

eBulletin

A monthly update for the community

HARBOR BRANCH

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Upcoming Events

FAU Harbor Branch's Ocean Discovery Visitor's Center will be closed July 1 through September 30 for renovations.

Mission Ocean Discovery public outreach programming, including Immersion Tours, Lectures, the Brown Bag Lunch Series and Children's Camps, will be on hiatus over the summer months and will reconvene in the fall. Stay tuned for more info on upcoming events!

If you enjoy our programs at FAU Harbor Branch, [please consider making a donation.](#)

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June, 2016

Explore the Mariana Trench with Harbor Branch and NOAA



Dr. Shirley Pomponi (center), science team co-lead, discusses the mission during a ship tour of local stakeholders and resource managers.

How would you like to catch a glimpse into what's been called the "Grand Canyon" of the sea - the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench? You can right now, thanks to a NOAA-funded expedition that is being broadcast live online and includes scientists from FAU Harbor Branch! This week, Dr. Shirley Pomponi, Executive Director of the Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology (headquartered at Harbor Branch) joined leg 3 of the mission to serve as biology lead. Watch the dives by [clicking here](#) (choose camera 3 for the most action).

Scientists and students are participating in the expedition from Harbor Branch's Exploration Command Center, one of only a handful in the nation. The facility allows for real-time access to all of the action via telepresence. High-definition cameras capture video imagery from the ocean floor that is transmitted in real-time via satellite from the ship back to Harbor Branch's command center, as well as eleven others across the country. Researchers and students can also communicate with the scientists aboard ship via chatrooms and teleconference during the dives. The ECC will be activated now through the end of the expedition in mid-July.



Bubblegum coral is one of the many fascinating things scientists have seen during leg 3 of NOAA's Mariana Trench expedition. Click on the image above to view a video of the find! (*Images courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 2016 Deepwater Exploration of the Marianas.*)

Ajemian Featured on Discovery Channel's "Shark Week"



FAU Harbor Branch Assistant Research Professor Dr. Matt Ajemian will be featured on the Discovery Channel's "Shark Week" for a project he participated in involving Mako sharks. The work was conducted during his time at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi in conjunction with the Harte Research Institute and included tagging and studying massive Mako sharks that inhabit the waters off the coast of Southern California. The project will be featured on "Return of Monster Mako" which will air on Sunday, June 26 at 9 p.m.

Harbor Branch Welcomes 2016 Summer Interns



The 2016 Harbor Branch summer interns

A tradition more than four decades in the making continues this month, as Harbor Branch welcomes the latest crop of summer interns for 2016. Students from universities all around the world are spending their summer working alongside scientists and engineers here, conducting research that will be presented at a symposium on August 4. This year's sponsors include the Link Foundation, the Gertrude E. Skelly Charitable Foundation and the Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology. This year's interns come to Harbor Branch from a variety of schools including: Florida Atlantic University, University of Miami, Wake Forest University, University of Kentucky, Louisiana State University, United States Coast Guard Academy, Main Maritime Academy, Kiel University - Germany, Florida International University, University of North Carolina Wilmington, University of Illinois, Boston University, Wingate University and Lindsey Wilson College.

Harbor Branch Welcomes Veterinarian to Marine Mammal Rescue Team



Annie Page-Karjian, DVM, Ph.D. recently joined FAU Harbor Branch's Marine Mammal Research and Conservation program, serving as veterinarian for the group. Page-Karjian received her doctorate of veterinary medicine from the University of Georgia in 2011. During her D.V.M. program, she underwent extensive training in aquatic animal medicine and pathology, including preceptorships at the Georgia Aquarium, Georgia Sea Turtle Center, Pacific Marine Mammal Center, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, University of Georgia Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, University of Florida and North Carolina State University. During 2013-2015, she gained more than 100 hours of clinical experience as a volunteer veterinarian at Zoo Atlanta, and worked as an assistant diagnostician for the Georgia Marine Mammal Stranding Network for over 2 years.

World Oceans Day Celebrated at Harbor Branch



From left: Nancy Pham Ho - Florida Tech's Vero Beach Marine Laboratory, Dr. Maia McGuire - Florida Sea Grant Extension Program at the University of Florida, Steve Burton - FAU Harbor Branch Marine Mammal Rescue, Barbara de Vries

Wednesday, June 8 marked World Oceans Day, the recognized day of ocean celebration and action for the United Nations. Renowned fashion designer and conservation advocate Barbara de Vries came to Harbor Branch and explained to more than 100 attendees how she came to use ocean plastic to create jewelry, clothing and art pieces. Her talk was followed by a panel discussion on ocean plastic pollution which included experts from Florida Sea Grant Extension Program at the University of Florida, Florida Tech's Vero Beach Marine Laboratory and Harbor Branch (pictured, above).

The theme for 2016 was "Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet," and individuals and organizations worldwide promoted prevention of plastic ocean pollution through special events such as the one held at HBOI.