Welcome all incoming and prospective students! As the Peer Counselors, we would like to introduce you to both life as a student at the University of Miami and the Rosenstiel School for Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS). Incoming students are placed with a Peer Counselor who will help them make the transition to college as smooth and enjoyable as possible, both academically and socially. We are here as guides for not only new students but also prospective students who are interested in studying marine and atmospheric science. If you have any questions about the program, the campus, life at the university, or anything else, please email any one of us, and we will do our very best to help you find an answer to your questions.

Abigail Wisnet – Class of 2013
Head of Peer Counseling Program
Majors: Marine Science, Biology (Pre-veterinary track)
Minor: Chemistry
Email: a.wisnet@umiami.edu

Welcome everyone!! My name is Abby Wisnet, and I am currently a junior on the pre-veterinary track majoring in marine science and biology with a minor in chemistry. I grew up in Wisconsin surrounded by lake sturgeon and cows but decided to head toward Miami for college to study marine animals instead (best decision ever)! I have helped with research on the Gulf Toadfish on the RSMAS campus as well as helped out in the Comparative Pathology Lab on the Medical Campus during past school years. In my summers, I have worked as a zookeeper and am currently working on a project as an intern at a marine mammal facility in the keys. After I graduate from UM, I hope to attend vet school and work toward becoming a marine veterinarian. I am the president of the Pre-veterinary Society and the stranding coordinator of the Marine Mammal Stranding Team as well as a part of Ocean Kids, Rho Rho Rho, and Scuba Club. In my free time, I love to play tennis, dive, and play with my dog! Feel free to contact me with any questions you have about anything!

Sam Hariharan – Class of 2012
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: s.hariharan@umiami.edu

Hello All! My name is Sam Hariharan and I am a Senior Marine Science/Biology Major I am from Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. I enjoy being outdoors and water sports. I recently completed the P.R.I.S.M. Honors program at UM. Since last August, I have been working at Dr. Peter Glynn’s Coral Reef Research Lab at RSMAS. This Summer I have been working on my Senior Thesis as well as analyzing coral reef reproduction cycles. I plan to attend graduate school next summer for Marine Biology.
Rachel Pausch – Class of 2014
Majors: Marine Science, Biology, Geology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: r.pausch@umiami.edu

Hey everyone! I’m Rachel Pausch, a sophomore from just outside Los Angeles. I absolutely love UM, and it’s mainly because of our awesome marine science program. Aside from classes I intern at NOAA working with the coral team monitoring different species, and am also involved with Ocean Kids, UM SCUBA, & Aquarium Club. Last year I spent time on the R/V Walton Smith, and helped with research on the effects of CO$_2$ on corals. I’ve also spent time studying orcas in Washington. Eventually, I hope to pursue a career that combines my interests in marine biology and geology. When I’m not in the lab I love to dive in the Keys, and on campus I work in the marine science office. If you have any questions about anything, feel free to drop by!

Megan Piechowski – Class of 2013
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: meg_piechowski@hotmail.com

Hi! My name is Megan Piechowski. I am a junior majoring in marine science and biology, with a minor in chemistry. Although I love my hometown of Austin, Texas, I moved to Miami because of my love for the ocean, and everything that lives in it. My real passion lies in cephalopods, and I love learning new things about them! The past two years at UM have been amazing! I'm met life-long friends through my involvements as the Secretary for the UM Women's Lacrosse team, the SCUBA club (where I earned my Advanced certification), Rho Rho Rho, and being part of the peer counseling group. I absolutely love traveling and spending time in the ocean, so when I'm not in class I'm always down for an adventure with my friends! In the future I plan on attending graduate school to earn my Ph.D. so I can continue learning through field work and research!

Joyce Yager- Class of 2013
Majors: Marine Science, Biology, Geology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: j.yager1@umiami.edu

My name is Joyce Yager. I was born and raised in Austin, Texas, but like many in the MSC department I ventured to Miami for the ocean. I’m studying marine science, biology and geology here at UM. My favorite part of UM science is the opportunity to work and learn in the field! I’ve taken several field courses, which have been my favorite classes here. I’ve also volunteered in labs with professors both at RSMAS and on the main campus. I’ve been in the Band of the Hour and SCUBA club at UM, and I encourage everyone to give both a try! My favorite things in the world are swimming, hiking, some good live music, and of course bragging about being a Texan. If you can’t find me in Cox Science Center, I’m probably playing outside with my beautiful dog, Athena!
Hello, my name is Ian Chambers and I will be a senior this fall! I am a part of a wide variety of clubs and activities here on campus including: Public Relations Officer of Rho Rho Rho, AAUS University of Miami Scientific Diver, Scuba Club, Alpha Lamda Delta Honor Society, University Frost Chorale Choir, Treasurer of Club Field Hockey and Club Swimming… just to name a few =) I am a women’s volleyball Super-Fan and am extremely passion about Umiami athletics, serving on the Spirit Traditions Committee for Category 5. Look for my bright orange wig in the front row of any sporting event! As a marine science biology major my long term interests are marine biomedicine and pharmaceutical research and I plan on attending grad school after graduation. Last summer I was a science-diving intern for the Perry Institute of Marine Science in the Bahamas and back at school I volunteer in Dr. Peter Glynn’s lab at RSMAS. I love social media, I am a huge tech junky [Steve Jobs is my homeboy] and I am a proud Greek-American. Please do not hesitate to email, call or even shoot me a “tweet” with any questions! It’s all about the []_[] - LYGC

Emily Morgan here from Hampton, Virginia! I’m a senior Meteorology and Mathematics major, also pursuing a Geology minor for kicks. I found myself here in Coral Gables trying to accomplish a goal I’ve had since 4th grade, to be a meteorologist. I’ve found out that my interests lie in colder climes, but I am especially fond of forecasting and put those skills to good use every semester in the National WXChallenge. I’m the President of the UM Chapter of Chi Epsilon Pi Meteorological Honor Society and the secretary of the UM Atmospheric Sciences club, as well as the Initiate Advisor for our chapter of Phi Sigma Pi National Honors Fraternity (co-ed; it’s complicated :D) and a general member of our Marine Mammal Stranding Team (super awesome and not complicated). When I’m not sitting around with my head in the clouds, I’m probably hooked into my Xbox, jammin’ on my electric bass, or my nose is stuck in a book somewhere. For a more productive use of my time, I do research with Dr. Paquita Zuidema on stratus cloud decks in the southeastern Pacific. I believe I might continue on doing research after graduation, most likely in a lab setting, rather than in graduate school. I’m pretty chill and really excited to be a peer counselor this year, so feel free to get a hold of me in whatever mode of communication you prefer!
Alexandria Rivard – Class of 2012
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minors: Classics, Psychology
Email: a.rivard@umiami.edu

Hello! My name is Alexandria and I am a senior studying marine science and biology. Marine mammals are my passion, and I have been working in the field for the past year and a half. Following my sophomore year, I interned at Dolphins Plus in Key Largo, and was invited to continue my research for my senior honors thesis on the effects of advanced cataracts on the visual capabilities of our California sea lion, Wono, with work being completed this fall. (I get to play with sea lions and dolphins every weekend – how cool is that?!?) This summer, I am interning at the Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut as a beluga whale care and training intern (and top-notch whale tongue rub giver!). On campus, I am a member of Rho Rho Rho, Ocean Kids Day, a sister of Kappa Kappa Gamma, and the president of the Episcopal Students Organization, and a volunteer at RSMAS working on the effects of ocean acidification on larval cobia. If you have any questions or concerns, or want to talk about getting into the ultra-glamorous world of marine mammals (Read: lots of scrubbing, dead fish, and scrubbing off dead fish! But I promise it’s worth every second!) I hope to hear from you!

Hannah Peck – Class of 2013
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: hannahep91@gmail.com

Hi! My name is Hannah and I am a junior majoring in marine science and biology with a minor in chemistry. I grew up in Connecticut, but came to Miami for the warm weather and year-round access to the ocean. Last spring I was able to study abroad through the UGalapagos program. There I had the opportunity to do hands-on research with many RSMAS professors, study in Darwin’s living laboratory, and snorkel with beautiful fish, sea lions, stingrays, turtles, octopi, and sharks on a daily basis! I also spent two months on the island of Formentera in the Mediterranean assisting a doctoral candidate with his research. We studied evolutionary and behavioral biology of Ibiza Wall Lizards. This past summer I worked for Lynne Fieber studying the neurobiology of *Aplysia californica*, which you will play with in MSC 111 lab. I am a member of Rho Rho Rho, SCUBA club, Marine Mammal Stranding Team, and Kappa Kappa Gamma. I love terrestrial biology as much as I love marine science and in the future I hope to continue loving nature through hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, and exploring.
Collin Crecco – Class of 2012
Majors: Marine Affairs, International Studies
Minor: Economics
Email: c.crecco@umiami.edu

Hey, my name is Collin Crecco, and I am majoring in Marine Affairs and International Studies with a minor in Economics. I am from New Hampshire and I’ll be heading into my senior year. The past few years at UM have been a lot fun. I’ve earned my advanced, research, and rescue diver certifications since I’ve been here, and I’ve also been a member of the Scuba Club, Earth Alert, Rho Rho Rho, and was the Vice President of the Undergrad Propeller Club last year. I spent this summer in Honolulu, Hawaii, working at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. During my stay, I worked with scientists and policy managers with the current management review plans the sanctuary is undertaking. More specifically, I worked with the sanctuary’s Offshore Development Working Group and their offshore aquaculture proposals. During my free time, I like to play pick-up basketball, baseball, and scuba dive. Hopefully after graduate school, I plan to go into environmental or maritime law.

Nikki Bruno – Class of 2012
Major: Marine Affairs
Email: scorpio89@aol.com

Hello fellow lovers of the sea! My name is Nikki Bruno and this will be my fourth year studying at the University of Miami. My major is technically Marine Affairs, but I have dabbled in the undergraduate realm of Biology as well as the graduate realm of Aquaculture. I’m minoring in Ecosystem Science and Policy and Secondary Science Education too. When I’m not studying, working, eating, or sleeping, I’m probably sailing, longboarding, playing music, rock climbing, wandering outdoors aimlessly, wandering indoors aimlessly, or giving advice to some awesome newcomers to the RSMAS family :) My academic and career interests revolve around connections between the science, policy, and education involved when it comes to how humans interact with the ocean and I couldn't love it any more. This is my second year as a peer counselor and I’m super excited to be back, so if you have any questions, comments, or philosophies you'd like to share, don't hesitate to drop me a line!

Charlotte Pechtl – Class of 2014
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: c.pechtl@umiami.edu

Hi! My name is Charlotte Pechtl. I am a sophomore from Franklin, Massachusetts majoring in marine biology and biology. I am a member of Rho Rho Rho, the Marine and Atmospheric Honors Society, the SCUBA Club, Marine Mammal Stranding Team, and the Club Volleyball Team. I hope to do internships focusing on conservation and I would love to study abroad my junior year. I absolutely love turtles, sharks, and rays and I enjoy playing pick-up beach volleyball and Ultimate Frisbee and hitting around on the tennis courts whenever I get the chance. I would like to help protect the oceans’ marine life for a career in the future as well as learn how to surf for a hobby. Apart from marine science, I plan to earn a minor in psychology.
Joshua Lonthair – Class of 2013
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minors: Chemistry, Pre-Med
Email: joshualonthair@gmail.com

My name is Joshua Lonthair. I am a Junior majoring in Marine Science and Biology, and I am in love with the ocean. My family currently resides in Long Beach, Mississippi but I feel like a native of the world since I moved a lot when I was younger because my father was in the military. I am studying Marine Science and Biology, but I am Pre-Med so after my four amazing years at the University of Miami I hope to go to medical school and eventually become an Oncologist. This upcoming year I will be working in Dr. Schmale’s Lab out at RSMAS doing grunt work. When not working out at RSMAS or being in class I am a member of a number of organizations. I am in SCUBA club, the American Medical Student Association, and Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. I am also a committee member on the Student Activity Fee Allocation Committee and next year I will be the Co-President of Rho Rho Rho the Marine and Atmospheric Science Honor Society.

Julie Sanders – Class of 2013
Majors: Chemistry, Marine Science
Minor: Mathematics
Email: j.sanders9@umiami.edu

Hello all! My name is Julie Sanders and I’m a proud native of Cleveland, Ohio. I will be entering my third year here at The U, as a chemistry and marine science double major with a minor in mathematics. In past years I have worked in the field in atmospheric chemistry, in the lab studying biogeochemistry as a RSMAS undergraduate fellow, and next summer I will intern with NOAA as a Hollings Scholar. Though not yet sure what exactly I want to study in graduate school and beyond, I love chemistry (periodic table of the elements shower curtain, anyone?), math, and hope to use these skills to contribute to society. This year I will also serve as the Secretary of Rho Rho Rho. I am looking forward to another year here and my first as a Peer Counselor. Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have!

Chloe Fleming – Class of 2013
Majors: Marine Affairs, Anthropology
Email: c.fleming4@umiami.edu

Hi! My name is Chloe Fleming and I am a Junior here at UM with a double major in Marine Affairs and Anthropology. I’m in a five year Master’s program for Marine Affairs, and am considering a career in environmental or marine law. I’m from New Hampshire and thought what better place to study the ocean than Miami? I am on the Recruitment and Retention Committee of No Zebras: Canes Against Sexual Assault, participate in Ocean Kids, and am a member of National Society of Collegiate Scholars. I love going to the beach, and this summer I’m volunteering for the Lake Sunapee Protective Association. UM is an excellent place to live and learn, and you can find me around campus at a baseball game, chillin’ by the pool, catching one of our great theatre productions, or partying it up at Club Richter (more generally known as the Richter Library)! I’m planning on studying abroad in Ireland in the spring, but please feel free to send me an email any time this year, even if I’m out of the country!
Great weather, warm water, captivating ocean animals, awesome teachers, and an unbeatable social scene, what more could a college student ask for? These compelling characteristics are all part of why I decided to attend the Rosenstiel School at the University of Miami. I spent my childhood in a suburban town about 15 minutes outside of Boston, Massachusetts. Growing up, I had big dreams to be a vet. When I was 14 years old, my family and I decided to get a dog. After two days with the dog, I began to notice I had some type of allergy. I went to the allergist, and was tested for almost every major land animal; turns out I am allergic to almost every major land animal. That is when I began interning at the New England Aquarium, where I worked throughout high school until I began attending the University of Miami. I am now a Sophomore, and am growing interest in marine mammal and marine reptile rehabilitation. The University of Miami is a place where I can be intellectually stimulated, and enjoy the benefits of Division 1 sports. (Football and basketball games are a must). Congratulations on your admission into one of the best marine schools in the world, and do not hesitate to contact me throughout the year. Remember, it’s all about the [___]

Emily Estes – Class of 2013
Majors: Marine Science, Biology
Minor: Chemistry
Email: e.estes@umiami.edu

Hey, I’m Emily Estes and I am a junior majoring in Marine Science Biology! This is my first year as an MSC Peer Counselor and I am so pumped to meet everyone! I am originally from Houston, Texas, but I also spent a year after high school studying and volunteering all over Israel. I am completely and utterly fascinated with marine mammals and after I graduate, I aspire to work with dolphin interaction and research. Instead of going back to Houston this summer, I spent my time interning at Dolphin Cove, which is a Dolphin Research and Education Facility in Key Largo, Florida. I also LOVE snorkeling, swimming, and pretty much anything having to do with water! When I am not in class, I’m almost always in Hecht Residential College, since I am RA on Pentland 2! I am also a member of Rho Rho Rho, am involved with Ocean Awareness week and Ocean Kids, and love helping out with campus events like Hurricanes Help the Hometown and other traditions like Homecoming and Sportsfest! I’m so excited to be a peer counselor this year, so if you have any questions, don’t hesitate to ask!