

# CURRENTS

Alumni Newsletter of the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology

December, 2011

**ON-LINE RESOURCES.** In addition to the OIMB web site at <http://pages.uoregon.edu/oimb>, Oregon Institute of Marine Biology is now on Facebook. Please visit us (and "like" us!) to learn more about the happenings in Charleston than space will permit here. Here are a few additional sites that alumni may find interesting:

- <http://www.uoregon.edu/oimb> is a short news article with embedded u-tube video that interviews some happy undergraduates on the boat at OIMB.
- <http://media.uoregon.edu/channel/2011/09/13/oregon-institute-of-marine-biology-circa-1960/> is a film about OIMB from the early 60's, recently digitized.
- <http://oregondigital.org/digcol/oimb/> is a link to about 1000 35mm slides recently scanned by alumna **Jenni Schmitt** ('02) from the library's collection of more than 7000. Recent additions to our slide collection include 120 images of driftwood sculptures made by OIMBers from **Bob Sommer**, a retired U.C. Davis professor. Librarian **Barb Butler** tells is that the public or alumni can request that other of the slides be scanned or request higher resolution images of the ones we have online.
- <http://pages.uoregon.edu/oimb/Academics/GK12/Curricula.html> contains all of the k-6 curriculum developed by OIMB students and faculty during our 6-year NSF GK-12 program. The lessons for each year of elementary school follow a specific habitat-based theme and are designed to teach math with science with hands-on activities. The lessons may be used freely used by teachers and other educators.
- <http://www.oimbkids.com> contains real-time blogs written to elementary school kids from graduate students participating in research expeditions in the Bahamas and the Gulf of Mexico.

**T-SHIRT GOES VIRAL.** OIMB students participate each term in a design contest that results in an official t-shirt available for purchase. The fall term winning design by **Laurel Hiebert**, **Kira Triebergs** and **Marley Jarvis** was featured on the OIMB Facebook site. Within hours, the students were receiving e-mail from all around the world and the design was posted on bulletin boards from Australia to Antarctica. There is now a popular website where t-shirts and other Octopi Wall Street items may be purchased, with proceeds benefitting the Charleston Marine Life Center and the Oregon Marine Students Association at OIMB. The t-shirt shop site may be accessed at: <http://www.shop.minutemorning.com/invertebrates/shop>.

## OCTOPI WALL STREET



Invertebrates are 97% of animal diversity!

**NATIVE OYSTER RESTORATION.** Three OIMB labs have partnered with the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve to investigate the early life-history biology of the native oyster, *Ostrea lurida*. This species nearly vanished early in the 20th century, but has been making a comeback in some bays and estuaries of the Pacific Northwest. A collaborative project from NOAA provides funding for graduate students in the Shanks, Emler, Young and Rumrill labs to investigate larval transport, larval settlement, and reproductive ecology.



**Dr. Laura Garcia Peteiro** (right, in boat) a Fulbright postdoctoral fellow from Spain is also working in the Shanks lab on the dispersal of native oysters. She samples larvae with regular plankton tows.



**ROV.** Students in the Spring term subtidal ecology course had the opportunity to test drive our new remotely operated vehicle. They discovered that it is more challenging than a video game! Several students and faculty have now undergone training in vehicle operation and maintenance. A new cable winch has now been installed on the RV Pluteus for use with the ROV.

**NEW GRANTS FROM NSF.** The newest member of the OIMB faculty, **Dr. Svetlana Maslakova**, has been awarded a \$517,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the evolution of larval development in ribbon worms (phylum Nemertea), ubiquitous predators that display diverse developmental modes (e.g. pilidium and planula-like larvae, below) Svetlana will use fate mapping and analysis of gene expression to study how the unique pilidium larva evolved in nemerteans.



**Dr. Cynthia Trowbridge** received funding from NSF to continue her ongoing work in Loch Hyne, Ireland, Europe's oldest marine reserve. Cynthia involves graduate students from Oregon in her summer field season.

With these latest awards, all members of the OIMB faculty have active grants from the highly competitive programs of the National Science Foundation.

## GRAD STUDENT SUPERSTARS

We are proud of 3 M.S. students and 3 Ph.D students who completed their degrees at OIMB during 2011:

Working in OIMB's Metcalf Marsh, **Dr. Holly Keammerer** (Ph.D., Emllet lab) did a detailed experimental study on the ecology and recruitment of salt marsh plants. She is now working as a field ecologist for her parents' ecological consulting company in Colorado.



**Dr. Paul Dunn** (Ph.D., Young Lab), studied the ecology of nemertean egg parasites on Dungeness crabs. He and his wife, Heidi Harris (former part-time librarian at OIMB) are now living in Germany, where Paul holds a postdoctoral fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Demography in Bremen.



**Dr. Stephanie Schroeder** (Ph.D., Shanks lab) used a controlled laboratory intertidal system of her own design to test basic models of animal behavior in owl limpets. Stephanie now has a postdoctoral position at the Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (La Jolla, California), where she works as a marine science educator.



**Kristina Sawyer** (Young lab) completed a masters degree on the seasonality of settlement in native Olympia oysters. She is now working as an environmental educator at the Marine Science Institute in Redwood City, California.



**Myndee McNeill Potts** (M.S., Young lab) studied the population biology, behavior and reproduction of tiny snails that maintain large populations in dynamic cobble fields on wave-swept shores. Myndee is now living in Corvallis where her husband is enrolled at OSU.



**POSTDOCS.** OIMB currently has three resident postdoctoral fellows. Japanese embryologist **Dr. Yoshihisa Kurita** (left) is working in the laboratories of **George von Dassow** and **Svetlana Maslakova** with support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He is interested in the molecular basis of cleavage patterns, especially in spirally cleaving embryos.



Spanish marine biologist **Dr. Laura Garcia Peteiro** (see page 1) is working on the transport and recruitment of native oysters in the laboratory of **Alan Shanks** with support from the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars. **Dr. Maya Wolf**, a former OIMB PhD student, is working with Drs. **Sandra Brooke** and **Craig Young** on the ecology of deep-sea

caynons off the Eastern Seaboard. Her position is funded by a federal grant from BOEMRE (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement).

**OREGON MARINE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION (OMSA)** has been very active over the past year with social activities on campus and service projects in the local community. Students enjoyed ice cream socials at the beginning of each term, a forage feast prepared of wild foods from the forest and shore, the annual invertebrate ball, a ski trip and a pumpkin carving contest.

Students participated in an annual exchange with students at Oregon State University in which they learned about communicating science and engaged in a friendly competition that included a mock whale biopsy. As usual, OIMB students brought home the trophy. At the beginning of fall term, the students organized a retreat at Cape Blanco (right) where they helped park rangers construct a 250 ft. fence leading to the historic pioneer cemetery. OMSA also ran a popular booth at the local Octoberfest celebration, an event that benefits local childrens programs and food banks. Their exhibit featured a tank of hydromedusa jellyfish and mock plankton races for the kids.



**KUDOS.** M.S. student **Kira Trieberts** won best student poster award at the Heceta Head Coastal Conference. She also received a NERS research fellowship from NOAA for her work with invasive species in the South Slough Estuary. Ph.D. Student **Leif Rasmuson** received the Robert Malouf Fellowship from Oregon Sea Grant. M.S. Student **Brittney Dlouhy** received a research grant from the Western Society of Malacologists to work on byssal thread drifting in bivalves and she also accompanied **Dr. Cynthia Trowbridge** for field work in Ireland. Ph.D. student **Amy Burgess** received a travel award from the UNOLS Deep Submergence Committee to attend the meetings of the American Geophysical Union. Amy was also selected as a student representative to the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. Undergraduates **Nick Hayman** and **Robbie McNulty** were both awarded NOAA Hollings schollarships. With his scholarship, Nick worked as a summer intern in two NOAA labs at the University of Hawaii. Recent Marine Biology graduate **Jessie McGrath** was selected as an intern in the Council on Environmental Quality at the White House. Finally, **Dr. Craig Young** received a 2011 Research and Innovation Award from the University of Oregon and was also elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**CARIBBEAN CRUISE.** The Young, Maslakova and Emllet labs participated in a research cruise on R/V Oceanus south of Barbados. The NSF funded cruise was the first in a 4-year study of larval connectivity among deep-sea methane seeps in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico. Collaborators hail from Duke Univesity and North Carolina State University. The team returns in 2012 for a cruise with the Jason ROV from Woods Hole.



**DR. LEE BRAITHWAITE**, professor at Brigham Young University, has been bringing student groups to coastal marine laboratories for nearly 40 years. For the past 7 years, OIMB has been his lab of choice and his groups of more than 20 students have been regular fixtures at OIMB each spring term. A talented artist, Lee has also taught the OIMB course in Biological Illustration for the past several years. Lee retired this year and will be replaced by ecologist Russ Rader, who will continue using our facilities in alternate years. Lee's retirement party, the "Braithwaite Bash" held at OIMB in June attracted his former students from all around the country.

**We extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and organizations  
for generous contributions over the past year.**

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 Cynthia Layport and Steven Herring  
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 Boswell Family Foundation  
 Ruth Greenspan '79 and Donald Steinman

**ALUMNI NOTES.**

- **Dr. Steve Rumrill**, long-time research director at the South Slough National Estuary and a member of the OIMB faculty, has taken a new job in Newport, where he leads the shellfish program for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- **Trish Mace**, who has managed many of the successful OIMB education and outreach programs, has recently moved to Washington D.C., where she works as a marine educator at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.
- **Dr. Lionel Jaffee**, an OIMB courtesy faculty member who spent much of 2010 in residence, passed away in Woods Hole MA.
- **Zair Burris** ('10) and **Josh Lord** ('10) are both enrolled in Ph.D. programs at the University of Connecticut.
- **Greg Gavelis** ('10) has begun a Ph.D. degree at the University of British Columbia.

- **Lisa Ziccarelli**, former research assistant in the Shanks lab, is enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University of California, Santa Cruz.
- **Amber Eden Rendleman** is enrolled in the Aquarium Science Program at Oregon Coast Community College.
- **Katie Thomas** ('11) is working in the internship program at Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington.
- **Dr. Tracey Smart** (Ph.D. '08) completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Seattle and has now moved to Charleston, SC where she works for the South Carolina Department of Fisheries.
- **Dr. Jenn Head** (Ph.D. '06) finished a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She now lives in Langlois, Oregon where she has founded a charter school.



Please make a tax deductible contribution to one of the important funds at OIMB by clipping the adjacent box and enclosing with your check. We depend on your support for scholarships, special projects that benefit students, and the new Charleston Marine Life Center. Gifts of any size are welcome. If you would be interested in discussing tax implications or other aspects of charitable giving, please call the director at 541-888-2581 ext. 299. He will put you in touch with a professional who can advise you.

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As we pull into the home stretch on construction of the Charleston Marine Life Center (public museum and aquarium), there is a buzz of excitement around Oregon's Bay Area. We hope to invite all of you to a gala grand opening in the fall or early winter of 2012. Our construction crew is now framing the second floor walls while enjoying the most beautiful view of the bay and harbor in all of Charleston! This project is being funded almost entirely by donations, and more contributions are needed, especially for the design and construction of exhibits. The first floor will house living animals in large aquaria, an exhibit on deep-water ecosystems, and a gallery on Oregon fisheries. The two large galleries on the second floor will display OIMB's world-class teaching collection of marine mammal materials, and displays on the diversity of marine life. To learn how you can partner with us to complete this exciting project, check out the opportunity at the bottom of this page! Thanks for your kind support..

Craig M. Young, OIMB Director



**Adopt a Bone to help the Marine Life Center!** The twin focal points of the marine mammal gallery will be complete re-articulated skeletons of an Orca and a California Gray Whale. The specimens, already clean and in-hand (see right) will be assembled in place once their gallery has been completed. In the tradition of the famous New Bedford Whaling Museum in Massachusetts (left), we are kicking off an adopt-a-bone project in support of exhibit development. Join our "skeleton crew" by adopting one or more bones, for a tax deductible contribution. Your name (and your bone) will be identified on a commemorative plaque displayed permanently in the museum. The table below shows adoption price for each bone, with the number available in parentheses. Clip the table, circle the bone or bones you want to adopt, and attach it to your check. We'll assign the largest bones of each type first, so act quickly! We have bones priced for every budget. Donors of \$500.00 or more will receive a realistic resin cast of one of our killer whale's teeth.



### California Gray Whale

Cranium (skull) (1) \$3000	Ribs (28) \$450 ea
Jaw bones (2) \$1500 ea	Scapula (2) \$500 ea
Hyoid (2) \$200.00 ea	Humerus (2) 200 ea
Cervical Vertebrae (7) \$350 ea	Radius (2) \$150 ea
Thoracic Vertebrae (14) \$300 ea	Ulna (2) \$150 ea
Lumbar Vertebrae (14) \$250 ea	Sternum (1) \$500
Caudal Vertebrae (21) \$250 ea	Phalanges (34) \$50 ea
Chevrons (17) \$200 ea	Vestigial Pelvic bones (2) \$200

### Killer Whale (Orca)

Cranium (skull) \$2000	Ribs (22) \$400 ea
Lower jaws (2) \$1000 ea	Scapula (2) \$500 ea
Teeth (28) \$50 ea	Humerus (2) \$100 ea
Cervical Vertebrae (7) \$300 ea	Radius (2) \$100 ea
Thoracic Vertebrae (13) \$250 ea	Ulna (2) \$100 ea
Lumbar Vertebrae (14) \$200 ea	Sternum (1) \$400
Caudal Vertebrae (23) \$150 ea	Phalanges (21) \$50 ea
Chevrons (18) \$100 ea	