Awareness and preparation key to tsunami readiness

Dr. Eddie Bernard, Director of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) in Seattle, visited HMSC on October 5th and delivered a presentation on lessons learned from the December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The seminar provided a sobering reminder to the HMSC community of the devastating potential of a tsunami hitting the Oregon coast.

Highlighting similarities between the subduction zone off the coast of Sumatra and the Cascadia subduction zone off the Pacific Northwest coast of the United States, Dr. Bernard discussed what data analysis has revealed about the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and resulting tsunami that claimed over 275,000 lives. Satellite imagery and photographs taken on the ground in Banda Aceh and other hard-hit areas of Indonesia document the catastrophic impact of the tsunami, and offer lessons for coastal populations in potential tsunami inundation areas around the world.

Dr. Bernard was instrumental in PMEL’s development of a deep-ocean tsunami warning network in the North Pacific Ocean consisting of an array of bottom pressure recorders that send data to shore via surface buoys. This network

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NOAA’s National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program has animations of computer-modeled tsunami inundation of coastal areas in the Pacific Northwest (including Newport, Oregon) on its web site:
http://www.pmel.noaa.gov/tsunami/time/index.shtml

HMSC bids fond farewell to Beulah Davis

Friends and colleagues gathered to bid a fond farewell to Beulah Davis on October 14th, wishing her all the best at her new job and home in Klamath Falls. Beulah announced in September that she would be making the move to southern Oregon to be closer to her elderly mother. Her new job will be managing business operations for the county mental health department.

Beulah worked at OSU for a total of 16 years, most of that time at the marine science center. As manager of the HMSC business office since 2001, Beulah had oversight responsibility for accounting, budgeting, grants, human resources, and other functions that brought her into daily contact with people in so many different units at HMSC. She will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best.

The HMSC Currents Newsletter is published 5 times a year. Your comments and submissions are welcomed! Deadline for next issue is Jan. 9th Send to: ken.hall@oregonstate.edu.
supports NOAA’s operation of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii and the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska, which serves as the regional warning system for the west coast of North America. Dr. Bernard said the US government is now looking at establishing warning systems in the Atlantic Ocean as well.

The timing of Dr. Bernard’s seminar was opportune, serving as a reminder of the importance of disaster preparedness and planning, just a week before the scheduled tsunami evacuation drill for the HMSC campus on October 12th. A year ago, the HMSC community practiced its first tsunami evacuation drill, a week after hearing Dr. George Priest of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries discuss the threat of a tsunami triggered by a major seismic event along the Cascadia subduction zone. Two and a half months later, the world witnessed just how devastating the force of a tsunami can be.

SeaFest goes on hiatus in 2006

After much thought and deliberation among leaders of the major units at HMSC, a decision was announced last month to cancel SeaFest as an annual event. The primary reason, as stated in a letter from HMSC Director George Boehlert to the HMSC community, was based on the personnel resources required to plan and carry out the event on an annual basis.

Inspired by a similar event sponsored by Delaware Sea Grant and the University of Delaware, Oregon Sea Grant launched “H.M.S. SeaFest” in 2002. The event proved popular, attracting nearly 3,000 visitors in the first year, and even more in 2003. SeaFest grew a little each year, gradually becoming known as an annual event at HMSC, featuring back wing tours, vessel tours, special lectures, displays and demonstrations highlighting the broad range of research and education work done at the Center. The event drew over 4,000 visitors in both 2004 and 2005, and was generally considered a success.

SeaFest also featured many community exhibitors, local artists, food vendors, entertainment, and hands-on activities for children, giving the event the feeling of a community festival. Although SeaFest had broad community participation, with volunteers and local groups participating as exhibitors, the task of coordinating the event required a significant investment of time and energy on the part of many HMSC personnel, particularly those that took on key responsibilities as members of the organizing committee.

How to sustain that effort on an annual basis remains an unanswered question – one that will be discussed in the coming year along with other ideas for outreach activities that highlight HMSC’s contributions to science and stewardship of the marine environment. We hope that you will provide your thoughts and ideas about the best approaches to take.
Las OLAS Educator Will Work to Promote Marine Education in Two Languages

AnaMaria Esparza-Smith joined the Sea Grant Extension team last month as a part-time educator for the Las OLAS program (Ocean Learning Activities in Spanish). She will be developing a marine science curriculum and other learning activities in Spanish.

With a strong belief that it’s important for children to have both languages, Esparza-Smith will be developing bilingual materials for children K-5 that help make learning fun -- flash cards, puzzles, bingo, and a game in which children have to guess the identity of marine animals by their specific characteristics.

She will also work with Vicki Osis, interim youth education coordinator, to deliver presentations to fourth and fifth grade children. Workshops for ESL teachers, both local and statewide, are scheduled for next February.

Esparza-Smith moved to Newport five years ago and has worked previously as a bilingual tutor at Sam Case Elementary School.

Visitor Center seeks marine science 4-H club leaders

In an effort to get young people involved in the HMSC Visitor Center, Oregon Sea Grant and Lincoln County 4-H are joining forces to promote a marine science 4-H club. Youths participating in the club will have a variety of marine science learning experiences. Organizers hope to enlist three to four co-leaders who will share club responsibilities. If you, or someone you know might be interested in working with kids ages 10 and up, please stop by the OSU-Lincoln County Extension Office in Newport or contact: Chris Schmitz, 4-H Agent at 574-6537 ext. 22
Lorraine Rich, 4-H Program Assistant at 574-6537 ext. 25

Fellowship opportunities for undergrads and grads

Oregon Sea Grant is offering three new Undergraduate Marine Research Fellowships for 2006. These fellowships are intended to support three undergraduate student research projects in the areas of marine and coastal science, resources, policy, history, economics, or education. The application deadline is Tuesday, November 15, 2005.

For current and recent graduate students, the National Sea Grant Office and NOAA offer fellowship opportunities for research in population dynamics, marine resource economics, or to work with a marine related industry or state coastal resource management agency. Application deadlines are in early 2006, and requirements vary for each fellowship program.

New ad promotes Visitor Center

A new “eye-popping” ad featuring the HMSC’s resident giant Pacific octopus will promote the Visitor Center as a destination for people visiting the coast. Designed by Sea Grant Communications, the ad will appear in the “Newport Passport” brochure being distributed by the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce.

Oregon Sea Grant maintains a web page of information on these, and other fellowship opportunities at: http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/funding/fellows.html
Paul Sikkel joins HMSC as Academic Program Coordinator

HMSC has a new full-time academic program coordinator. Paul Sikkel arrived in August and is focused on expanding and improving academic opportunities at HMSC for undergraduate and graduate students. Building on the success of the fall term Fisheries and Wildlife program and the spring term Marine Biology course, Paul will be working on developing a summer program and other new course offerings that take advantage of HMSC’s location, seawater system, agency partnerships and diversity of research activity.

Paul earned his Master’s and PhD from Oregon State University, in the Departments of Fisheries and Wildlife and Zoology, respectively. Paul did post-doctoral work at the University of Washington’s Friday Harbor lab, the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and the University of the Virgin Islands, before joining the faculty at Murray State University in Kentucky in 1999. He has taught a wide variety of college level courses, including animal behavior, biology, ecological inquiry and analysis, ichthyology, and oceanography, to name a few. In addition, Paul developed and taught a field course in tropical marine biology offered in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, through the Kentucky Institute of International Studies.

Paul’s favorite places are the Pacific Northwest, St. John US Virgin Islands, and Sydney Australia. He enjoys the outdoors and hiking with his wife and two sons, who for the time being, remain in Kentucky. Paul’s wife, Claire Fuller, is an associate professor at Murray State University, where she studies dragonflies and tropical termites. Paul expects they will be able to join him in Oregon by May of 2006.

Fall term begins; planning for summer courses underway

This fall, the HMSC again welcomes the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife’s Fall Program. This program provides students with much-needed field and laboratory experience in marine science and is taught by a team of instructors from HMSC and the OSU main campus.

This year’s program includes courses in coastal ecology and resource management, ecology and management of marine fishes, fishery stock assessment, diseases and parasites of marine fish and more. The program has again been masterfully coordinated by Selina and Scott Heppell, along with Chris Langdon. Students were welcomed with a dinner catered by Bonaventura.

Because we believe strongly in the value of field experience in education of all students, we are continuing our commitment to developing our summer program. This new program will consume the majority of the Academic Program Coordinator’s time over the coming months. We aim to be unique among marine laboratories in developing courses that are integrative (crossing traditional disciplinary boundaries), and inclusive (open to non science majors and lower division undergraduates). Thus far, our courses include offerings from the Departments of Philosophy, Education, Zoology, Fisheries and Wildlife, Oceanography, and Anthropology. We expect summer courses to be advertised by mid November.

Finally, recognizing that the oceans cover most of the planet and that a true understanding of marine science requires exposure to a multitude of marine environments, we are exploring future opportunities for courses and student exchanges in Australia, Hawaii, and the Caribbean.

Hatfield Students Organization to offer travel grant

HSO is now accepting applications for our new, semi-annual, Hatfield Student Organization travel grant. Award amounts are $250; one will be awarded in December, and one in June. Application deadlines are Dec. 1, 2005 and June 1, 2006. Travel should be for the purpose of attending and presenting work at a conference. The applications will be judged by a panel of students and faculty, and should include a cover letter detailing the conference you will be attending and the importance of attending that conference to the completion of your thesis, as well as a 1-page (or less) summary of your research.

This travel grant is limited to students who do some work at HMSC, but is not limited to permanent residents at HMSC. Both graduate and undergraduate students are welcome to apply. Please email Abby McCarthy Abigail.mccarthy@oregonstate.edu with questions and applications before the Dec. 1 and June 1 deadlines.
Library News

New display in the Guin Library shines light on “Debate Over Darwin”

Every year in September, US libraries celebrate the First Amendment to the Constitution that protects our freedom of expression. This year, we focus on the classic debate on the separation of church and state given the recent emergence of Intelligent Design as an alternative to evolution. Is it religion or science? Is it bad or good? Is it theory or philosophy?

The New York Times did an excellent series on titled the “Debate over Darwin” that ran August 20-23, 2005. The Guin Library display includes text from the series as well as letters to the editors responding to the discussion. The full text of the NYT series is available through the OSU Libraries on the Lexis-Nexis database.

The First Amendment permits freedom of expression, and hence supports the conversation. Celebrate your right to believe what you want. Support the right of others. Engage in the debate.

Upcoming Events

18th Annual Coast Conference returns to HMSC on Oct. 23

The Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition will hold its 18th annual Coast Conference in Newport on October 22-23. The first day of the conference, Saturday, will be held at the Newport Performing Arts Center (registration fee required); the second day is at the HMSC Visitor Center (no registration fee). Hours are 9:30am to 4:30pm on both days.

The event features speakers from OSU and HMSC addressing topics ranging from marine reserves and human impacts on the ocean to gray whale behavior and rocky shore ecology. The conference theme is “Activism for an Ocean Planet” and features keynote speaker David Helvarg of the Blue Frontier Campaign. For more information, visit http://www.oregonshores.org/news/conference_2005

Meet Steve Brown, new library assistant

Steven J. Brown is the Guin Library’s newest assistant, and also a student in the OCCC Aquarium Science degree program. He started working in the library at HMSC on September 19. Before that, Steve was a diesel engine mechanic for the public school system in Columbus, Ohio.

Steve hurt his back and was no longer able to continue his career as a bus mechanic. He decided to build a new career doing what he loved: keeping aquaria. This led to his decision to move to Oregon and take the OCCC Aquarium Science classes. In his spare time, Steve also enjoys diving and fishing.

Flu Shots on November 2nd

Flu Shots will be available at HMSC on Wednesday, November 2nd, from 9:00am to 11:00am in the staff lounge.

Lincoln County Health & Human Services will bill Medicare, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Oregon and Oregon Health Plan, LifeWise, but for all other insurance they will require the $28 amount payable at time of service and they will provide you with forms to bill your insurance company. Please be sure to bring your insurance information with you.

For more information call Donna Boyce RN 265-6611 x 2265
Upcoming Events (continued)

Fisheries and Wildlife Research Symposium in Corvallis on Nov. 9

The Fisheries and Wildlife Graduate Student Association at OSU will hold its third annual Research Advances in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Ecology Symposium on November 9th. The location is the LaSells Stewart Center on the OSU campus. Hours are from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

The symposium is a showcase for research, extension, and outreach activities conducted by the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, related departments at OSU, and state and federal agencies.

Personnel News and Notes

Barb Lagerquist and Joe Hanson welcomed their new baby daughter, Finn Marjorie, Monday, October 3, at 7:59 a.m. Finn weighed 8 lbs. and measured 21” long. Barb and Finn are both doing great.

New Faces around HMSC

At 15 years old, Kiril Shintora Chang-Gilhooly is the youngest member of the Pacific Marine Environmental Lab at HMSC. Kiril lives in Newport with his parents and two brothers (and three guinea pigs), and is doing an engineering internship in the PMEL Acoustics research group, under the supervision of Joe Haxel in the. Home-schooled since 3rd grade, Kiril started attending Oregon Coast Community College at age 14 and is currently enrolled in the Aquarium Science Program. He participated in the youth volunteer program at the Oregon Coast Aquarium and attended a career day at HMSC last year, which is how he learned about the internship opportunity.

Kiril is excited about pursuing animal husbandry work with the skills and knowledge he is developing through the Aquarium Science Program, but says he is also interested in exploring other possibilities he has learned about through his internship at PMEL. As for his future plans, Kiril says he will take some time to determine what direction he may take at a 4-year college, possibly choosing to study marine biology, zoology, engineering, or musical composition. He has been playing piano for about 10 years and also enjoys guitar.

HMSC Distinguished Lecturer Series returns in December

Dr. Jeffrey Polovina, Acting Director of NOAA’s Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in Honolulu, and Principal Investigator of the NOAA Ocean Watch program, will deliver two lectures at HMSC during his December 12-14 visit. On December 13th, Dr. Polovina will present a scientific seminar addressing findings on loggerhead sea turtle pelagic ecology from satellite tracking. In the evening, he will deliver a public talk entitled: “Satellite tracking whale sharks, tunas, swordfish, moonfish, and turtles: A view of the subtropical ocean from the perspective of large pelagic animals.” Both lectures will be held in the Hennings Auditorium.

Renee Bellinger and Jason Thomas welcomed their new baby girl, Eliana Sabina, born on Tuesday, September 13th, just over 7 lbs at birth. Congratulations!!
Darva Derr began working in the HMSC business office in September, taking on the responsibilities of processing travel and payroll time sheets. Darva worked previously for OSU in the Memorial Union on main campus, and has a daughter who is currently a sophomore at OSU. After living in Corvallis for 15 years, Darva recently moved to Seal Rock with her husband Alex, who works for WET Labs in Philomath. Darva says that she and her husband love the coast, and also enjoy kayaking and flying. The flying is done in a “Citaborca” plane, which she revealed is code for “acrobatic”. Yikes!

Professor Byungsoo Park, from the Department of Marine Production Technology at Gyeongsang National University in Tongyeong, Korea, arrived in Oregon in mid-September for a sabbatical year. His academic specialties are in fluid dynamics and fisheries technology. While visiting OSU he wants to recharge and expand his knowledge of fisheries oceanography and learn about US educational innovations. He has an office carrel in the Guin library and will be coming regularly to the HMSC to work with David Sampson, his sponsor.

Molly Phipps is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Science and Math Education at OSU focusing on Free-choice learning. She is working this fall in the Visitors Center on a project designed to help understand what people understand about satellite data that many scientists use. She is focusing particularly on the kinds of contexts that have to be created around an image to help the general public make sense of what it represents. Her work is supported by Oregon Sea Grant and OSU’s Cooperative Institute for Ocean Satellite Science (CIOSS).

Molly holds a B.S. in Geology-Biology from Brown University, where she researched past climate change in ocean sediments. She also works for the SMILE (Science and Math Investigative Learning Experiences) program creating oceanography scenarios for rural high school students throughout Oregon. Molly says that she likes to work with scientists and non-scientists to help them understand each other and to learn from each other.

Lovely port city of Tongyeong, Korea - Dr. Park’s home.
HMSC Happenings

HMSC welcomed the incoming class of graduate students from the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) during their visit to Newport on September 22nd.

Chris Langdon talks with a group of print and broadcast reporters and editors about shellfish aquaculture before leading them on a tour of the MBP lab facilities. The journalists were at HMSC on October 8th as part of a 10-day tour through Oregon organized by the Institute for Journalism and Natural Resources. They spent the morning talking with scientists Laurie Weitkamp (NOAA-NWFSC), Michael Banks (OSU-COMES), and others about salmon ecology and fisheries genetics research.

Farewell party for Beulah Davis on October 14th