MORE FUN BY THE DOZENS: 24 NEW STUDENTS JOIN GSO

GSO saw an increase in the number of incoming graduate students this fall. In addition to its size, the group includes students from diverse backgrounds and will pursue academic educational paths that span the range of interdisciplinary GSO study areas.

And they hail from...........

Michelle Aleszczyk–US Naval Academy
Stuart Bishop–Clemson University
Christian Buckingham–Grove City College
Annie Cox–Western Washington University
Lauren Curry–University of Washington
Kelsey Druken–University of Rhode Island
Timothy Fox–University of Maine
Carey Friedman–Trinity College
Cory Gillette–University of Connecticut
Marisa Guarinello–College of William & Mary
Leanna Heffner–Vassar
Penelope Howe–Columbia University
Nicole Lasota–Rutgers University
Anna Pfeiffer-Hebert–Univ. Ca. Santa Cruz
Courtney Schmidt–University of Tampa
Matthew Schult–University of Pittsburgh
Heather Shannon–University of Rhode Island
Leslie Smith–Davidson College
Scott Stalchelhaus–Boston University
Nobuhiro Suzuki–University of the Air
Daniel Syriala–University of Rhode Island
Rebecca Williams–UNC Wilmington
Laura Windecker–Bowdoin College
Zhitao Yu–University Qingdao
In the Press!

**URI Scientist Explores the USS Monitor Shipwreck**

On July 19, 2006 the University of Rhode Island invited the public to view a live broadcast of historians, archaeologists and engineers studying the Civil War Shipwreck USS Monitor. The broadcast highlighting URI marine scientist Dr. Dwight Coleman, demonstrated to the public the technology being used to collect images and artifacts from the wreckage. For more info: [http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/missions/2006monitor/welcome.html](http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/missions/2006monitor/welcome.html)

**Arctic Ocean Was Once a Hot Spot**

Recent results from the Arctic Coring Expedition (ACEX) were reported as a cover story in Nature and on the front page of the New York Times in June. ACEX was co-led by Prof. Kate Moran from GSO and Prof. Jan Backman of Stockholm University. The new results, published in the June 1 issue of Nature, from the 56-million year record of climate change in the Arctic Ocean reveal the ocean was once warmer than previously thought in the past. Moran was also interviewed on Science Friday. To listen, go to: [http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2006/jun/hour1_060206.html](http://www.sciencefriday.com/pages/2006/jun/hour1_060206.html)

**Improved Hurricane Forecasting**

A new hurricane forecasting model developed by GSO and NOAA Scientists, deemed the most accurate model used by the National Hurricane Center over the last three years, has been improved for the 2006 season. Professor Isaac Ginis has been able to use the model to explain the intensification of hurricanes Katrina and Rita to category 5 hurricanes. See articles in: [http://www.accufore.com/article7.htm](http://www.accufore.com/article7.htm) and [http://advance.uri.edu/quadangles/sept2006/story01.htm](http://advance.uri.edu/quadangles/sept2006/story01.htm)

**A Big Blast From the Past**

As part of a collaborative project, led by GSO Professors Haruldur Sigurdsson and Steve Carey, a marine geological survey was conducted around a Greek volcano, this summer. The new results from their expedition show that the volume of the Minoan-age volcanic eruption of Santorini was very large, destroying civilization on the island of Thera, and may have been comparable to that of the largest known historical eruption, the 1815 eruption of Tambora in Indonesia. For more information, see: [http://www.uri.edu/endeavor/thera/EOS.pdf](http://www.uri.edu/endeavor/thera/EOS.pdf)

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**Graduate Student Adventures**

This summer, Katy Croff participated in an expedition that explored the archaeology and geology of the Aegean and Black Seas. Her part of the expedition focused on exploration of ancient ship wrecks preserved in the anoxic regions of the Black Sea as well as an archaeological survey in the international waters of the Sea of Crete in the southern Aegean. Katy is in the GSO Ph.D. program in Archaeological Oceanography—her major professor is Prof. Robert Ballard. She was one of eight people selected this year as a National Geographic Emerging Explorer.

National Geographic’s Emerging Explorers Program recognizes and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring young adventurers, scientists, photographers, and storytellers—explorers who are already making a difference early in their careers. For more information about the explorers, go to: [http://test.nationalgeographic.com/emerging/kcroff.html](http://test.nationalgeographic.com/emerging/kcroff.html)

In September, Wally Fulweiler was an invited speaker at the Si-WEBS meeting (Natural and anthropogenic modifications of the silica cycle along the land-ocean continuum). She presented her master’s thesis “Terrestrial vegetation and the seasonal cycle of dissolved silica in a southern New England coastal River.” Wally went on to participate in a workshop on the global transport of amorphous silica by rivers at the Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris. While in France she had a few days to explore Paris where she visited the Louvre. Wally is currently a Ph.D. student in Oceanography, her major professor is Prof. Scott Nixon. Wally was also awarded the Ketchum Prize for the best student presentation at the fall meeting of the New England Estuarine Research Society.
Recent & Upcoming Events

Office of Marine Program’s Metcalf Institute Awards First Grantham Prize in Environmental Journalism

On September 25th, the first and largest prize in environmental journalism was awarded at GSO. A nine-member reporting team with The Record newspaper (Bergen County, N.J.) was the 2006 winner of the Grantham Prize for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment. The team won the $75,000 prize for its “Toxic Legacy” investigative series on pollution caused by a Mahwah, N.J., Ford Motor Company automobile-assembly plant.

Grantham Prize jurors described The Record's 2005 series as "environmental watchdog reporting of the highest order, marked by exhaustive reporting, stellar writing, and an innovative multimedia presentation that sets a new standard." The award is to be shared by nine Record journalists who spent eight months investigating how actions of the company, government officials, and organized crime exposed northern New Jersey residents to numerous environmental risks.

The University of Rhode Island's Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting and the Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment created the Grantham prize last year. The prize honors the work of one journalist or team of journalists for exemplary reporting on the environment. The annual prize is open to journalists, writers and producers in the U.S. and Canada and recognizes nonfiction work published or broadcast in the previous calendar year.

R/V Endeavor's Thirty Year Anniversary Celebration November 3-4 2006

Christened on Dec. 3, 1976 GSO's research vessel, this year marks the R/V Endeavor thirty year anniversary. GSO's flagship for tours. Originally built in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin by Peterson Builders, Inc., in 1976 the ship has been the the backbone of GSO's at sea research program, taking part in a variety of scientific projects ranging from deep sea geological surveys to trawling surveys of Georges Bank.

In the spring of 1993 the R/V Endeavor underwent a $2 million refit, significantly altering her profile. The refit, removed the twin sail-like stacks, moved the bridge higher and forward, created new laboratory space as well as a number of modifications to the interior of the vessel.

On November 3rd, GSO will celebrate this 30th Anniversary with a ceremony. On Saturday, November 4th, R/V Endeavor will be open for public tours from 10 AM to 2 PM. For more information about the R/V Endeavor including information on its current research cruise schedule please visit http://techserv.gso.uri.edu/

URI Honored GSO Grads on October 13th & 14th

The University of Rhode Island has established the Distinguished Achievement Awards to honor individuals or corporations who personify its tradition of excellence in professional achievement, leadership contributions, and/or community service. This year URI recognized three GSO graduates, Drs. Margaret Leinen and John Farrington, and David Evans.

The distinguished achievement awards were given at a gala dinner in Providence on October 14th For information about the event, go to: http://advance.uri.edu/alumni/events/specialevents/uriawards.htm

GSO Inaugural Lecture on the Metamorphosis in Flounder

On October 5, 2006, GSO Professor Jennifer Specker spoke, as part of the URI Graduate School of Oceanography’s Inaugural Lecture series, on the “Biology and Endocrinology of Metamorphosis in Flounder.” Her lecture covered the summer flounder’s metamorphosis as it drifts in to shore in the spring. During this time, the flounder increases its weight by 5,000 times and metamorphoses from the larval to the juvenile form. The main focus of the lecture was on the role the flounder’s hormones play in its development and physiological adaptation.

The Inaugural Lectures are presented by newly promoted oceanography professors at the URI Graduate School of Oceanography and are aimed at a non-specialized but scientifically informed audience. For more information about future lectures call 401-874-6246 or email mclark@gso.uri.edu.

Hands Across the Pond

Last fall, the Ph.D courses in Oceanography at the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (www.ulpgc.es) received the “Mención de Calidad” (quality mention) from the Spanish Government. This meant that the Spanish Government considers their Ph.D. Doctoral Course as excellent. This recognition allowed them to invite researchers to teach a seminar course to the student body. Dr. Dave Hebert was invited to give a week-long (10 lectures) seminar course on physical oceanography. This September, Dave gave a series of lectures, transmitted via the internet Barcelona students, on ocean mixing processes ranging from scales of centimeters to hundred of kilometers. In 2003, an expedition led by Dave Hebert to look at horizontal mixing in the equatorial North Atlantic departed from the Canary Islands. This initiated the interaction between the two universities and has resulted in plans to undertake a collaborative experiment to examine the physics of eddies generated near the islands and their biological influence which is important to the fisheries in the region.
American Geophysical Union Recognizes Paper

GSO’s Dr. Rainer Lohman, the lead author of a paper recently published in Geophysical Research Letters, that was selected as an Editor’s Highlight. The paper titled “Oceanic deep water formation as a sink of persistent organic pollutants” describes human carcinogens that many organisms cannot metabolize, causing them to accumulate in tissue and to persist in the oceans. The authors concluded that several of these could serve as tracers for oceanic deep water plumes, as these chemicals were produced for only a few decades.

Professor Named to National Academy of Engineering

This year H. Thomas Rossby was elected to the National Academy of Engineering making him one of just seven scientists in Rhode Island to ever have been so honored. He was cited for his development of deep-ocean instruments and their application in shaping an ocean observing system. Founded in 1964, the National Academy of Engineering has 2,000 members and associates who provide the leadership and expertise for numerous projects focused on the relationships between engineering, technology, and the quality of life.

Dean David Farmer Inducted into Royal Society

On June 20, 2006 the Dean of the Graduate School of Oceanography, David Farmer, was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, the world’s most distinguished scientific academy. Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is an independent academy promoting the natural and applied sciences. Farmer became the Dean of GSO in 2001, and is recognized as a world leader in acoustics to study the oceans, through both the development of instrumentation and interpretation of data.

Farewell & Best Wishes to Graduating Students

A rich and diverse group of students completed their requirements for the MS and PhD programs and were honored at the May 2006 Graduation Ceremony. Their major professors are listed in brackets.


PhD Degrees: Tarquin Dorrington (Gomez-Chairri) Recombinet Antimicrobials for Feed-Based Delivery in Aquaculture, J. Brad Hubeny (King) Late Holocene Climate Variability as Preserved in High-resolution Estuarine and Lacustrine Sediment Archives, Kate Hagstrom (B. Moran) Particle Dynamics and Shelf-Basin Interactions in the Western Arctic Ocean Investigated Using Radiochemical Tracers, Kimberly Hyde (Oviatt) Massachusetts Bay Phytoplankton Variability, Jennifer Miks-Olfs (Miller and Donaghay) Manatee Response to Environmental Noise, Qingtao Song (Cornillon) Surface Wind Response to Oceanic Fronts, Ting Yang (Shen) Seismic Constraints on Structure Beneath Hotspots: Local earthquake Tomography and Finite Frequency Tomography Approaches