President’s Message

This year, the U.S. News & World Report’s annual “Best Colleges” issue ranked University of Miami #38, making us the highest ranked school in the state of Florida and one of the fastest-rising institutions among national universities in recent times. The University of Miami has begun a campaign called “Momentum2” for which funds to support RSMAS will help position us at the pinnacle of institutions pursuing effective solutions for urgent marine and atmospheric issues on local, regional, and global scales.

Construction has begun to build a state-of-the-art seawater research building on campus in order to foster greater understanding of air-sea interactions and the marine environment. Many facilities at RSMAS are more than 30 years old, and consequently our infrastructure requires updates so we can continue to support cutting-edge research and attract outstanding faculty and students.

This year, our new Alumni Board hopes to engage our alums to help RSMAS continue to be one of the world’s premier marine and atmospheric research institutions as we embark on an ambitious plan to reinvigorate our campus infrastructure. We also want to strive to create a more connected community, and hope you’ll consider participating in some of our events this year to continue to nurture the RSMAS family and make new connections.

In closing, I want to share with you my excitement and honor to serve as President of the RSMAS Alumni Board. I have never been more proud to be a RSMAS student than I am right now. We hope you will join us for Alumni Weekend on October 19th-21st, 2012. We have some wonderful activities planned including participating in the annual Homecoming Parade for the first time in several years, the Homecoming football game, a boat trip to our new Broad Key research station just south of the RSMAS campus, and, of course, an evening catching up with old friends with a beer or cocktail overlooking Biscayne Bay at the Wetlab! Spread the word and we’ll see you in October!

Best wishes,

Erica K. Towle, B.S.M.A.S ’10
President, RSMAS Alumni Board
Please welcome our new 2012-2013 Alumni Association Board

**Erica Towle, B.S. ‘10**
**President**
Erica graduated from the undergraduate program at RSMAS with a B.S. in Marine and Atmospheric Science in 2010. August 2012 marks the beginning of her 3rd year in the Ph.D. program at RSMAS in the MBF division under the direction of Dr. Chris Langdon, where she is studying markers for resilience to the combined stresses of acidification and temperature on Scleractinian corals of the Florida Reef Tract. Much of her work focuses on the species-specific metabolic and physiological response to climate change stress that may inform conservation efforts for threatened and endangered coral species.

**Fernando Bretos, M.A. ‘06**
**Vice-President**
Fernando holds an M.A. in Marine Affairs and Policy from the Rosenstiel School and a B.S. in Biology from Oberlin College. Fernando, a marine biologist and environmental educator, is Curator of Ecology and Field Conservation at Miami Science Museum. He is a Research Associate at The Ocean Foundation, where he co-directs its Cuba Marine Research and Conservation Project. He is also Director of the Museum’s Reclamation Project, a community based participatory eco-art project that empowers South Florida residents to restore urban coastal ecosystems such as mangrove wetlands and coastal forests.

**Sara Fain, J.D/M.A. ‘05**
**Secretary**
Sara earned her J.D. in 2005 from the University of Miami School of Law and M.A. in Marine Affairs and Policy from RSMAS through the University’s joint degree program. She currently is the Senior Staff Counsel with the Everglades Law Center, where she represents a number of environmental organizations on environmental and land use issues, with a focus on the southern Everglades and restoration programs.

**Lainey Grossman, B.A. ‘07, M.A. ‘11**
Lainey earned her undergraduate and Master’s degrees in Marine Affairs and Policy from the University of Miami. She currently serves as the Program Coordinator at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Biscayne Nature Center. The Center educates the public on the importance of protecting South Florida’s natural resources. Lainey is also an active member of the Junior League of Miami and avid Canes fan.

**Lauren Ordway, B.A. ‘08, M.A. ‘09**
Lauren participated in the accelerated Marine Affairs and Policy 5 year BA/MA program. After graduation, she spent over two years working for the Environmental Stewardship department at Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., where she coordinated the corporation’s relief effort to Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake, oversaw the pilot project installation of a novel exhaust gas scrubber, and managed the Ocean Fund, the company’s charitable giving-arm to marine conservation. Ordway currently works for The Nature Conservancy as an Associate Director of Philanthropy, concentrating on major gifts fundraising. She is actively engaged in Miami’s environmental community, and sits on the Board of Surfrider Foundation’s Miami Chapter.

**Joseph Winn, B.A. ‘07, M.A. ‘09**
A career ‘Cane, he attended UM as an undergrad right through to the completion of his M.A. in Marine Affairs and Policy. Currently, he resides in Broward County and is President of GreenProfit Solutions, a consulting firm specializing in environmental marketing and business efficiency.

Come cheer on the Hurricanes as they face off against Notre Dame on October 6th, 2012. Kickoff at 7:30pm. Pregame Family BBQ and Tailgate on the beach.

Learn more...
2011-2012 Alumni Scholarship Awards

Every year, a handful of RSMAS students are able to pursue unique projects thanks to an Alumni scholarship fund. Thank you to all those Alumni who participated. This year, 4 dedicated students put these funds to work. Here’s an overview of their diverse research

Monica Arienzo, MGG
With the Alumni Award, Monica has been able to help establish the clumped isotope, and is constructing a fluid inclusion extraction device. This device is capable of extracting water from a stalagmite for isotope analysis. This will make the Stable Isotope Laboratory the first laboratory in the United States with this capability. Monica also monitored an active cave in the Bahamas, resulting in a direct comparison between actual cave temperature and geochemistry.

Rachel Silverstein, MBF
Rachel is studying corals and climate change, using molecular genetics to assess coral response to environmental stress. The Alumni Award allowed her to purchase necessary supplies for quantitative PCR work. The initial phases of this work were published this year in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, Biology. Rachel found evidence that corals that bleach and recover with heat tolerant symbionts may survive better in climate change conditions. She used the remaining funds to attend a weeklong science-writing workshop, which has been invaluable as she writes her dissertation.

Remy Okazaki, MBF
Remy is studying ocean acidification and corals. With help from the Alumni Award, he assessed the responses of 12 Caribbean coral species to climate change (warming and ocean acidification). This experiment tested not only a variety of species, but a suite of different variables that affect coral health, including genetics, feeding, and photosynthesis. This experiment will provide material for four other RSMAS students’ dissertations, involved collaborations across four labs, provided research & outreach experience for seven MAST high school students and five UM undergraduates, and will result in numerous publications.

Kasey Cantwell, MAF
Kasey is evaluating the mass mortality on coral reefs because of the cold water in January 2010, recovery on the reef, and underwater landscape mosaics for their potential use as coral reef monitoring tools. Funds from the Alumni Award were used to purchase field gear and photography equipment for the 2012 survey portion of her thesis, which were used to create underwater landscape mosaics.

Read more...