Happy Summer from Virginia Key! It is hard to believe another academic year has come and gone here at RSMAS. As always, it has been an honor and pleasure to work with the Alumni Association this year. As you are reading this, many lab groups are beginning to transition their tanks and equipment into the new Marine Technology Life Science Seawater Complex. It has been incredible to watch the building go up from start to finish.

In this May 2014 issue of the RSMAS Alumni newsletter, you will find an update on some of our infrastructure including our research helicopter, research diving pool, and research station on Broad Key, a spotlight on a RSMAS alumna who recently published novel research on sea turtles, a recap of our Distinguished Alumni Lecture and Baynanza beach clean-up events, and a list of our students who graduated this month or will graduate later this summer! Please join me in welcoming them to the RSMAS Alumni Association!

I wish you all a safe, productive, and fun summer, and look forward to seeing you at Alumni events in the Fall.

Warm regards,

Erica K. Towle, B.S.M.A.S ‘10
President, RSMAS Alumni Board
Advancement Highlights

**Helicopter Observation Platform**

The UM Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science is adding to its fleet of specialized research vessels with its latest acquisition — a helicopter equipped with state-of-the-art technology that converts a commercial aircraft into a flying scientific laboratory. This one-of-a-kind Helicopter Observation Platform (HOP) will allow scientists to obtain vital information on environmental processes and mechanisms that affect our climate and impact human health. The Helicopter has been funded by private philanthropic donations totaling 3 million dollars.

**Scientific Diving Center**

The UM Rosenstiel School, through generous donations from The Miller Family Foundation, Steve Sainz, Richard Fein and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines, will be breaking ground to build a new deep-water diver training pool and teaching facility. The 2.5 million dollar project will expand the current UM Scientific Diving program to include technical diving courses designed to enhance student education and the marine industry at large. Construction of the state-of-the-art 18-foot depth dive pool, dive locker facility and classrooms is scheduled to begin Spring of 2015.

**Broad Key**

Broad Key continues to serve as a research and education platform from which to launch field courses that help us to better understand Florida’s complex marine ecosystems. The island features a five-bedroom Great House, caretaker quarters, a large boathouse and 33-foot dock that can accommodate watercraft with up to 6’ draft. Located in North Keys, a forty-five minute boat ride from The Rosenstiel Campus and just two miles away from Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, the 63-acre island provides scientists direct access to Florida’s subtropical marine habitats. Over 2 million dollars were raised and donations continue to increase yearly.

**Marine Technology Life Science Seawater Complex (MTLSSC)**

MTLSSC is an essential component of the research at the Rosenstiel School, which includes studies that rely on seawater for observing air-sea interactions in a controlled environment and for holding, spawning and rearing marine organisms. This dedicated seawater complex is the centerpiece of an updated Rosenstiel School campus and will permit our scientists to further unravel the mysteries of the planet and help improve quality of life for us all. Naming of the SUSTAIN (Surge-STucture-Atmosphere-INteraction) wind-wave tank has been graciously underwritten by The Glassell Family Foundation for 5 million dollars. The Marta Weeks Family Foundation underwrote the Atrium Lobby for 2 million dollars. Additional naming opportunities for coral reef, Aplysia, wet labs and offices are still available. Please contact Rose Mann (rmann@rsmas.miami.edu) for more information.
Recently, strides have been made in research to determine where Loggerhead Sea Turtles go during their “lost years.” Lost years are considered the years spent out in the open ocean after the turtles leave their nests. This research was done as a collaboration between many scientists one of whom is a Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Alumna, Kate Mansfield. The study, entitled “First satellite tracks of neonate sea turtles redefine the ‘lost years’ oceanic niche”, has been published in the DATE issue of the journal Proceedings of the Royal Academy B. In this study led by Ms. Mansfield, 17 young loggerhead sea turtles were tracked between 27 and 220 days. This was the first time loggerhead sea turtles were tracked for long periods of time. They were able to accomplish this feat due to the use of acrylic often used in nail salons. This acrylic allowed the scientists to attach the satellite tags to the turtles with enough strength to withstand the turtles potentially long journey in the Atlantic Ocean. Through the study the scientists received valuable information about the sea turtles behavior in the open ocean during their early years.

Authors of the paper: Kate Mansfield of the University of Central Florida and the National Marine Fisheries Service, Jiangang Luo, of RSMAS, Jeanette Wyneken of Florida Atlantic University and Warren P. Porter of the University of Wisconsin.

Uncovering The “Lost Years” of Loggerhead Sea Turtles
Baynanza 2014: ‘Devotion to Community’ Event

On Saturday April 26th a group of RSMAS alumni, current students, faculty, and staff came together to clean up the RSMAS beach and remove invasive plant species as part of Miami-Dade county’s Baynanza event. Baynanza is Miami-Dade’s way of celebrating one of our most precious natural resources, Biscayne Bay, and inviting the community to learn how to protect it while having a great time and improving environmental awareness and stewardship. The event brings Biscayne National Park and Miami-Dade communities together to help keep beaches and waterways clean, safe, navigable and habitable for wildlife. It began 32 years ago as part of a monumental effort to save Biscayne Bay. The Bay was suffering from pollution and in steep decline, but has improved since then and continues to improve. Last year nearly 6,000 volunteers at 23 locations throughout Miami-Dade County removed more than 40 tons of garbage from the Bay. For more information about Baynanza and Biscayne Bay Cleanup Day, please visit the Miami-Dade County website at http://www.miamidade.gov/environment/baynanza.asp.

Congratulations to our Spring & Summer 2014 Graduates!

M.P.S. Graduates:
Andrew Blitman
Christine Borski
Chase Davidson
Natalie Harrison
Ethan Kleinschmidt
Enrique Mauser
Michelle Metcalf
Sarah Prigoznik
Blakely Rice
Kristian Rogers
Eina Sandbank
Elizabeth Winchester
Ana Zangroniz

M.S. graduates:
Andrew Blumenthal
Kimberly Chamales
Samantha Feingold
Paige Giusfredi
Deniz Kula
Laura Rock
Tyler Sclodnick
Grace Seo
Geoffrey Shideler
Martine Strueben
Hasan Usdun

Ph.D. graduates:
Aaron Adams
Theodore Allen
Monica Arienzo
Marco Bagnardi
Clarence Collins
Quinn Devlin