



The HMSC Newsletter



OREGON STATE
UNIVERSITY

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Pamela Rogers, Editor



George Boehlert, flanked by Major Mark Jones and President Paul Risser

H.M.S. SeaFest's Maiden Voyage a Rousing Success

By Terry Dillman

Excerpts from the News-Times (June 26, 2002)

A first-ever event at the OSU Hatfield Marine Science Center drew an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 visitors to learn all about the sea, how scientists and others learn from the sea, and share information about the sea. Dubbing it the H.M.S. SeaFest, organizers of Saturday's open house at OSU's marine research facility deemed its maiden voyage "a rousing success."

Speeches at the opening ceremony and shop talk afterward centered on making SeaFest an annual celebration. Jay Rasmussen, HMSC associate director and Extension program leader for Oregon Sea Grant welcomed everyone during a brief opening ceremony that played a dual role: describing what the festival offered and introducing the Center's new Director.

"This is an opportunity for the public to interact with and look at all the aspects of this great facility," Rasmussen said, noting that it fit perfectly with OSU's "open doors-open minds" policy. In "Gettysburg Address" fashion, as promised by Rasmussen, OSU president Paul Risser, OSU Research Office Faculty Liaison Jack Higginbotham, and Newport Mayor Mark Jones officially broke a virtual bottle of champagne on the bow of the HMS SeaFest activities. "This represents what Oregon State University is all about, with its partnerships throughout the whole state," Risser said. Lavern Weber, the man who led those efforts for the past 25 years, had earlier announced his retirement, effective the end of June. Visitors at SeaFest had a chance to meet his successor, George W. Boehlert, who takes over July 1. (Photo courtesy of *News-Times*)



Burnt plastic covers of herring tanks

Salt Water + Electricity = Fire

Quick action by Tom Matteson of the HMSC Physical Plant prevented a major catastrophe on Friday, June 7. As Tom was opening the back gate at 7:00 a.m. he saw smoke rising from the back of the main building. He and Maureen Collson converged on the outdoor concrete experimental tank to find lots of smoke and the crackling of electricity. As Maureen called 911, Tom reached up and unplugged the extension cord that powered the tank pumps, grabbed a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. The plastic tarps covering several tanks and the fiberglass lids of several tanks were scorched and melted, but the tanks themselves and the building next to it were not harmed.

The Fire Chief believes the fire was caused by one of two possibilities: a pump failed or an extension cord plug was in salt water at the bottom of the concrete tank. The grad student experimenter was using the correct outdoor extension cords, but anytime salt water and electricity are allowed to mix, there is great danger because salt water is such an excellent conductor of electricity.

Randy Walker and the physical plant staff encourage every investigator to review their experimental set-ups and have a physical plant staffer check it out. The quarterly safety walk-throughs are designed to catch these things, but they are only once a quarter. Randy has a number of horror stories about jerry-rigged experi-

ments, even one where a grad student taped two exposed wires together and attached a light bulb in a wet lab.

Take a minute now and find the closest fire extinguisher. If you don't know how to use one, please ask the physical plant to show you how. You may be the one who is working after hours and comes across the same scenario. Make sure you know what to do before it happens. Thanks to Tom and Maureen for their quick action!



TAT Committee meets with SG staff.

External Review of Oregon Sea Grant's Marine Education Program

On June 11 and 12, a top-notch Topical Advisory Team spent time with the faculty, staff, and volunteers of Oregon's Sea Grant marine education program at the Center. The team was chaired by Dr. Jerry Schubel, president emeritus of the New England Aquarium. Other members were Dr. Christine Ebert, Professor of Instruction and Teacher Education at the University of South Carolina; Dr. John Falk, Director of the Institute for Learning Innovation in Annapolis, Maryland; Lynn Whitley, Education Program Coordinator of the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies in California; Dr. Elizabeth Day, Education Program Leader for National Sea Grant; and Dr. Emory Anderson, Program Director for Fisheries for National Sea Grant.

This external advisory board was chosen by Oregon Sea Grant for the purpose of looking at the future of Oregon Sea

Grant's marine education program. There are a number of changes happening now, with the retirement of Vicki Osis in February 2003 (she is only one of two Sea Grant marine educators on the West Coast), the arrival of George Boehlert as the new HMSC Director, budget challenges, and the upcoming retirement of a number of Sea Grant marine personnel in the next few years.

The specific objectives of the visit were to assist Oregon Sea Grant in:

- understanding local, regional and national needs, trends, and opportunities in marine education, including visitor and aquatic interpretative centers
- gaining knowledgeable outside perspectives on how we might align or match existing or new strengths with trends and opportunities
- weighing the relative merits for OSG of narrowing and deepening our focus of activities or broadening and diversifying our efforts in marine education
- assessing optimal organizational structures, programming concepts, staffing needs and direction, evaluating programming, and considering support to educational programming beyond our present venues and structure

The official "observations and recommendations" will not be presented in writing for several weeks, but preliminary observations were to play up the Center's research strengths, perhaps in testing new teaching methods for free-choice education. The team was very impressed with the collaborative Oregon Coast Community College and OSU HMSC aquarist technician program being implemented.

Once the recommendations are on the table, Sea Grant will absorb and study them, and bring others into the conversation who would be impacted by any changes. One that is already underway is with Dr. Larry Enochs, the chair of OSU's Science and Math Education. This on-going

discussion will lay the groundwork for possible new and stronger approaches to marine education.



Ebru and Umur by their collection

Onals Share Shell Collection

Umur and Ebru Onal are sharing part of their beautiful shell collection this month in the special Guin Library display case. Umur first got interested in collecting shells as a small boy walking on the beaches of western Turkey and, when he was given his first cowrie shell at age 10, he was hooked. He became a diver partly to gain access to shells when he studied fisheries in college. He met Ebru in college and got her interested in shells as well. In the display case are two large pen shells (bivalves) that Ebru collected on her own dives.



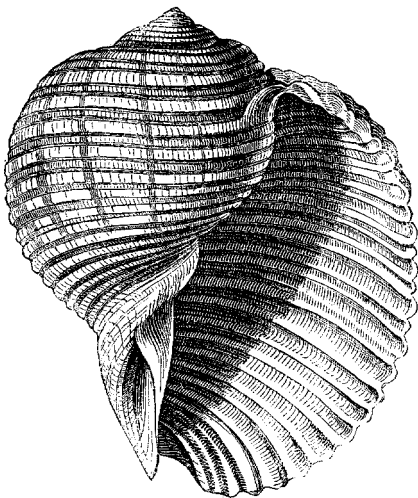
However, it wasn't until they came to the United States in 1995 that he could really begin adding to his collection in a big way. In the U.S. there is a large middle class that has enough discretionary funds to support the sale of shells to collectors. In the seven years that they have been in

Newport, they have purchased many shells. Some of them will be difficult to pack and send back to Turkey because of their size and weight, such as the giant clam shells.



Originally from the city of Izmir in Turkey, Umur will be returning after his dissertation defense this fall to work at the March 18 University of Canakkale on the northwest coast of Turkey. He will need to work 14 years (two years of work for every year that the government supported him overseas as a student) as an instructor at the University. He and Ebru will be taking back something even more precious than their expanded collection, as they are expecting their first child next month.

Please take the time to study the display in the Library. In addition to the wonderful variety of shells, there is a lot of information about malacology (the study of shells) explained in the display text.



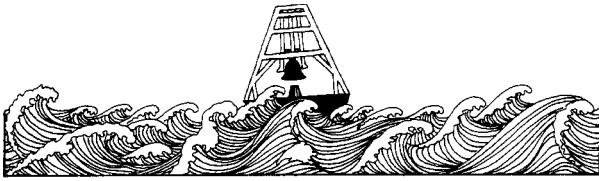
Daniel Gomez-Uchida in his lab

Chilean Student Studies Genetics

Daniel Gomez-Uchida is Michael Banks' first OSU graduate student and is a graduate of the University of Concepcion where he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees. However, it was in the London airport that Michael interviewed him for this assistantship. Daniel was doing a research stint at the University of Hull and Michael stopped long enough on a flight to a meeting in South Africa to meet with him. This is Daniel's first time in the United States and he has been impressed at the large number of awards and research funds available to students.

Daniel's master's work was on analyzing the genetic make-up of crabs in the Chilean commercial crab fishery. They are in the same family as our Dungeness crab. He is building on that base for his Ph.D. research, which is on using gene flow ranges to analyze migration and reproduction of four species of *Sebastes*.

This is Daniel's first time in the United States and what he noticed right away was the difficulty of getting around without a car. For recreation, Daniel plays classical guitar, sings and does the martial art of kempo.



OCEANQUEST 2002

Auditorium presentations daily at noon and 3:p.m. of near real-time marine research at sea

Exploring the Submarine Ring of Fire: June 28 to August 5

This is the first of a multi-year project exploring submarine volcanoes in different tectonic settings in the Pacific. This summer two back-to-back expeditions on the R/V Thompson will go to Explorer Ridge, a seafloor-spreading center located about 300 miles west of Vancouver, B.C. The first leg will be June 28-July 11 and will search for areas of hydrothermal venting using plume-detecting instruments and an autonomous underwater vehicle. The second leg will be July 11-Aug 5 and will locate and sample the hydrothermal vents found on the first leg with a remotely-operated vehicle. Dives will be made both at Explorer Ridge and at Axial Seamount, where long-term monitoring instruments will be recovered and deployed.

<http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/vents/nemo/logbook/july16.html>

GLOBEC: July 30 to August 18

This program is examining the causes of mortality and growth for the juvenile salmon, in the early stages of their ocean journey. It has been hypothesized that the level of mortality/survival at that stage determines the success of that year's cohort, but little has been known about this phase until sampling began off Oregon several years ago. The results from this cruise will be compared with those from an earlier cruise in June of this year when juvenile salmon were just entering the marine eco-

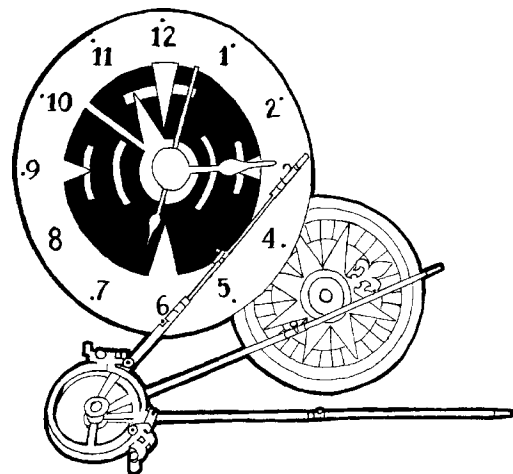
system. Next year, the sampling will move back to the coastal Gulf of Alaska (south of Prince William Sound), to contrast the biophysical interactions between juvenile salmon and their environment in the two locations.

<http://globec.coas.oregonstate.edu/groups/ships> (primarily for the scientists to use to exchange data files while at sea)

Continuing The Legacy Of Lewis And Clark: Unveiling A Submerged Portion Of The Ancient West Coast Of North America: August 5 to August 15

A modern-day Corps of Discovery will continue its ongoing program to map, explore, and document the physical, chemical, and biological systems of the West Coast of North America. In order to enhance and optimize the explorations of one of several areas off of Oregon, a high-resolution mapping effort will be conducted from the R/V Thomas Thompson. The mapping will cover a bathymetric range from 70 – 700 meters and capture the ancient shoreline during the last Ice Age. The data collected from this cruise can be used in an array of projects: from the study of plate tectonics to assessing fish habitat essential for marine reserves to locating potential underwater archeological sites in effort to better understand the passage of the first new world explorers.

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>





Fawn Custer (right) with day camp student

Fawn Custer, Marine Educator, Reviews Program Changes

Although Fawn Custer is not the first part-time marine educator hired by Vicki Osis for her school group program (Theta Hastie takes that honor), she is now the senior instructor. Fellow instructors are Linda Brodeur and Athena Crichton. Jesica Haxel is the full-time marine educator/stockroom coordinator and Amy Brown is the summer intern this year. Originally working with volunteers, Vicki has written grants to expand the program and today the program is supported by fees from the school groups, which range from pre-kindergarden to college level.

Fawn has been working at the Center for seven years and has contributed to the growth and development of the program. She personally has been responsible for developing programs for the Girl Scouts and for the Oceanography and Wildlife merit badges for Boy Scouts. She also was in on the beginning of the summer marine day camps that started with a one-week camp for 12-16 year olds. This was so successful that the second year they added another week and broke the camp into one week for 8-12 year olds and one week for 13-17 year olds. This year there are five

different camps. The fact that many kids return year after year has necessitated changing the content and focus each summer. For instance, last year emphasized marine and coastal ecology and this year it will be on estuarine and coastal forests. Last year was the first year they went out on the *R/V Elakha* and this year they are adding kayaking for the high schoolers.

Fawn has always enjoyed teaching and she especially enjoys the hands-on marine education classes because there are no papers to grade, unlike when she taught in middle and high schools. She earned her bachelor's and her master's in science education at Oregon State University, after a stint as a marine lab technician on the East Coast. She is especially proud of her work with Scouts, having a long history of Scouting in her family. Last year there were over 300 scouts who benefited from her dedication and creativity.

Climbing at the Edge of the World, the Antarctic

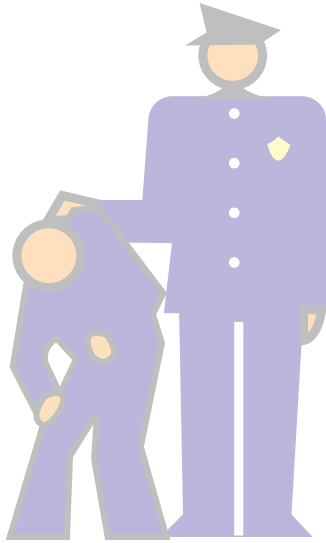
An Illustrated Talk

by
Robert Schabetsberger

Wednesday, July 10

7:00 p.m.

Hennings Auditorium, HMSC



Personnel Notes

Ian Fleming was an invited speaker at the June workshop on the sustainability of salmon farming, in Puerto Montt, Chile. This workshop was the first time both environmentalists and production people came together to discuss issues. Polyculture is one of the techniques they are looking at. Ian spoke on the impacts of escaped farm fish on wild fish populations. While there, he was able to visit the parents of a new HMSC grad student, Daniel Gomez-Uchida (see separate article).

What's New @Your Library

Check your circulation record and renew or return your books! It is a good idea to periodically check your library circulation records to see when items are due. You can do this via the web by going to <http://oasis.orst.edu/patroninfo> and entering your name and id number. You can renew items two times. If the limit has been reached, the system will tell you that there are too many renewals. Those you must return to the library and we can recheck them to you (giving you another two renewals.)

For those of you with OSU faculty status, your items were due June 15 . If you do not renew or return them, you'll get a nasty bill sometime in August and upset all of us. Let me know if you have questions or problems renewing items. Thanks for your cooperation.



All-HMSC Potluck Picnic

August 10

Moonshine Park, Logsdan

**Food, games and fun
for the whole family**