ROSENSTIEL PROFESSOR
FIRST-EVER FEMALE SCIENTIST NAMED CRUISE SHIP ‘GODMOTHER’

Celebrity Cruises announced that the Godmother of the most widely-heralded cruise ship to enter the market this year, Celebrity Solstice, is Rosenstiel professor of Marine Biology and Fisheries, Dr. Sharon L. Smith. The first ocean scientist ever to serve as Godmother of a cruise ship, Dr. Smith and Celebrity Cruises executives christened the brand’s sleek, 2,850-guest ship in formal ceremonies at Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. on November 23.

(Continued on page 2)

SOUNDINGS IS FOR

Soundings is the monthly school newsletter for faculty, students, alumni, and staff like Raymond (Ret) Turner, who has been working as a Senior Systems Engineer at the Rosenstiel School for nearly six years.

What attracted you to the Rosenstiel School?
I was really excited about the opportunity to contribute to the development of CSTARS. At the time it was a new venture with great potential to help science, and I wanted to be part of making it a success, and learn more about remote sensing and the science to be derived from the data we collect. Also, the prospect of experiencing a new climate (both physically and socially) had some appeal. I went from mountains to beach, and industry to academia when I took this job.

Do you have any hobbies?
I had to give up snow skiing when I moved here, but have recently taken up sailing. I would say restoring old cars as well, but considering my TR6 restoration hasn’t progressed in nearly a decade, to say I provide sanctuary for old cars would be more accurate. Also like to travel, cook, and enjoy wines and visiting wineries.

(Continued on page 2)
A biological oceanographer, Smith has traveled the world on research expeditions from Polar Regions to the Arabian Sea. She has devoted her career to studying some of the smallest components of food webs, with a particular focus on zooplankton and how their life cycles are tuned to physical forces, such as day length in the Arctic or summer monsoons in the Arabian Sea. These tiny animals are the biggest source of protein in the oceans, and all oceanic animals – from seabirds to small fish to whales – are ultimately dependent on them for food. Smith investigates ecosystems by looking at how ocean physics shapes the availability of food supply, and the effects global warming is having on food for birds, fish, and baleen whales, among other animals.

Due in equal parts to her courage and her instincts as a scientist, Smith overcame cancer in 1993, and again in 1996. An annual mammogram in 1993 turned up a two-millimeter cancerous lesion, about the size of a pencil point. She opted for a mastectomy, and emerged victorious over the disease. In 1996, she was diagnosed with cancer for a second time. But won that battle, too.

Smith’s story is a powerful example of the critical need for basic breast-cancer screenings – and the reason why Celebrity Solstice, in partnership with United Way, raised $100,000 for breast cancer programs to assist lower-income women who otherwise couldn’t afford this simple measure that ultimately could save their lives.

Smith served 15 years at the prestigious Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, New York, studying coastal ocean environments and the impact of nuclear energy projects. In 1993, she joined the faculty of the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) as a professor of Marine Biology and Fisheries. Recently, she was named RSMAS assistant dean of the undergraduate program, and also co-directs the university’s Oceans and Human Health Center. Congratulations on this amazing and well-deserved honor!

Smith thought it was a perfect time in our lives to move to Miami and begin the journey in one of (if not the best) marine schools in the country. Everything seemed to fall in to place after I was not only accepted to the University of Miami, but also accepted as an intern in the South Florida Student Shark Program. I have worked as an intern before while I was working on my psychology degree in Texas, so I was pretty sure I would be doing a lot of data entry and paperwork. After my first drumline trip in the summer of 2008, I realized just how wrong I was.

We boarded a boat at the Crandon Marina and were given a rundown on what we would be doing. All I kept thinking was, “there is no way I could possibly be lucky enough to see an actual shark!” I was so wrong. I had been told that if we caught a shark at all, it was most likely going to be a nurse shark. After chopping up the bait and dropping the drumlines in various locations in Biscayne Bay, we circled back around to see if we had a shark on the first one. As we pulled up the line I noticed it was pretty tight. After a few seconds of reeling in the line, there it was. An eight-foot great hammerhead on the hook! My first instinct was to scream with excitement and immediately start taking pictures. I knew it was a big deal as I noticed Neil and the other ‘veteran’ interns doing the same thing! I felt as though I was dreaming the whole thing. The shark was carefully brought onto the boat where we tagged it, measured it and released it back into the water. I even got a chance to be a part of the action! I vividly remember the texture of the shark; it was rough, and the head was enormous. After we released it, we picked up the rest of the drumlines and caught two more bull sharks that evening.
I drove home that night with the strong feeling that my life had been changed forever. I was finally in Miami doing what I was always meant to do. I feel very blessed to be a part of the SFSSP and have learned more in the past few months than I could have ever even imagined learning in a classroom. Being that close to such an elusive creature changes you. I have more respect for the sharks and marine life in general now. The South Florida Student Shark Program has been the greatest outlet for students, just like me, to get a real hands-on education about these animals. As endangered animals, it is so important that research continues in order to preserve these magnificent creatures. It is truly amazing how one great hammerhead has changed my life as well as my perspective on how important research is to shark conservation and our understanding of the oceans.

**About the South Florida Student Shark Program (SFSSP):**

The South Florida Student Shark Program (SFSSP) is a collaborative, multi-disciplinary research and education program supporting the career development for graduate, undergraduate as well as high school students. Directed by University of Miami Associate Professor Dr. David Die and Neil Hammerschlag, the SFSSP is a partnership among the University of Miami Rosenstiel School, The Explorers Club, the NOAA LMRCSC & the Herbert W. Hoover Foundation. Focusing on the study and conservation of Floridian shark species, mangrove fish habitat and the Florida watershed, the program encourages students to take an active role in modern scientific education & research. The SFSSP’s full-immersion approach allows students to actively grow as future scientists, while supporting the important ongoing research crucial to shark conservation. To learn more visit: [http://cufer.rsmas.miami.edu/wordpress/?page_id=105](http://cufer.rsmas.miami.edu/wordpress/?page_id=105)

**All images courtesy of the SFSSP**
ISOPORA OR ISN’T IT?

What began as an homage to achievement in the field of coral reef geology has evolved into the discovery of an unexpected link between corals of the Pacific and Atlantic. Dr. Ann F. Budd from the University of Iowa and Dr. Donald McNeill of the University of Miami named a new species of fossil coral found on the island of Curacao – some six million years old – after renowned coral reef geologist and UM Rosenstiel School professor, Dr. Robert N. Ginsburg. The new species, originally thought to be an elkhorn coral (genus *Acropora*), a species widely distributed throughout the Caribbean, was christened *Acropora ginsburgi* in 1995 on Ginsburg’s 70th birthday. Having great difficulty distinguishing fossil acroporid species, Budd elicited the help of Dr. Carden C. Wallace of the Museum of Tropical Queensland, Australia, who recognized why a positive identification had been so challenging – the genus was not *Acropora* after all, but a Pacific acroporid genus named *Isopora*.

Detailed in the journal *Palaeontology*, scientists sampled 67 localities around Curacao, Netherlands Antilles and discovered two new species – *Isopora ginsburgi* and *Isopora curacaoensis*. The coral genus *Isopora*, a sister group of the modern dominant *Acropora*, until now was only known from the Pliocene to Recent eras of the Indo-Pacific. Study of large collections made systematically throughout the area indicates that *Isopora* first occurred in the Caribbean during the Mio–Pliocene, at approximately the same time as the origination of many modern Caribbean reef coral dominants including *Acropora cervicornis*, the well known “staghorn coral.” The occurrences of *Isopora* reported in this study are the oldest records of *Isopora* worldwide, and are important for understanding the biogeographic separation between reef coral faunas in the Caribbean and Indo-Pacific regions.

“We now know that *Isopora* last occurred in the region during the late Pliocene, a million years ago as part of a pulse of extinction, in which several genera that live today in the Indo-Pacific became extinct in the Caribbean,” said Budd, “This research has further illuminated that these corals co-occurred with the two abundant modern Caribbean species of elkhorn and staghorn corals *Acropora* (*A. cervicornis* and *A. palmate*), often living side-by-side with the two newly-evolved common Caribbean reef corals.”

Ginsburg, an explorer, world-class sedimentary geologist, educator and coral reef conservationist, received his bachelor’s degree at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and his doctoral degree at the University of Chicago. He has been associated with the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science since the 1950s, and served as a long-time member of the Geological Society of America’s Committee on the History of Geology.

“It is certainly an honor to have a fossil of Pacific coral from the Caribbean named after me,” said Ginsburg. “This discovery marks a milestone in my career, and serves as a special tribute to the decades of research I have done on these amazing animals which are so critical to our coral reefs.”
ANNUAL RSMAS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

Graduate students from the Rosenstiel School were presented with awards recognizing their scholarly achievement, and received fellowships to help further their education on Friday, November 14. Congratulations to the following students!

Koczy Fellowship
Noel Gourmelen

F.G. Walton Smith Prize
Irina Rypina

Dean's Prize
Xaymara Serrano

Frank J. Millero Prize
Rebecca Albright

RSMAS Alumni Fellowships
Adam Greer

Mary Roche Fellowship
Mareva Chanson

Don deSylva Memorial Award
Neil Hammerschlag
Evan D'Alessandro

Iversen Award for Aquaculture
John Stieglitz
Ron Hoening

Maytag Fellowships
Nancy Muehllehner
Kevin Brix

RSMAS Fellowships
Will Komaromi
Laura Fiorentino
Ashley Wallace
Ed Tinney
Nathan Vaughan
Monica Arienzo

University of Miami Fellowships
Patrick Meyers
David Weinstein
Yoon Ja Kang
Ross Cunning

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Fellowships
Quinn Devlin and Lauren Ordway

IMBER IMBIZO

Drs. Dennis Hansell and Sharon Smith participated on the scientific organizing committee for the IMBER IMBiZO, a weeklong scientific conference November 9 -13 at the Mayfair Hotel & Spa in Coconut Grove, Fla. IMBER stands for Integrated Marine Biogeochemistry and Ecosystem Research, a project of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) and the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR). IMBiZO is a Zulu word for ‘meeting or gathering’, used here to indicate the international and collegial nature of the meeting.

The goal of IMBER is “to investigate the sensitivity of marine biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems to global change, on time scales ranging from years to decades.” To achieve this goal scientists are identifying key interactions between marine biogeochemical cycles and ecosystems, and assessing how these interactions respond to complex natural and anthropogenic forcings.

The first IMBER IMBiZO contributed to this goal by reviewing current knowledge and identifying key questions for future research on end-to-end marine food webs, and the biogeochemistry and ecosystems of both the mesopelagic (200 to 1000 m) and the bathypelagic ocean (in the context of this meeting, >1000 m). The gathering also provided an opportunity for junior and senior scientists to participate in a half-day interactive workshop entitled “BEER” (Being Efficient and Environmentally Responsible), which addressed the handling and protection of data in marine research. Each of the workshops are now preparing a special issue of a journal, containing synthesis and primary research papers resulting from the workshop contributions and discussions.

Members of the local organizing committee who made the event a success included: Sandrine Apelbaum, Sidney Hartley, Julie Hollenbeck and Dr. Sharon Smith.
‘OCEAN KIDS’ FIN-TASTIC!

The inaugural program was split into two sessions, 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., each session hosting nearly 50 students each from Dunbar Elementary in Overtown, and Holmes Elementary in Liberty City. Dr. Jill Richardson, Co-Founder of Future Interests in Nature and the Sea (F.I.N.SEA) Foundation and a lecturer at the UM Rosenstiel School, stressed how important it is to educate students in underprivileged areas around Miami about environmental awareness. Richardson hopes the event creates a trickle-down effect, creating marine life interest and curiosity in the siblings and families of students who attended the event.

Both Rho Rho Rho and the Marine Mammal Stranding Team at UM worked diligently for months with the F.I.N.SEA Foundation and the Rosenstiel School to ensure the success of this event. There were a total of 10 activity stations, including a touch tank of live marine organisms, bottom left, a squid dissection, bottom left and center and a snorkeling and a scuba gear demonstration.

Mayor Don Slesnick II of the City of Coral Gables; Dr. Essi S. Pace, Regional Superintendent, Miami-Dade Public Schools; Gabriel Walton, President, Kids and Culture/Chair, UM United Black Students; and Kaitlin Birghenthal, Rho, Rho, Rho Secretary and Co-Chair of Ocean Kids, were on hand to provide inspiration and support during the event.

With help from companies like Publix, which donated 100 green-friendly grocery bags to use as goody bags for the children, and the support of the Miami Seaquarium, O.N.E. World Enterprises, Aqua Leisure, and the UM Sustainability Department, the inaugural Ocean Kids event was a success. The group is continuously looking for support to ensure that future events are a success. To learn more about Ocean Kids and how to get involved, go to www.finsea.org.
DIVE INTO AQUACULTURE

The Aquaculture Program at the Rosenstiel School plays a major role in aquaculture development, consultation and participation, technology transfer of marine fish hatchery and growout for commercial operations around the globe. Placing an emphasis on close collaboration with academic and research institutions, industry leaders, environmental organizations, government agencies and regulators, research conducted at the Rosenstiel School is helping to advance hatchery and growout technology in the United States and beyond.

Visit the group’s new web site, http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/groups/aquaculture/, for explanations of research techniques, coursework, publications and multimedia of the hatchery.

Special thanks to Dr. Daniel Benetti, Barbra Gonzalez, Christian Howard, Oana Ioncel, Angel Li, Bruno Sardenberg, Ian Zink and the entire Aquaculture group for their help in putting together the new interactive site.

HARDING MICHELE LECTURE SERIES FEATURES DR. JODY DEMING

Dr. Jody Deming, professor of Biological Oceanography at the University of Washington, gave the 2008 Harding Michele Lecture at the Rosenstiel School this month. Her presentation, “Of Ice and Microbes: A Brief Journey Through Icy Worlds of Our Solar System,” relayed much of what she has learned from her travels and research in the Arctic and her belief that the potential for microbial life on ice laden planets is logical if we consider the abundance of microorganisms growing beneath the frozen landscapes of our own Earth. Deming is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, the highest honor a US scientist receives, for her work on microbes in extreme environments. Fellow Arctic explorers Drs. Peter Minnett (left) and Sharon Smith (right) welcomed Deming (center) to the Rosenstiel School.

RSMAS STUDENTS TAPPED IN NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to Tauna Rankin (MBF) and Kathryn Shulzitski (MBF) on being tapped into the Alpha Epsilon Lambda National Honor Society for Graduate and Professional School Students!

Alpha Epsilon Lambda was founded in 1990 by former officers of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) specifically to honor the academic excellence and leadership of graduate and professional school students. There are now thirty chapters across the United States. The Beta Chapter of the University of Miami was chartered on April 27th, 1992, and was the second chapter of AEL chartered nationwide.

The mission of Alpha Epsilon Lambda is to: 1) confer distinction for high achievement, 2) promote leadership development, 3) promote scholarship and encourage intellectual development, 4) enrich the intellectual environment of graduate educational institutions, and 5) encourage high standards of ethical behavior. Each semester, the Beta Chapter selects members from a pool of nominees who meet the following criteria: 1) is a graduate, law, or medical student, or an alumnus, administrator, faculty, or staff member, 2) is in the top 35% academically in his/her class, 3) has completed a minimum of 9 credits towards a graduate degree, and 4) has shown exemplary leadership and character, including service to the University of Miami graduate student body and service to the public interest at large.

For more information, please visit: http://www6.miami.edu/ael/

Submitted by: Kelly L. Jackson
GETTING TO KNOW ‘U’

A new “Student Snapshots” page on the RSMAS site (http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/grad-studies/GettingToKnowU/) has been created to provide potential students with information about the different opportunities available at the Rosenstiel School. The site offers brief glimpses into a diverse selection of research studies through brief interviews with current graduate and undergraduate students. Students answer questions about how they became interested in science, why they chose the University of Miami and the Rosenstiel School, and how they manage to balance academics and extracurricular life.

The site will be updated throughout the semester, so stay tuned for academic year statistics and information on applying to the University of Miami. Also feel free to send your information to choward@rsmas.miami.edu for inclusion on the page. Special thanks to Christian Howard, Oana Ioncel, Angel Li, Susan Mac Mahon and the students who are profiled for helping to create the new site!

PHOTO GALLERY

2008 MSGSO HALLOWEEN PARTY
LIBRARY LINES

New computers in RSMAS Library! The library has four new Mac-Mini computers with wide cinema display monitors. MS Office Suite software, as well as Adobe Acrobat Professional is installed on each workstation and at your disposal. Two PC workstations offer the same software. The library has two older Macs that can be used for email.

Mark your calendars! Upcoming Web of Science/RefWorks information session. Angela Clark (aclark@rsmas.miami.edu) will lead a session on how to best search Web of Science (basic subject searching) and capture records in RefWorks. Look for this announcement in your email.

ROSENSTIEL AWARD WINNER RECOGNIZED FOR INFLUENTIAL PAPER

A paper by renowned Professor of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Dr. Dennis J. McGillicuddy, has been recognized by Essential Science Indicators (ESI) as a Fast Breaking Paper in the field of Geosciences, which means it is one of the most-cited papers in its discipline published during the past two years. McGillicuddy was the winner of the 2008 Rosenstiel Award, which recognizes mid-career scientists who are making significant contributions to science.

The paper entitled “Eddy/wind interactions stimulate extraordinary mid-ocean plankton blooms” was published in the journal Science on May 18th, 2007. This unique and comprehensive compilation of science performance statistics and science trends data is based on journal article publication counts and citation data from the Thomson Reuters scientific database. Available as a ten-year rolling file, ESI covers 10 million articles in 22 specific fields of research, and is updated every two months.

Essential Science Indicators is a resource that enables researchers to conduct ongoing, quantitative analyses of research performance and track trends in science. Covering a multidisciplinary selection of 11,000+ journals from around the world, this in-depth analytical tool offers data for ranking scientists, institutions, countries, and journals.
FACILITIES UPDATE

New Pier Opens
The Rosenstiel School is celebrating the successful completion of the construction of its ~3,313 sq. ft. pier on Virginia Key, Fla. The new structure replaces the original pier that was damaged in Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma. From concept to completion, the project took almost three years, at a cost of nearly $800,000. The new design employs the latest building technology, and the concrete construction makes it stronger, more durable, and more accessible for repairs. The pier accommodates the School's 96-foot research catamaran, the R/V F.G. Walton Smith, and has slips for four smaller scientific vessels.

The Grand Opening will honor design engineer Robert Samara, P.E., builder Bunnell Foundations and the Rosenstiel School's Facilities team. Special thanks to UM Provost Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc; UM Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning, Mark Diaz; UM Rosenstiel School Dean, Otis Brown; UM Rosenstiel School Facilities Director, Ray Alfonso; and, Joe Folino, recently retired UM Associate Vice-President of Facilities Planning and Design Construction for their leadership on this project.

RSMAS GETS UM STUDENT GOVERNMENT REP

Ashley Schenk, a Marine Science/Biology undergraduate at UM, was just announced as the Rosenstiel School student representative for Student Government. This position is new this year, as the Rosenstiel School has assumed administrative control of the undergraduate program from the UM College of Arts and Sciences. Best of luck to Ashley in her new duties!

LISA KRIMSKY JOINS SEA GRANT OFFICE

The Rosenstiel community may be familiar with Florida Sea Grant's role in research; however, we are probably less familiar with their Extension Program, often referred to as Sea Grant's “best-kept secret.” The Florida Sea Grant Extension Program provides informal marine education, develops public awareness of resource management and conservation, transfers new technology to those who can use it, conducts applied research that benefits marine users, and serves as a link between scientific research and the community.

As the Miami-Dade County Extension Agent housed on the Rosenstiel School's campus, Lisa Krimsky works with the local community on coastal and marine issues specific to our area. Partners and clients include state and federal agencies, local businesses, stakeholders, and the general public. Krimsky's program areas include: marine stewardship, water quality, coastal habitats, recreational and commercial fisheries, boater education, and resources for educators and youth.

Krimsky's office is located on the first floor of CIMAS, and she looks forward to working with both students and faculty to share the wealth of knowledge she acquires at the Rosenstiel School with the South Florida community in which we belong.

Florida Sea Grant's motto is “Science Serving Florida's Coast” and its mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of the state's coastal and marine resources to create a sustainable economy and environment. It does this by using a combination of research, education, and extension activities.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT PAPER

Congratulations to Kim Psencik who won the Outstanding Student Paper Award in the Geodesy Section for the spring AGU meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
Rosenstiel Alumnus Rises To Baking Challenge

Edgar Rudberg

The 43rd Pillsbury Bake-Off® Contest hosted one hundred talented and creative cooks from across the country in Dallas, Texas this year, where they had the opportunity to show off their culinary skills and be given the chance to become a millionaire. Rosenstiel School alum, 29-year-old Edgar Rudberg won $5,000, a GE Profile™ Double Oven Freestanding Range with PreciseAir™ Convection and two self-clean ovens for his ‘Salmon Pastries with Dill Pesto’ entry in the “Entertaining Appetizers” category. Rudberg is currently a doctoral student at the University of Minnesota studying natural resources science and management. He also runs a company, Verde Strategies, which refurbishes 55-gallon drums into rain barrels.

Rudberg graduated with a B.A. in Biology and minor in Communications from Gustavus Adolphus College in Saint Peter, Minnesota. He taught environmental education before and while attending the University of Miami, Florida where he obtained a M.A. in Environmental Policy. After graduating from the University of Miami, Rudberg worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Clean Water Action and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The Pillsbury Bake-Off® Contest originated in 1949, with the first competition at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City. The contest was held annually from 1949 to 1978, when it switched to an every-other-year schedule. You can find Rudberg’s winning recipe at the link below:


Southern Miss Professor Recognized for Lifetime of Scientific Achievement

Dr. Robin Overstreet, marine parasitologist at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and professor in the Department of Coastal Sciences, recently received The University of Southern Mississippi’s prestigious Innovation Lifetime Achievement Award. With more than 40 years experience, Overstreet is internationally recognized as a world authority on fish parasites and disease. He has traveled the world in his quest for new knowledge about parasites and pathobiology and is credited with the discovery of hundreds of new species. Overstreet received his bachelor’s degree in general biology from The University of Oregon in 1963, and his master’s (1966, MBF) and doctorate (1968) from The University of Miami’s Institute of Marine Sciences.

Divers Invited To Join CCMI Coral Reef Study

Oceanographer and Rosenstiel alumna, Dr. Carrie Manfrino (Ph.D., 1996 MGG), the president and founder of CCMI, will lead the research project.

For the full article: http://www.caymannetnews.com/article.php?news_id=11080
IN REMEMBRANCE

The Rosenstiel School would like to honor the following friends, researchers and alumni who have recently passed away.

Dr. Warren Scriver Wooster, former dean of the Rosenstiel School
Dr. Warren Wooster passed away in his sleep on October 29, at 87 years of age. He was a chemical and physical oceanographer (B.S. Brown 1943, M.S. Cal. Tech. 1947, Ph.D. Scripps Institute of Oceanography, University of California 1953), later a fisheries oceanographer, and from 1976-1991 was a professor of marine studies and fisheries at the School of Marine Affairs of the University of Washington, from which he retired as Emeritus Professor.

For many decades on the national and international stages he struggled to bring oceanography and fisheries closer together. He published about 50 papers on oceanography including fisheries and more than 40 on marine affairs. He was an efficient but tactful, persuasive and patient negotiator on many planes, not easily discouraged by adversity, and trusted by students and colleagues at home and abroad.

He distinguished himself in many facets of ocean science and held the offices of: Director de Investigacion, Consejo de Investigaciones Hidrobiologicas of Peru (1957-58); first Secretary of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Office of Oceanography (1961-63); chairman of the Graduate Department of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography (1967-1969); Dean of the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, University of Miami, FL (1973-76); first Secretary of the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research (SCOR) of the International Council for Scientific Unions (1963-67) and President (1968-73); Chairman of the Ocean Sciences Board of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council (1978-81); President of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea of 1901 (ICES, 1982-85); and Director of the Institute of Marine Science, University of Washington (1979-82). Finally, he was the principal founder (and widely recognized as father) of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization of 1992 (PICES, for Pacific ICES) and served as its first chairman (1992-96). He was a fellow of the American Geophysical Union and the American Meteorological Society.

Alfred C. Glassell, Jr., philanthropist and entrepreneur
A renaissance man and philanthropist equally at home in the fields of energy, art and sportfishing, Alfred Glassell was instrumental in the Rosenstiel School's early development, epitomized most by the research laboratory building on campus named in his honor. After an extended illness, he passed away this month at the age of 95.

Born in 1913 in Cuba Plantation near Shreveport, La. Glassell graduated from Louisiana State University in 1934 with a history degree, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and then moved to Houston in 1945. Glassell was a pioneer in the energy industry and a guiding light for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), as well as multiple other cultural and educational organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution. One of his proudest accomplishments, however, was catching a record-setting 1,560-pound black marlin off the coast of Peru in 1953. It remains the largest marlin ever caught. A model of Glassell's marlin now hangs in the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural Sciences' oceanic exhibit. The exhibit includes footage of Glassell catching the fish with a hand-held rod and reel that was used in the 1958 film The Old Man and the Sea.

Art lovers remember Glassell for his decades of service to Houston's fine-arts museum. First elected to the board of trustees in 1970, he became its chairman in 1990. Glassell's passion for art was inspired by his world travels. He collected West African gold — such as personal adornments and ceremonial regalia — and gave it to the MFAH. The Alfred C. Glassell Collection of African Gold, as it is known, occupies its own galleries in the MFAH's Caroline Wiess Law Building. MFAH curator Frances Marzio said Glassell assembled the greatest collection of African gold in the world. Portions of the renowned collection have been borrowed by museums across the globe, including the Pushkin in Moscow. He was also an early contributor and supporter of the Museum of African Art that is a part of the Smithsonian.

A lifelong advocate for marine biology research, Glassell organized scientific expeditions aboard his vessel, the Argosy, for Yale University and for the University of Miami.  

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IN REMEMBRANCE

(Continued from page 12)

Dr. H. Gray Multer, visiting lecturer at University of Miami

Gray Multer earned his A.B. and M.S. degrees from Syracuse University and was employed for two years as a petroleum geologist with the Texaco Oil Company in California. After he earned a Ph.D. from Ohio State University, Dr. Multer had a thirty-year career as Professor of Geology, first at the College of Wooster in Ohio and then at Fairleigh Dickinson University where he was founding Chairman of its Department of Geology on the Madison, NJ campus and founding Director of its marine laboratory in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. Multer also lectured at the Danforth Foundation, was Visiting Professor at the University of Miami and Bermuda Biological Laboratory, was Director of National Science Foundation-sponsored Short Courses for College Teachers and a Fulbright Scholar and Senior Professor at Marburg University in Germany.


Multer authored or co-authored over 70 scientific publications and several books. He received the 1985 John Moss Award for Excellence in College Teaching and a 2008 Honorary Membership from the International Society for Reef Studies for his distinguished coral reef research and service to the society. In retirement he continued research in Antigua and the Florida Keys, he also served as consulting environmental geologist on various projects in the U.S. and overseas. Whenever possible he volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Dr. Shen Wang, professor

Former Rosenstiel School faculty member, Dr. Shen Wang passed away at the age of 78 at Massachusetts General Hospital. Wang was a professor within the School's division of Ocean Engineering (currently part of Applied Marine Physics) in the 1980's. His work focused on hydrodynamics and ocean structures, wave statistics, channel navigation, as well as floating and submerged vehicle dynamics.

Prior to joining the University of Miami he served as chief scientist and associate director of marine engineering at Tetra Tech, Inc., working on marine vessel analysis and design. Wang was also employed with Litton Ship Systems, as head of their scientific section, where he oversaw activities in the area of ship performance, motion stabilization, seakeeping, maneuvering and model testing for DD-963 class ships for the U.S. Navy. He also previously was a naval architect at the US Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Carderock, Md.

Widely published, Wang received both his master's and doctoral degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During his career he held memberships in: the Society of Naval Architects & Marine Engineers (SNAME), where he was a panel member on analytical ship wave relations (Panel H-5); the International Associate for Hydraulic Research; and Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society. Wang’s noteworthy achievements also earned him a nomination for the SNAME 1980 Vice Admiral E. L. Cochran Award.

Warren “Mickey” Zeiller, marine enthusiast

Warren Zeiller, a past leader of the Florida Attractions Association who helped support the development of the Rosenstiel School and its South Florida Student Shark Program, passed away on November 4. He worked most closely with the Rosenstiel School in his role as Treasurer of the Explorers Club of Southern Florida.

Zeiller held a B.S. degree from Colorado State University and a M.A. in Business from Michigan State University. After his service in the U.S. Navy as a submariner, he was employed by the Miami Seaquarium for 25 years. During his tenure there he worked as a diver, announcer, trainer and general manager of the Miami Seaquarium. He later served as the director of the Tropical Everglades Visitor Association from 1987-1997.

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IN REMEMBRANCE
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Ruthie Brescher, former Rosenstiel School employee

Ruthie Brescher, who was a member of the Rosenstiel School community for more than 42 years, has passed away. Ruthie attended Trenton State in New Jersey and began her career with the University of Miami in the 1960’s in the cancer research division located on the University’s south campus near MetroZoo. She worked there, and briefly near Jackson Memorial for about two years, before meeting Dr. Shale Niskin at a dinner party. Rose “Bunny” Cefalu told her of a job at the lab that had recently been vacated by Britt Marie Potter. Shale recommended Ruthie to Dr. Gote Ostlund who was running the School’s C14 laboratory and needed a technician to help analyze seawater.

According to co-worker Rick Oleson, Ruthie’s expertise grew with the laboratory, and when the lab was ready to expand from C14 into Tritium, she helped Dr. Ostlund establish the protocols still in use today. “She took a complicated job and made it look easy.”

Charlene Grall who worked with her for 25 years said Brescher was an extremely hard-working woman, who was the backbone of the Tritium Laboratory for many years. Adele Tallman met Ruth while bird watching, and later enjoyed the friendship of both Ruth and her husband, Mike. Avid sailors, Mike and Ruthie celebrated their wedding with friends and family with an evening sail on Biscayne Bay onboard the catamaran, Yellowbird. At one of the many events the couple attended at the Rosenstiel School, Mike recalls Dr. Walton Smith’s counsel to them on how to catch the Gulfstream “Just head due east … until you are swept north.”

According to Zafer Top, “Ruthie was probably the longest serving staff member at RSMAS at her retirement in 2005. She was very attached to her task at the Tritium Lab. Her husband Mike, who was the dock master at Crandon Marina for 10 years, spent a lot of time at The Commons and was considered a part of the Rosenstiel family too.”

ALUMNI UPDATE

Continue to enjoy reading about your former classmates, and let us at the Rosenstiel School know where you are and what you’ve been doing, by sharing news about yourself in a future issue of Soundings. Your contact data will update our listing in our Rosenstiel School Alumni Directory. Submit your contact information and latest news by accessing:

http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/alumni/update.cgi

THE LAST WORD

“A good scientist is a person in whom the childhood quality of perennial curiosity lingers on. Once he gets an answer, he has other questions.”

-Frederick Seitz, American physicist and a pioneer of solid-state physics.