In this addition of our newsletter, I’d like to pay tribute to our newest RSMAS alumni – congratulations to the RSMAS class of 2012! Students who graduated from RSMAS this December were conferred bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees representing both the undergraduate and graduate programs.

I would like to personally welcome the class of 2012 to the RSMAS Alumni Association, and I sincerely hope you will stay connected to your school. If your post-graduation plans have you staying local, be on the lookout for alumni events next spring, including an alumni lecture and alumni day of service. If your post-graduation plans are taking you away from Miami, don’t forget to visit next year when our new building is completed.

And next year’s Alumni Weekend will only build on the great activities and enthusiastic participation from 2012!

I wish you all much success, and hope to see you at future alumni gatherings.

Happy Holidays, and best wishes for the new year!

Erica K. Towle, B.S.M.A.S ‘10
President, RSMAS Alumni Board
Alumni Fund Announced – Let’s Rebuild the Wetlab!

On Friday October 19th, as a special part of Alumni Weekend, the Wetlab opened its doors for the first time in 4 months, and welcomed nearly 300 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends, to celebrate the Rosenstiel School and our beloved watering-hole.

Dean Roni Avissar and RSMAS Alumni Board members Fernando Bretos and Lauren Ordway announced the Alumni Campaign’s mission to raise funds for the Wetlab renovation, which will provide a facelift to the bar and patio areas.
Alumni Fund Announced – Let’s Rebuild the Wetlab! (Continued)

For many years, the Wetlab has been a sanctuary for students, and a familiar place to return to for alums. So many of us recall being lured out of a concentrated-state in the library by an e-mail announcing “Wetlab is open!” and fond memories of celebrations that occurred on the Wetlab Patio with our RSMAS family, while enjoying one of the best views in Miami. The Wetlab is undoubtedly a Miami jewel, and it is ours to preserve.

We raised nearly $300 at the Wetlab opening event, thanks in large part to RSMAS professors Dr. David Letson and Dr. Daniel Bennetti, but we still have a long way to go. Please consider supporting our efforts to preserve and improve our iconic Wetlab with a donation to the RSMAS Alumni Association today!

To donate, please visit:
(make sure to select ‘Rosenstiel School Alumni Fund’ from the drop down menu)!
Alumni Weekend October 2012

We had a phenomenal weekend! Between Canes Spirit Day, our boat float at the Homecoming Parade, Happy Hour at the Wetlab, Football, and Sunday Funday at Broad Key, we had hundreds of alumni, current students, faculty, and administration come together. Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2012 Alumni Weekend a huge success.

RSMAS floats its boat in the Homecoming Parade

Ahoy! RSMAS cruised through the streets of Coral Gables amid floats from various UM organizations during the 2012 Homecoming Parade. Our Boat Float led the parade (just after the alumni marching band), decorated with lights, RSMAS flags, and inflatable sea creatures. We tossed hundreds of fishy bead necklaces, fishy key chains, and gummy sea creatures into the crowd, as the spectators cheered. This was the first time in over a decade that RSMAS participated in the parade and it was such a success and so much fun that we are already planning for next year!

RSMAS Boat Float participants: Dean Roni Avissar, Alumni Manager Laura Bracken MA ’07, Peter Chaibongsai BA ’00, MA ’07, Communications Director Barbra Gonzalez, Asst Dean of Advancement Rose Mann, and Alumni board president, Erica Towl BS ’10, as well as several undergraduate students. Special thanks to Jesse Fernandez and Miguel McKinney from the RSMAS Small Boats program who drove the van trailering the boat.
A Special Boat Trip to Broad Key

On Sunday, October 21st, about 30 people including the Alumni Board, RSMAS alumni, and their families enjoyed a day of ‘fun in the sun’ at our Broad Key research station. One of the vessels we took was the Masters of Professional Science (MPS) program’s new boat, the Sea Hawk, which was captained by Jesse Fernandez of the RSMAS small boats program. The other vessel was captained by RSMAS assistant professor Dr. Evan D’Alessandro, a three-time alumnus of UM – B.S., M.S., and Ph.D.

Upon arriving at Broad Key, the Board gave the group a tour of the new facility. Old and young alums alike agreed that the station is an incredible asset to our marine science program, and they wished RSMAS had it when they were students! Some went on a kayak trip through the mangrove ecosystems around Broad Key, while others paddle boarded, and explored the island’s solar panel system.

After lunch the group snorkeled (or napped)! The snorkelers saw an abundance of mangrove and seagrass associated fishes, as well as some species of corals and sponges. The group even had fun trying to catch Caribbean Spiny Lobsters. A successful catch provided an educational and impromptu “touch-tank” experience for some of the children of alums on the trip. The consensus was that the Board should do this event again next year for Homecoming weekend. Alumna Alycia Rajendran, B.S. ’09 summed up the day best: “So glad to see something so close to my heart thriving!

Visit the RSMAS Alumni Association Facebook page for more pictures of the weekend!
Share with us “Stories of U”

Stories of U is a University of Miami Alumni campaign celebrating the individual and collective experiences of our alumni. Through an interactive website, we record, archive, and feature pictures, videos, and audio recordings that present a snapshot of the lives of our UM family.

UM wants to learn about the moments and people that have shaped your life. It could be the trip of a lifetime or the one who inspired you to be who you are today—whatever makes up the Story of U.

Our RSMAS Alumni have been all over the world - maybe you studied abroad in the Galapagos, went to a conference in Australia, or went shark tagging in the Bahamas...show your UM pride and post comments, photos and videos about your experience!

www.storiesofU.com