

Northeastern University

Marine Science Center Newsletters

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The Rising Tide: Winter 2008

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Winter 2008 Newsletter

Marine Science Center:

Celebrating 40 years of Research, Education and Outreach

Over 600 alumni and friends helped the Northeastern University Marine Science Center (MSC) in Nahant celebrate its 40th anniversary. On Saturday, October 6th, the MSC hosted an Open House which included fun and educational activities for children of all ages.

Throughout the day, guests could explore the tidepools, have a guided tour of the on-site WWII bunker, review research posters or talk with faculty about some of the studies underway at the facility. Professor Joseph Ayers intrigued visitors with his robotic lobster while Professor Malcolm Hill led folks on tours of the property with a focus on the characteristics of the geological formations in the area.

Children's activities included algae presses, plankton model designs, touchtanks, and even a CSI beach crime investigation. The Marine Science Center's new director, Dr. Gwilym Jones, had his Center for Vertebrate Studies open where visitors could see bones of numerous animals including a very impressive complete Fin Whale skeleton.

The MSC is grateful to the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for their support of this special and fun day. To learn more about the Northeastern University Marine Science Center or become a friend, please visit www.marinescience.neu.edu.



A young scientist explores the microscopic marine environment



Professor Ayers explains the robotic lobster



Exploring tide pools on a beautiful October day

The Fin Whale skeleton was one of the highlights of the day

Northeastern University Announces Scholarship for Nahant Student

Northeastern University recently announced the creation of the Nahant Community Scholarship program to benefit a Nahant resident. Under this new program, Northeastern University will offer a four-year scholarship that would pay half the cost of tuition at Northeastern University.

"This is just outstanding," said Selectman Richard Lombard. "I am very pleased Northeastern University stepped up to the plate for the town of Nahant. "It's nice to see Northeastern University giving back to the community," he added. "This is a wonderful opportunity for one of our students."

The Nahant Community Scholarship at Northeastern University will be awarded for the upcoming 2008–2009 academic year. In fact, the selection process will begin in January 2008. To be considered for the Nahant Community Scholarship, applicants must be a Nahant resident, be in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating class and have an SAT score of 1300 or more. The scholarship will be renewed for up to eight academic semesters provided the student maintains a 3.0 grade point average.

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Message from the Director

2007 has been a year of celebration at the Marine Science Center as we marked our 40th anniversary. Many changes have taken place over these 40 years, but it is reassuring to know that our mission has remained the same.

When Nathan "Doc" Riser became the first MSC Director in 1967, he believed strongly in education, research and public outreach as the three primary foci of the MSC. Today, these same three components provide the foundation of our vision for the future.

In the area of research, we continue to build on existing strengths and broaden our areas of interests. This past year, we welcomed two new faculty members, Drs. Matthew Bracken (evaluates the linkages between marine communities and ecosystems) and Steven Vollmer (evolution and ecology of marine organisms on tropical coral reefs). In September, the Center for Vertebrate Studies moved from the Boston campus to the Murphy Bunker at the MSC. In fact, this collection was a highlight for both young and old during our Open House in October.

Dr. Joseph Ayers was also popular at the Open House and has been receiving national recognition as part of the *Design Life Now* exhibition touring cities throughout the US. The exhibit is being hosted by the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in Boston through the end of December 2007. Professor Joseph Ayers is a neurobiologist who specializes in the neuroethology of motor systems in vertebrates and the application of this knowledge to the development of advanced robots and neurorehabilitative devices. Please be sure to watch future issues of this newsletter for in-depth profiles of some of the research activities at MSC.

Our Outreach Program is dedicated working with the local communities to expand and increase public awareness of the marine environment. Tuesday Night Lectures continue to be popular, especially the "Penquin Lady" in October. The 40th Anniversary Open House was tremendous success. Over 600 guests visited the MSC on October 6th and participated in a number of fun and educational activities. We are especially grateful to the Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation for their support.

Throughout the year, Tracy Hajduk and her staff work with faculty in the local schools and welcome groups for field experiences both at the MSC and on our research vessel, the Mysis. As summer approaches, please watch the newsletter for information on our highly acclaimed summer programs.

As I look back over my last six months as the new Director of the MSC, I am truly excited to see our stronger partnership with the local Nahant community. The MSC is a wonderful place and I encourage you to participate in our programs and activities.

GWILYM JONES, Ph.D Director



Tracy Hajduk, MSC outreach coordinator, addresses students at the Johnson School in Nahant. MSC and SWIM are working together to provide valuable hands-on knowledge of how to protect the environment locally.

About the Marine Science Center

The mission of the MSC consists of three principal components representing three interconnected goals:

RESEARCH

The MSC is an internationally recognized research institution that: a) focuses on the ocean environment, marine life and its diversity, ecology, and discovering biotechnological and medical potentials in the sea, and b) attracts scientists of the world to spend varying periods of time doing high quality research that will benefit the university's students and enhance its reputation;

EDUCATION

The MSC is a first class teaching laboratory, a center for undergraduate and graduate education where the theory of marine sciences is as close to its practice as the sea to the station's front door;

OUTREACH

The MSC is a learning center with outreach activities to the general public that will enhance the public's awareness and knowledge of the oceans as a potential for scientific discovery and medical advances THE MARINE SCIENCE CENTER FACULTY

Joseph Ayers, Ph.D. Neurophysiology and Behavior

Matthew Bracken, Ph.D. Marine Ecosystems and Community Ecology

Donald Cheney, Ph.D. Macroalgal Biotechnology and Marine Pollution Remediation

Slava Epstein, Ph.D. Microbial Ecology; Biological Oceanography

Gwilym Jones, Ph.D, Director Vertebrate Systematics and Ecology

Dr. Jeremy Long Lab Chemical Ecology

Geoffrey Trussell, Ph.D. Evolutionary and Community Ecology

Steven Vollmer, Ph.D. Evolutionary Ecology and Marine Genomics

Evening Lectures Series

Monthly lectures on Tuesday evenings will begin again in January.