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## **Registration Opens for ‘Semester by the Sea’ Program at FAU’s Harbor Branch**

**FORT PIERCE, Fla. (October 20, 2014)** – Registration for the annual “Semester by the Sea” (SBTS) program for Florida Atlantic University’s undergraduate students studying marine biology will take place Monday, Nov. 3 through Friday, Jan. 9, 2015. Early registration is strongly recommended. Students from any college or university are welcome to apply for the program, which runs from Monday, Jan. 5 through Wednesday, April 29, 2015.

The SBTS program, based at FAU’s Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute in Fort Pierce, provides an unforgettable learning environment that couples small class sizes, hands-on lab instruction and intensive field studies in subtropical marine ecosystems. Study topics include:

- Subtropical biodiversity and ecology of seagrasses, reefs, and mangroves
- Techniques and applications of molecular biology in marine systems
- Techniques integral to aquaculture of important species
- Fundamentals of physical and chemical oceanography

The recommended program of study consists of three core courses and one elective course. The “Ocean Discovery” course also is available and involves going out to sea for several days for intensive studies.

“SBTS provides students with a strong foundation in marine science which they can use in their future careers and in excelling in graduate programs,” said Peter McCarthy, Ph.D., associate director for research and SBTS program coordinator. “This intense semester provides an excellent opportunity for our students to learn from and study with the best.”

FAU Harbor Branch faculty are leaders in their respective fields, which include marine mammals, aquaculture, corals, seagrass, mangroves, macroalgae and microbiology. The FAU Harbor Branch research site is located on the shores of the Indian River Lagoon, one of the most biologically diverse estuaries in North America. During SBTS, students have the option of living on the FAU Harbor Branch research site or staying off-campus in nearby Vero Beach or Fort Pierce.

For more information, or to begin the SBTS registration process, contact Peter McCarthy, Ph.D., at [pmccart5@hboi.fau.edu](mailto:pmccart5@hboi.fau.edu).

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**About Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute:**

*Founded in 1971, Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute is a research community of marine scientists, engineers, educators and other professionals focused on Ocean Science for a Better World. The institute drives innovation in ocean engineering, at-sea operations, drug discovery and biotechnology from the oceans, coastal ecology and conservation, marine mammal research and conservation, aquaculture, ocean observing systems and marine education. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu/hboi](http://www.fau.edu/hboi).*

**About Florida Atlantic University:**

*Florida Atlantic University, established in 1961, officially opened its doors in 1964 as the fifth public university in Florida. Today, the University, with an annual economic impact of \$6.3 billion, serves more than 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students at sites throughout its six-county service region in southeast Florida. FAU's world-class teaching and research faculty serves students through 10 colleges: the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, the College of Business, the College for Design and Social Inquiry, the College of Education, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the Graduate College, the Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College, the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, the Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing and the Charles E. Schmidt College of Science. FAU is ranked as a High Research Activity institution by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. The University is placing special focus on the rapid development of three signature themes – marine and coastal issues, biotechnology and contemporary societal challenges – which provide opportunities for faculty and students to build upon FAU's existing strengths in research and scholarship. For more information, visit [www.fau.edu](http://www.fau.edu).*