



Seawords

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
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Seawords

The monthly newsletter of the Marine Option Program at the University of Hawai'i
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Coming up in the next issues...

The Marine Technology Society dinner and the PACON Conference.

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Volume XVIII, Number 6, June, 2004

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Seawords - Marine Option Program

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Seawords is a monthly newsletter of the Marine Option Program at the University of Hawai'i. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Option Program or of the University of Hawai'i.

Suggestions and submissions are welcome. Submissions can include articles, photographs, art work, or pretty much anything that would be of interest to the marine community in Hawai'i and around the world.

The Seawords staff are: Brian Richardson (Editor), Doreen Seaton (Associate Editor), Matt Thompson (Assistant Editor), and Dr. Sherwood Maynard (éminence gris).

Highlights from the Website

Selected MOP and Hawai'i Events

June 19th, Exploring the Reef by Day at the Waikiki Aquarium

June 25th, Aquarium After Dark at the Waikiki Aquarium

July 9th, Overnight with the Sharks at the Waikiki Aquarium

August 2nd to 13th, Coral Molecular Biology Techniques Workshop, to be held at Coconut Island. Contact Dr. Teresa Lewis at email: <tdlewis@hawaii.edu> for more information.

More events can be accessed through MOP's page <<http://www2.hawaii.edu/mop>>. Marine-related jobs can be accessed at <<http://www2.hawaii.edu/mop/career.html>>

The Mānoa MOP Aquarium needs your help!!! If you can volunteer some time to keep the aquarium healthy, contact Andi at 956-8433 or stop by the MOP Office.



June, 2004

Oahu MOP Graduation Spring, 2004

by Brian Richardson

Friday, May 16th, marked the end of another semester for MOPers, and the 66th graduation ceremony marking the completion of MOP certificates for Oahu MOP students.

The ceremony this semester was held at the newly-renovated Hawai'i Hall at the Mānoa Campus. Hawai'i Hall is the oldest building on campus, and, after being attacked by termites and obsolescence, it was completely renovated. In fact, the only thing left from the original building is the outside shell and the foundation.

The group was welcomed by Dr. Sherwood Maynard, who noted how this semester was a "bumper crop" of aspiring alumni. MOP is alive and well at most campuses around the state, and is looking towards an ever-expanding future.



Dr. Andrew Rossiter, the new Director of the Waikiki Aquarium, presented the keynote address at the Spring 2004 MOP Graduation. Duct tape was on hand....

Chuck Hayes, the Interim Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, also offered some brief remarks on MOP, noting how important the program is to the State of Hawai'i, to the University of Hawai'i, and also to all of the individuals that are impacted by those who have gone through the program.

The keynote speaker for this graduation ceremony was Dr. Andrew Rossiter, the new Director of the Waikiki Aquarium. Rossiter was born in Wales and most recently was a senior research scientist and in the Exhibits Section at the Lake Biwa Museum, Japan, where he was the deputy chief of the aquarium. He has been the Director of the UH Waikiki Aquarium Aquarium for less than two weeks.

From dodging a very startled adult brown bear, to surviving a storm in a sinking trawler by duct taping the leaks, Rossiter's stories moved from rivers in Hokkaido, the northernmost island of Japan, to Lake Tanganyika in central Africa, to Lake Baikal in Siberia, which is the oldest and deepest lake in the world.

Rossiter has studied the aquatic life in all these habitats, but has paid special attention to the diversity of life found in ancient lakes — those more than 100,000 years old. The stories were funny, each carried some important messages for graduating students, and reminded everyone how important it is to carry duct tape.

There were seventeen MOP certificates awarded this semester. In fact, two of the new MOP graduates are children of MOP alumni: Gavin Iwai is the son of the first MOP graduate: Tom Iwai, May 1972. Also, Carolyn Choy is the daughter of Joan (Matsuzaki) Choy, who received her MOP certificate at the December 1974 graduation.

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Semester at Sea: The Trip of a Lifetime

By Matt Thompson & Jessica Brayton

What type of program can offer students opportunities to visit the Taj Mahal in India, hear Fidel Castro speak about communism in Cuba, observe the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meeting at the Cape of Good Hope, and stand at the hypocenter of where the atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima, Japan?

Unique in countless ways, the Semester at Sea (SAS) program provides an educational setting that gives undergraduate students the opportunity to sail completely around the world, stopping in many exotic ports along the way. Over the course of the trip, students earn 12 transferable college credits for attending classes taught by a world-class staff of accomplished professors.

This University of Pittsburgh-accredited program has provided more than 37,000 students the unique educational opportunity to travel internationally onboard the S.S. *Universe Explorer* since it first began in 1977.

On March 31st, Jessica Brayton gave an informational presentation about her experience with the SAS program aboard the S.S. *Universe Explorer*, the 23,500-ton American-built steamship that is equipped as a floating university. The fully air-conditioned ocean liner has been transformed into a vessel with many of the facilities and amenities found on a traditional land-based college campus, including: eight classrooms, two buffet-style dining rooms, coffee and snack bar, campus store, library, computer lab, Internet café, theater, basketball and volleyball courts, swimming pool, fitness center, darkroom, and health clinic, along with dormitory-style sleeping accommodations.

During the spring semester of 2003, Jessica departed from the Bahamas, with about 700 other students from many different colleges and universities around the U.S. and abroad, on a voyage of learning and discovery that would take them to 10 different countries around the world. The 106 days spent traveling across the world's oceans, visiting many of the world's wonders, gave Jessica a cross-cultural, global perspective of the modern world and its unique people and cultures.

The on-ship classroom learning experience was reinforced with in-port field trips, led by faculty, that directly related to course topics. Arranged so that students attend classes every day while at sea, the SAS schedule grants students complete freedom to roam as they please while the ship is in port. It is common for students and staff to lose track of days of the week since there is no weekend *per se*; the time at sea is just classified as "A days or B days," which are used to alternate classes.

The ship follows a new itinerary each semester, providing students the unique opportunity to visit some of the most interesting places around the world. The Institute for Shipboard Education (ISE) is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization that is committed to providing an international educational experience for undergraduates. Managing the daily operations of the ship, the ISE works in cooperation with the University of Pittsburgh to provide the academic components of the semester.

The SAS program is rather costly, especially when considering all of the expenditures involved with travel. Visas, immunizations, travel to the first port of call, travel from the port of debarkation and the side trips at each port of call, all involve expenses.

There are a limited amount of scholarships and some financial aid available through the program's alumni



Jessica describing the joys and wonders of a Semester at Sea at an informal presentation held at the Mānoa MOP Student Center. Signe Opheim and Gabriel Austin are to her right.



At one of the ports of call, Jessica is surrounded by penguins at Boulders Beach, near the Cape of Good Hope, in South Africa.

association and the University of Pittsburgh. However, in most cases, financial aid is transferred from a students' home institution.

Each semester, there are 25 students chosen for the highly competitive work grant, which is awarded based on financial need and merit. The work grant is a credit towards a students' tuition that is significantly reduces the cost of the program, in exchange for working 3 hours a day while the ship is at sea.

"I was very fortunate to have been chosen to receive the work grant which essentially enabled me to attend the program," explains Jessica. "I was assigned to work in the Field Office, which is basically an on-board travel agency; it was great because the position counted as one of my required internships for my major, Travel Industry Management."

Consequently, the trip has inspired Jessica to pursue a job that requires international travel, and she will eventually apply to the program for the faculty position as Field Office Coordinator, in the hopes of again having the chance to go on a voyage that can truly be called, a trip of a lifetime.

For more information about the Semester at Sea program, visit: <http://www.semesteratsea.com>.

MOP Graduates & Their Projects

Honolulu Community College

Alexander Garcia, *Biometric and Digital Microscopy*
Evette Mendiha, *Water Quality Monitoring*

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Carolyn Choy, *Marine Photojournalism*
William Edwards, *Underwater Video Documentation*
Cody Hooven, *Sea Turtle Research*
Gavin Iwai, *Aquaculture Development*
Mary Miura, *Development of Web-based Science Curriculum*
Ophelia Ongalibang, *Marine Mammal Health and Disease*
Patricia Perry, *Community Marine Education and Conservation*

Lauren Ku'ulei Vickery, *Marine Field Ecology*

Windward Community College

Beth Hendrix, *Marine Science Education*

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Stephen Barnes, *Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies*
Sara McCutcheon, *Sea Turtle Diet Analysis*
Kara Osada, *Zooplankton Studies*
Chelsie Settlemier, *Ecological Effects on Benthic Dinoflagellates*
Annke Scout, *Pollution at Kapoho Tide Pools*
Kosta Stamoulis, *Juvenile Fish at Kapoho Tide Pools*



A group photo of the Fall 2004 Oahu MOP graduating class. The back row, from left to right: WCC MOP Coordinator Dave Krupp, Beth Hendrix, Patricia Perry, Gavin Iwai, Alexander Garcia, Mary Miura, Cody Hoover, and Signe Opheim. The front row, from left to right: HCC MOP Coordinator Gopal, Ophelia Ongalibang, Andy Schlucker, Mānoa MOP Coordinator, Evette Mendiha, and MOP Director Sherwood Maynard.