RSMAS IN THE MIAMI HERALD

Be sure to get your Miami Herald on Sunday, March 10th. Along with the regular commercial inserts, there will be an EcoGuide jointly sponsored by WTVJ/NBC 6’s EcoWatch project and The Herald. Through our affiliation with EcoWatch, Assistant Dean Prager has written a column for the EcoGuide on what individuals can do for the ocean.

RECENT TRAVEL

Dr. Christopher Harrison was in Santa Cruz, California from January 28th to February 3rd to attend a meeting of the JOIDES Executive Committee.

Dr. Gregor Eberli was in Abu Dhabi and Amsterdam from February 2nd to 3rd to participate in a core description for a project at ADCO in Abu Dhabi and to perform a site evaluation in Amsterdam.

ROSENSTIEL SCHOOL SUFFERS ANOTHER GREAT LOSS

In less than a year the Rosenstiel School is forced to say goodbye to another faculty member taken much too early for his years. Dr. Frederick Tappert passed away after struggling for several months with pancreatic cancer. “Fred was an outstanding scientist who provided intellectual leadership in ocean acoustics for the nation. We will miss his ethical, but off-the-beaten-path approach to science and politics.” states Dean Otis Brown.

At the standing room only memorial service in the Smith Commons colleagues like Dr. Mike Brown credited Fred for inspiring his own career as well as those of his devoted graduate students. “Fred’s intellectual capacity was awesome, and the impact of his work on the field of underwater acoustics is enormous. My most vivid memory of Fred is the joy he experienced from sharing his knowledge with others, whether in a formal lecture setting, a classroom, or in an informal discussion with colleagues”

Fred was lauded as being among the nations elite applied mathematicians at the time he was recruited to RSMAS back in 1978. He recently received national honor with the Superior Public Service Award from the Department of the Navy. Fred leaves behind his wife Sally and sons, Andrew and Peter.

It is rather poetic that when Fred’s ashes were dispersed in the ocean from the deck of the R/V F. G. Walton Smith, he was joined by his dear friend Dr. Richard Skop who had passed away last February. Mrs. Tappert remarked how comforting it is that Dick and Fred are together again as they had been dear friends and daily lunch mates while at RSMAS. The members of the Rosenstiel community send their heartfelt sympathy to the Tappert family.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON OCEAN POLICY VISITS FLORIDA

The Presidential Ocean Commission will visit Florida on February 21st and 22nd as part of its year-long sojourn around the Nation to hear testimony on ocean issues. On the 21st several commissioners will visit Ft. Lauderdale for a first-hand look at problems facing Florida’s coastal communities. Dr. Chris Mooers of RSMAS will be participating to address issues relating to ocean observation systems. On the 22nd, the full commission will be in St. Petersburg for a day of testimony. Dr. Otis Brown has been asked to speak on issues related to research and Dr. Ellen Prager will address the Commission on education.
VOLUNTEER WRAP UP
OCEANS DAY IN TALLAHASSEE
The Florida Ocean Alliance is hosting Oceans Day at the State Capitol on February 13th. The Rosenstiel School display and banner will be prominently visible to our political representatives and staffers during a day of presentations and awards focused on the oceans.

NOSB NEWS
The “NEW” Florida Regional champion for NOSB this year: MAST Academy from Miami (coach: Mark Tobukka) won over Eau Gallie High School (coach: Gary Wolfe) from Melbourne, last year’s winner, in an exciting final match this past Saturday at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution (HBOI), Fort Pierce. This is the third time MAST Academy won the Florida Regional Title since the first competition in 1998. Eau Gallie High School and Lincoln Park Academy from Fort Pierce (absent this year) have won once each. Seminole High School from Sanford (competed for the first time) won third place followed by Eau Gallie team II who won fourth place. A total of 18 teams from 14 schools competed in this year’s competition, with 5 schools competing for the first time. MAST Academy will advance against champions from 21 other regions in the National Finals, to be held in Providence, Rhode Island late in April.

The competition was successful partly due to the dedication and support especially from RSMAS and AOML. More than 20 people from Miami drove up to HBOI in the rain and heavy Friday traffic to act as judges. From RSMAS: Jenny Hanafin, Stacy Luthy, Jeremy Pennington, Stacy Reeder, Mike McGauley, Guido Bracco-Gartner, Bob Wolfe, Helga Dienes, Kelly Bergman, David Die, Angel Li, John Brown; from AOML: Erica Van Coverden, Alberto Mestas-Nunez, Nick Carrasco, Alejandra Lorenzo, Sonia Otero, Craig Engler; outside volunteers: Jessica Vazquez, Ellen Brown, Carolina Mestas-Nunez. Many thanks to you all.

We hope to have another highly successful NOSB competition again next year here in Miami. See you then.

Submitted by Atty Tantivit

NOSB NEWS

RESEARCH FUNDING RECEIVED IN DECEMBER
A total of $2,121,231 was received in new and additional research contract dollars during the month of December, 2001.

Submitted by Patty Atkinson

SOUNDINGS

GRADUATE STUDIES NEWS
Graduate Studies will be hosting an open house on Saturday, March 2, 2002 from 10 AM to 2 PM for prospective new students. There will be tours of our facilities (1:00 p.m.), followed by a BBQ and volleyball game (2:00 p.m.). EVERYONE is invited and encouraged to attend. This is the best opportunity for these prospective students to talk with faculty and current students, so we hope to see you all there.

The University of Miami annual commencement ceremony is going through some changes this year. President Shalala will personally confer every degree. So, to accommodate this, there will be three separate undergraduate ceremonies on Friday, May 10, 2002 and one graduate ceremony on Saturday, May 11, 2002 at 9:30 am on the University Green. All RSMAS graduating students will also be invited to attend a luncheon in the Commons following the main campus ceremony.

Submitted by Stacy Reeder. VP, MSGSO

RETIREE RALPH ROBERT HEADS TO ORLANDO
Ralph was surrounded by good humor and well wishes when I walked up to him at his farewell party in the RSMAS Library on January 30th. Dr. Rod Zika told Ralph, “I have just come from a meeting of all the Division Chairs and they voted unanimously that you are much too young to retire” A RSMAS staple since 1980, Ralph asked me to quote him as saying “Love is looking in your rear view mirror and seeing RSMAS shrink in the distance”. Typical of Ralph’s humor he added “Be sure to thank everyone and tell them I’ll miss them all”.

His plans are not definite. He might consult at Valencia College on hazardous shipping or he may even resume his career as a jazz drummer if he hooks up with a good trio or quartet. Best wishes Ralph, from all your friends at RSMAS.

Submitted by Michele Rowand