to performing applied and theoretical research on coral reef restoration, assessment, and monitoring.

Dodge has specialized in research on pollution (e.g., oil, sewage, sediment) effects on corals and coral reefs as well as mechanical damage from ship groundings. For the past five years he has been a member of the Scientific Review Board of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, which oversees a Minerals Management Service study of a major oil spill on a Panama coral reef. Dodge is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications in scientific literature, presentations, abstracts, and technical reports.

In making Dodge’s appointment, NSU president Ray Ferrero, Jr., said, “Dr. Dodge is an outstanding educator and researcher. He has the vision to lead NSU’s Oceanographic Center to greater accomplishments as we enter the next millennium.”

As dean of the Oceanographic Center, Dodge will oversee the research efforts in physical oceanography, biology, and environmental sciences, as well as all educational activities. Faculty research activities currently underway are diverse, ranging from computer modeling of ocean currents, mapping of coral reefs, microscopy of amoebas, and molecular biology of sharks. Graduate programs consist of the Ph.D. in oceanography, and the M.S. in marine biology.

On February 1, after 20 years at the Oceanographic Center, Dr. Julian (Jay) McCreary, left to take on a challenging position as director of the newly formed International Pacific Research Center (IPRC) at the University of Hawaii. The IPRC is a collaborative institution between Japan and the United States with a mission to understand climate variability in the Asia-Pacific region, one of McCreary’s long-time research interests.

McCreary was hired at (then) Nova University as an assistant professor in 1977, fresh out of graduate school at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. He was named as director of the...
coastal zone management, and marine environmental sciences. The undergraduate Joint Science Program (in conjunction with the Farquhar Center), offers a B.S. in the majors of life sciences, ocean studies, science and the business environment, and science and the law.

In accepting the post, Dr. Dodge stated, “I couldn’t be more pleased to accept this opportunity to advance the respected tradition of the Oceanographic Center and NSU. Our goals are excellence in both teaching and in basic and applied scientific research. These are trying times for life in our ocean and land environments. Global warning, El Niño, pollution, and overuse of resources have created myriad problems. As concerned scientists we seek solutions where basic research forms a theoretical foundation and applied research focuses on the specifics. The Oceanographic Center is the center of natural science for NSU and we aim to make a difference, strengthening the university, educating science students, and providing quality research products. I look forward to contributing to that process,” said Dodge.

PSPLOT, a free Fortran-callable PostScript plotting library written by senior programmer Kevin Kohler, recently reached the 2800 user mark. Users fill out a form on the PSPLOT Web page, and instructions for downloading the library are emailed to them. Since it was first offered in January 1996, the inquiries for the library have steadily grown to their present level of approximately 25-30 per week.

PSPLOT is a collection of 93 Fortran subroutines which are used to create technical graphical output in the form of PostScript files. It allows the user to precisely specify the elements in the plot, something which is not always possible with commercial plotting packages. “The motivation for writing PSPLOT came from my working with Jay McCready. Jay is a perfectionist regarding the graphics in his publications, and I needed a tool which would allow me to place various graphical elements precisely on the page. We were using a pen-plotter, which was satisfactory for the graphics we were doing, but it was very slow. We then acquired a laser PostScript printer, and I set about finding a way to produce publication-quality graphics using the printer, and at the same time allow me the flexibility to specify every aspect of my plots. PSPLOT was the result of that effort.”

PSPLOT is being used at universities, laboratories, and companies around the world, including NOAA, NASA, WHOI, MIT, University of Oxford, Los Alamos, Lawrence Livermore, VW, Fuji, and Mitsubishi, for both teaching and research purposes. Kevin has received many comments from users which indicate that PSPLOT fills a niche for a flexible, simple-to-use, easy-to-learn library which can produce publication-quality graphics.

More information on PSPLOT can be found at http://www.nova.edu/ocean/psplot.html.

NCRI Conference Reminder

The National Coral Reef Institute based at the NSU Oceanographic Center is hosting the International Conference on Coral Reef Assessment, Monitoring, and Restoration. The conference is taking place April 14-16, 1999 at the Radisson Bahia Mar on Fort Lauderdale Beach. The conference will include general and special sessions. The special session topics range from assessment and monitoring of coral reef life to restoration through the use of artificial reef structures. The keynote speakers are Terry Done, Bob Buddemeier, Mark Hay, and Nancy Knowlton. To date, close to 300 abstracts have been accepted for paper or poster presentations. The conference is truly international. Attendees are representing the Caribbean, Europe, Indonesia, Southeast Asia, South America, the Middle East, and South Africa.

Recent Publications


On April 19-23 a marine shrimp short course will be offered at the center. The cost for the short course is $400.
Alumni Corner

Dr. Donald McCorquodale, adjunct professor at the center, was the recipient of NSU’s 1998 Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award. The ceremony was held November 6, 1998. A Florida native, McCorquodale received his B.S. in biology from Florida Atlantic University in 1969, his M.S. in microbiology from Florida Atlantic University in 1971, and his Ph.D. from NSU’s Oceanographic Center in 1987.

McCorquodale founded Spectrum Laboratories, Inc. in 1973 and has developed a broad-based analytical laboratory to handle a variety of analytical and consulting problems. He now serves as president and microbiologist with combined management and technical duties. He is also consultant to various drainage districts and the Life Science Program of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Prior to founding Spectrum Laboratories, McCorquodale was a staff member in the Department of Biological Science at Florida Atlantic University. He was the project microbiologist for the U.S. EPA research grant titled “Biological Control of Aquatic Vegetation.”

During his graduate work he functioned as principal investigator of microbiology and blood chemistry under a fellowship for the Equine Research Foundation. At Quincore Laboratories in Deerfield Beach, McCorquodale was a microbiologist and microbiology section chief, supervising and performing microbiological testing of germicidal products.

As an adjunct professor, McCorquodale teaches a course in water pollution monitoring, making his laboratory available to the students. He also teaches a course in membrane filter techniques for the Florida Water Pollution Control Operators Association. He is currently a member of the Harmful Algal Bloom Advisory Committee for the state of Florida.

Currently, McCorquodale is developing methods for indicators of fecal pollution in marine water including coliphage and toxicity testing.

On a more personal note he has been married for 31 years and has two children. His wife, Beverly, is lower school director of the Cushman School in Miami. His son, Donald, apparently following in his father’s footsteps, is a senior at FSU with a double major in chemistry and biochemistry. His daughter, Amanda, is a sophomore at FSU and majoring in English (creative writing).

McCorquodale enjoys bagpipe music, boating, and fishing.

Grants Awarded

The Florida Sea Grant Office awarded Drs. Richard Dodge and David Gilliam $5,000 to support publications of the International Conference on Scientific Aspects of Coral Reef Assessment Monitoring and Restoration to be held in April in Fort Lauderdale.

The Broward County Natural Resource Protection Agency awarded the Sea Turtle Monitoring Project to the center. The first year’s $91,000 grant will run from March 1999 through March 2000 with an option for two more years.

William Margolis is the project manager and Dr. Curtis Burney is the PI overseeing the project.

Jay McCreary (right) accepting certificate from Dick Dodge
People on the Move

A group of aquaculture students, Jenna Barret, Richard Hubbard, David McMahon, and Todd Shuskey, along with major professor, Dr. Bart Baca, attended the Aquaculture America '99 Conference in Tampa on January 27-30. McMahon and Baca presented a poster titled “The Effects of Various Salinities on the Growth, Pathology, and Reproduction of the Blue Tilapia, Oreochromis aureus.” Baca and finishing M.S. students Kevin Mahoney and Madelyn Martinez, presented the first paper on the Davie Aquaculture Research Center, titled “Testing Procedures for the Conversion of a Municipal Waste-Water Treatment Facility to Aquaculture.”

Also at the conference, the group, led by David McMahon, started the South Florida Aquaculture Cooperative to further aquaculture in this region. Members consist of local aquaculturists interested in obtaining feed discounts, permitting information, and helping with noncompetitive marketing. Next year’s Aquaculture America 2000 Conference will be in New Orleans.

Dr. Julian McCreary attended the Global Energy and Water Cycling Experiment Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, January 24–28, where he introduced the Scientific Steering Committee to the newly formed IPRC Program, of which he became director on February 1.

Dr. Barry Klinger gave a talk at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting held December 6-10 in San Francisco. The paper, which is based on work by himself and J. Marotzke, was titled “Wind-driven Meridional Heat Transport by the Subtropical Cell.” Klinger also presented a talk at the Layered Ocean Model Users’ Workshop, held in Miami February 22-24. The title, “The Effect of Mid-latitude Decadal Windstress Oscillations on Pacific Equatorial SST” is coauthored by J.P. McCreary and R. Kleeman.

Dr. Vic Shanbhag coordinated and chaired the symposium honoring the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) award winners at the National ACS meeting held in Anaheim, California, March 20-25. He also presented a paper titled “Study of Structural and Thermodynamic Aspects of Soil Humic Substances” in the ACS Division on Geochemistry on March 22.

Dr. Shanbhag and Dr. Skip Pomery also attended the Annual Pittsburgh Analytical Conference in Orlando, March 7-12.

William Margolis and student, Lisa Csuzdi attended the 19th Annual Sea Turtle Symposium held March 1-6 in South Padre Island, Texas. The title of the symposium was “The Promise, the Pain, and the Progress of 50 Years of Sea Turtle Research and Conservation.” Csuzdi gave two poster presentations. The first one was titled “Rate and Timing of Nest Failure Between Relocated and In-situ Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nests,” coauthored by Dr. Curtis Burney. This study involved the opening of unhatched eggs and staging the embryos over two seasons. Those at the center should recall the smell. The second was a presentation by Csuzdi and Amy Woodhead on the National Marine Fisheries Service’s tagging program “NMFS/SEFSC Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program: Tagging Data Management.”

Amy Paine, graduate student, attended the Society for Marine Mammology’s (Florida chapter) meeting in St. Petersburg on February 12-14. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Florida Forum on Ocean Conservation where Amy represented the National Coral Reef Institute.

From January 9-February 5, graduate students, Dana Rankin and Lance Jordon sailed aboard the R/V Corsta V. They joined up with the sloop in Phuket, Thailand and cruised 3,000 miles visiting the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and crossed the equator to the Chagos and Seychelles. Randy Lenz, owner of the 133 foot sloop invited the students to join him for this leg of his voyage around the world.

Rankin collected crinoids while Jordon’s collection consisted of various crinoid commensals. Included among the many interesting sights they saw were whales, dolphins, and sharks, as well as a Hindu festival being celebrated in the Seychelles.
Spring Term Schedule

M.S. Degree specialties are marine biology, coastal zone management, and marine environmental sciences. Each course carries three credit hours or may be audited. Tuition is $397 per credit hour (50 percent less for audit). Classes meeting once a week from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Oceanographic Center (unless otherwise specified.) The spring term runs from April 5-June 25 (unless otherwise specified). Registration ($25 nonrefundable fee) begins two weeks prior to the start of classes. For further information, call Melissa Dore at (954) 920-1909 or email imcs@ocean.nova.edu.

Marine Geology (Core) (OCOR-5604). This course if offered for both degree programs and is a required core course. The topics of discussion will range from fossil reefs to mid-ocean ridge basalt. Southeast Florida geology will be included in the lectures. Instructor: Dr. Patricia Blackwelder (center faculty). Begins Monday, April 5.

Biostatistics (OCMB-6091/CAMT-0765/MEVS-5100). This is a basic course on the practical applications of descriptive and inferential statistics with emphasis on principles and methods of summarizing biological data. Measures of central tendency, dispersion, and variability testing will be discussed along with basic concepts of probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and decision making. Topics will also include simple statistical tests (including nonparametric tests), analysis of variance through factorial analysis, simple and multiple regression, and correlation. Dr. Mark Farber (center adjunct). Begins Tuesday, April 6.

Molecular Marine Biology (OCMB-7013). This course covers theoretical and laboratory aspects of recombinant DNA techniques as applied to ecological, evolutionary, and physiological investigations of marine organisms. Lab fee is approximately $100. Instructor: Dr. Mahmood Shivji (center faculty). Begins Wednesday, April 7.

Oil Pollution Effects (CZMT-0634/MEVS-5016): The focus of this course is the impact of petroleum hydrocarbons on natural resources, and human resources at risk; effects and fate of spilled hydrocarbons; relevant regulations; and spill contingency planning. Data are drawn from recent publications on petroleum and environmental research, case studies of actual spills, and from various contingency plans. Students have the opportunity to participate in a spill drill, study recent spill sites, review area contingency plans, and use computer-generated (Geographic Information Systems) maps for oil spill response. Instructor: Dr. Bart Baca (center faculty). Begins Thursday, April 8.

Florida Environmental Regulation (CZMT-0621/MEVS-5019). This class will introduce students to the complexities of environmental regulations, regulatory agencies, and regulatory activities that deal with Florida’s environment. Specific topics include environmental resource permitting, air and water quality permitting, and more. Numerous guest lectures by various experts in city, county, regional, state, and federal regulations will be highlighted. This class will be valuable for future environmentalists, planners, regulators, environmental law attorneys and environmental consultants in understanding the principles under which environmental activities are regulated. NOTE: This class will meet from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Instructor: Mr. Stacey Myers (center adjunct). Begins Friday, April 9.

Environmental Futures and Human Choices and/or Environmental Sustainability (CZMT-0665/MEVS-5001): Distance education courses. These courses are an in-depth examination of a fast changing environment in a stressed universe, with emphasis on the ecological prospective for change and human survival. Two papers are required. Instructor: Prof. Keith Ronald (center adjunct). Begins week of April 5.

Marine Mammal Management (OCMB-6330): A distance education course. This course is designed to serve as a source of information and ideas providing an introductory awareness of diverse issues including the morphology, physiology, adaptation, and behavior of these species and their interaction with humans and other predatory mammals. Two papers are required. Instructor: Prof. Keith Ronald (center adjunct). Begins week of April 5.

Summer Term Schedule

The summer term runs from July 5-September 17 (unless otherwise specified). Look for course descriptions in the next issue of Currents. (The following is a tentative list of courses that will be offered.)

Marine Chemistry (OCOR-5605). Instructor: Dr. Curtis Burney (center faculty).

Marine Botany (OCMB-6070/CZMT-0700). Instructor: Dr. Bart Baca.

Taxonomy of Marine Invertebrates (OCMB-6085). Instructor: Dr. Charles Messing.


Coastal Water Resource Impacts (CZMT-0622/MEVS-5020). Instructor: Mr. Stacey Myers.


Fall Term

The Joint Science Program between the Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies and the Oceanographic Center is happy to announce that it will once again admit the largest class in the Farquhar Center Professional and Liberal Studies College. The majors offered through this program are life science (pre-med), ocean studies, science and the law, and science and the business environment.

Students granted dual admissions have their seat in the graduate and professional schools reserved for them as long as they maintain certain academic standards. Some of these programs are accelerated and students work on both degrees concurrently.

Spring Term begins in May

Day – 14 Weeks
Organic Chemistry II/lab (CHEM 3310), starting in May.
Instructor: Dragojlovic

Human Biology (BIOL 1080), Instructor: TBA

General Chemistry II (CHEM 2310), Instructor: Shabhag

Living Earth (CORE 1430), Instructor: Barker

Career – 14 Weeks

Biology II/lab (BIOL 1510), Instructor: TBA

Vertical Structures and Function (BIOL 3310), Instructor: Fernandez

General Chemistry II/lab (CHEM 2310), Instructor: Dragojlovic

General Physics I/lab (PHYS 2350), Instructor: Castano

Career – 8 weeks

Human Biology (BIOL 1080), Instructor: Keith

Marine Biology of South Florida (BIOL 2220), Instructor: Loisel

Introduction to Geography (GEOG 2050), Instructor: Barker

Chemistry and Society (CHEM 1040), Instructor: Shabhag

General Chemistry I/lab (CHEM 2300), Instructor: Pomeroy

The Summer Term begins in July

Students majoring in life science and ocean studies continue to be very active members of the campus community. The largest undergraduate organization is the Pre-Medical Society. Below is an essay by pre-med student, Ed Fry.

Beating the Odds: Basic Life Support Education Day

By: Ed Fry, III, Emt-P, AMSA
Educational Chair, Nova Southeastern University Pre-Medical Society

Imagine this, you and your friends are meeting for lunch after an extremely hard morning of classes. Your professor informed the class that the test scheduled in two weeks has been moved to 72 hours from now. Because of the time crunch you have no idea how you are even going to fit meals into your schedule. So during lunch with your friends, everyone is in a hurry to study and they inhale (without breathing or tasting it) their food. Without warning Toni grabs his neck, begins choking and turns blue from the lack of oxygen! What do you do?

Not that this is a daily occurrence on campus, but, if a member of the Nova Southeastern University Pre-Medical Society is sitting next to you, there is a good chance that the airway obstruction can be alleviated before the paramedics arrive. The reason is: The Nova Southeastern University Pre-Medical Society has learned cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic life support (CPR-BLS)! In fact, the campus-based club, under the advisement of Dr. Robert Pomeroy, boasts having 25 CPR-BLS instructors! Last year, members of the society were awarded a grant from the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) to train and educate the public in the importance of basic life support as well as keeping heart smart by exercise, diet, and decreasing identifiable risk factors that can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

That’s not all! During the 49th Annual AMSA Conference March 1999 in Chicago, the NSU Pre-Medical Society has been named as a finalist and presenter in the national poster competition. At the conference, an oral presentation will be given to a host of personnel including guest speakers: Dr. Patch Adams, The United States Surgeon General, and other medical community representatives. If the society is chosen as best in one of five categories, their work will be published in the New Physician quarterly publication as well as the Web sites of the National Institute of Health and the Center for Disease Control.

We will have to keep you posted on the future of the Pre-Medical Society. Keep an ear out for their next class of instruction... It is offered free! For more information on CPR classes, contact Ed Fry, educational chair, Nova Southeastern University Pre-Medical Society at: fryedmun@polaris.nova.edu.

Christopher Siano, a senior majoring in life science, is presenting a paper at the American Academy of Neurology’s 51st Annual Meeting in Ontario, Canada in April, 1999. The paper, on which Chris is the first author/presenter, is a retrospective study correlating clinical with MRI findings in patients with cervical spondylotic myelopathy. Chris conducted his research under the guidance of Dr. Maurice Hanson of Cleveland Clinic Florida.

On February 13, the Indian Student Association at NSU held its first annual picnic at the center. More than 45 people attended the function and assured their commitment to support the organization. Dr. Vic Shabhag is serving as the faculty advisor for ISA@NSU. During the week of February 15, ISA@NSU sponsored the Unity Week festivities depicting the cultural diversity of the NSU campuses. There was an “International Dessert Festival” where desserts from more than 20 different countries were on hand for tasting.
New Students for Summer Semester

The Institute of Marine and Coastal Studies welcomes the following new students.
Christian Avila, MS, MB
Nova Southeastern University
Michael Belanger, SP
Rachel Billehus, SP
Courtney Campbell, MS, MB
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Craig Engler, Florida State University
Emerald Gustowt, SUNY - Albany
Ben Harkanson, Saginaw Valley State
Tracey Hewett, SP
Christine Hudak, Wittenberg University
Peggy Sloan - Richard Stockton State
Vanessa McMain, SP
Nancy Rackham, SP
Lourdes Valentin, SP, Turabo University

Farewell and Congratulations

A party was held Saturday, January 30, with a dual purpose: to bid farewell to Dr. Julian (Jay) McCreary, who has accepted a position as the director of a new international climate research program in Hawaii (cover story), and to congratulate Dr. Richard (Dick) Dodge on his promotion to dean (cover story), a position Jay resigned from in July. The party was hosted by Dr. Jim Thomas, who brought in his favorite caterer, All People’s Barbeque, who is famous for his chicken and ribs.

Jay was presented with a certificate acknowledging his 20 years of research at the center. He and Dick were honored with a champagne toast from all present.

Among the guests were several members of the center’s board of governors, Betty Barry, Richard Donato, and Will Connelly, and longtime friend and benefactor of the center, Dr. Charles Forman.

Ph.D. Degree Offered

The Oceanographic Center offers a doctoral degree in oceanography. 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 course work. Required courses include the four M.S. core courses. Other upper-level course work is usually in the tutorial mode with the major professor. Tuition will be $2,605 per quarter, beginning with the spring term.

Seminars and Defenses

Brian J. Hicks defended his Ph.D. dissertation titled, “Experiments to Maximize Growth in Captive Florida Pompano (Trachinotus carolinus).” Committee: NSU faculty members, Dr. Bart Baca (major professor), Dr. Richard Dodge, Dr. Richard Spieler, and Dr. Curtis Burney, and Dr. George Krantz of the University of Maryland (retired). December 18.

Rashmee Subbaiah, capstone review: “Rehabilitation and Pathophysiological Effects of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill on Sea Otters (Enhydra lutris).” Committee: Dr. Keith Ronald and Dr. Curtis Burney. February 3.

Kevin Mayo, capstone review: “Manatee Protection from Flood Gates in Miami-Dade County, Florida U.S.A.” Committee: Dr. Curtis Burney, Dr. Keith Ronald, and Mr. Patrick Rose.

A Whale of a Success

For the first time, the Oceanographic Center had a boat entered in the annual Fort Lauderdale Winterfest Boat Parade held on December 12. The R/V Researcher was #45 in the nationally televised parade, and judging by the clapping and yelling of the guests attending the boat parade party as it went cruising by, it was a resounding success. The little whale, following in the wake of more ostentatious boats, proved to be a favorite among many people, including those viewing the parade from other locations.

Terese Kennedy served as project director, using a design concept from Amy Paine. Richard Hubbard served as construction chief, Lance Robinson as chief electrician, and Carol Fretwell as designer. The tireless work crew included Scott Herber, Dave Gilliam, Brian Walker, Paul Arena, Bart Baca, Bill Gaudin, Heather Balchowsky, Marella Crane, Brian Ettinger, Judy Robinson, Neil Baertlein, Dick Dodge, and John Braker. Jim Thomas captained the Researcher/whale in the parade.

The annual boat parade party held at the center was also a big success with well over 100 adults and children enjoying the view, the food, and the balmy weather.
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Jay McCreary going for one last skate

Dick Dodge and Jay McCreary congratulating each other

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