Financial support grows for HMSC students
Private donations increase to support year-round education

Over $80,000 in scholarships, fellowships, and other financial aid is available to college students interested in pursuing research, coursework, or marine science education activities at the HMSC, an increase of 15% over the amount offered last year.

Applications are now being accepted for nine different awards, which will provide financial assistance for up to 18 students in the coming year. The funding comes largely from private donations made to the HMSC for the purposes of supporting research and education in the marine sciences.

One of the largest sources of support is the Mamie L. Markham Research Endowment, which annually provides funding for several students with awards of up to $10,000 each. Most of these students spend at least one year in residence on

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HMSC researchers making headlines, television news

News media interest in the work of scientists at the Hatfield Marine Science Center ebbs and flows with about as much predictability as the surf conditions. In other words, there can be a few days’ advance notice -- or none at all -- before reporters are calling with questions and requesting interviews on a hot topic.

Natural disasters and other unusual events such as a rumbling volcano, a red tide, or a beached whale can trigger a rush of calls and inquiries from the public wanting to understand more about “why” and “how” such natural phenomena occur. The December tsunami in the Indian Ocean is the most dramatic recent example, but even the small offshore earthquakes felt along the Oregon coast last summer and the renewed geological activity at Mt. St. Helens were events that caused a flurry of questions for geologists and oceanographers at the HMSC.

Bob Dziak is a geological oceanographer with the Cooperative Institute for Marine Resources Studies (CIMRS) at HMSC. The research that he and other scientists in NOAA’s Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory (PMEL) have been conducting on tectonic plate movements under the Pacific Ocean has been the focus of occasional news articles, most notably after last year’s significant discovery of a new phenomenon -- a stretch of the Juan de Fuca plate off the Pacific Northwest coast of the American continent where ocean water is actually being sucked down into the earth’s crust.

The PMEL team’s research was published in the scientific journal Nature in July and garnered much

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Dear Friends,

The HMSC enters this new year with some dramatic evidence of the value of marine research. The tsunami event and resultant human tragedy in the Indian Ocean last December placed direct focus on our ability to understand, monitor, and predict such events, and helps us locally appreciate the efforts we undertook last summer to prepare at the HMSC (next page, bottom photos). This will be the topic of one of the scientific talks at SeaFest on June 25.

The lead article in this issue describes the benefits that donors have provided to our students through direct and endowed scholarships. The scholarships support research, internships, and education that might otherwise be out of reach of many students. This year we initiated the MacGregor scholarship, which will benefit undergraduate students taking courses at the HMSC by supporting their housing expenses. Cecil and Martha MacGregor, who both passed away in the last year, were OSU alumni. Their very generous donations to the HMSC and many other programs leave an important legacy at Oregon State University, where they will be remembered.

We preparing for a new set of summer classes at HMSC and recruitment is now starting. The courses are a mix of traditional marine lab courses, like invertebrate zoology, marine botany, marine mammals, and marine fisheries with more novel courses, including introduced species, conservation biology, free choice learning, and advanced aquarium science; more details can be found on our web page. We have a variety of scholarships to assist students with the summer program, including donations from Friends of the HMSC.

The benefits of the hands-on, experiential education students receive at HMSC were apparent at the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography meeting this month in Salt Lake City. Two of our “Research Experience for Undergraduate” interns from last summer presented scientific posters. Leslie Soule (below, left) worked with Dr. Clare Reimers, and Katri Laukkonen (below, middle) worked with Dr. Tony D’Andrea and Dr. Ted DeWitt. They had excellent professional experiences at the meeting, and Katri received an award for her poster (below, right).

We were treated this last month to two excellent talks by Dr. Amatzia Genin, the winter HMSC Distinguished Lecturer. His public talk described the functioning of coral reefs based on his work in the Red Sea. In June, Dr. Verena Tunnicliffe from the University of Victoria will be coming, so watch our next newsletter for an announcement of her talk -- and be sure to mark your calendar with June 25 for SeaFest!
Almost fifteen years ago, Marilyn Potts Guin donated her Chestnut Street home to the OSU Foundation to benefit the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Her desire was that the house be used to support activities at the HMSC, which it has, primarily serving graduate students in need of medium- to long-term accommodations in close proximity to the center.

The house, overlooking a freshwater marsh that is a tributary to the Yaquina Bay, is thought to have been built in the 1970’s. HMSC also owns some of the marsh and has discussed restoration efforts with adjacent property owners.

Shortly before it was donated to HMSC in 1990, the house underwent some remodeling work. Former HMSC director Lavern Weber recalls that many people at the marine science center helped with the modifications at that time, putting up a wall and reconfiguring the space to add a second bedroom.

In the years since, the “Guin House” has been maintained by the HMSC, with occasional minor fixes and additions, such as the deck that was added on a few years ago. Currently, repair work on the bathroom is being done and a graduate student with handyman skills is preparing to move in.

But with the age of the structure and decades of coastal weather, the Guin house has gradually fallen into disrepair and is in need of major renovation. The hope is that the house will see new life as a living space for visiting scientists or other long-term tenants working at or with the HMSC. Its potential for use as a writer’s or visiting artist’s retreat has also been explored in conversations with the Center for Humanities at OSU.

To make a donation in support of the Guin House renovation effort, please contact HMSC Director George Boehlert at 541-867-0212 or email: george.boehlert@oregonstate.edu

Increasing people’s awareness of tsunami dangers and developing a disaster preparedness plan has been one of the HMSC safety committee’s primary objectives, even before December’s tragedy in the Indian Ocean. In October, HMSC employees practiced an evacuation to high ground near the southern end of the Yaquina Bay Bridge. More evacuation route signage is planned.
By all measures, the eighth annual Fossil Fest was a rousing success. Over 1,200 adults and children attended this special event held on February 12th in the Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center.

The “Coastal Concretions” presentation by Guy (aka “Oregon-FossilGuy”) DiTorrice was standing-room-only, where every family received their own bag of fossils as part of the occasion.

Dr. William Orr, from University of Oregon, was here to identify some of the thousands of fossils that were brought in by visitors. There were no empty auditorium seats during Dr. Orr’s talk “Marine Mammals and Other Fossils from Oregon”.

Children’s activities included making replica fossils and fossil preparation demonstrated by the North America Research Group. Tables were set up for “Fossil Swap”, where entire families traded fossils and rapidly detecting recent arrivals, said Jon Luke, exhibit developer at the HMSC Visitor Center. “The exhibit’s primary goal is to foster an understanding of how invasive species enter and affect new environments, the factors that influence an invader’s success, and how each of us can prevent future invasions,” Luke said.

Visitors to the exhibit will be engaged by a mix of live displays, video and hands-on activities. They will have a close-up view of ballast water “hitchhikers,” learn about invasion risks at “The Wheel of Misfortune,” or take on the role of an aquatic invader in an interactive survival game.

The exhibit is the second new installation that the Visitor Center has opened in recent months. It joins the World of Wet Pets, where new displays and aquaria filled with ornamental fish deepen visitors’ appreciation of this popular hobby.

The Visitor Center is now open on its winter schedule, Thursday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Memorial Day. It is managed by Oregon Sea Grant, a marine research, education, and outreach program based at OSU.

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**VISITOR CENTER NEWS**

**Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers at HMSC**

It sounds scary and surprising like some B-movie, and that’s part of the message of a new exhibit now open at the Oregon State University (OSU) Hatfield Marine Science Center. But unlike a B-movie, Invasion of the Habitat Snatchers is not science fiction. It’s all about those sneaky and very real aquatic pests, from Asian clams to zebra mussels, that are emerging as a major environmental threat.

These aquatic invaders permanently alter habitats, harm native fish and wildlife, and lead to billions of dollars in costs to society. The European green crab and Atlantic cordgrass have already arrived in the Pacific Northwest, and species such as the Chinese mitten crab pose a nearby threat.

Given the many pathways of aquatic species introduction, public education is critical for limiting new invasions and rapidly detecting recent arrivals, said Jon Luke, exhibit developer at the HMSC Visitor Center. “The exhibit’s primary goal is to foster an understanding of how invasive species enter and affect new environments, the factors that influence an invader’s success, and how each of us can prevent future invasions,” Luke said.

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**Fossil Fest attracts beachcombers and curious collectors**

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Interactive displays encourage visitors to spend time thinking about how invasive species alter habitats and affect survival of other species.

Guy DiTorrice was kept extremely busy, answering questions about fossils.
Fossil Fest, continued from p.4

some of their “extra” fossils. Microfossils, such as foraminifera, were displayed with a video microscope while other exhibits displayed examples of fossils found in this locality.

If you missed this fun and educational event, you should plan on attending next year’s Fossil Fest, scheduled for February 11th, 2006.

Families and volunteers like Suzy Roberts (center), enjoyed the Fossil Swap.

Ready to sell... and read

Visitor Center bookstore manager Lynne Wright unpacks books special ordered for the March 4th guest lecture event honoring the legacy of Rachel Carson (see story in sidebar)

Kathleen Dean Moore lecture on legacy of Rachel Carson scheduled for March 4

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson’s The Edge of the Sea, the Oregon Council for the Humanities (OCH) is sponsoring a lecture by OSU Professor of Philosophy Kathleen Dean Moore on Friday, March 4th at 7:30 p.m. in the Hennings Auditorium at HMSC. This event is co-sponsored by the Friends of the Hatfield Marine Science Center, and is open to the public.

Professor Moore’s lecture, “The Truth of the Barnacles: Rachel Carson and the Moral Significance of Wonder,” will discuss The Edge of the Sea, which is recognized as a classic of environmental writing as well as vivid field guide to the wonders of ocean-shore marine life.

Following Professor Moore’s lecture, OCH will host a reception in the Visitor Center. Copies of books by Rachel Carson and by Kathleen Dean Moore will be available for purchase from the HMSC bookstore, which will be open especially for this event. Professor Moore will sign copies of her books following the lecture.

It is fitting that Professor Moore, one of Oregon’s finest writers and thinkers, should speak about “the moral significance of wonder.” In a recent interview, she remarked, “It’s literally true that people are made of places. Minerals from eroding mountains strengthen your bones. Willamette River water rushes through my veins…. It’s the watery Oregon winter sun that transforms my fat into vitamins. We are calcified by gravity, wrinkled by wind, softened by shopping malls.”

Professor Moore is chair of the Department of Philosophy at Oregon State University, and also the founding director of the Spring Creek Project of Ideas, Nature, and the Written Word. She has published three award-winning books of essays on environmental ethics and philosophy: The Pine Island Paradox (2004), Holdfast: At Home in the Natural World (1999), and Riverwalking: Reflections on Moving Water (1996). Her essays have appeared in several publications, including New York Times Magazine, Discover, Audubon, Orion, and Field and Stream.
President Ray pays a visit

For the 22 OSU students participating in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife 2004 fall term course at HMSC, there was a heightened sense of pride (and perhaps some extra nervousness?) at the end-of-term poster session in December. On display in the HMSC staff lounge were the students’ posters explaining the results of research projects they had worked on as part of the Coastal Ecology and Resource Management class taught by Fisheries and Wildlife Assistant Professors Scott and Selina Heppell.

In addition to the usual audience of HMSC researchers and staff stopping by to check out the posters and talk with the students, they also received a special visit a few days later by Oregon State University President Ed Ray, who was visiting the HMSC in conjunction with a speaking engagement at the Newport Chamber of Commerce.

President Ray expressed his appreciation to the students and faculty for their work and for taking the time to discuss their research projects with him during his morning visit.

Scholarships, continued from p.1

the coast so that they can work with HMSC scientists and take advantage of lab and field research opportunities found there.

Some of the scholarships encourage research in a specific area, such as fisheries ecology and management. Every year, the Bill Wick Marine Fisheries Award, the Walter G. Jones Fisheries Development Award, and the Anja Robinson Fellowship (which supports shellfish aquaculture research) provide a total of over $5,000 in student assistance.

Financial awards provided by the Fred and Joan Crebbin Memorial Fellowship and the Holt Marine Education Fund support the development of student research projects with a focus on marine education. Other awards, such as the Lylian Brucefield Reynolds Scholarship, are given for excellence in academic and research performance in any marine related discipline.

New this year is the Cecil and Martha MacGregor Scholarship in Marine Science, which will provide funding to cover housing expenses for undergraduate students planning to take courses at the HMSC over the summer. Eight new courses are being taught at the Newport campus this summer.

Information and applications for all of the awards can be found on the web at: http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/awards/index.html

In Memory

Friends of the HMSC remembers Martha MacGregor, who passed away on December 31, 2004

Scholarships, continued from p.1

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Newsmakers, continued from p. 1

attention, including a spot in Discover magazine’s end-of-the-year issue highlighting the top 100 science stories of 2004. This honor, in turn, prompted Oregon State University to feature Bob Dziak on the home page, with a colorful photo and a brief article highlighting some of his research.

CIMRS Director Clare Reimers, a professor and chemical oceanographer at HMSC, was also profiled on the OSU web site after her research on the electricity producing potential of plankton in seawater was reported on by ABC News and other mainstream media outlets in the summer of 2004.

So, too, has Bruce Mate’s photo greeted visitors to the OSU web site in the past, prompting many to click through to the Marine Mammal Program’s own web page in search of information about the feeding and migratory habits of various species of whales.

The new year started with a flurry of press inquiries to HMSC and various departments at OSU -- many seeking local expertise on tsunami questions, and others more interested in different topics. Professor Chris Langdon’s Molluscan Broodstock Program was highlighted in a front page story on commercial oyster production that appeared in the Sunday Corvallis Gazette Times. That same week, a call from a television producer requesting an interview with Dr. Bruce Mate led to a featured segment in a new wildlife series airing on the Northwest Cable News Network, with more to come.

Sometimes though, it can feel like too much of a good thing.

By the middle of February, Bruce Mate was juggling interview commitments and requests from National Geographic, Discovery, BBC, and at least three other European TV/film production companies.

As they say on TV... stay tuned for more news on HMSC researchers making the news, including some familiar faces on OPB’s Oregon Field Guide -- next time.

HMSC weekly seminar series continues through spring

The HMSC seminar series, which features scientific lectures by visiting scientists and researchers based at HMSC, takes place every Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm (unless otherwise noted) in the Guin Library Seminar Room. Friends of HMSC are welcome to attend!

March 3 - Don Lyons, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, OSU
“Avian Predation of Juvenile Salmonids in the Columbia River”

March 10 Jody Stecher, College of Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Newport - “Electricity from Sediments”

March 17 - Dr. John Markham
“Systematics of parasitic isopods”

March 24 No Seminar - Spring Break.

April 7 - Katie Dugger, Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife, OSU
“Effects of flipper-bands on survival and foraging ecology of Adelie penguins”

April 14 - Kate Field - Department of Microbiology, OSU
“Who’s Responsible? Identifying the Source of Fecal Contamination in Water with Molecular Markers

April 21 - Barbara Bond, Department of Forest Science, OSU.
“Using stable isotopes to study terrestrial ecosystem processes”

April 28 - Mike Behrenfeld, Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, OSU
“Rates and Stocks in the Ocean Productivity Business”

May 5 - Monika Winder, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
“Climatic Effects on Copepod Population Dynamics”

May 12 - Tim Essington, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington
“Ocean ecosystem modeling”

May 19 - Dawn Wright, Department of Geosciences, OSU
“Geographic Information Systems for Spatial Reasoning in Marine Science and Management”

May 26 - Dr. Eddie Bernard, NOAA/PMEL, Seattle
“The great Sumatra tsunami of 2004 and US tsunami preparedness”

June 2 - Denise Parker, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research, University of Hawaii
“Living on the edge: following Pacific loggerheads, a study of their movement, oceanic habitat, and feeding ecology - implications for conservation and management.”

For complete, up-to-date schedule, visit the HMSC events web page: http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/events.html
Mark your calendars...

Saturday, June 25, 2005

4th Annual SeaFest

“Seas of Change, 40 years of Discovery”
This year’s festival celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Hatfield Marine Science Center with the “Seas of Change” theme.

Volunteers needed!
Would you like to be a Volunteer for a 3-hour shift at SeaFest? We are in need of Greeters, Docents, and Tour Guides. Morning and afternoon shifts available. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Matteo Costamagna at: matteoc@charter.net

www.hmsc.oregonstate.edu/seafest

The Truth of the Barnacles:
Rachel Carson and the Moral Significance of Wonder
by Kathleen Dean Moore,
Professor of Philosophy at Oregon State University

A free public lecture presented by the Oregon Council for the Humanities and the Friends of the Hatfield Marine Science Center to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson’s beloved book The Edge of the Sea.

Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Dessert following the lecture

Hatfield Marine Science Visitor Center
2030 Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon

Copies of books by Rachel Carson and Kathleen Dean Moore will be available for purchase following the lecture.