

Currents

November, 2006

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Alumni Newsletter of the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

Nora Terwilliger Retires

After 30 years of service to the University of Oregon and OIMB, Professor Nora Terwilliger retired in the spring of this year. She and her husband Bob moved to Charleston in 1971 and lived for a time in a 1940's vintage building (now a storage shed) on the OIMB campus. In the early years, Nora raised two children, taught at the local community college, and served as a research assistant at OIMB. She enrolled in graduate school at the U. of Oregon in 1978 and received her Ph.D. in 1981. In 1989, she became one of the first female faculty members in the Biology Department, which she joined as an associate professor. She was tenured in 1993, served as acting director of OIMB in 1998 and was promoted to Professor in 2000. Nora was honored by the College of Arts and Sciences as an Alumni Fellow and has served on innumerable committees for the university. Nora is known internationally for her work on the structure, function and physiology of respiratory proteins, particularly the hemocyanins of crustaceans. Alumni know her as an enthusiastic teacher of invertebrate biology and physiology. Friends and family met for a special tribute party at the home of Jan Hodder and Mike Graybill (see picture below). Although Nora is officially retired, we will still enjoy her enthusiastic collegiality for the next 5 years. She will continue to teach during one semester each year and her research program remains as active as ever.



Nora's daughter Kelly, sporting one of her trademark invertebrate hats, reminisces about the experience of growing up with biologist parents. Nora (left), Craig Young, Senator Arnie Roblan, Judith Horstman, and Dr. David Towle (Mt. Desert Island Marine Station, Maine) look on.

OIMB Continues to Change



Mike Allman and Rusty Rust (left) frame the roof of a new storage building, now completed, that was built as a partnership with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. South Slough provided most of the funds, OIMB did the construction, and the new space is shared by the two organizations. Excavation work begins (below) for the new NSF-funded visiting scientist residence building behind the dining hall. Shirley Pedro is our new office specialist and Bill Powell is our new custodian.



Visiting Faculty Swell our Ranks

Dr. Ginny Eckert (Univ. of Alaska) and her husband, Matt Jones (Univ. of Calif. Santa Barbara), are spending their sabbatical year on the OIMB campus. Ginny works on the ecology of larval dispersal and recruitment and Matt is a database specialist for the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. Dr. Rachel Mertz (Swarthmore College) also spent several months of her sabbatical at OIMB, working on the mechanics of locomotion within polychaete tubes. Visiting faculty who taught courses here this year included Dr. Janice Voltzow (University of Scranton), Dr. Mike Berer (Cal. State Irvine), Dr. Ronnie Estelle (Colorado State Univ.), Dr. Chuck Wimpee (Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee), Dr. Pete Strutton, Oregon State Univ., Craig Everroad (U. Oregon), Dr. Jeff Goddard (Univ. of California, Santa Barbara) and Dr. Sibel Bargu (Louisiana State University). Dr. Lee Braithwaite brought his large class from B.Y.U. for 6 weeks again this spring. Numerous scientists also came through OIMB for the spring, summer and fall weekly seminar series. This year's McConnaughey Lecture was given by Professor Paul Dayton (Scripps Institution of Oceanography) who also gave a number of other ecology lectures to the OIMB community. The public lecture during summer term was given by Professor Bruce Mate, an OIMB alumnus now at Oregon State Univ.

OIMB Hosts "Larval 2006"

In August, OIMB hosted Larval 2006, the 7th Larval Biology Symposium. This international conference meets every other year and is often attended by OIMB faculty and students who work on aspects of larval development, embryology and larval ecology. The previous meeting was in Hong Kong and earlier meetings have been held in Spain, Australia, Florida, New York and California. Because the meeting was too big for the OIMB boathouse auditorium, the scientific sessions were held in the performing arts center at Southwestern Oregon Community College. Participants were housed at OIMB, in the community college dorms, and in local hotels. Social highlights included a poster session and reception at Coos Bay's new Culinary Arts Institute, a tuna barbeque at OIMB with fresh fish and shrimp donated by our neighbors at Pacific Seafood, mid-conference excursions by land and by sea, and a banquet and program at OIMB that honored Woods Hole's Rudy Scheltema on his 80th birthday. Participants came from 15 countries on 4 continents. The next meeting is in Lisbon, Portugal.



Octogenerians Mary Rice and Rudi Scheltema with Amelie Scheltema. Before the banquet everyone gathered to pay tribute to Rudi's long and distinguished career (right) with slides, reminiscence and sea stories.



Five days of symposia on life-history biology, dispersal and larval development were broken up by mid-conference excursions. Steve Rumrill led a flotilla of canoes and kayaks on the South Slough Estuary.



Entertainment for the catered banquet in the OIMB dining hall featured a professional chain-saw sculptor from Drain, Oregon. The bear he sculpted in just 20 minutes now resides on the dining hall porch.



Leaving OIMB for new adventures...

The Marine Biology Major continues to attract many undergraduate students to the University of Oregon; we now have more than 60 students enrolled in this major. During spring term, several students graduated with marine biology degrees and several more will receive degrees at the end of winter term. Seven students received advanced degrees this year (details below).

Dr. Young poses with Marine Biology graduates AnnMarie Jones, Samantha Bund and Matt Kaliszcz at Spring commencement ceremonies on the Eugene Campus. Matt and Samantha are both enrolled in research courses at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Labs and AnnMarie is applying to graduate schools.



Kerry Kidder (M.S., Shapiro lab) studied the transport of bull kelp from the open sea into the South Slough estuary. She discovered an entirely new microscopic life-history stage in *Nereocystis*. Kerri is now living in Maine. (She took the beautiful picture of Charleston Harbor on the front page of this newsletter).

Tim Davidson (M.S., Shanks and Rumrill labs) worked on the ecology of an alien isopod that has invaded U.S. estuaries from Australia. Because this isopod damages levees and potentially causes flooding, Tim's work was front-page news in newspapers across the nation. Tim is now applying for Ph.D. programs.



Ahna van Gaest (M.S., Young lab) studied larval development and salinity tolerances in a deep-sea snail from cold methane seeps. She showed that the larvae could migrate all the way to the surface and that they disperse for more than a year. Ahna is now working as a research assistant for Dr. Richard Emlet, who is on sabbatical in Australia.

Ben Grupe (M.S., Shanks lab) worked on the ecology of purple sea urchins that live in tidepools on the Oregon coast. By marking them with fluorescent stains, he was able to study the growth of individuals that live inside and outside pits. He also documented incredibly high predation rates by oystercatchers, raccoons and sunflower stars. Ben is searching for employment.



Jenn Head (Ph.D., Postlethwait and Young labs) studied the biochemical effects of low oxygen in Dungeness Crabs. She was able to demonstrate the presence of Hif-1a in crustaceans for the first time. After hiking from Mexico to Canada and getting married, Jenn is now beginning a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Michelle Schuiteman (M.S., Hodder and Shanks labs) studied the feeding of Leach's Storm Petrel, a bird that nests on offshore islands. She found that the birds feed on vertically migrating fish and crustaceans, including bioluminescent midwater lantern fish. Michelle works for U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Newport.



Mike Holmes (M.S., Young lab) investigated the biology of deep-water reef-forming corals. By rearing the corals in refrigerated aquaria, he was able to study their responses to currents, sedimentation and starvation. Mike is now teaching in a community college in California.

Faculty News Briefs

Professor Richard Emler is currently on sabbatical in South Australia with support from the National Geographic Society. He will finish his leave with several months in Sri Lanka with a Fulbright fellowship from the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars.

Professor Nora Terwilliger gave invited lectures in Italy and Germany this year, visited Sweden, and is now a scholar in residence at the Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston S.C. In January, she will travel to Thailand.

Professor Craig Young gave talks and seminars this year in Barcelona, Spain, Southampton, U.K., Seattle, La Jolla, San Francisco, Bodega Bay, Woods Hole, and Santa Cruz. His lab participated in deep-sea cruises off California and Louisiana. Craig also served on evaluation committees for Kristineberg Marine Research Station in Sweden and for N.S.F. in D.C.

The Young lab's work on "Eel City" at a submarine volcano off Samoa, reported in last year's newsletter, was identified by Discover Magazine as one of the top 100 science stories of 2005.

Professor Alan Shanks and Dr. Jan Hodder received the great news that their NSF GK-12 grant will be renewed for another 3 years. This grant, which supports graduate students who assist with elementary school science teaching, currently impacts more than 3000 students in the Coos Bay and North Bend School Districts. With the 3-year renewal, the program will expand into the Bandon School district as well.

Dr. Jan Hodder is currently serving as the president of the Organization of Biological Field Stations. In her official capacity, she has traveled widely this year, serving on advisory boards throughout the U.S., including Colorado, Montana, New York, California and Washington D.C.

Professors Craig Young, Richard Emler and Michelle Wood have been funded by the National Science Foundation to study feeding biology of deep-sea larvae. Over the next four years, they will be working in the Bahamas and Gulf of Mexico as well as Oregon.

Barbara Butler took a mini-sabbatical this year, part of which was spent in mainland China. She is president elect of IAMSLIC, the organization of marine librarians and is working with former director Paul Rudy on a new edition of Oregon Estuarine Invertebrates.

Recent Donors

We thank the following individuals for their kind and generous donations over the past year. Individual donations were used mostly for student scholarship support. Corporate and Foundation support came from Pacific Seafood, whose tasty gift of fresh seafood for the Larval Biology Meetings was appreciated by all, and by the Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation, whose generous donation will be matched by the University to outfit the Invertebrate Biology and Embryology teaching laboratories with new dissecting microscopes and fiber-optic illuminators!

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Two years ago, the alumni newsletter was 8 pages long and last year it grew to 12 pages. With our decision to try color this year, it shrank to 4, not because of a news shortage, but to save on printing costs! OIMB is as vibrant as ever. We have a record number of graduate students, a record number of visiting groups and individuals using our facilities, and are looking forward to the first large cohort of marine biology majors, which should begin work in Charleston as soon as they finish their prerequisite courses next year in Eugene. Construction is about to begin on our new visiting scientist residence building that will make space available for more visiting investigators beginning next summer. Alumni, please come and visit so you can experience once again OIMB's infectious enthusiasm for learning and excitement of discovery. We also hope you will help the new generation of students by giving generously to our scholarship funds. Thanks for your help.

Craig M. Young
Professor and Director



OIMB graduate students participate in numerous national and international scientific meetings each year. In November of this year, a large contingent made the trek to Seattle for the annual meeting of the Western Society of Naturalists, which is among the oldest organizations of marine biologists in the United States. Here, the students pose with the jellyfish kreisel at the Seattle Aquarium during the Graduate Student workshop and social, where Craig Young was an invited keynote speaker. Ben Grupe, a student in the Shanks lab, won honorable mention for the Mia Tegner Award for the best Ecology paper.