Seminar series to highlight graduate students’ research

Graduate students at the Hatfield Center are engaged in a wide range of research activity, and will soon have the opportunity to share that research more broadly with the HMSC community. Every couple of months or so, the Thursday afternoon seminar series will feature a mini-symposium of three HMSC students, each presenting 15-minute talks, with 5 minutes in between for questions.

The concept was proposed by Mattias Johansson, who is a member of Michael Bank’s fisheries genetics lab and also the new president of the Hatfield Students Organization (HsO). Mattias was looking for a way to make grad students’ work more visible at HMSC, while also making HsO both more visible and more relevant to the lives of students.

The format was tried out successfully this summer, with Paul Lang, Rebecca Baldwin, and Mark Nielsen each making 15-minute presentations at the inaugural seminar in July. The length of talks was chosen particularly because it closely matches the standard length of talks at many conferences, allowing conference talks to be practiced here at home, or to be repeated for the local audience.

“Ideally this will become a regular thing,” says Mattias. “HsO especially hopes that faculty advisors will take an active role in this new seminar series by attending and encouraging their students to attend and take part in the seminars.”

Anyone interested in signing up for a speaking slot or just wanting more information can stop by to see Mattias in the Banks lab, or email him directly: Mattias.Johansson@oregonstate.edu

Sustainability committee forming

A new committee is being formed to provide an internal forum at HMSC for consideration of sustainability issues as they relate to our operations and various institutional missions, and indeed to our own lives and local communities.

Sustainability is not a new concept at HMSC, as we have been implementing energy efficiency improvements, water conservation, and waste stream reductions over the past few years. Of course, there is more that could be done in these and other areas. There is also a wealth of knowledge that this committee will seek to share and build upon.

The committee is open to any interested staff, students, and researchers at HMSC, and will have its first meeting on September 7th at 10am (Barry Fisher Room in library) to discuss direction and goals, with the input of all who participate. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, or have thoughts, suggestions or questions about it, please contact Ken Hall (ken.hall@oregonstate.edu) or Randy Walker (randy.walker@oregonstate.edu).

September is Bike to Work Month

Jim Colbert reports that there will be another bike commute challenge in September and everyone is encouraged to give the 2-wheel commute a try. Because we now have the FREE shuttle bus that will take bicycles, you can use it to avoid the riding across the bridge, and still get a bit of riding to and from work. Stop by to see Jim in the Barry Fisher Building or drop him an e-mail if you want to join is next month. Shuttle bus information can be found in the Nye Beach brochures on the lunchroom tables in the HMSC staff lounge.
Professor Clare Reimers (College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences) was selected to serve on the steering committee of the U.S. Ocean Research Interactive Observatory Networks (ORION) program for a 3 year term starting in 2007. This program focuses on the science, technology, education and outreach of an emerging network of science driven ocean observing systems. For more information, please visit http://www.orionprogram.org

Josie Thompson, a familiar face around the HMSC, is aging gracefully at her new job with the Marine Resources Program.

Since joining the MRP in April as the age reading specialist, Josie spends her days determining the age of fish using different anatomical structures, usually otoliths. The otolith, sometimes called an ear bone, floats on cilia that line pockets in the fish’s skull and help it stay balanced and oriented in murky or dark water. It has growth rings, like a tree, that can be analyzed through a microscope to determine the age of a fish.

Josie is currently working on aging sport-caught black rockfish from 2003 through 2005 for the 2007 stock assessment. She is also getting the Marine Resources Program’s collection of otoliths organized and inventoried.

This is not her first job for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. When she was an undergraduate at the University of Arizona in Tucson she got her first job as a sampler. After graduating from the U of A with a B.S. in ecology and evolutionary biology, she decided to return to Newport and attend graduate school at OSU.

“I was always interested in marine biology and after my summer sampling job I decided I wanted to get into fisheries management,” Josie said.

Before getting accepted to OSU and receiving a CIMRS grant to complete her master’s degree, Josie worked for ODFW Marine Resources Program doing chinook population research, sampling the whiting fishery and doing black rockfish research.

She recently completed her master’s degree at OSU in Marine Resource Management, doing her thesis: Age, Growth and Maturity of the Longnose Skate (Raja rhina). During the summers she spent time working as biologist on the annual NOAA Fisheries West Coast groundfish survey.

A native of Phoenix, she enjoys surfing, hiking and going to concerts. She lives in South Beach.

Ahna Van Gaest is a new hire in the Fisheries Resource Analysis & Monitoring (FRAM) division of NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center. Her office is located in Barry Fisher Building (Rm 120) and she’ll be working in the labs in the NAL and BFB buildings analyzing groundfish tissues.

Ahna expects to be at HMSC until the end of September, working under the direction of Keith Bosley and Ric Broeder on the feeding and trophic structure of pelagic juvenile rockfish. Among her other research interests are how the distribution and behavior of early life history stages of marine organisms affect dispersal and recruitment to benthic communities.

Earning both her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in biology from the University of Oregon, Ahna was able to spend some time in residence at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology in Charleston. Before coming to HMSC, she was living in Coos Bay, finishing her Master’s thesis, titled: “ECOLOGY AND EARLY LIFE HISTORY OF ATHYNERITA NATICOIDEA: EVIDENCE FOR LONG-DISTANCE LARVAL DISPERSAL OF A COLD SEEP GASTROPOD.”

Ahna was born in Fresno, California, but raised in Portland. “I come from a small family scattered across the globe,” she says. “My mother resides in southern India, my sister in northern Ontario, and my brother is a bartender in Portland.” When not at work, Ahna enjoys snowboarding, hiking, and travelling to exotic tropical oases.

Eileen Flory Brings Interpretive Skills to HMSC

“It’s about translating the science that goes on here for the public.”

That’s the focus for Eileen Flory, Sea Grant’s new Museum Education Assistant, who brings more than 30 years of experience to her new position, including 20 years at the Science Museum of Minnesota, eight years at the Oregon Coast Aquarium, and a concurrent position at the Oregon Coast Community College teaching an exhibit development course she created for the Aquarium Science Program.

It was at the Science Museum of Minnesota that Flory first learned the “ins and outs” of interpretive technique and program development. She taught classes to school groups, gave exhibit hall tours, and helped plan for a new building with highly interpretive exhibit halls, combining collections, informal interpret-
Eileen Flory continued from pg. 2

tion, and formal presentations to create a seamless interpretive experience for the visitor.

“Live interpretation and exhibits are simply two sides of one big interpretive endeavor,” says Flory.

Here at the Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center, Flory greets visitors, answers questions, and assists at the touch tank and other exhibits each Thursday through Saturday.

A self-described “enthusiastic touch pool person,” Flory believes this interaction with the real animals is the authentic experience. She works to make the visitor’s experience the very best it can be and enjoys making visitors feel at home.

“There are people who have never been to the ocean, who have no idea of the wonderful creatures that are out there,” she said. “This sort of informal interpretation is my favorite.”

Working free-lance prior to this current position, Flory most recently finished up Sea Grant’s Guardians of the Forest sea otter exhibit in the Visitor Center and a Siletz watershed project for the Extension Office.

Born and raised in Eugene, OR, Flory received her bachelor’s degree in Romance Languages from the University of Oregon before heading to Indiana University for a master’s degree in Ethnomusicology and then to the University of Minnesota for a second master’s degree in anthropology.

Anthropology has been the connecting thread through each of these diverse educational areas and continues in Flory’s life today as the recognition that all people have the same challenges and the same problems to solve, only in different cultures they get solved in different ways.

She credits a variety of early trips to Mexico with helping to spark her interest in anthropology, whether accompanying her botanist father there to study plant migrations or planning to import and sell Mexican crafts. Even her interest in Ethnomusicology, which she describes as the “anthropology of music” – the relationship between music and culture – centers specifically on the Latin American.

And crafts continue to engage Flory’s attention in her spare time. For fun, she works with “low-tech spinning and weaving,” dying the results with vegetable dyes. She loves to press seaweed and create paper castings, which involves making a slurry out of recycled paper and using molds to shape the mixture into seashells. Some of her pressed seaweed and paper castings are currently on display at the Portland International Airport as part of OCCC’s Aquarium Science Program exhibit there.

Among her many other areas of knowledge and interest, Flory is fluent in Spanish. She and her husband, Jim, have even named their cat in Spanish. “Inocencia,” is the Spanish word for “innocence.”

“No matter what she’s done,” Flory said, referring fondly to the feline, “there’s always that face of innocence looking up at you.”

Welcome, Eileen!

Goodbye Ada, Hello Ruby!

With almost as much fanfare as a Hollywood announcement that a new actor is taking on the role of James Bond, the transfer of the official “HMSC Octopus” title from one cephalopod to another was big news this summer.

Visitors and HMSC volunteers and staff said goodbye to “Ada”, who was released back into coastal waters at Newport’s south jetty on July 21st. The same day, a female octopus was introduced to Ada’s old tank, but she obviously needed some time to adjust.

“This morning we could not find the new octopus in her tank,” Kath Fuller reported on July 22. Aquarists Michael Liu and Steve Brown finally located her inside the big rock (yes, it’s hollow) in the back of the tank. She came out of hiding during the scheduled octopus feeding and caught the morning’s crab, said Kath, along with two other small crabs put in as an extra treat. She did go back into hiding once all the crabs were hers.

And her name is... “Ruby”! The winners of the new octopus naming contest are returning to HMSC for publicity photos. Caitlin Kepler (age 8) and Emma Matteo (age 6) have been invited to return to the Visitor Center to have their photo taken by the octopus tank for publication in the Newport News Times, as well as their local hometown newspapers in Salem and Roseburg.

New activity for kids and families walking the estuary trail

Kath Fuller reports that there is a little booklet on the information desk titled Yaquina Estuary Quest. It was put together by marine educator Cait Goodwin-Rice and is a self-guided tour of the estuary trail.

Participants follow directions in the booklet to find hidden letters, which they then use to decode a secret message. This secret
New estuary trail activity (continued from p. 3)

message helps them find the “Quest Box”, which contains a log
book to register their adventures and a stamp to show their proof
of completion and accomplishment. The Quest Box also holds
the answers to questions posed throughout the quest. The idea is
to find the box and keep its location a secret from others.

This activity is more fun to do than to explain in writing, so
if you really want to know what it’s all about, take a copy of the
booklet and a couple of youngsters with a sense of wonder and
curiosity and give it a try!

**Betcha didn’t know...**

HMSC’s Public Marine Education Specialist, Bill Hanshumaker,
recently posed the following question to the Visitor Center staff
and volunteers:

*Have you ever been asked questions that you couldn’t
answer as you helped the public at the touch tanks?
Conversely, do you ask questions of the public to
facilitate interpretation at the touch tanks?*

To improve the experience of visitors, Bill is interested in
sharing those type of questions, along with the always fascinating
answers, with the volunteer and student interpreters who interact
with the public on a daily basis.

Here are some interesting questions and answers presented at a
recent volunteer meeting... Thanks to Bill for sharing these:

**Touch Tank Questions**

Q: *Can you find a small opening (disc, spot?) on the top of the sea
stars?*
A: This is the madreporite, the opening to the water vascular sys-
tem that the sea star uses to move its tube feet.

Q: *How does the sea star (or sea urchin) move?*
A: Echinoderms (sea star, sea urchin, sea cucumber and sand
dollars) use a combination of hydraulics and chemistry to control
their tube feet. Seawater moves in and out of the water vascular
system in order to move the tube feet. As the individual tube foot
comes in contact with a surface, a chemical glue is secreted. When
the sea star wants to release that tube foot, another chemical is
secreted is dissolve the adhesive.

Q: *How do sea urchins eat?*
A: The mouth of the sea urchins is located on the bottom (ventral)
side of its body. Pedicellaria are specialized tube feet that transport
the seaweed (algae) to its oral opening. The sea urchin’s hy-
draulic system moves both the pedicellariae and its Aristotle’s
Lantern. The sea urchin chews algae with a five-part apparatus called “Aristotle’s
Lantern”.

Q: *Why are there empty mussel shells in the touch tank?*
The Oregon Hairy Triton is the largest snail in our Pacific
Northwest intertidal zone. The empty mussel shells are evi-
dence of their predatory behavior.

Q: *Why do our skates put their “nose” out of water?*
A: This is not behavior normally found in nature, but perhaps
because our skates have acclimated to human interactions,
they developed this response. Skates nostrils are located on the
ventral side. Perhaps this is an olfactory response, but this is
merely speculation.

**Gray Whale Obstacle Course**

film screening on Aug. 30

The 50-minute film “Gray Whale Obstacle Course”, pro-
duced by Jean-Michel Cousteau’s Ocean Futures Society
for PBS, will have a special screening on Wednesday, Aug.
30 at 7pm in the Hennings Auditorium. Dr. Bruce Mate,
Director of the OSU/COMES Marine Mammal Program at
HMSC will introduce the film, and be on hand to answer
questions from the public afterwards.

The documentary aired on OPB and across the nation
in July, but is being screened again locally as part of the
Oregon State Parks’s summer whale watch week. The free
public screening is co-sponsored by the Friends of HMSC.
For more information, contact Morris Grover at the Whale
Watch Center in Depoe Bay at 765-3304, or Ken Hall at
HMSC.
This digital service of the OSU Libraries provides a permanent means for faculty members to store their research and teaching output, for students to do the same with their research, to make the information widely available and for the institution to maintain its historical record. This archive is completely digital with complete metadata records. It’s indexed by Google, OAI harvesters and other web search engines. This makes the items much more visible to people outside of OSU and HMSC. 

We have set up an HMSC collection for articles, conference papers, research reports, newsletters and more created by HMSC researchers, staff and students. It’s located at: http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/handle/1957/1317

Currently, it has the theses and dissertations recently completed by HMSC students. It’s waiting for your items? You don’t have to store files on your computer or server. The ScholarsArchive assigns a permanent address to the file so you can easily link to it rather than maintaining your own site. If you are interested in learning how to submit, let Janet know (janet.webster@oregonstate.edu).

Also, if you would to start a building another collection within the HMSC one, let me know. For instance, we are starting to digitize and add items related to Yaquina Bay. Perhaps you have a document that isn’t copyrighted that you think would be valuable to digitize and make more available. Again, send me a message and we can talk about the steps involved.

Here are a few of the recent additions to the ScholarsArchive that may be of interest:

The annual reports of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department and its governing commissions contain data, project descriptions and management decisions concerning some of Oregon’s most important natural resources. From 1887-1985, these reports were published annually or biennially by the Commission as well as the two divisions. ODFW annual and biennial reports provide significant information on fish stocks, stocking and harvest. http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/handle/1957/2079

The natural resources and human utilization of Netarts Bay, Oregon, commonly known as the Stout Report, contains a wealth of environmental information on Netarts Bay. http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/handle/1957/2123

The Ore-Bin was a regular publication of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries containing geologic field trips as well as very readable descriptions of Oregon’s geology. http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/dspace/handle/1957/2239

A complete digital run is available through DOGAMI at http://www.oregongeology.com/sub/quarpub/OrGeo.htm

How to forward your ONID email messages

Library messages regarding your requested items, holds and overdues are frequently sent to ONID email accounts. If you use another email address more often than your ONID account, please make sure your ONID mail is being forwarded to your most regularly used email address. This will ensure you receive all your library messages and help you to avoid fines.

You can forward ONID email by logging into ONID at: https://secure.onid.oregonstate.edu/cgi-bin/my?type=want_auth

Then choose “manage mail” so you can forward your ONID mail to your most frequently used account.

New Guin Library Exhibit: Defenders of Free Speech

Libraries throughout the country observe Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read during the last week of September each year. We celebrate the freedom to choose or the freedom to express one’s opinion even if that opinion might be considered unorthodox or unpopular and stresses the importance of ensuring the availability of those unorthodox or unpopular viewpoints to all who wish to read them. After all, intellectual freedom can exist only where these two essential conditions are met.

This year, the exhibit at the Guin Library recognizes people who have stood up to defend their viewpoint. Some are famous, some less so. All believed in their freedom of expression. Some of those highlighted are Galileo persecuted for stating that the Earth moves, John Quincy Adams censured by the US Senate for opposing slavery and the Weavers blacklisted for singing protest songs in the McCarthy Era. All believed and defended their right to speak, read, sing and create.

Recent publications by HMSC authors

Title: Will structural reform fix fishery management? Commission policy recommendations and the US regional fishery management council system.
Authors: Hanna, S

BULLETIN OF MARINE SCIENCE 78 (3): 547-562 MAY 2006

Title: Risk sensitivity in three juvenile (Age-0) flatfish species: Does estuarine dependence promote risk-prone behavior?
Authors: Lemke, JL; Ryer, CH


continued on next page
Recent publications by HMSC authors

(continued from previous page)

Title: Submarine volcanoes and high-temperature hydrothermal venting on the Tonga arc, southwest Pacific
Authors: Stoffers, P; Worthington, TJ; Schwarz-Schampera, U; Hannington, MD; Massoth, GJ; Hekinian, R; Schmidt, M; Lundsten, LJ; Evans, LJ; Vaiomo’unga, R; Kerby, T

Title: A more cost-effective emap benthic macrofaunal sampling protocol
Authors: Ferraro, SP; Cole, FA; Olsen, AR
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT 116 (1-3): 275-290 MAY 2006

Title: Native American influences on the forest composition of the Allegheny Plateau, northwest Pennsylvania
Authors: Black, BA; Ruffner, CM; Abrams, MD

Title: Electrochemical power generation and microbial communities at seafloor seeps
Authors: Reimers, CE; Hilmar, AS; Girguis, P; Tender, LM

HMSC Happenings

Summer is field season
HMSC hosted over 50 researchers attending the 2006 North American Dendroecology Fieldweek during the first week of June. Organized by Bryan Black, the gathering featured workshops and field trips to forests from the coast range to the Cascades.

Relay for Life
HMSC joined hundreds of other Lincoln County residents in raising thousands of dollars in the fight against cancer at the 2006 Relay for Life event at Newport High School.

Visiting vessels
The 274-foot R/V Thomas G. Thompson, operated by the University of Washington, called at the OSU dock in July.

Al Cramer (left) rests his feet between laps around the track. Congratulations to HMSC team captain Nikki Atkins and all of the people who helped support this wonderful event.
Seminar series returns in September

Speakers are now being scheduled for 2006-07 HMSC seminar series, which features a diverse range of research topics and perspectives.

Among the speakers currently scheduled are USGS scientists Kevin Lafferty (Oct. 12) on marine parasites in food webs, Joe Walder (Oct. 26) of the Cascades Volcano Observatory, and OSU Distinguished Professor Jane Lubchenco (Nov. 2), who will address the Millenium Ecosystem Assessment.

In addition, other visiting speakers are being booked for presentations outside of the regular seminar series. These include Dr. Yuval Cohen of the Israel National Institute of Oceanography, on environmental impacts of aquaculture (hosted by Gil Sylvia) and Dr. Bob Petit of Arizona State University, who will deliver a lecture on Tuesday, Oct. 24th, entitled “Discovery and Clinical Development of Naturally Occurring Anti-Cancer Drugs” (hosted by the OSU Research Office).

The HMSC seminar committee works collaboratively to coordinate a stimulating array of speakers and topics that mesh well with the diversity of research interests at HMSC. If you have ideas or names to suggest for possible speakers to give a seminar, please forward them to one of the current members of the committee:

Bill Chadwick <William.W.Chadwick@noaa.gov>
John Chapman <john.chapman@oregonstate.edu>
Brett Dumbauld <brett.dumbauld@oregonstate.edu>
Ken Hall <ken.hall@oregonstate.edu>
Tom Hurst <Thomas.hurst@noaa.gov>
Greg Moyer <greg.moyer@oregonstate.edu>
Jim Power <Power.Jim@epamail.epa.gov>
Shawn Rowe <shawn.rowe@oregonstate.edu>
Rob Suryan <rob.suryan@oregonstate.edu>

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Ken Hall or outgoing committee chair Tom Hurst to learn more about what is involved (not a huge commitment).

New babies!

Congratulations to Steph and Mark Nielsen on their beautiful new baby Scarlett Kate Nielsen. She was born at 9:29 pm on June 22, weighing in at a healthy 8 lbs. 2 oz and measuring 21 inches long.

Greg and Melina Moyer welcomed their beautiful baby boy River Lorenz Moyer at 1:30 am on June 29th. He weighed in at 7 lbs 9 oz and measured 21 inches. Congratulations!

HMSC Picnic

Saturday, September 9th

Mark your calendars and get ready for a day of fun and relaxation at Moonshine Park (on the Siletz River). Starts at 1pm.

- Main course (grilled pork loin, hot dogs, marinated tuna, corn on the cob) and beverages (beer, pop) all provided by HMSC.
- Side dishes are potluck, so bring whatever you like to share. Family and friends are welcome.
- Group camp site is reserved for anyone who wishes to camp out overnight on Friday and/or Saturday.

If you can help with set-up or can bring along any outdoor games (volleyball/badminton net, horseshoes, stuff for kids), please contact a member of the planning committee: Andra Bobbitt, Carol Koyonski, Kym Jacobson, Ken Hall, Abby McCarthy, Lori Parker, or Laura Todd

More details to come...