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# NEWSLETTER

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WOODS HOLE  
OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION



JULY 1992

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Photo by Dave Gray



*Atlantis II returns to WHOI June 10. See pages 4 and 5.*

## URI Professor to Receive Ketchum Award

Scott W. Nixon, a Professor of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island and Director of the Rhode Island Sea Grant Program at URI, has been selected to receive the Bostwick H. Ketchum Award.

Nixon will receive the award and present a lecture at WHOI in September.

The Ketchum Award is presented by the Coastal Research Center to a scientist who demonstrates innovative coastal research, leadership in the scientific community, and attention to the effects of marine pollution on society and the coastal environment.

Nixon's research interests include the ecology of estuaries, bays, lagoons and marshes; nutrient cycling; the role of man in coastal eutrophication; numerical simulation modelling; and ecosystem-level experimentation. He received his B.A. in biology from the University of Delaware and Ph.D. in botany-ecology from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The award was established in 1983 in tribute to the late Bostwick "Buck" Ketchum, an internationally respected oceanographer. Ketchum was associated with WHOI for 40 years, and was a strong force in developing biological oceanography. He retired in 1977 as Associate Director of the Institution and passed away in 1982.

## UMASS/Lowell at WHOI Fall Courses Offered

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The University of Massachusetts Lowell is beginning the second year of its on-site education program at WHOI with sixteen course offerings. Final course offerings will be based on enrollment.

Walk-in registration for the fall semester will be held August 17 in the Fuglister Room, Clark 201, from noon to 4 p.m. for WHOI employees and 4-6 p.m. for non-WHOI employees. Classes begin September 8. All classes are

held in the evening from 6-9 p.m. and are open to the community on a space available basis.

WHOI employees need to submit an application for reimbursement in advance of enrollment to the Education Office. For additional information regarding course content and prerequisites, call UMASS Lowell's Division of Continuing Education at (508) 934-2491.

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## Library Offers New Service

The MBL/WHOI Joint Library is now offering a new service to the Woods Hole scientific community, the FirstSearch Catalog.

FirstSearch is an electronic information system designed for scientists, students and other staff members. It offers access to a number of online, subject-specific databases (like Mini-GEOREF for the Geosciences and ContentsFinder for the journal tables of contents). It is linked to the world's largest computerized card catalogue, WorldCat (the OCLC Online Union Catalogue), with more than 26 million bibliographic records representing the holdings of 13,000 libraries worldwide.

Available via the Internet, FirstSearch requires no special training in computers or on-line searching. Anyone should be able to sit down at a terminal and perform a successful search. FirstSearch brings the world of on-line information directly to the information user.

Each search (one search statement) costs less than \$1.00 and includes downloading or printing. The Library Office will provide staff or offices with their own blocks of 10 or 25 search authorizations and will charge the cost back to the appropriate account. However, as an introduction to the service, the Library will give new users a block of 10 search authorizations at no charge to their projects.

Contact the MBL/WHOI Joint Library at either MBL (Lillie 230) or WHOI (Clark 131C) for more information about access methods and obtaining an authorization.

Photo by Terri Corbett



Left to right: Associates President Charlie Dana, Stanley Watson, Cecil Green and Charley Hollister at the annual Associates Dinner on the Iselin Mall June 19.

## Watson Receives Green Award

Microbiologist Stanley W. Watson was presented the Cecil H. Green Award for outstanding contributions to oceanography at WHOI June 19 at the annual Associates Dinner on the Iselin Mall.

The award was established in 1991 by the WHOI Associates and is named for philanthropist and Texas Instruments founder Cecil H. Green, who has had a long association with the Institution. The award, a memento and plaque, was presented to Watson by the 91-year-old Green.

A scientist emeritus in the Institution's Biology Department, Watson is considered a leading marine microbiologist and the world authority on nitrifying bacteria, a specialized group of bacteria that oxidize ammonia to nitrite and nitrite to nitrate. His 40-year scientific career has encompassed such diverse areas as viral disease in salmon, the biology and ecology of marine slime molds, marine and freshwater nitrifying bacteria, marine cyanobacteria and the modification of the horseshoe crab blood clotting system for various uses.

## WHOI To Assist MMA in New Degree Program

WHOI is assisting the Massachusetts Maritime Academy (MMA) in planning and offering a program of study at MMA leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marine Safety and Environmental Protection beginning with admission of a freshman class in the fall of 1992.

Director Craig Dorman and MMA President Peter Cressy signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institution and Mass Maritime July 13 during a technology transfer workshop aboard the Academy's training ship *Patriot State* in Boston. The ship participated in Sail Boston activities; a general information display about WHOI was aboard ship for the festivities.

MMA has full responsibility for the degree program. WHOI scientists and engineers will contribute their knowledge and expertise in marine environmental research and environmental protection through curriculum development, course teaching, and internships at the Institution.

The Newsletter is published monthly for employees, students and members of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution community. Copy deadline is the 25th of the month. Ideas for stories, photos, and items of interest to the community are welcome and should be sent to: Editor, Newsletter, News Office, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, MA 02543. Telephone 508-457-2000 ext. 2270 or 3340.

Editor: Shelley M. Lauzon  
Staff Support: Kathleen Patterson

## R/V Knorr Status Update

*Editor's Note: The following is a report from Marine Operations Manager Joe Coburn regarding problems aboard Knorr.*

After a few days delay, spent correcting the final critical McDermott deficiencies, the Spiess/Delaney/Karson 30-day cruise in February/March was a very successful shake-down cruise. All science objectives were obtained, while an expected number of growing pains were encountered.

Two weeks were then spent in a Jacksonville, Florida, shipyard correcting more deficiencies, after which *Knorr* transited to Valparaiso, Chile, in April to begin a transPacific WOCE leg.

The first WOCE leg from Valparaiso to Easter Island in May was successful. Chief Scientist Harry Bryden reported that four extra stations were taken, thereby in a sense "banking" some of the contingency time incorporated in that leg. Some additional problems surfaced which will be discussed below, but the scientists were able to work around these problems and all objectives were achieved. In a last minute development, the fueling facility at Easter Island was put out of operation for repair. We were unable to fuel there as planned.

Progress on the second WOCE leg from Easter Island to Auckland in June was therefore driven by the necessity to conserve fuel. Single engine operation led to increased time between legs and a series of power failures. The power failures were due to incorrect settings in the control system which were not evident with multiple engines on the line. These adjustments have been made and incidence of these problems is expected to decrease and eventually disappear. This leg experienced almost two weeks of very heavy weather, resulting in additional lost time. Some adjust-

ments have been made to the station spacing and we are hopeful that no further impact will be felt. At the end of the second WOCE leg more than 95 percent of planned CTD stations were completed.

The following "problems," which have been reported incompletely in some cases, are either being addressed with a solution in hand or are not really problems at all:

**"Dirty" Power:** An element in the main 120 volt filter failed on the first cruise, resulting in very dirty power which caused a series of other annoying but not very serious problems. A new coil was manufactured and installed in Auckland. Our previous informal evaluation was that the power was quite good, but in light of general complaints, we are conducting a formal survey of the power in Sydney and on the short Sydney - Auckland leg.

**Deck Buckling:** There are areas of buckles or dimples in the main and 01 decks, primarily around frames 67 and 24, respectively. These range in depth or height from 1/4-inch to 1 1/16-inch. Our naval architect is investigating; so far we are not sure what caused them but we are confident that they represent no alarming conditions. We noted that there were no changes in these buckled areas over the two weeks of heavy weather in June. The ship was designed with plenty of longitudinal strength and the work in Morgan City was closely surveyed by the American Bureau of

Ships (ABS). We do not anticipate having a special ABS survey conducted in Sydney to put to rest rumors that the *Knorr* is unseaworthy. It is not.

**Stern Slamming:** The shape of the hull aft was left unchanged from the cycloid installation. This factor, and the increased length of the ship, results in fairly frequent stern slams at slow speed, probably more frequently than before the modification. The slams are intense enough to excite the hull as an elastic beam and there is subsequent vibration. The President of our naval architectural firm has experienced these slams, and although we are confident this vibration imposes stresses no greater than acceptable working levels, he is looking into the phenomenon carefully. We will evaluate some ballasting options to reduce the incidence of the slams and will evaluate the structure in the area for damage.

**Sea Keeping:** The speed reductions ordered by Captain Swanson were absolutely appropriate in view of the weather and sea state. All of the ships officers who served on the "old" *Knorr* agree that it rides better now than before the modifications. The anti-roll system operates as advertised, significantly reducing roll.

In summary, *Knorr* is back and serving science successfully. We are taking steps to deal with the expected rash of early problems, none of which is a "show stopper."

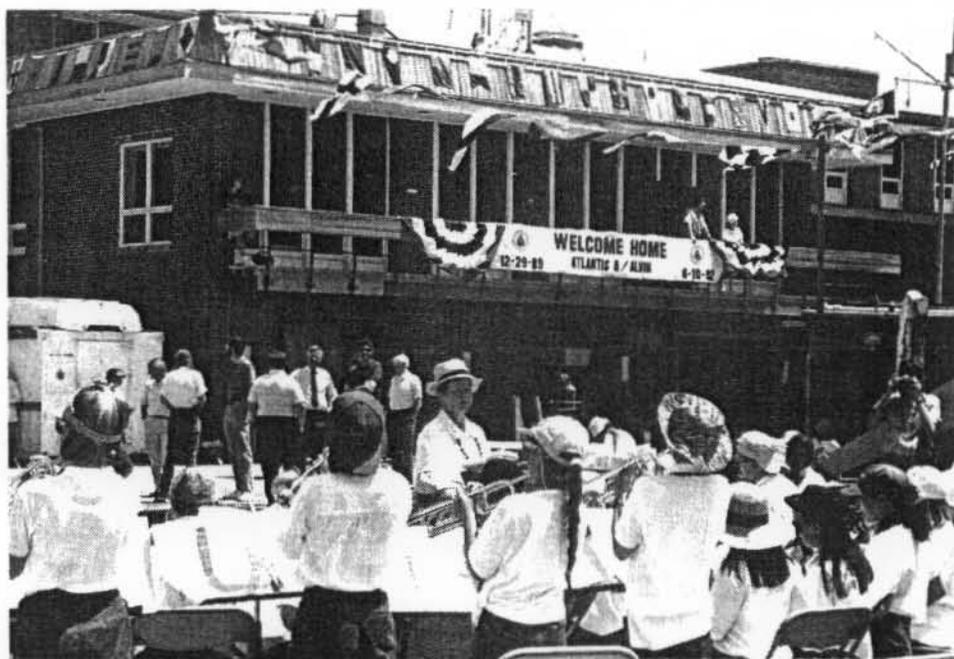
Photo by Tom Kleindinst



*Research Vessel Knorr departs Woods Hole in March for work in the Pacific.*

## Atlantis II/Alvin Homecoming

June 10, 1992



Banners (above) and signal flags (below left) decorated the dock.



Regular Atlantis II Master Gary Chiljean.

Several hundred employees, friends and family members gathered on the dock June 10 to welcome home Research Vessel *Atlantis II* and Deep Submergence Vehicle *Alvin*. The weather cooperated with clear sunny skies as Relief Master Paul Howland guided the ship to the dock just after noon, ending record-breaking Voyage #125. *Atlantis II* spent 894 days away from Woods Hole and 575 days at sea, and *Alvin* made 368 dives.

Falmouth's Morse Pond School Hot Jazz Band, comprised of more than 30 middle school students, entertained the crowd and serenaded the ship as it docked with "Pomp and Circumstance."

Director Craig Dorman, Regular Master Gary Chiljean, and *Alvin* Operations Manager Barrie Walden offered their welcome home to the crew in brief remarks. An Open House aboard *Atlantis II* followed from 1 to 4 p.m.



*Alvin* Operations Manager Barrie Walden and Craig Dorman (left).



**Photos by  
Dave Gray**

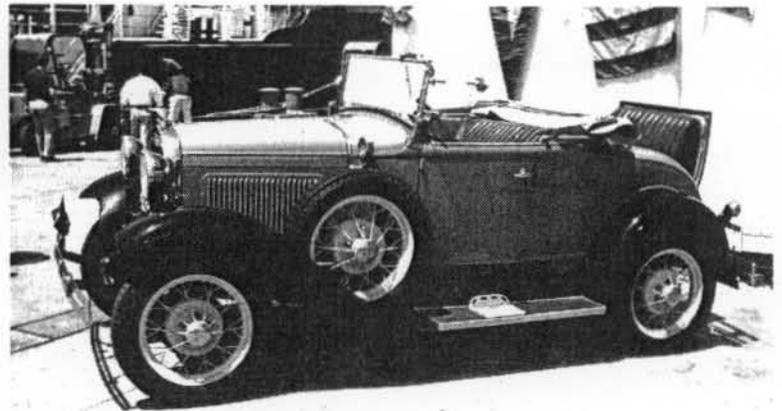
*The Morse Pond School Hot Jazz Band, wearing some unusual hats, entertained an appreciative crowd .*



*All was a welcome sight at the dock after a two and a half-year absence. The ship left Woods Hole December 29, 1989 for a Pacific cruise.*



*Hundreds line up to tour Atlantis II.*



*Ernie Smith's 1930 original Model A attracted considerable attention. The car was built the year WHOI was established.*

## New Faces



Jess F. Adkins  
JP Student  
Education/MC&G  
Fye 119  
Ext. 2885  
D. Repeta



Jennifer E. Agenbroad  
JP Student  
Education/Biology  
Redfield 120  
Ext. 4310  
L. Mullineaux



Benjamin A. Brooks  
JP Student  
Education/G&G  
Clark 1  
Ext. 3441  
M. Kleinrock



Max Deffenbaugh  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Smith 201  
Ext. 3282  
A. Bradley



Michael F. Hajosy  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Bigelow 415  
Ext. 2207  
R. Fricke



Sarah E. Herbelin  
JP Student  
Education/MC&G  
Fye 142  
Ext 3217  
N. Blough



Stefan A. Hussenoeder  
JP Student  
Education/G&G  
Clark 275A  
Ext. 3423  
M. Tivey



Kelsey A. Jordahl  
JP Student  
Education/G&G  
Clark 145  
Ext. 2491  
M. McNutt



Eric D. Kessel  
Info. Sys. Assoc. I  
G&G  
McLean 237  
Ext. 2469  
K. von Reden



Daniel E. Leader  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Bigelow Trailer  
Ext. 3484



Linda V. Martin  
JP Student  
Education/Biology  
Redfield 104  
Ext. 3247  
H. Caswell



Susan W. Mills  
Research Assistant II  
Biology  
Redfield 120  
Ext. 2898  
L. Mullineaux



Elizabeth C. Minor  
JP Student  
Education/MC&G  
Fye 111  
Ext. 2627  
T. Eglinton



Denis J. Peregrym  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Clark 224  
Ext. 3390  
K. Stewart



Brian S. Racine  
JP Student  
Education/PO  
Clark 343  
Ext. 2936  
R. Beardsley



Gorka A. Sancho  
JP Student  
Education/Biology  
Redfield 132  
Ext. 3225  
P. Lobel



Brian J. Sperry  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Bigelow 313  
Ext. 2228  
A. Baggeroer



Clemens E. Tillier  
Lab. Assistant I  
MC&G  
Fye 116  
Ext. 2346  
E. Sholkovitz



William J. Williams  
JP Student  
Education/PO  
Clark 359B  
Ext. 2803  
K. Helfrich



Christopher J. Willy  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Clark 218  
Ext. 3483



Eric C. Won  
JP Student  
Education/PO  
Clark 358A  
Ext. 2911  
R. Samelson

### No Photo

John R. Buck  
JP Student  
Education/AOP&E  
Bigelow 406  
Ext. 3328  
J. Catipovic

**WHOI Summer Picnic  
will be August 29, 1-5  
p.m. on the Joseph V.  
McKee, Jr. Ballfield.  
Rain date August 30.**

### Promotions

Susan M. Oliver (AOP&E)  
to Staff Assistant III (6/15/92)

W. Brechner Owens (PO)  
to Senior Scientist (6/22/92)

Albert J. Plueddemann (PO)  
to Associate Scientist (6/22/92)

Robert A. Wheatcroft (AOP&E)  
to Assistant Scientist (6/1/92)

## Benefits Function Reorganized

To facilitate providing benefits services to employees on a more personal level, a specific benefits staff representative has been assigned to each employee and Institution retiree. This will result in enhanced continuity of service, since your representative will be your primary contact person for all benefits needs from the day you start at the Institution until you begin your retirement planning. Institution departments and centers have been divided between Tricia Palmer and Marcey Youngman as noted below. Elaine Wilcox will be the contact for all marine crew members, sea-going *Alvin* Operations members, and Institution retirees. In addition, Elaine will coordinate retirement services for all active employees. For easy access, the Benefits Office is located on the ground floor of Nobska House.

### Tricia Palmer, Ext. 2705:

Biology  
Geology & Geophysics  
Physical Oceanography  
Coastal Research Center  
Informations Systems Center  
Marine Operations  
Education  
Purchasing  
Development  
Communications  
Services

### Marcey Youngman, Ext. 2295:

Marine Chemistry & Geochemistry  
Applied Ocean Physics & Engineering  
Marine Policy Center  
*Alvin* Operations\*  
Facilities  
Directorate Operations (Dept. 50)  
Controller's Office  
Personnel  
External Affairs  
Systems & Procedures  
Library

### Elaine Wilcox, Ext. 2706:

Atlantis II  
Knorr  
Oceanus  
*Alvin* Operations\*\*  
Retirees

\* non-seagoing

\*\* sea-going

## Advisory Committee Reviews Garber Travel Performance

*Editor's Note: In February 1991 the Institution entered into an agreement with Garber Travel to establish an on-site office in support of WHOI travel needs. The ad hoc committee which recommended Garber Travel as the on-site agency was recently reconvened to assess the agency's performance over the past 15 months.*

The Committee conducted a survey of WHOI travelers in June and held a follow-up meeting with Garber Travel representatives to discuss the results. The following article is a summary of survey results, provided to the *Newsletter* by the ad hoc committee:

Returns received	230*
Returns considered	188
1-3 trips taken	98 returns
4 or more trips taken	90 returns
Positive of Garber	135 or 72%
Negative of Garber	29 or 15%
Other negative	23 or 12%

\*Of these 42 people had taken no trips, or personal trips only; the committee considered the remaining 188 returns.

While the committee was pleased that the majority of people expressed positive opinions, there was consensus among committee members that the negative replies needed attention. The Garber "deficiency"

clearly lies in handling air and hotel arrangements to "unusual" places. The responses, however, indicated a definite improvement during the latter half of Garber's time here. In the course of the review meeting, members of the committee repeatedly stressed to Garber the importance attached to this aspect of travel. Garber has made a sincere commitment that special attention will be paid to international travel.

The "other negative" category is comprised of responders who expressed their dissatisfaction with Institution policy, which they feel forces them to deal with Garber, or more accurately, with a single-source vendor. Either they have not tried working with Garber or had one, less than happy, experience.

There were some responses indicating that people would appreciate more personal attention, that "a little extra" brings a business relationship to a higher, more comfortable level. Interest was also expressed in receiving more general information. Again, the Garber reps responded very positively and changes have already been made.

Does WHOI save money? There are many answers to this question, based on the premise that by virtue of the nature of the travel industry it is almost always possible to find a better fare. Some pertinent numbers:

70 round trips to Washington D.C., both from Providence and Boston for \$380 and \$360, respectively. These were all short trips, non-promotional fares. These prices represent a savings of about \$180 per ticket, compared to average industry fares. There were 38 round trips to Dallas at the Garber price of \$570; excursion rates were about \$750-800. Prices noted here are for tickets that are not penalty ridden. They allow changes, are not based on staying over a Saturday, and do not require the three-day minimum stay.

Many travelers have expressed complimentary opinions of the Garber agents, praising their attitude, knowledge and professionalism. Many also feel that an on-site agency is a real plus for WHOI, and that while it is not perfect, the Institution and its employees are receiving better than average service.

Members of the ad hoc travel committee are: Karin Bohr, Janet Johnson, Susan Kadar, Gretchen McManamin, Patty Odams, John Powers, David Simoneau, Martha Tarafa, Carl Wirsén and (ex-officio) Patty Duffy.

*Editor's Note: The Newsletter will include information about special Garber Travel vacation plans and programs in upcoming issues.*

### In Memoriam

The Institution announces with sorrow the death of Honorary Trustee and Honorary Member of the Corporation E. Bright Wilson July 12 at age 83.

A retired Harvard University chemistry professor, Wilson was considered a major architect of chemical physics, contributing to the understanding of the structure and dynamics of molecules through molecular spectroscopy. He worked at WHOI during World War II as part of the research team in the underwater explosives laboratory.

### Oceanus Magazine Plans Special Stommel Issue

A tribute to the late Henry Stommel, who passed away in January, will be published in a special issue of *Oceanus* magazine due out in September. The issue will feature reminiscences from colleagues, a sampling of Stommel's writing, photos and other reminders of this prodigious oceanographer.

This issue is not part of a regular magazine subscription, but is a supplement to Volume 35. The cost is \$8.00 for prepublication orders and \$10.00 for postpublication orders. A 25% discount will be given for all orders of five or more. Please send check made payable to WHOI with your order to Gail McPhee, Co-op (ext. 2378).