

# September 1997

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## **NOAA R/V Ron Brown Comes to Newport**

Bill O'Clock of the NOAA VENTS Program reports that NOAA's newest research vessel, the *Ron Brown*, will be coming to Newport in mid-September and he hopes there will be a short open house in early October. The *Brown* will be loading equipment for several legs out of Newport, with a short open house tentatively planned for early October. The 274-foot AGOR-24 class vessel is named after the late secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA's parent agency. With its ability to conduct simultaneous measurements of the full depths of the oceans and the lower atmosphere, the *Brown* will bring a unique capability to the nation's oceanographic and atmospheric research. Scientists have become increasingly aware of the importance of the coupling at the sea-air interface on global climate; having the joint capability of atmospheric and oceanographic sampling aboard the *Brown* the only civilian U.S. ship with these capabilities will enhance research into these coupling forces. It is replacing the recently decommissioned NOAA ship *Discoverer*. The vessel accommodates a total of 59 officers, scientists and crew. The ship has a hospital space and a self-service laundry, as well as recreation and physical training facilities.

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## **Laura Anderson, International Developer**

Our newest Marine Resources Management graduate student, Laura Anderson, brings a wealth of practical experience to her graduate program. A native of Washington and a graduate of Newport High School, Laura earned her bachelor's in biology at Pacific Lutheran University. She then spent two years in Looc Romblon, Philippines, with the Peace Corps. She worked on a management plan for a small bay in the central part of the country, doing mangrove reforestation, and teaching environmental education to children. She learned to speak Visayan, a dialect of Tagalog, and found the people to be very friendly.

After completing her term with the Peace Corps, she visited a friend in Vietnam and ended up taking over as operations manager for an American investment firm in Hanoi for a year. It was quite a contrast from the Philippines, as the northern Vietnamese were far more reserved with Americans. Not surprisingly, Laura found the southern Vietnamese in Saigon to be more used to Americans.

Returning to the States, Laura decided to go for her graduate degree at OSU. She began volunteering in the Public Wing and met Susan Lynds the very day that Gil Sylvia was looking for another worker for the donation strategy research project. The photograph above shows her at work, greeting visitors and surveying their reactions to various suggested donation prices and

approaches. For her research she is thinking of finding ways to develop internal funding sources for the Coastal Salmon Restoration project, such as with the local Watershed Councils.

When she is not doing research, Laura enjoys hiking around Oregon, beach combing and fishing.

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### **VENTS Program Plans 1998 Axial Volcano Study**

The NOAA VENTS Program has been studying the volcanic and seafloor spreading activity on the Juan de Fuca and Gorda Ridges since the early 1980s. In 1981 the first mapping surveys were done that discovered the Axial Volcano, with the first dives using the manned submersible *Alvin* in 1984. By 1986 the VENTS group had moved to using unmanned submersibles for safety and economy reasons, collaborating with the Canadian ship *R/V Tully* and its unmanned ROPOS submersible. Using the submersibles made it possible to take photographs, videos and numerous samples of the venting activity in the Ridge area.

By 1995 the VENTS researchers were using acoustic technology with the U.S. Navy's SOSUS (hydrophone) system to monitor events along the Ridge. This real-time monitoring enabled the group to track the different events from land, with occasional "ad hoc" looks by sea-going vessels. Last year, in a storm, the Canadian ROPOS was lost at sea and a new one has just been completed. Recently, in a test dive of the new submersible around the Axial Seamount, a huge field of tube worms was discovered. "It looked like a giant field of wheat," Bob Embley reported. What was unusual beside the size of the field was that the worms were feeding on sulfites distributed by bottom currents instead of being located directly by an active vent flow. In addition, a flame-like vent seen in 1995 was not seen in 1997, indicating there have been some changes in the venting field.

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### **Computer Seminars**

#### **First and Third Tuesday Brownbag Seminars**

We are now holding informal discussion/demonstrations of computer and library applications on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at noon in the Guin Library Seminar Room. Here's what's on the schedule.

*September 2: OASIS, OSU's Online Catalog, or How to Search Without Going Nuts.* Janet will explain the basics of searching the catalog as well as introduce secret tips and demystify finding journals (if that's possible).

*September 16: Electronic Privacy.* Steve will talk about options for securing your computer and protecting your files from unwanted perusal.

*October 7: Servers, Servers Everywhere.* Dann will describe what servers are available to HMSC personnel, and the software and services accessible on and through them.

*October 21: Where Did They Put ASFA Now?* Janet will discuss the fluid state of electronic indexes how to access them and how to search once you've found them.

*Future topics* include Web Search Engines, Writing and Reading Citations, More on Email Options, and What is the Web. Please contact Janet, Steve or Dann if you have suggestions for sessions or are interested in giving one.

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### **COPE Group Scales Down Further**

In preparation for the end of the ten-year Coastal Oregon Productivity Enhancement Program (1998), a consortium of OSU College of Forestry, state and federal forest agencies and timber industry representatives, is moving most of its staff back to Corvallis. The principal investigators, John Hayes and Arne Skaugset, moved to the main campus several months ago. Research assistants Kathy Maas-Hebner and Mike Adam will be moving to campus by the middle of September. John Hayes will be with the Center for Forest Ecosystem Research.

Skye Etessami, the office coordinator, has gone to a contract-work basis out of her home. This leaves only Doug Bateman and Dave Larson at the HMSC to finish up. Doug and Dave have vacated the old COPE offices in the NAL building and are now in the main building.

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### **Fish Tales**

There's a new display at the library: a collection of poems about fish and fishing. Poems? Now before you say, "Ugh, poetry," come and have a look. Bet you never knew there were so many poems about fish!

What is it about fish, anyway? Why have the world's great poets written so many poems about fish? What is it about a salmon or trout that makes it such a worthy subject?

These are questions that we (Judy Mullen and Susan Gilmont) asked as we reviewed the work of various poets from our region as well as from around the world. We were astounded to find such a preponderance of fish poems. Is the fish a deeply embedded icon in our psyche? Is it a natural metaphor for some basic human drive or need that crosses cultures and time? What does a fish teach us? Is there some elemental lesson here that the poets recognize? Is it just that we like to eat them, or is it something more? What do YOU think?

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### **Goats, Emus, and Old Books**

**by Judy Mullen**

Read any good books lately? Library staff want to remind HMSC staff, faculty and students that your borrowing privileges extend to pleasure reading as well as all that scientific stuff you read for your research. Lighten up! Ask us for a bestseller. How about a book about your hobbies, or a travel book? We'll get it for you from Valley Library or through the interlibrary loan system. We'll even deliver it to your mailbox. (Now that's service!)

Some HMSC employees have been using this service for a long time. Take Bob Miller, for example, who has requested books about raising goats and emus. When we mentioned to Bob that not all of you were requesting books for personal reading, he said with amazement, "I thought everybody did. You mean they don't?"

Pam Rogers is another well-read staff member using this service. She said, "It's wonderful, especially if you don't want to buy all your books. And Susan gets me books from everywhere. She even got me an old book from 1825!" We chuckled when Pam continued with, "I told Dr. Weber I'd work here for free just to get the library privileges."

So don't be afraid to request the books you want. Just fill out the white request forms found on the library's front desk and drop them in the gray tray. We'll do the rest.

And if you want to know how fast an emu runs, ask Bob Miller.

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### **James Power Joins EPA**

Jim Power has now lived on the four corners of the United States. He was born and raised in Pennsylvania, where he earned his bachelor's in Biology at Penn State. He then moved to the northeast corner to the University of Maine for his graduate work, getting his Ph.D. in Zoology. The Southwest corner was covered by his first post-doc at the NMFS office in La Jolla, California and the Southeast corner by his second post-doc at the University of Miami. Jim stopped in the central part of the United States for a while as an assistant professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, before touching the fourth corner here in Newport. He is joining EPA as a fisheries ecologist/biologist.

His particular area of interest is fisheries ecology, studying recruitment, transport and larval fish ecology, as opposed to the more classical fisheries biology interest in stock assessment. His is a new position, created because of EPA changing focus from strictly sediment toxicity and Superfund issues to the broader scope of man's impact on estuaries.

While at Louisiana State, Jim heard about the HMSC from his graduate student, Mike Burger, and Michelle Moore, both former graduate students here at the Center. He reports that Mike and Michelle should be finishing up their Ph.D.s soon and hoping to move to Seattle.

Jim and his wife Nancy live in Corvallis with their two children, Mark (13) and Cathy (10). Nancy works in the field of health care administration. The family enjoys volleyball and taking day trips to explore the Northwest.

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## HACCP Project Wins Award

Ken Hilderbrand, Sea Grant Seafood Processing Specialist, is pleased to report that Doug Tolen, Orlando District Director of FDA, recently nominated the Sea Grant-sponsored Seafood HACCP Alliance Project for the "Vice President Gore Hammer Award". This is an award given by Vice President Gore to partnerships that make a contribution to the nation. The partnership nominated on behalf of the HACCP project was the National Sea Grant Program, the Association of Food and Drug Officials, and the HACCP Alliance consisting of the six Sea Grant universities and all the other state and federal agencies participating in the project. Presentation of the award will be on September 22.

HACCP is an acronym for Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point. It is a written plan and systematic procedure for identifying specific food safety hazards in commercial food production. It controls those hazards by setting appropriate critical limits at various processing operations. A system of monitoring and record-keeping is established and made available to government inspectors who insure that the plan is adequate for consistently producing safe food. Ken has been an important part of this effort, specifically in training the trainers on HACCP procedures. He is also a member of the Steering Committee for the Alliance, chairman of the subcommittee on identifying research needs, and chairman of the subcommittee on training protocol.

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### Help! The Library Needs Your Eyes

As many of you know we are in the midst of binding journals. We have gone through the collection and shipped most titles off to the Bindery. We expect them to be back in the next two to six weeks. But...we are missing some issues to complete the binding. Would you please check those stacks on your desk (or on the floor around your desk) for any of these issues? We will gladly accept donations of any of these issues if you happen to have your subscription. Thanks for checking.

*Missing Issues as of 8/21:*

Applied & Environmental Microbiology v.62 (1) Jan. 1996

Aquaculture v.140 (4) Apr. 1996

Climate Diagnostics Bulletin (Near Real-Time Analyses Ocean/Atmosphere) no.96/2 Feb96

Crustaceana v. 69 (7) 1996

Farm Pond Harvest v.30 (1,2) Winter/Spring 1996

Freshwater & Marine Aquarium v.19 (7,8) Jul. & Aug. 1996

Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta v.60 (18,19,20) Sep.-Oct. 1996

Journal of Ichthyology v.34 (8&9) 1994

La Pisciculture Francaise no.113, 114 1994

Marine Ecology Progress Series v.143 (1/3)96

North American Journal of Fisheries Management v.15(1) May 1995

Northwestern Naturalist v.71 (3) Winter 1991

Ophelia v. 44 (1/3) 1996

Oregon Geology v.57 (4) July 1995

Practical Fish Keeping Jul. & Aug. 1996

Progressive Fish Culturist v.58 (1) Jan. 1996

Riverkeeper v.10 (4) Fall 1994

Seafood Price Current v.23 (90-91, 93-96) Nov. 1996

Transactions of the American Fisheries Society v.24 (1) Jan. 1995

Tropical Fish Hobbyist v.44 (7,8) Mar. & Apr. 1996

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### **A Fish Story by Michael Morrissey**

Fishermen have told researchers for years that we will always have difficulty understanding what our research really means unless we understand fishing operations in both good times and bad. I think that we all know this but we also realize the gritty reality (nasty weather, winches that take fingers off, spending the day seasick) and we usually overcome the romanticism of man against the ocean and stick to our computers. Perhaps lured by the balmy summer days we have had on the coast this year, romanticism and a little bit of sense of research duty overcame common academic sense one day in July and I signed on for a one-day trawling trip doing the superchilling experiments with a local trawler. It was a spur of the moment decision as our superchiller consultant "the man from Chile" said that I should come on board to see how it works in the real world.

After a few phone calls and my wife saying "You're what!!!," I picked up a survival suit and headed for the docks to meet the boat. When I got there the boat owner and good friend was "walking the ceiling," cursing a mile a minute and generally not looking too happy about the situation. "The man from Chile" said, "Now you'll really see what it's all about." It seems that the boat owner had a strong discussion the night before with the captain and there was a general falling out. When the crew showed up in the morning reluctant to go out with academics and fish for the boat owner and not the captain, they were fired. "So, who will run the boat?" I asked my boat

owner friend and a fiendish smile comes over his face and points his finger at me, "the man from Chile" and my grad student, saying "you and you and you - you want to know about fishing, then I'll show you about fishing." I think I'm having a bad dream and I turn to "the man from Chile" with a dazed look and he says, "Jump aboard, we're going fishing."

Now I'm getting the picture that this is not an easy business, even when the temperature is 72F and there's calm seas, but I can't back down now, so I jump on board and we cast off. After two abortive attempts to throw the line to the mooring station where we pickup ice (Jeez - it was low tide, guys) several strange gyrations of lowering totes and bodies to the deck, I think even the boat owner is having second thoughts. I heard him announce, in a stage whisper, to the gathering crowd at the fish processing plant pier watching our fumbblings "I'm going fishing with three rumbum scientists, anyone want to come along?" No takers.

I volunteer to get groceries with the boat owner and after 15 minutes back on land, we all begin to respire normally. We discussed what we are going to do with the superchilling experiments and are getting excited about our trip. We hopped back into his battered Chevy pickup and made it back to the pier in one piece. We even cast-off without running into other trawlers fighting for a berth at the ice dock and we are on our way. We're going fishing, real fishing, none of this sit-on-your-fanny-aluminum boat river fishing, but real trawling for real ocean fish, the kind I see in the lab everyday after they're dead for 24 hours. This is real fishing and we are juiced.

Me, the boat owner (who hasn't captained the boat for four years) and "the man from Chile" are in the wheelhouse heading out the Columbia listening to the local radio station. The Rolling Stones came on playing "Honky Tonk Women" and we crank the music up full. Now we're really cooking and we are all singing at the top of our lungs and the graduate student walks into the wheelhouse turns pale and wonders if he will come back alive. It was a fine day, we did one 40-minute tow - somewhere in the Pacific - got hung up once on the bottom (the owner saying a heart-stopping "this is not good, Mike, this is not good") and finally got the net pulled in with me driving the boat and the owner and "the guy from Chile" reeling the trawl in straight and dumped 3,000 lbs of fish on the deck. They were beautiful and I even recognized several species. Everyone packed fish, threw away fish, stepped on fish and pretty much did their job. It was a slow ride back to the dock against the Columbia River current, but we went fishing and came back with smiles all around.

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### **Living Safely in a Dangerous World**

The HMSC Director is sponsoring a one-hour safety seminar on **September 23 from 10-11:00 a.m. in the Public Meeting Room 9**. The presenter is from Citizens Against Crime, Inc., the largest crime prevention and safety seminar company of its kind. Founded in 1980, CAC now provides crime and safety information to nearly 15,000 adults every week in our more than 46 regions across the country.

The presenter will use a combination of audience participation, humor and role playing designed to help participants retain the information so they can access it in a potentially dangerous situation. The program will cover:

- How to avoid a crime situation and how to survive if you're chosen by the criminal
- How to keep criminals out of your house, and what to do if they break in when you and your family are there
- Ways to stay safe in and around your car and how to prevent or survive carjacking, smash and grab, or bumper crimes
- What to do if you're stranded on the side of the road
- Ways to avoid or escape common street crimes such as mugging or ATM crimes
- Ways to avoid, escape or survive the crime of rape
- Ways to protect your family by choosing a safe weapon

Safety items and books will be available for sale after the presentation. There is no cost to the seminar, but **we must have at least 25 people attending. Please call Pam Rogers (7-0212) immediately to sign up.** It is open to any faculty, staff, volunteers or spouses of the groups at the HMSC.

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### Personnel Notes

**Toby Martin** is back! Toby has recently joined the crew of the *R/V Wecoma* as a marine technician and will be at sea about 60 days a year. Toby worked at the HMSC for Bruce Mate for a number of years.

**Jose Luis Hurtado** from the Instituto del Frio, S.C.I.C., Madrid, Spain is a recipient of a scholarship to study spoilage of octopus: enzyme characterization and effect of high pressure treatment on its activity at the OSU Seafood Lab in Astoria under the supervision of Dr. Haejung An. Dr. Javier Borderias is Jose Hurtado's major professor for his Ph.D. program in Spain and was in Astoria for a three-month sabbatical beginning last June.

**Michael Morrissey** and **Gil Sylvia** were invited to National Sea Grant Week in Madison, Wisconsin, August 10-13, to present a paper on the development of the Pacific whiting fishery. The presentation focused on interdisciplinary research and the role that university research can have in fishery development programs.

Congratulations to **Robin and David Rose** on the birth of their first child on August 26, a daughter named Natalie! Robin works as the clerical support for AHEC.