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FOLLOWING SEA

2010-2011 Annual Report Issue

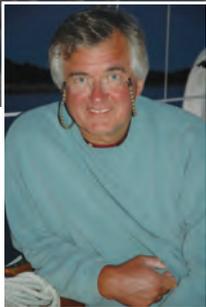
Winter/Spring 2012

A Decade of Leadership

John Bullard Retires



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Beginning when he was hired as President, John Bullard kept a journal related to his trips on the vessels of Sea Education Association. In the 2002 first entry he wrote, “SEA teaches college students about the ocean so it is fitting that I use a notebook left over from my college days. Evidently there wasn’t enough effort on my part in those days to fill this book. I’m making amends!”

And amends he made. John sailed on all three SEA vessels during his first year as President but since they were short trips he referred to them as “warm up” cruises. Later that year he wrote, “Now I’m ready to see what we’re all about.” He joined class, S-184 on their first leg from Puerto Vallarta to La Paz, Mexico. “My goals are to further understand the SEA experience and to learn celestial navigation, which I failed to do when I bought this journal for \$1.98 in 1967—35 years ago.”

That was the first of his student trips. He subsequently sailed on C-187, C-193, C-199 and C-211 in addition to many shorter cruises with SEA friends, colleagues, and the marine committee. They taught him a lot about our students and a lot about SEA. “I spent a lot of time steering while the students completed their projects and nautical science checklists. I tell Shane this is a good metaphor for the presidency of SEA. I’m at the helm; to a casual observer it looks important. But, in an important way, I am the least important person in reaching our destination. I am so impressed, as always, by our crew. They are professional, they know their stuff backwards and forwards. They are tremendous teachers. The students develop respect and closeness to them. They are humble, gentle, kind. They are our success. These trips keep driving this home.”

A Decade of Leadership

John Bullard at the helm

A lifetime of service

Leading by example



Prior to joining SEA John served on Chancellor Jean MacCormack's senior staff at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth. He was named president of SEA following a national search for only the third person to occupy this position, succeeding Rafe Parker (1982-2002) and Cory Cramer (1971-1982).

From 1986 to 1992 he was the mayor of the City of New Bedford. During his three terms he introduced community policing, recycling, and AIDS prevention. He also brought the city into compliance with the Clean Water Act by planning and financing a secondary wastewater treatment plant. Using the New Bedford sewer treatment plant as a case study, John leads each SEA class in an exercise concentrated on environmental change in the real world.

In his service to New Bedford, he also led the revitalization of the waterfront historic district and worked for the fishing industry as they faced the crisis of depleted stocks. That work led him to Washington where, as head of the first federal Office of Sustainable Development, he developed programs to assist fishing families in New England, the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific Northwest, and Alaska.

John earned his Bachelor of Arts *magna cum laude* at Harvard and received Masters degrees in architecture and city planning from MIT. He spent a lifetime on the water in sailing vessels, including three transatlantic passages. With his wife, Laurie, he restored a 1965 Concordia yawl that they cruise in the

Northeast. Their family has expanded in the last decade to include spouses for their children and 4 grandchildren. Toby and Jen live in Cohasset with their children Maddie and Wyatt. Lexie and Kevin live in Pittsfield with their daughter Caroline.

Matthew and Jody live in Boise, Idaho with their son Oliver.

Bullard serves as a trustee of Massachusetts Maritime Academy and Buzzard's Bay Coalition. He is an overseer at the New England Aquarium and Chair of the

Sea Education Association

“John’s steady hand at the helm through many storms over the last ten years has been an inspiration to all of us at SEA. Through his leadership, dedication to our mission, and passion for the oceans, John has transformed SEA and set it on a strong path forward. John likes to ask: “ Does SEA have an impact on the world? Can I have an impact on SEA?” The answer to both is a resounding “yes”—and John’s impact on SEA will be long felt and appreciated.” —Susan Humphris, Board Chair, SEA Board of Trustees

Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force. He is a member of the Massachusetts Ocean Advisory Commission and a founding member of SeaPlan.

Bullard serves as a member of the Woods Hole Diversity Advisory Committee. In 2004 he signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Woods Hole Scientific Community Diversity Initiative on behalf of Sea Education Association. SEA joined five other scientific institutions, NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, Marine Biological Laboratory, U.S. Geological Survey, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Woods Hole Research Center in committing to create pathways of opportunity to attract people from underrepresented groups to the Woods Hole scientific and educational community.

“Diversity is still a challenge for us,” John said. It has long been a strong interest for him, and he is proud that we are about to enter into the 4th year of the Partnership Education Program (PEP), an ongoing diversity program designed to recruit talent from groups that are underrepresented in marine and environmental sciences. This program, a project of a consortium of the six science institutions is funded by a grant from NOAA, which is administered by

SEA. To date three graduates of the PEP program have enrolled in SEA Semester as has a PEP Coordinator.

Each SEA class has “Pizza With the President” while on campus. During this informal session John encourages discussion about whatever is on their minds, but also asks about what environmental issues concern them. He says that global warming and poverty are two that are repeated with regularity. John also encourages students to stop by his office where he has an “open door” policy. Students frequently take advantage of the invitation.

John also talks to the students during sea orientation, a meeting that takes place just before they leave campus to go to sea. During that orientation he suggests that they continually ask two questions: what is going on here? and, what do I do about it? Asking what is going on hones their powers of observation. He hopes they will look beyond the numbers to see what is behind them in everything from boat checks to weather observations, and to see what is going on by looking at the faces of their shipmates. He tells them that the question, what do I do about it? is what makes you a shipmate. “Having information isn’t enough,” says Bullard, “you have a responsibility to act on it.”



Signing the MOU Diversity Initiative (l-r): William Schab, USGS, Frank Almeida, NMFS, George Woodwell, WHRC, Robert Gagosian, WHOI, William Speck, MBL and John Bullard, SEA.

Much was accomplished under Bullard’s leadership, including:

- A \$15M Capital Campaign was successfully completed.
- A Strategic Plan was written that lays the foundation for a new Campaign.
- The Annual Fund doubled in size and total fundraising now exceeds \$1M annually.
- A professional, integrated and high-energy admissions team has increased enrollment.
- SEA continues to set the standard for safety due to our commitment to maintenance, crew selection and training.
- We made our financial accounting more understandable and creditable.
- Academic programs are robust and offer choices for students as a result of faculty creativity.
- There is an increasing recognition of the research that SEA does.
- A number of partnerships with other academic institutions have been developed that provide financial and intellectual value.
- The door to China was opened with the signing of an MOU with Ocean University of China



In May 2005, aboard the SSV *Corwith Cramer*, Bullard wrote *To Love the Sea: Vision for SEA in 2016*. In it, he begins with a series of quotations including:

“We didn’t want (just) to teach people how to sail. What we wanted to do was to take them to sea so they would learn to love the sea.” —Cory Cramer

“A tall ship is the best teaching platform ever devised.” —Rafe Parker

“In the end we will conserve only what we love...we will love only what we understand...we will understand only what we are taught.” —Baba Dioum

“Set yourself earnestly to discover what you are made to do and give yourself passionately to the doing of it.” —Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

“The living ocean drives planetary chemistry, governs climate and weather, and otherwise provides the cornerstone of the life support system for all creatures on our planet, from deep-sea starfish to desert sagebrush. That’s why the ocean matters. If the sea is sick, we’ll feel it. If it dies, we die. Our future and the state of the oceans are one.” —Dr. Sylvia Earle

And he goes on to say, “These quotations frame for me a vision of what SEA can be and should be. I did not bring this vision to SEA. It is, as best as I can tell, the vision that SEA’s people have for SEA. I am just trying to describe it.”

When asked if he had read this document recently, he said he had fairly recently. Seven years into this vision, it does stand up well. We are in the planning stages for the next capital campaign. In 2005 we had just completed a campaign that built a new ship, provided a major refit for the *Corwith Cramer*, and raised about \$3 million in endowment for scholarships. The components of this next campaign, will certainly be those John envisioned seven years ago, primarily endowment: chairs in SEA’s three disciplines, more endowment for financial aid and scholarship, campus improvements to support teaching needs and refits for the two vessels. And they will provide the next transformation for SEA, a secure future.



Since being trained by Al Gore about six years ago, Bullard has now given over 60 talks with the theme “Global Warming. What is going on here? What do I do about it.” He begins each lecture with a discussion of SEA.

When asked what was his greatest accomplishment of the last ten years, John was quick to respond, “I didn’t have a great accomplishment, but the great accomplishment for SEA was that we transformed academically during some very difficult times. We had one program that we ran six times per year and we now have six different programs in our academic year. We have added academic partnerships, like that with Stanford that began in 2003, and we are about to have our second program with Harvard. Others include first rate institutions like Williams, Wharton, Boston University, College of Charleston and Eckerd. Our reputation for safety and professionalism continues to grow. This all takes a lot of work by a lot of people.

It is also worth noting that we totally changed the way we recruit students, integrating faculty and admissions teams into a seamless operation. We built the best annual fund operation that I have ever seen in any organization. We have a stronger financial footing. And all of these things happened in the midst of an economic meltdown. We survived and we transformed. And we are not done yet.”

Linda Cox Maguire, who served as Board Chair during five years of his term as President says this, “John has led SEA through an incredibly difficult decade. His passion for SEA’s mission, his courage, his determination, and his steady hand guided

us through challenge after challenge. I will always remember him as someone who believed in presenting every problem with one or more possible solutions. This approach to leadership focused our efforts and brought out the best in all of us.”

John says that when people learned that he would become SEA’s President they said, “You love to sail. That’s a great job for someone like you!” But for him, the excitement for this job grows every day because of two things. “The first is that the subject matter we teach is essential. The second is our method of teaching. We study the oceans. You cannot understand the planet without understanding the oceans. We are the only organization that addresses it. Our experiential, hands-on education works. Students leave here with knowledge about the ocean and the passion to do something about it. This model of teaching is incredibly effective.”

It was put together by Cory Cramer and nurtured for 20 years by Rafe Parker. It will continue to be what characterizes SEA and what makes SEA who we are.” And it has been wonderfully articulated, advanced, and fiercely protected by John Bullard. ■



Bullard’s hands on style at work.

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Dear Members of the SEA Community,

The search process to identify the fourth president of Sea Education Association is underway. The Presidential Search Committee, which I am honored to lead, has been organized, and we have named Archer-Martin Associates as our search consultants to assist the committee's work on this important project.

Reporting to the Board of Trustees, the president serves as the chief executive officer and is responsible for:

- providing the leadership and vision necessary to preserve and promote SEA's core values;
- assuring the organization's human and fiscal resources are well managed;
- advancing the fundraising and communications priorities, and
- increasing visibility within the oceanographic and academic communities.

In sum, the new president will embrace, guide, and accelerate SEA's trajectory of increasing leadership in ocean education, research, and stewardship.

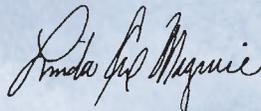
We also will be looking for personal/professional qualities, such as:

- being a visionary leader and strategic thinker,
- showing a commitment to diversity,
- inspiring excellence in others,
- demonstrating strength of character in words and actions,
- exceling as SEA's chief ambassador, and
- having an existing or potential passion for, and connection to, the ocean.

Ideally, the next president will have an advanced degree and/or the experience to represent the institution to its various constituencies.

We are well on our way in recruiting candidates, but we welcome your assistance in offering nominations for the presidency and/or an expression of your own interest. It is highly likely that our next president is among—or connected to—our SEA family, so we urge you to think carefully about possible candidates! Please forward nominations and expressions of interest to Archer-Martin Associates. A~MA's Nancy Martin and Binth Rustad may be reached at 508-325-6161 or via e-mail at SEAPresident@archermartinassociates.com. SEA is an equal opportunity employer.

With appreciation,



Linda Cox Maguire
Chair, Presidential Search Committee

2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Susan E. Humphris, Chair
Board of Trustees, February 2012

It is my pleasure to be writing this letter as the incoming Chair of the Board of Trustees. I am following in the footsteps of Linda Maguire who has ably led the Trustees and Overseers over the last 6 years of major transformation at SEA. I know you join me in thanking Linda for her dedication, leadership, and resolve that helped SEA through some difficult years.

We have much to be proud of in FY11. The hard work of our admissions team resulted in a 48% increase in enrollment for the year. Our faculty and staff continue to create new and exciting opportunities for students to learn about the oceans, and our ships and their staff convert those opportunities into lifetime experiences.

This year saw the successful inauguration of two new programs that add to the mix of semesters we offer. Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems (SPICE) is a program that studies the dilemma of environmental and cultural sustainability in French Polynesia. It is designed for students interested in environmental sciences and humanities. Energy and the Ocean Environment investigates the environmental, technological, and social dimensions of energy production and transportation in coastal and open ocean environments.

Development of yet another new program is being funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation Division of Undergraduate Education. Marine Biodiversity and Conservation will apply place-based resource management in the coastal and open ocean, and will be offered in 2012. This grant will also enable expansion of SEA's research capabilities through the purchase of new equipment for molecular analyses.

On a sadder note—John Bullard announced his retirement after a decade of service as SEA's President. The cover story pays tribute to John's enormous contribution to the organization, his leadership, and dedication to our mission. John led SEA through one of the worst economic downturns but is leaving SEA stronger and in a better position to continue its work of educating students about the ocean.

Thanks to your generosity and the growing base of support from alumni, our Annual Appeal reached new heights in FY11. Once again, we are reaching out to you to help SEA continue along its very exciting trajectory.

No other ocean-based program impacts so many young minds in such profound ways. We hope you will respond and continue to be part of our journey. — *Susan E. Humphris*

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We gratefully acknowledge the many alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends who generously contributed their money, time and effort to Sea Education Association during the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Every effort has been made to list all contributions accurately from **July 1, 2010** through **June 30, 2011**.

If, however, an error has been made, please accept our apologies and notify us.

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Planning for the SSV Corwith Cramer aboard SSV Westward at the New England Aquarium dock in 1986, (l-r): John Thompson, Phil Sacks, Roger Long, Carl Kirkman, Susan Humphris, Toby Tobin, Parker Marean, Percy Wilson, Draytie Cockran, Irving Johnson, Wallace Stark, Paul DeOrsay, Bob McNitt, Rod Stephens, Rafe Parker.



SPICE Atlas Announced

SEA announces the launch of a web-based atlas created by students in our program “Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems” (SPICE) that focuses on issues of environmental change and cultural continuity among South Pacific islands. Information in the atlas is the result of a month of intensive research at our Woods Hole campus, followed by a seven-week sailing cruise from Tahiti to Hawaii via Moorea, Rangiroa, Nuku Hiva and Christmas Island. A final program week in Hawaii allowed us to complete, review, and revise atlas entries. Students synthesized an impressive body of scholarly and scientific literature, as well as voyage narratives and other historical accounts, and works of literature, including Herman Melville’s account of Nuku Hiva in the novel *Typee*. We also examined tourist publications and pop-culture accounts on numerous websites. On the ship we were very fortunate to have Paul Moohono Niva, a Tahitian archaeologist, who had worked on excavations at several of our portstops and was a guide to Polynesian perspectives on history and culture.

Our destinations were chosen to allow for a comparison of different environments (high volcanic islands, low-lying atolls), political systems (French colony, independent nation, US state), and dispersion of different peoples across the Pacific (Polynesians, Europeans, Asians). At each place we met with representatives of the local government to talk about water resources, fisheries, economic systems, tourism, and the threats of sea level rise with climate change. We also visited several schools, and invited local students and community members aboard the ship for meals and impromptu musical performances.

SEA students were respectful, friendly and curious, and received a warm and open reception everywhere we traveled. Their observations were incorporated into the atlas entries and the result is a unique product that can introduce both scholarly and casual visitors to remote islands that are dealing with global environmental issues. You can find the atlas at www.sea.edu/spice233/.



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. In Tahiti, Bob was photographed in the new galley with the mascot “Bob” of Bob’s Big Boy fame. This photo was the cover of the Steward’s Manual for many years.

This year Toby and Stella Mae Seamans joined the same short cruise and Toby was photographed in that same location ten years later. This year, too, grandson George Seamans sailed with his parents. You might notice the very striking resemblance to his grandfather in a photo at the same age.



PASSAGES

SEA Alumnus Donates Book Proceeds

Jason Greer, S-185 will donate up to 90% of author proceeds from his book, *Very Much Better: A Cancer Memoir by a Boy Who Lived* to cancer research and other non-profits positively impacting youth.

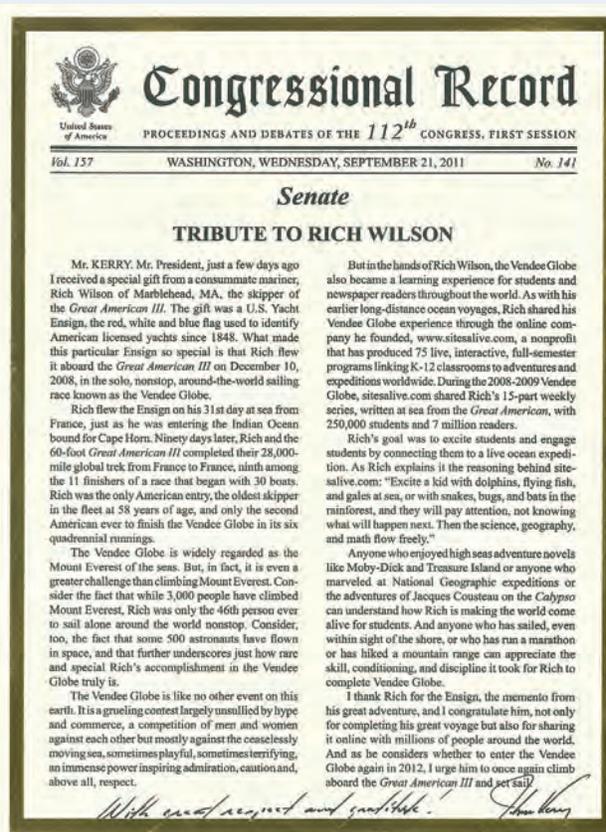
SEA Maritime Studies faculty member, Dr. Mary Malloy, writes this of his work. "Fifteen years after being diagnosed with and treated for bone cancer, Jason Greer has created a memoir that captures himself as a child, with vivid descriptions of the agonies of aggressive chemotherapy, wistful memories of his charmed Montana boyhood (as appreciated from the oncology ward at Seattle's Children's Hospital), and full of the unexpected joys of finding deep and defining friendships among other children who shared his disease. The title of this moving book is somewhat misleading, because while it tells the story of Jason, "the boy who lived," it is as much about those young friends he lost to cancer along the way. The lives of his friends Chad, Jesse and Erik are not simply lamented for their brevity, but acknowledged for the joy and love with which they were infused—even in the hardest of times—and celebrated for the courage with which they were lived.

While Jason has captured what he felt and understood as a child, this is not a childish book. His reflections back are informed by an understanding of the science of cancer and its treatment, by his knowledge as a survivor, and by his continuing dedication to children with the disease. He moves gracefully between his two roles, as a child with cancer and as an adult philosopher on the subject.

Very Much Better is a window into a world that none of us would choose to be in. And yet we sense that Jason would not change his experience, as filled as it was with pain and loss, because it led him to a profound understanding of love, courage, family and faith."



Congressional Record Tribute to Trustee Rich Wilson



The second flag was from Inauguration Day 2009, six days before GA3 and I rounded the Horn, and I asked if his good offices might deliver it to President Obama.

Rich reports that Senator Kerry was very pleased with the flag, "It put a real smile on his face, and he said that the position was special, both for my meaning, yet also because his wife was born in South Africa, so a double effect."

In September, Rich received this document from the Senator's office. "It applies equally to Mass. Maritime, to SEA, and to others who have gone to sea with honesty and for good purposes" said Wilson.



SEA wedding (l-r): Doannie Tran, C-183, Tony Hatala, C-183, Groom Brian Sparkes, C-183, Bride Beccah Wells Sparkes, C-183, Tom Martin, S-183, Lauren Gilbert, S-190, Steve Ruane, S-178. Center Jeanna Stevens, C-183.

At the 2011 Massachusetts Maritime Academy commencement, Rich Wilson had the chance to present two of his *Great American III* daily U.S. Yacht Ensigns, like one that hangs on the bulletin board at SEA, to Senator John Kerry. The first was for him, from a position 700 miles south of Cape of Good Hope, entering the most difficult stretch of the global passage—the Southern Ocean—and bound for Cape Horn. Rich chose the position for him to symbolize the national challenges our country faces in the imminent future, and his key role as a senior Senator in diving in and tackling them.

Marine Pollution Bulletin Best Paper Award

Congratulations to authors Skye Morét, C-190, Kara Lavender Law, Giora Proskurowski, Ellen K. Murphy, Emily E. Peacock, C-170 and Christopher M. Reddy who received Marine Pollution Bulletin's Best Paper Award. Their paper "The size, mass and composition of plastic debris in the western North Atlantic Ocean" was selected as the 2011 winner.

Calling it a very nice, succinct and informative paper on a topic of major international importance, MPB's Baseline Editor noted that it is the first time a Baseline article has been selected for the award. "As we are approaching the 30th anniversary of the Baseline section of the journal in July this year I think it is particularly fitting that a Baseline article has been rewarded for its excellence," wrote Dr. Bruce J. Richardson.

By Amy Cameron W-147

Looking back over 15 years to my semester with SEA, I can clearly see the ways in which it impacted my life. In that one semester, I learned how to survive challenging situations through paying attention and following my instincts, gained a deep respect for the power of the ocean, and found a passion for traveling and exploring other cultures. These lessons have served me well from those early days with SEA to my recent travels to Fukushima, Japan.

The first time I heard about SEA Semester was from a college rugby teammate who had participated the year before. Out on the field for practice one day, she described the hands-on learning at sea and travels through the Caribbean. With a deep love of the ocean and a craving for adventure, I knew right away that SEA Semester was for me. In the fall of 1996, thanks to a scholarship, I found myself in Woods Hole beginning my own amazing journey with SEA as a member of W-147.

I eagerly soaked up the classes in maritime studies, oceanography, and nautical science. Almost all of it was new to me. I found it hard at the time to imagine what life on the SSV *Westward* would be like. I had never been sailing before! I knew nothing of handling a ship,

or being far from land surrounded by miles upon miles of ocean.

Before I knew it, we were boarding the *Westward* and setting sail from Rockport, Maine (the ship was there for last-minute repairs) en route to the Caribbean, and right off the bat I learned two important lessons. The first was to follow my instincts and take action without hesitation. In those moments leaving the dock as everyone scrambled into action, I was seized with waves of panic and doubt about my abilities as a sailing novice. I was used to situations where I could ask a lot of questions before acting, and it was scary to have to quickly pull a line without time to confirm that I was pulling the right one! There was no time for hesitation, doubt, or questioning. In the weeks that followed, I learned the ropes literally and figuratively, and became much more comfortable following my instincts and acting with confidence.

Second, I learned the importance of respecting the power and might of the ocean. Not long into our journey, still feeling a haze of seasickness and craving sleep, a storm approached. I remember standing bow watch, watching the swells roll in. On a whim I stuck my tongue out to taste the spray and at that moment a

continued

...I put into practice the skills I had learned from SEA as I navigated cross-cultural challenges. — Amy Cameron



Above: Amy Cameron on *Westward* in 1996.
Right: Returning to Fukushima and visiting friends.



CURRENTS



From SEA to Fukushima (continued)

huge wave crashed over the deck and doused me. Eyes wide, I deeply understood perhaps for the first time that the ocean was a truly powerful force. Soon we were clipped onto the ship, taking turns at the helm as rain pelted us and water rushed across the deck. And later, as I tried to sleep in my bunk, the boat lurched dramatically from side to side and dishes crashed back and forth in the cupboards. At one point, an enormous wave reached the chart room and we had to bail water out below deck. Witnessing the raw power of the sea first-hand like that gave me a respect for the ocean that I have carried with me ever since.

Luckily, it was smooth sailing for the rest of the trip, and our travels to Bermuda (an emergency stop to repair damage from the storm), Tobago, Granada, Dominica and St. John awakened a passion in me for traveling and learning about other cultures. When I finished college, I moved to Japan to teach English through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. I was placed in a beautiful prefecture that few people had heard of at the time: Fukushima. It was an amazing two years of my life, and I put into practice the skills I had learned from SEA as I navigated cross-cultural challenges. I later pursued a Master's in Teaching English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and certification as a yoga instructor, which in turn have led to many other adventures including more teaching overseas and travels to every continent except Antarctica.

My most recent journey was a return to Fukushima, Japan after the devastating earthquake, tsunami and radiation disasters of March 11, 2011. After seeing pictures and videos in the news about the devastation of the region, I ached to visit my friends and former coworkers in the area. When the Japanese government announced a special invitational program for former JET participants who had lived in the affected Tohoku region to return for one week, I applied immediately, and at the end of August found myself on a plane bound for Japan. I was excited but nervous to return to my "Japanese hometown" Nihonmatsu City for the first time in over ten years, and to see first-hand some of the aftermath of the disasters.

Like that first day on the *Westward*, I had to push aside fear and doubt and follow my heart in the days ahead. On one hand, it was an amazing experience of stepping back into my former life. As I caught up with old friends and visited favorite spots in town, it was almost as if no time had passed. And yet, there were constant reminders that so much *had* changed. There were tumbled gravestones and roofs covered in tarps from earthquake damage. Rows upon rows of temporary housing units were set up in Nihonmatsu's sports fields for evacuees from the coast. Located 40 miles downwind from the Daiichi power plant, radiation exposure had been high and there were daily radiation reports and children wearing

dosimeters. Some families who were able had chosen to leave the area. And on a visit to the coast, I saw vast stretches of demolished land with nothing left by the tsunami but foundations and large boats in fields, a stark reminder of the tremendous power and might of the ocean.

The future is very uncertain in Fukushima. Earthquakes still strike frequently, the economic outlook is grim, and the long-term impact of the radiation is still unknown. It was hard to see all of this in a place that is so close to my heart.

Back in Boston now where I continue to teach ESOL and yoga, I remember the people of Fukushima every day, especially now as we near the first anniversary of the disasters. When I think back to my trip last August, side by side with the devastation, I remember bright smiles and laughter, and people doing their best to make a better future. I recall my own lessons in perseverance from SEA, that week in the storm just a tiny hint of what it means to overcome challenges compared to what the Tohoku region has experienced. Somehow, people persevere. My 76-year old friend in Nihonmatsu put it this way: "Japanese people have survived so many things. We will survive this too. This is what it means to be human." ■

Read more about Amy's return to Fukushima here: <http://returntofukushima.tumblr.com/>



Above: Visible signs of the destruction remain. Right: Children in Fukushima show the dosimeters they wear.



SEA Semester: Marine Biodiversity and Conservation

By Amy Siuda, PhD, C-142



Faculty Oceanographer and SEA alumnus, Amy Siuda, C-142.



Sargassum windrow.



Students sorting *Sargassum* sample.

I look forward to the debut of *SEA Semester: Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (MBC)* this spring. Paralleling a professional effort that is now underway, the project-based, field-intensive curriculum seamlessly links science and policy research as undergraduate science majors independently tackle the largely unexplored but emerging issue of high seas conservation. A period of conceptual framework building in marine ecology and resource management will be followed by a research cruise through the Sargasso Sea to measure biological diversity using classical microscopy and modern molecular techniques. The research will then inform science-based management recommendations for the region. John Jensen, Erik Zettler and I, in collaboration with Caleb McClennen, W-144 (Wildlife Conservation Society) and Linda Amaral-Zettler (Marine Biological Laboratory), have been cultivating the program over the last couple of years and I am happy to highlight the initial results of this process, including expanded SEA advanced course offerings, research capabilities and student access to experts in marine science and policy.

From the outset, we had two main goals: first, to create a program that could more directly satisfy some of the requirements of biology majors by teaching practical skills for successful careers in science, and second, to provide a context in which undergraduate scientists could apply the results of their research. The new *Advanced Topics in Biological Oceanography: Biodiversity* course covers background on the status of and threats to marine biodiversity, practical laboratory skills for measuring biodiversity and the use of ecological statistics to assess biodiversity. This shore-based biology course is complemented by *Directed Oceanographic Research* at sea. Following a similar format, *Ocean Science and Public Policy* sets the

stage for the new *Advanced Ocean Policy Research* course in which students will explore issues associated with large Marine Protected Areas and human dimensions of the ocean in developing management for the Sargasso Sea. These new science and policy courses are the first senior- or 400-level offerings from SEA.

Molecular techniques factor heavily in current biodiversity research, not only to support microscopic analysis, but also to identify and quantify organisms that are too small and visually similar for morphological methods to interpret. A grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) provided partial support for *MBC* development. Moreover, it also supported SEA in our acquisition of instrumentation to conduct DNA extraction, PCR, enzyme digests for fingerprinting, gel electrophoresis and phylogenetic probes while at sea. NSF funding further provides for gene sequencing by the Keck Sequencing Facility at Marine Biological Laboratory, as well as barcoding and archiving by the Ocean Genome Legacy Foundation. With these tools, SEA students will learn leading-edge research methods while contributing to ongoing research started by the global Census of Marine Life program.

Critical to success of this program is a planned culminating practical conservation policy experience—the *Sargasso Sea Management Symposium*. Funding from the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation allows us to invite conservation science and policy experts, as well as stakeholders in the Sargasso Sea region, to attend this session on campus, where students will present their findings for critical review and exchange ideas with these experts. SEA students should bring a fresh perspective to a difficult problem and hopefully gain confidence and ambition to embark on careers dedicated to resolving the largest social and environmental challenges in human history. ■

Amy Siuda joined Sea Education Association (SEA) as a member of the Oceanography faculty in 2007. Amy received a BA in Biology and French from Middlebury College in 1997 and a PhD in Oceanography from the University of Connecticut in 2007. Since participating in a SEA Semester as a student in 1995 (C-142), and before formally joining our faculty, Amy sailed as Assistant Scientist (Science Watch Officer) on seven semesters and several shorter summer programs, as Visiting Scientist on C-189, and as Chief Scientist on C-199 and C-209. Amy and her husband Andrew, C-144, are the parents of a new son, Drew.



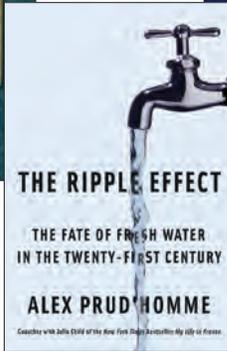
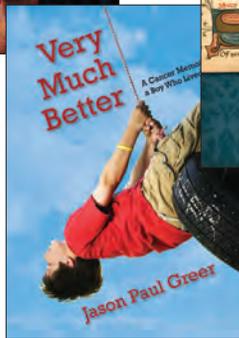
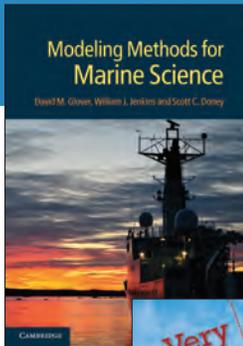
FOLLOWING SEA

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OUR FAVORITE TITLES by SEA Faculty & Alumni



Scott C. Doney, W-76 (et. al)
Modeling Methods for Marine Science

Jason P. Greer, S-185
Very Much Better: A Cancer Memoir by a Boy Who Lived

Mary Malloy—SEA Maritime Studies Faculty
Paradise Walk

Alex H. Prud'homme, W-71
The Ripple Effect

Luanne Rice, W-25
Little Night

SEA's 2011-2012 Annual Fund

We will close our books on the 2011-2012 appeal on June 30, 2012.
Please consider making your gift of any size by sending a check to SEA, PO Box 6, Woods Hole, MA 02543 or by giving online at www.sea.edu.
Thank you on behalf of the students who leave SEA with a greater understanding of the oceans and themselves.