

The Squid's Ink

The University of South Florida – St. Petersburg

Marine Science Department

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Editor's note

I'm sure this newsletter finds you all well rested, caught up, and bright-eyed about the brand new semester.

No, you say? You mean that optical shimmer is actually a residual glaze of insomnia from another where-did-June-July-and-August-go realization? A byproduct of your industrial-strength caffeine frenzy the other night when you realized how behind you are *already*? You're feeling more bug-eyed than bright-eyed? – so much that you cling to memories of "having nothing to do" tighter than those darn love bugs clinging to each other and your windshield?

Oh.

Sorry to hear.

So, in other words, it's just another graduate school semester, another dollar lost to the loan gods. Nothing's really changed. Another semester with more of the same, and less of the sanity needed to deal with it.

Well, my eyes are weepin' willows for ya, blowing in the breeze of your misery. Sniffle, sniff, snort. Grab me some Kleenex with aloe.

OK, enough is enough. Geeeeeeeeez.

Now quit feelin' like you live in a Kentucky Wesleyan slaughterhouse! Buck up, you Bulls, and get ready to romp the semester with more enthusiasm than Richard Simmons when he sweats to the oldies, more exhilaration than a flying mullet in Bayboro Harbor, and, by golly, more zip than Pete's Wicked Ale (then again, if you don't feel like it, at least you can head to the Tav' and drink one of these to dull reality into a fuzzy bliss at the bottom of an icy mug. See Gavin for details.).

OK, well if you haven't noticed, this summer fried my once-witty sense of humor into a huge mess of cheese whiz.

Highly caloric and it may induce nausea.

In any case, a hearty "welcome back" to you seasoned veterans, and a so-hearty-you-could-eat-it-with-a-fork "welcome" to all new students.

New faces in familiar places

Here's a list of USF's latest victims...ooh wait...I mean new students. We extend to you a profound, marine-scientypical welcome that comes from the bottom of our tevas, coffee mugs, and beer cups.

Tracee Baker (Dr. Paul)

Stephen Burroughs (Dr. Tebbens)

Jennifer Cuyquins (Dr. Paul)

Charles Gibson (Dr. Rose)

Susan Lukas-Black (Drs. Rose and Paul)

Biswan Nababan (Dr. Muller-Karger)

Eric Sager (Dr. Hine)

Haiyang Zhang (Dr. Luther)

Meghan Bolen (Drs. Torres and Reynolds)

Azidi Crevison (Dr. Hallock-Muller)

Megan Davis (Drs. Tebbens and Howd)

Sherry Gilbert (Dr. Mitchum)

Elizabeth Marwan (Dr. Betzer)

Lori Pillsbury (Dr. Byrne)

Danylle Spence (Dr. Vargo)

Congrats

HOO – for all the departmental fellowship winners! Our hats
RAY! – are off to you...and out to you, actually – feel free to drop in a few coins after you cash in those checks!



From New Research to News Release

Did you know that wastewater in south Florida can reach the Florida Bay within 36 hours? This exposes people who swim in canals and coastal waters to serious health hazards, according to a study published in the June issue of *Water Research*.

John Paul and Joan Rose led the research team that conducted this study, which found that contamination occurs very quickly when deep wells, called injection wells, are used to dispose waste. As if the limestone isn't porous enough, south Florida has been shot with nearly 700 injection wells.

The Paul and Rose entourage traced the wastewater movement from a well in the Middle Keys. They used harmless trace viruses and found that the wastewater reached groundwater within eight hours and Florida Bay surface waters within 36 hours. As we all learned in Biological Oceanography, the nutrients from the wastewater facilitate algae growth and generally cause the water quality to plummet, potentially turning your scuba diving "wows" into diving "woes."

YUK!

And have you met the new prof yet?

Peter Howd, a former Duke University professor, comes to our department with more than ten years of experience in marine geology.

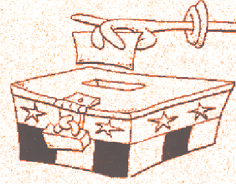
"The primary focus of my research is trying to understand the processes that might lead to sand moving off the beaches onto the continental shelf and vice versa," Howd said.

Howd's prior research examined the impact of waves and currents on beaches and sand bars. By helping out the US Army's shoreline experiments in Duck, NC since 1981, Howd has proven that he can ... do woppa doodie ... be all that he can be, and get an edge on research at the sa-a-a-a-me time (sorry, couldn't resist). Howd plans to work closely with the USGS.



MSAC Minutes

If you missed the first **MSAC** (Marine Science Advisory Committee) meeting on Thursday, September 4, you missed a lot. First, MSAC welcomes all new students, and urges them with gritted teeth masked by warm smiles to get their butts to future MSAC meetings and events.



- Officer elections were held. Here are the results:
President: Terri Sliifko VP: Eric Siegel
Secretary: Lara Nicosia Treasurer: Eric Sager

• **Upcoming Events:**

1. Coastal clean-up on Septmeber 20 at 9 a.m. This is an annual event where volunteers clean up a strip of beach. It also serves as the Girls' Camp reunion, so it's a great opportunity to see familiar faces and do some good. As an added bonus, participants receive a tote bag stuffed with goodies, including a coupon for a free Brita water filter. The fun usually lasts about three hours. See Mark Hafen or Nan Schmidt for more details.
2. Superstars is coming up on Nov. 15! This annual event is our department's main fundraiser. It is a corporate-challenge event where local businesses compete against each other in all sorts of wacky games. At least 70 volunteers are needed to act as referees to supervise events, and much more. It lasts all day, and some of the money is used for scholarships. More details to come (or see Nan Schmidt if you just can't wait...).
3. Other fundraisers were discussed. Ideas included selling t-shirts with an environmental theme and engraved beer mugs. Details to come.
4. Fantasy Fest in Key West happens this October (sometime before Halloween). Terri is trying to organize a trip so we can forget reality and attend this outrageous party.
5. A progressive brunch will be held at USF on October 26, and the Marine Science Dept. is the first stop! A guest chef will serve M&Ms (mimosas and muffins), so you don't want to miss it. The event is almost sold out, and the proceeds will be used for university scholarships. See Tracy Christner to volunteer.
6. MSAC is sponsoring the 2nd annual chili cook-off on September 12 at 4:30 p.m. in the lounge. Volunteers are needed to judge this event and submit their gourmet chili concoctions. Sign-up sheets are on the lounge door. Write your name on them. And despite the popularity of Eric Siegel's entry of Hormel canned chili last year, we encourage only homemade entries!
7. Finally, it was decided that building the greatly anticipated deck isn't feasible. The question at hand is what will happen to the wood that we already bought for it. Terri proposed that the student lounge undergo major renovations that will cost approximately \$5000. Improvements include installing new cabinets and a new bar, and moving the foozball and pool tables to a more suitable area. A vote will be taken on this issue soon, so be on the lookout for the ballots.



Did you know?

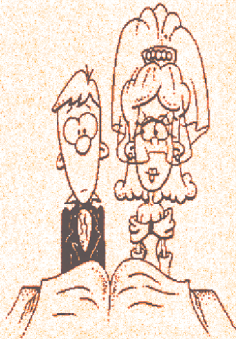
Although the warranty is only good for six months, Lizz Schlansky went through numerous weddings and receptions (the plurals are not typos), and actually committed herself to Sean Singh. The women of Marine Science gave her a send-off of phenomenal proportions.

The Forum Farmers (Strawn, Melanie, Helen, and Dana) created some of the most phallic foods possible. These accompanied an anatomically correct cake (Sean said that the size was just right).

The entertainment was the hottest-looking Fortune Teller you ever saw (after the last party, Brad said no more strippers in the house). She read tarot cards and palms. She swayed KT and Kristen more than others. Rumor has it that KT is learning the trade so at your next party, ask her about your future love interests, careers, or the number of children you will have.

The next big ladies event will probably be another baby shower (congrats to Pam and Tracey), so put away those massage oils, and get out the diapers and bibs (of course, we had bibs at the bachelorette party too).

Don't forget to ask Lizz to see the photos. And she really wasn't embarrassed.



Ballad of a Burglary

As many of you know, my partner Dave Brzana and I had our house burglarized on Wednesday, August 27. The thief took, well, a lot, including electronics, my entire collection of 150+ CDs, artwork (most of which were Dave's framed charcoal drawings), tools, jewelry, and other logical thief-type items. But he also took some strange things like a set of coasters, and worst of all, clothing, including *all* of Dave's underwear, socks, and shoes. Needless to say, Thursday the 28th was not a day for high fashion. I showed up at the departmental fellowship awards ceremony wearing clothes that were right out of their JC Penney's packages.

The good news is that the thief has been caught. He committed three other burglaries and stole a car between that Wednesday and Thursday. He was arrested with the stolen car full of our (and others') things in Clearwater at the site of the fourth robbery. He sadly confessed that he did it to support his crack habit. We rest easier knowing that he picked our house at random and hadn't been chasing us, but the feelings of violation are sure to stick around for a while.

Recovered items included the most important pieces of jewelry (my father's ring), almost all of my CDs, Dave's artwork, and most importantly, his underwear! Electronics, of course, are long gone, as are most of the clothes. Good thing insurance will replace all that is missing!



We send our heartfelt thanks to the anonymous "Friends in Marine Science" who donated a Wal-Mart gift certificate to help us out. It was a truly generous gesture which we'll try to return somehow in the future. -Mark and Dave



Bayboro Cafe

As you may be aware, Atwater's Hospitality Academy has replaced Orange Blossom Catering as the food suppliers for Bayboro Cafe. On a recent lunchtime visit with two friends, we found a very disorganized atmosphere with few selections.



There is very little "grab and go" food. Instead, one must wait on line and ask what is available that day. All three of us were told that they did not have the various food items we wanted, and it was only 12:30 p.m. A recent article in the *St. Petersburg Times* stated that the cafeteria would have chicken (baked or fried), lemonade, and sweet potato pie every day, but this was not the case. When asked about desserts, one server seemed very unsure about what was available. The food that we did eat was just average. We asked several other diners what they thought about the food, and everyone seemed to have similar

feelings. A big menu board stating the day's offerings might facilitate the process. Hopefully, Atwater's is still adjusting to servicing a large number of people, and the service and food will improve over time. On a positive note, however, I have no complaints about the view. As I ate my lunch, I was able to observe several topless men playing water volleyball!

Under the Sea

On Friday afternoon (Aug. 8), Greta, Michael C., Michele and Johan left the comfort of St. Petersburg for three days of diving in the Keys, a trip organized by the Tampa SCUBA Club. Unlike the 15 Tampa students, we were wimps and preferred the luxury of a small apartment (with kitchen) to camping at the America Outdoors campsite in Key Largo. It wasn't a tough decision. Thinking about the Tampa people spending the night on hard limestone and struggling with sand- and bug-ridden SCUBA equipment (while we enjoyed beach hammocks and the outdoor pool after rinsing our equipment in the privacy of our own bathroom) made our decision easy. It was worth every extra penny we spent.

On Saturday, we got up early to drive the 70 miles to Big Pine Key where we caught a dive boat from Underseas Inc. for two morning dives at the Looe Key Marine Sanctuary. Coral-filled limestone canyons harboring an astounding variety of marine life (all at less than 35 ft) made the two-hour bottom time one of our best dives. Especially beautiful were the many species of angelfish, parrotfish, a rare Nassau grouper, schools of glassy sweepers by the thousands, and a small loggerhead turtle.

The rest of the day, we shopped and ate in Key West. Then it was back again for two more dives at the same site - one at dusk and one in the pitch black dark of night. During this last dive, Greta and Michael rudely disturbed the slumber of a large nurse shark.

After four dives and a long drive back, we were exhausted but got right back at it the next morning. This time, we stayed on Key Largo for two dives with Aquanuts in the the John Pennekamp area. This time it was a very different underwater scene - many more branched corals and relief patterns. The numerous caverns made these dives exceptional. The rest of the day, we relaxed by the pool.

Monday morning we were back at Aquanuts to dive the DUANE, a Coast Guard cutter that sits in 120 ft of water (deck at 100 ft). After some attempts by the Dive Master to dissuade those with advanced certification, the ripping current that cost Michele a fin and threatened to tear off masks at the slightest turn of the head and the effects of nitrogen narcosis made this a difficult dive indeed. Nevertheless we were glad to have the experience. Our trip concluded with one more dive in shallow water where Johan and Michele saw their first nurse shark.

We thank the Tampa SCUBA Club and Sophie Hill for organizing this trip. Next year they are planning a trip to Cozumel, Mexico! It will cost about \$600 including airfare, hotel and 5 days of diving (10 dives). We'll keep you posted.

Philosophical Cerebration

Old MSL Copy Machine: Useless Relic or Scientific Ouiji Board?

What do the paper jams in the old MSL copy machine mean? This question would tax the most seasoned philosophers to the point of complete cerebral core dump breakdown, but I have figured it out.

The jams are not due to the fact that 80% of the originals are journals smaller than 8 1/2 by 11 that leave a rim of toner on the copies, which soils the rollers. It is not that the machine must contend with hundreds of users, each with their own personal style of use. It could be that the machine senses a universal feeling of unappreciation from its users, but the personification of the copy machine could be a topic for another issue so I'll leave that alone. It could be that the repair man has been planting little bugs to keep up his work load, but I've got a better idea.

Much like the Chinese fortune tellers who drink wisdom from the tea leaves in the bottom of a tea cup, scientists can use jam area numbers to describe nature. For example, the next time you go to the copier room with too many articles that you have to read -- and you know that you will never be able to read all of them -- ask the following question: Which ones should I read? Step forth to the old copier with confidence, and by virtue of copy jams the answer will be given.



to all contributors!

Note to Steve H., Ann, and Terri: Thanks so much for the suggestions/ideas. Hopefully I'll have the time, space, and resources to use them in the next issue. :)

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The Oracle of the Marine Science Advisory Committee

Editor.....	K. Kusek
New Research to News Release.....	(source)M. Reich
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Note: Place all submissions in my mailbox (Kusek). Just remember that all material is subject to revision for length, grammar, style, and idea content.

