

FOLLOWING

Over one million miles sailed

SEA



2009-2010 Annual Report Issue

Winter/Spring 2011



Inside - *We are the Alumni of SEA*

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Kebir Gadio and **Cai Lu** furl a sail during class C-230B, a 2010 Science at SEA high school program. Photograph by Brenda Cetrulo.

FEATURES

We are the Alumni of SEA

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of SEA is to celebrate its 7,040 alumni. Meet 14 SEA alumni who are impacting our greater global community..... 1

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FOLLOWING **SEA** Winter/Spring 2011

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The SSV Robert C. Seamans sails to French Polynesia where Sustainability in Polynesian Cultures and Ecosystems (SPICE) is offered.

FOLLOWING **SEA** is available online. If you'd like your prints, slides, or digital images considered for the next issue contact: Kerry Sullivan, ext. 520 or ksullivan@sea.edu. Sea Education Association, Inc., PO Box 6, Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543 Phone 800-552-3633 Fax 508-457-4673 www.sea.edu



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In 1971 Cory Cramer's vision was of a mature SEA where alumni would be involved in every aspect of the organization. Today 8 of SEA's 26 trustees and 39 of the 121 overseers are alumni. Twenty five percent of SEA's Faculty and staff are graduates of the program and SEA's seagoing crew includes a considerable number of alumni. ■ Just over 60% of SEA alumni earn postgraduate degrees in a wide variety of fields. The largest number of respondents to a recent alumni survey described their professional field as Education (17.1%), with Science (14.3%) and Business (13.6%) following closely. Other professions which include a significant number of alumni are Medicine (9.2%), Maritime (6.5%), Non-Profit (7.1%) and Government (5.1%). ■ To celebrate SEA on the occasion of the organization's 40th Anniversary is to celebrate the 7,040 alumni who have participated in SEA Semester since its first class (W-1). One way of telling the story of Sea Education Association is to examine the impact of the program on its graduates and the impact of those alumni on the greater global community.

we are *the alumni of* SEA

By Jan Wagner

the alumni of SEA



Scott Doney, W-76

Scott is a Senior Scientist at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and is President Obama's nominee for Chief Scientist at NOAA. Currently serving SEA as a trustee, Scott has also been an overseer, and an expert lecturer during the program's shore component.

Scott cites his ten years' work in numerical modeling data and analyses (presented in his book to be published this spring), the opportunity to lead the Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Program (coordinating research for NASA, NSF and NOAA), and his paper on ocean acidification published in *Scientific American* as his most gratifying accomplishments.

Scott is surprised when he goes to Washington, DC by the number of SEA alumni in the marine management field. He believes that SEA Semester fits a unique niche that is wonderful for the scientific community. It provides a cadre of scientists and policy advisors who have been out to sea. "That alone makes SEA really special."



Zena Cardman, S-219

"SEA solidified my interest in going to sea and I now want to incorporate marine science into my science interests."

Zena graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2010. As a sophomore, she contacted thirteen scientists with National Science Foundation Grants, hoping to join their research in Antarctica. Eleven of them said "no;" two said "maybe."

"I persisted and here I am," she reported from the ARSV *Lawrence Gould* – her second time aboard the *Gould* in Antarctica.

Zena earned a B.S. in Biology with minors in Marine Science and Creative Writing and was editor-in-chief of UNC's literary magazine, *Cellar Door*, as well as *Tract Magazine*, a publication exploring the convergence of art and science. She was awarded The Irene F. Lee Chancellor's Award presented to the woman of UNC's senior class who is judged most outstanding in leadership, character and scholarship.



Barbara Block, W-49

Barbara Block, an Endowed Professor at Stanford University and leading expert on the physiology, ecology, and evolution of tuna, billfish, and mackerel sharks, credits SEA Semester with setting her on a clear course into marine science. She was instrumental in putting together the partnership between SEA and Stanford University that has provided the joint program, Stanford@SEA since 2003. Barbara is professor in the Department of Biological Sciences as well as Co-Director of the Tuna Research and Conservation Center, both at Stanford.

Barbara explains the development of Stanford@SEA, "This program gives students a rich opportunity to experience the pelagic ocean first hand. I also wanted Stanford University students to experience first hand the excitement and challenges of research and life at sea, an opportunity that helps catalyze interest in the oceans and foster the next generation of marine scientists. The seas, and in particular, the Pacific are almost virgin in our knowledge."

SEA "provided her with a sense of the interconnectedness of a globalized world and an understanding that the sea is that connector."



Photo by Adrian Kinlock

Luanne Rice, W-25

According to best selling author Luanne Rice, "Everything I write uses my SEA experience." Luanne recalls seeing an ad for SEA Semester in the back of *The New Yorker*. She applied and was accepted into the program with a scholarship from DeWitt and Lila Acheson Wallace, the founders of Readers Digest. "I will never stop being grateful to them."

Luanne remembers the mission of her *Westward* cruise, documenting migratory whales in the Caribbean during mating season. "We went to so many poor nations on that trip that SEA awakened me to human rights." Luanne credits her SEA experience for encouraging her to be a voice for the causes she cares about, both the environment and human rights.

Luanne is the author of 26 best-selling novels, including her most recent, *The Silver Boat*, which was released in April and is set in Woods Hole and Martha's Vineyard.



Andy Rosenberg, W-7

Since the age of 2 Andy has been a lifelong sailor. When he applied for SEA Semester in 1972 while still in high school, he told his parents he would earn half the tuition before enrolling. Participating in SEA convinced him that he could do something other than school and that marine science was a real possibility. For the rest of his career he has followed his interests.

Andy is now Senior Vice President for Science and Knowledge at Conservation International and Professor of Natural Resources and the Environment at the University of New Hampshire. He counts as his greatest accomplishment the development of a recovery plan for Northeast fisheries in 1990 while he was a regional administrator for NOAA.

Andy serves as an Overseer for SEA.



Margaret Wachenfeld, W-60

Margaret participated in SEA Semester while studying biology at Wellesley College. She remembers her paper, which looked at shellfish in coastal waters, and also remembers being particularly inspired by Susan Humphris, her Chief Scientist. Margaret tells us that she intended to get a Ph.D. in marine biology but that changed when she went to work as a legal assistant for an attorney who advised on a wide range of issues under the newly adopted UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. Instead, she earned a J.D. and L.L.M. in International and Comparative Law from Duke University and a Ph.D. in Law from University of Copenhagen.

Margaret describes herself as an international lawyer and policy advisor with expertise, experience and educational background in applying and linking key international developments around environment, climate change and social development, good governance and human rights to the work of international organizations and the private sector. She is currently working for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Brussels, Belgium as a Senior Policy Advisor.

Calling SEA "one of the fondest memories of my very busy life," she believes it provided her with a sense of the interconnectedness of a globalized world and an understanding that the sea is that connector. Looking at climate change and what might be the impact on children is just one of a whole range of international issues, many with a focus on sustainability, that have shaped her career.

the alumni of SEA



Roman says that the SEA experience is always in the back of his mind. "It taught me to take responsibility for whatever I am doing and gave me confidence to lead and to get people to follow me."



Nikola Garber, W-142

Kola earned her B.S. in Biology from Bowling Green State University, northwest of the "2 stoplight farm town" where she was raised in Ohio. After spending summer sessions at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Ocean Springs, Mississippi she received an M.S. in Marine Science/Molecular Biology and a Ph.D. in International Development from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Kola is currently the Assistant Director for Administration at the NOAA Sea Grant College Program. She believes that SEA Semester played a role in the direction of her career because both its hands-on learning and the interdisciplinary nature of the program provide a background for working with diverse groups of people, and gave her skills in the areas of outreach and communications as well as "being a real scientist." Kola remembers that she first learned how to teach people during a storm at sea where the task was to fix the storm sail.



Frederick Fritsch, W-83

After retiring from twenty years service in the Navy, Rick joined the National Weather Service in Juneau, Alaska where he provides full spectrum weather forecasts for public, maritime and aviation users. He is a degreed meteorologist and physical oceanographer, a certified flight instructor, and describes himself as an enthusiastic teacher committed to the education of children and adults alike. Rick lectured on meteorology and weather at sea for SEA's shore component while stationed in Newport, Rhode Island.

Rick says that weather observations made as a student at SEA were influential in his choice of graduate degree and career. He lives in Juneau with his wife and twin daughters. He also volunteers as an educational outreach leader at local schools and trains docents at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center on global climate change and the observed effects in the Juneau area.



Roman Shor, S-204

Roman grew up in Colorado where there was no water in sight. While at University of Pennsylvania earning a B.A. in Mathematics and an M.S.E. in Computer and Information Science, he noticed the SEA program in the Penn general course catalog.

Since participating in SEA Semester Roman also worked as a deckhand on S-205 and volunteered for the Plastics@SEA expedition that took place in 2010. SEA's influence on his academic studies has been dramatic. Roman is currently at Penn working towards his Ph.D. in Earth and Environmental Science in the Ocean Biogeochemistry and Climate Change graduate group. He expects to graduate in 2014.

Roman says that the SEA experience is always in the back of his mind. "It taught me to take responsibility for whatever I am doing and gave me confidence to lead and to get people to follow me."

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PASSAGES I

What A Small World



Phil Sacks and Tami Loeffler

Tami Loeffler, W-133, was happy to run into her SEA Semester captain, Phil Sacks, at a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) event in San Francisco in 2008. But it was especially surprising when they bumped into each other again in Paris in early January and learned that both were being deployed to the same mission, a measles outbreak in the Congo.

After SEA, Tami graduated with a degree in International Development from Clark University in Worcester in 1997 and then spent over two years as an Agriculture Extension Volunteer with the Peace Corps in Gabon. She got a Masters degree in International Development from the London School of Economics and moved to San Francisco to work for Alice Waters' Chez Panisse Foundation. The Foundation supports public school programs that teach children gardening and cooking and integrates it within the existing curriculum. Before joining MSF in 2009, she also managed the Berkeley Farmers' Markets.

SEA Semester: Energy and the Ocean Environment

This spring, a new SEA Semester course will be offered for the first time, the result of SEA faculty responding creatively to world events as they impact the oceans.

As the demand for energy continues to rise while exploited supplies dwindle, oil rigs are pushing deeper into the ocean and drilling further under its floor than ever before. The explosion of the drilling rig *Deepwater Horizon* exposed the disconnect between America's need for domestic energy sources and its desire for a healthy ocean. The resulting oil spill is an environmental and human tragedy that will be felt for decades. Despite the disaster, planning for deepwater offshore drilling continues, as do contested efforts to harness the energy of the ocean winds, tides, and waves. As we look to the ocean to supply more energy, how do we balance national desires for both a healthy economy and a healthy ocean? Students will explore this question and many others as they address the future of energy and America's ocean environments.

Students will work individually with SEA faculty to design an original research project during the initial shore component when they may have an opportunity to focus on such topics as:

- Indicators of oil: concentration of dissolved gases, fluorometry
- Tar balls in the Gulf: natural oil seeps vs. oil spill
- Impact on corals
- Fluff deposition on seafloor
- Nutrient concentrations
- Concentration of oil in the sediments near *Deepwater Horizon*

Aboard the SSV *Corwith Cramer*, students will trace the footprint of the oil spill exploring its effects on local and regional communities, coastal and deepwater ecosystems, and ocean chemistry. A port stop in Grand Isle, Louisiana, allows students to meet with local fishermen, visit affected marshlands, and visit with other local experts. Following the Gulf Stream north from the Gulf of Mexico to Woods Hole, scientific sampling is interspersed with field trips to affected wetlands, industrial ports, and local communities.



President Obama Nominates Alumnus Scott Doney, W-76

Scott Doney is President Obama's nominee for Chief Scientist, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce. Dr. Doney is a senior scientist in the Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). His research focuses on marine ecosystem dynamics and the role of the ocean in the global carbon cycle. He returned to WHOI in 2002 following 11 years in the Advanced Study Program and Climate and Global Dynamics Division at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Doney is a Leopold Leadership Program Fellow and a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union. He is the recipient of the James B. Macelwane Medal, and is the W. Van Alan Clark Sr. Chair at WHOI. *Pictured above: Doney testifies at Senate confirmation hearing.*

2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Linda Cox Maguire

Linda Cox Maguire, Chair
Board of Trustees, February 2011

Last year, we were announcing early signs of an exciting turnaround for SEA. Student curiosity about our programs was growing and we could see enrollment increases on the horizon. Those early signs are rapidly coming to fruition. We are happy to report that we will soon pass last year's final enrollment number and expect to be ahead by about 66-68 students this year! We have a fine enrollment team that is leading the way.

I hasten to add that the entire organization has contributed to our significant accomplishments. New academic programs offer students not only more choices, but also opportunities in more areas of our great oceans. The level of substantive creativity in designing these programs has been extraordinary – and all of this with a lean and mean organization. Throughout the recession, we never compromised on the quality of our programs or the upkeep of our ships. And we made sure that the safety of our students was always our top priority.

We encourage you to visit our website to get the latest on what students are doing and how much SEA means to them. The students we attract are top flight and their feedback on their SEA experience will bring tears to your eyes – it is that powerful.

You have played an important part in helping us to make it through these difficult years. Now, we are asking you to invest in our promising future. We are receiving more recognition – SEA was selected as the “Education Program of the Year” by ASTA, we have signed a partnership with the Ocean University of China, and our plastics research has been published in the prestigious journal *Science*, just to mention a few.

We are reaching out to ask you to help us keep this momentum going. It is SEA's 40th Anniversary this year, a good occasion to consider being even more generous!

Thank you for your years of loyalty to what we do and what we stand for. We hope that you will respond yet again to our call.

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Rebecca Schwartz, W-139

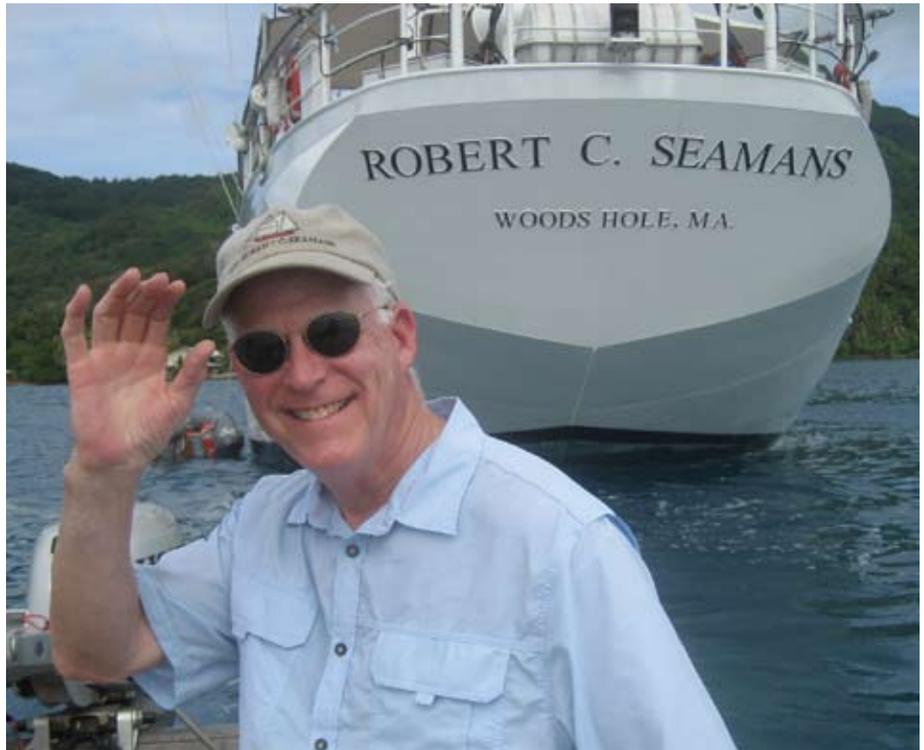
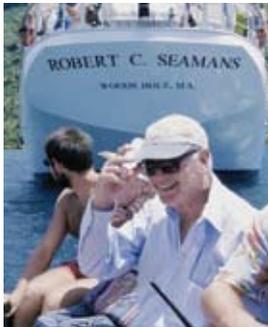
PASSAGES II

“Someday” is today — Seamans Family Sails on SSV *Robert C. Seamans*

During the inaugural year of operation in the Pacific, Bob and Gene Seamans traveled to Tahiti to sail with SEA. Bob was photographed astern of his namesake while at anchor in Huahine, French Polynesia in January, 2002.

This year Toby and Stella Mae Seamans joined the same short cruise and Toby was photographed in that same location nine years later. Toby recalls asking his father why the ship did not have a “Jr.” designation when it was named for Robert C. Seamans, Jr. He tells us that Dr. Seamans replied then,

“Because it will be you someday”. Toby is Robert C. Seamans, III and proudly reports that he now has a grandson who is Robert C. Seamans V.



SEA Faculty Receives NSF Grant for Biodiversity and Conservation Policy Research

A group of SEA faculty and collaborators received a substantial National Science Foundation Division of Undergraduate Education, Transforming Undergraduate Education in STEM (TUES) program grant for their project *Biodiversity in the global ocean — incorporating molecular biology in field-based approaches to undergraduate studies of marine conservation*. This project aims to improve the effectiveness of undergraduate teaching and learning in science through a new problem/project-based, field-intensive curriculum that integrates scientific research with its application in the construction of public policy.

The project team includes Drs. Amy Siuda, C-142, Erik Zettler, and John Jensen (SEA); Dr. Caleb McClennen, W-144 (Wildlife Conservation Society, Director of Marine Programs); and Dr. Linda Amaral-Zettler (MBL). A new course, *SEA Semester: Marine Biodiversity & Conservation* will be offered for the first time in 2012.



Blogging from the Ships

Thanks to the generosity of a small group of SEA trustees, the SSV *Corwith Cramer* and SSV *Robert C. Seamans* are now equipped with satellite transmission equipment that allows for each ship to send blogs and photographs while at sea. They are now posted each workday and are archived on SEA's website. Not only do these blogs serve as a way for families to share the experience of SEA students, but also as an opportunity for prospective students to learn about the program in real time, and for SEA alumni to relive their SEA Semester. Each ship's location is also displayed on Google Earth on these pages.



40th Anniversary Alumni Reunion

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of SEA, all classes are invited to come to the Alumni Reunion scheduled for June 24th and 25th in Woods Hole. In addition to Saturday night's dinner and dancing, plans are underway for daysails on the SSV *Corwith Cramer*, the premiere of a video made during the Plastics@SEA cruise in 2010, an opportunity to talk with President John Bullard, and a presentation by Dr. Kara Lavendar Law, first author of the plastics paper published in the journal, *Science*.

Stay tuned for many other activities planned for the weekend, and contact Laurie Weitzen at lweitzen@sea.edu with any questions you have.

the alumni of SEA



“SEA Semester is wicked hard, demanding on so many levels, and one of its lessons is to overcome hardships.”



Jennifer Stern, W-149

“SEA was the beginning of a career of exploration,” says Jennifer in describing her work at NASA. “Going to sea is like space exploration.” Jennifer is a scientist in the Planetary Environments Laboratory at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Jennifer participated in SEA Semester while earning her B.A. in Geology-Biology at Brown University and then earned her Ph.D. in Geology at Florida State University. She is a member of a team developing instruments that will look for carbon-based molecules (those that life uses) on the next Mars rover, “Curiosity”, which launches in November 2011.

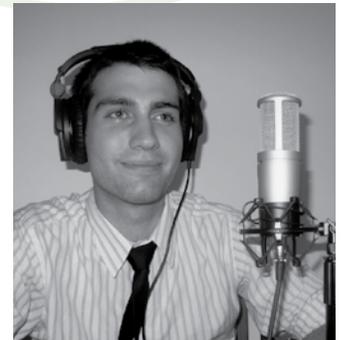
Jennifer credits SEA Semester with encouraging her continued education. The chance to collect data for a research project made her want to do more research and to pursue her Ph.D.



Peg Brandon, W-48

Peg’s association with SEA began as a student on *Westward* but since then she has also been a mate, a captain, Marine Superintendent, Director of Marine Operations, an Overseer and now serves SEA as a member of the Board of Trustees. She currently teaches at Maine Maritime Academy where she is an Associate Professor of Marine Transportation.

Peg was one of the first women to sail as deck crew, a full time captain for 13 years and was Captain on the C-157 voyage that was captured in the PBS *Visionaries* series. Her fascination with organizational structure led to management positions with SEA and she feels fortunate to have been involved with SEA during so much of its growth, including the beginning of operations in the Pacific. Peg believes that education is one way to make meaningful contributions to the world and is proud to feel that she is making a difference by teaching.



Thane Richard, C-216

Thane participated in SEA Semester during his junior year as a Development Studies and Economics major at Brown University. He believes that one of the most important skills SEA helped him develop was his leadership. “They say learning is best accomplished through teaching and I think SEA is a great example of this.”

Thane is currently working in Mumbai, India to set up a venture called *Dabba Radio*. He says, “News and current events are banned on private radio in India. So, *Dabba Radio* is India’s first independent news radio network; think of it as being the ‘NPR of India.’ We create great shows on a range of important topics: from news and politics to music and culture. We then disseminate these shows over as many legal mediums as possible, including cell phones, Internet streaming, and podcasts.”



John Miller, W-16

SEA Semester helped John cement his interest in oceanography, ships and the sea. He had sailed commercially with a government research vessel prior to enrolling in SEA Semester but on *Westward* he discovered that he loved nautical charts and maps, leading directly to his degree in geography. And SEA steered him to the ocean as a career.

John supervises the Environmental Division for Naval Station Everett in Washington. After graduating from Western Michigan University with a B.S. in Geography he was a commissioned officer in the NOAA Corps. John served as Superintendent of the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary, Operations Officer for NOAA's damage assessment investigation of the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and Operations Officer for NOAA's Arabian Gulf Office during Desert Storm.

John volunteered for the Plastics@SEA Expedition in 2010. He has devoted his career to protecting the marine environment.



Photo by Tom Klendinst, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Amy Bower, W-47

Amy Bower is a senior scientist and physical oceanographer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) who credits SEA Semester with “100%“ impacting her educational and career choices. While an undergraduate Physics major, Amy participated in the program that she says ignited a passion for observing the oceans and led to her pursuit of a Ph.D. in Oceanography. Amy has been an SEA Doherty Scholar, an alumni trustee, a trustee and is currently an SEA overseer.

Amy is now legally blind, but says that her sight impairment is degenerative and had not severely manifested itself during the time she was a student at SEA. She remembers that she could not see distant running lights on bow watch, but says her stronger memories are of five days with seasickness and then getting through it. “SEA Semester is wicked hard, demanding on many levels, and one of its lessons is learning to overcome hardships.”

With the support of WHOI and many people there, Amy has been able to overcome her visual impairment and maintain a sea-going career. She says that even with worsening vision, the experience of going to sea is as thrilling as ever. Amy is fond of the commitment she has to outreach at the Perkins School for the Blind. She sits with students and tells her story. “I get to mix in science, but the students get the most out of hearing how you do it with a vision impairment.”

Amy and her husband, David Fisichella, have a 9 year-old daughter, Sara, who they adopted from Guatemala and hope to see as a SEA Semester student one day.



The Plastics@SEA North Atlantic Expedition onboard the SSV Corwith Cramer sailed 3,817 nautical miles during 34 days at sea. The number of plastic pieces found in 128 plankton net tows was 48,571.

SEA's Marine Debris research: From humble beginnings to international attention

By Erik Zettler, Ph.D

SEA vessels are now outfitted with an impressive suite of oceanographic instrumentation, but one of SEA's technically simplest and longest running research projects: counting plastic pieces and tar balls in neuston tows has recently provided extraordinary visibility to the education and research opportunities possible during SEA Semester programs. It began simply enough with SEA scientists and students who were interested in the distribution and abundance of marine organisms. One of our most reliable pieces of equipment for collecting plankton (generally small organisms that are not strong swimmers and consequently drift with the currents) is the neuston net, a 1m wide by 0.5m high rectangular net towed half in the water and half out to collect organisms that are found at the air/sea interface. This net is generally deployed twice a day, roughly at noon and midnight and students quantify and describe the small animals that are caught in the net. In addition to marine organisms, anything that floats at the surface of the ocean is also collected. Presumably tar and plastic were encountered in nets from the earliest days of SEA sampling in 1971, but it wasn't until the early 1980s that SEA began considering the research opportunities presented by tar and plastic distributions. When I asked former SEA oceanographer R. Jude Wilber (who started the SEA plastic project) what made him start paying attention to plastic in the nets during his second cruise in 1982, he said "You just couldn't ignore it". He got students interested in the project by pointing out to them that it was a chance to make a real contribution to marine science since nobody else was routinely sampling and quantifying marine debris. Floating tar, ranging in size from near-microscopic flecks to "cannonballs" was another significant part of neuston

collections. These samples, collected at sea and weighed on a scientific balance in port, supported many student projects and formed the basis for a data set that has proven to be valuable.

In addition to samples collected at sea, beach surveys were conducted during many port stops. Thousands of pieces of plastic, flip-flops, toys, plastic bottles, a "plasto-tar" layer coating rocks and sand, could be collected in 1-meter square transects throughout the western North Atlantic and Caribbean.

Students interested in environmental science and marine pollution found the tar and plastic projects appealing, particularly once SEA started to build up a historical data base allowing them to see trends over time and space. SEA is in a unique position to collect samples over repeated tracks year after year and with the help of thousands of students picking through nets we have been able to build up the best data set on marine debris in the world. This data set now spans almost 30 years in the Atlantic and nearly 10 years in the Pacific and has allowed SEA scientists to publish a number of journal articles including:

Wilber 1987. "Plastic in the North Atlantic." *Oceanus* magazine

Joyce 1998. "Floating tar in the Western North Atlantic and Caribbean Sea," 1982-1996. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*

Morét-Ferguson et al. 2010. "The size, mass, and composition of plastic debris in the western North Atlantic Ocean." *Marine Pollution Bulletin*

Law et al. 2010. "Plastic Accumulation in the North Atlantic Subtropical Gyre." *Science*.

Erik Zettler graduated with a B.S. (biology) from Allegheny College, earned a M.Sc. (aquatic biology) from University of Waterloo in Canada, and his Ph.D. (microbial ecology) from Autonomous University of Madrid in Spain. He was appointed Science Coordinator at SEA in 1994 and Associate Dean in 2010.

While all students and scientists contributed to the data set, each of these publications required significant additional effort by the authors and a small subset of scientists. The first two papers were spearheaded by R. Jude Wilber, Gretchen Rollwagen, W-71, and Paul Joyce. The last two were stimulated by NSF funding and Skye Morét-Ferguson, C-190, Kara Lavender Law, Giora Proskurowski, and Chris Reddy (WHOI) led the effort to collate, analyze and write up these two studies. This work was first reported at the Ocean Sciences meeting in early February 2009 in Portland, Oregon and generated a lot of excitement and interest from the international scientific community and public. This exposure was followed up

with a dedicated plastics research cruise in summer 2010 organized by Kara and Giora and crewed by volunteer SEA Semester alumni. The cruise was partially funded by NOAA Marine Debris Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, The Henry L. and Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation and the American Chemistry Council and designed to sail well east of SEA's normal Atlantic cruise tracks to try to better define the distribution of plastic debris.

There is still a lot of valuable information to extract from SEA's long-term data sets and scientists at SEA continue to organize and analyze this unique resource. The international scientific community also recognizes the value of our data and

we pursue both new and ongoing marine debris collaborations with outside researchers. Some of these collaborations include looking at persistent organic pollutants associated with the plastic itself (with Hideshige Takada, Tokyo University of Agric. & Technol.) and fish that may ingest the plastic (with Dorte Herzke at the Polar Environmental Centre in Tromsø, Norway); physical and chemical characterization of plastic and tar (with Chris Reddy at WHOI); microbial diversity and ecology of plastic debris (with Linda Amaral-Zettler at MBL and Tracy Mincer at WHOI); and size distribution and method comparisons (with Miram Goldstein and Mark Ohman at Scripps). ■

Algae and other invertebrates can be found on floating plastic debris.





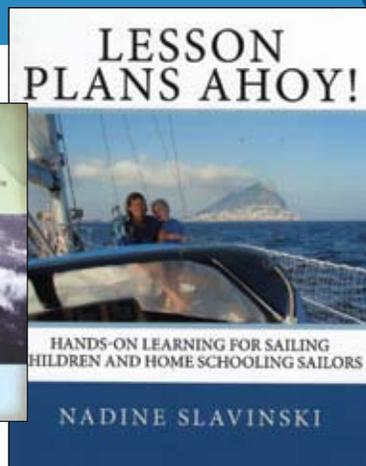
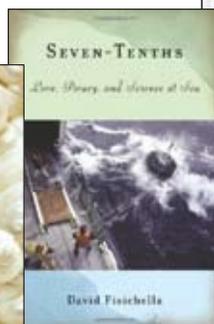
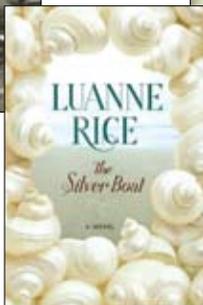
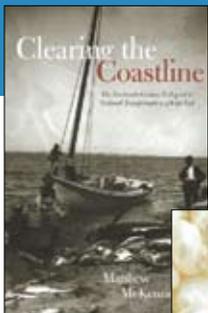
FOLLOWING SEA

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OUR FAVORITE TITLES **TITLES** by SEA Faculty & Alumni



David Fisichella: *Seven Tenths: Love, Piracy and Science at Sea.* Written about Amy Bower, W-47 by her husband.

Matt McKenzie, W-123: *Clearing the Coastline: The Nineteenth-Century Ecological and Cultural Transformation of Cape Cod*

Luanne Rice, W-25: *The Silver Boat*

Nadine Slavinski, C-102: *Lesson Plans Ahoy: Hands-on learning for sailing children and home-schooling sailors*

Alumni & Parents Sailing Opportunity

You are invited to participate in an SEA short program onboard the *Robert C. Seamans*. August 16 - 21, 2011: departing from and returning to Los Angeles. You may bring a guest or other family members. There is a minimum age of 11, and a limited number of berths for children between the ages of 11-16. This program's fee is set at a special rate of \$1000 per person, not including transportation to and from the ship. Berths will be held with deposit at the time of the reservation and are available on a first come, first served basis. As with all SEA programs, this sail will be vigorous, but rewarding! Please contact Laurie Weitzen- lweitzen@sea.edu for more information.