

Upcoming Events

TODAY

Mini Brown Bag Lunch Series

You bring your lunch, we serve up the science! Richard Mulroy presents *Echinoderms and Integrated Multi-trophic Aquaculture*. Ocean Discovery Visitor's Center, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. [Click here](#) for more dates in the series.

Wed May 11 Ocean Science Lecture Series

Running Amuck: Our Six-Decade Legacy to the Indian River Lagoon presented by John Trefry, Florida Institute of Technology. Johnson Education Center Auditorium at 7 p.m. - admission is FREE.

SAVE THE DATE

Wed Jun 8 World Oceans Day Special Event

Harbor Branch welcomes renowned fashion designer and conservation advocate Barbara de Vries for a lecture and panel discussion

April, 2016

FAU Harbor Branch Scientists Explore "Grand Canyon" of the Sea...the Mariana Trench



A jellyfish seen during Dive 4 while exploring Engima Seamount at a depth of ~3,700 meters. Image courtesy of the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, 2016 Deepwater Exploration of the Marianas.

Two FAU Harbor Branch scientists are lending their expertise during a NOAA-funded expedition to what's been called the "Grand Canyon" of the sea...the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. Deborah Glickson, Ph.D., associate director of the Cooperative Institute for Ocean Exploration, Research and Technology (CIOERT), located at HBOI, is currently the geology science lead on Leg 1 of the cruise, which runs through May 11 aboard NOAA's *Okeanos Explorer*. Shirley Pomponi, Ph.D., executive director of the CIOERT will be the biology science lead on Leg 3 of the scientific cruise from June 20 through July 11.

The mission, sponsored by NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research, is to characterize unknown and poorly explored areas of the Monument by mapping the seafloor and searching for undiscovered biological and geological features such as hydrothermal vents, mud volcanoes, fish and coral reef habitat, and deep-dwelling organisms.

Researchers and students are following along and participating in the cruise from Harbor Branch's Exploration Command Center, a facility that 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 HBOI'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.

at 5:30 p.m. followed by a cocktail reception. More details to follow.

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

Join Our Mailing List!

"Like" us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!



You too can follow along on the cruise by [clicking here](#) and watching the live stream from the *Okeanos Explorer*!

Ocean Drone Identifies Grouper Mating Calls



Just as the sun begins to set, for just a couple of months, hundreds to thousands of groupers gather at their favorite hangouts along the shelf breaks in the southeast United States, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Basin to spawn - and luckily they're pretty vocal about it, providing vital data on their reproductive behaviors as well as their favorite mating spots.

A team of scientists from FAU Harbor Branch and the University of the Virgin Islands' Center for Marine and Environmental Studies have developed a novel sensing approach using a water drone or robot to listen in on groupers mating. The sensor package and grouper acoustic recognition computer algorithms, developed by FAU Harbor Branch, have been installed on a Liquid Robotics Wave Glider, which is the first readily available ocean drone of its kind.

Spawning season for many commercially important groupers including the Nassau, Warsaw, black, yellowfin and red hind groupers are concentrated within a couple of months each year. The concentrated nature and short duration of their spawning season makes them especially vulnerable to heavy fishing and as a result, many of the spawning aggregations have disappeared or shrunk in the abundance of spawners. Overfishing at these sites can reduce grouper populations significantly, and findings from this study are helping to inform fisheries managers where protective measures are necessary.

"Each grouper species is identified through the unique sounds that are produced by muscles contracting against their swim bladder," said Laurent Cherubin, Ph.D., associate research professor at FAU's Harbor Branch. "These sounds can best be described like that of a boom on a beating drum. Often, the fish make these sounds in territorial defense or during courtship of females ready to spawn eggs."

[Click here](#) to read more, listen to the mating calls and watch video of the Wave Glider!

50 Years of Ocean Engineering at FAU Made

Possible by the Link Foundation

It was the first of its kind in the country five decades ago, and this month, Florida Atlantic University's Ocean Engineering program celebrated its 50th anniversary. The program got its start through a generous grant to FAU from the Link Foundation. As part of the celebration, organizers recognized Marilyn C. Link, former managing director of Harbor Branch and special advisor to the foundation. She was presented with the "Engineering Owl" award, dedicated to the Link Foundation.



From left: Dr. Karl Von Ellenrieder - administrator of The Link Foundation Intern program, Dr. Javad Hashemi - Chairman of the Department of Ocean and Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Mohammad Ilyas - Dean of the College of Engineering, Marilyn Link, Douglas Briggs - first Link Foundation Intern and former FAU faculty member

Harbor Branch Communication Team Wins Top Award



FAU Harbor Branch Associate Director of Communication Carin Smith and Specialty License Plate Coordinator Conlan Kennedy were recognized by the Florida Public Relations Association's (FPRA) Treasure Coast Chapter for their online marketing campaign of Harbor Branch's specialty license plate program. They won an Image Award and also top honors in their category for their entry, "Support Ocean Science for a Better World."

(Pictured from left: FPRA Executive Committee Member Suzanne Sparling, Carin Smith, FPRA

Treasure Coast Chapter President Erick Gill)

Three Decades Since Harbor Branch Helped Recover Space Shuttle



April, 2016 marks thirty years since Harbor Branch's Johnson Sea Link submersible crew helped to locate and recover a section of the rocket booster believed to be responsible for the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger on January 28, 1986. That work is still commemorated today at Harbor Branch with a memorial located on site, created by sculptor Herk Van Tongeren (pictured, left).