The weekly (or thereabouts) newsletter of the MSI. Printed every MONDAY. Deadline for submissions - Thursday afternoon.

SEMINARS:

Jin-Chywan Gwo, Texas A&M University
Cryopreservation of Atlantic Croaker Spermatozoa
Monday, 11 Dec., 3:45 PM Seminar Room

ANNOUNCEMENT: The results for the naming of this newsletter - THE EGABRAG WOCS (suggested by Curtis Suttle) came in first place with 13 votes; THE SKIMMER (suggested by Vicki Roberson) trailed closely behind with 9, followed by THE BILGE PUMP (suggested by Amy Chan) with 8 votes. Thank you everybody for the newsletter title suggestions!

FLOTSAM AND JETSAM:

The first F.I.S.H. held last Friday was a great success. After about 1 hour at Billy’s Place we all adjourned for dinner at The Spaghetti Works. The next F.I.S.H. will be sometime in January.

Note found in the newsletter mailbox - “Did you see how Mr. John T. ran when the shrimp boat, The Rosa shook the Pier Lab. He can really go.”

Special Request - Please help out the needy and contribute some food and/or toys to the box outside the main office.

“I think it is sickening to have talented investigators looking at 11% or 9% or 13% award rates.”

—David Korn

MSI GASTRONOMIC GAZETTE:

MEAL TICKETS $3 EACH AT THE FISCAL OFFICE, PLEASE PURCHASE AT LEAST FIVE AT A TIME. MEAL COST INCLUDES DRINK, DESSERT, SALAD AND BREAD.

MONDAY - Pork chops, Yams, Black Eyed Peas, Chocolate Cake
TUESDAY - Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Biscuits and Gravy, Banana Cake
WEDNESDAY - Tex-Mex, Apple Pie
THURSDAY - Sirloin Strip, Baked Potato, Corn, White Cake
FRIDAY - Fish and Chips, Blue Bell
PROFILE: PAUL MONTAGNA

It is surprising how hard it is to write something about oneself. On one hand it should be very easy because you are writing about your favorite subject, on the other hand our sense of propriety does not allow us to be vain. This reminds me of the classic environmental managers joke, they are always looking for one-handed scientists. So, I'll shoot for vanity with relish.

In one sense my story is one of the classic American success stories (if you want to be so bold as to imply that landing a job at UTMSI represents success). I grew up in the slums of New York City. My immigrant grandparents never got further west than Little Italy on the lower west side of Manhattan. In the early 60's the whole clan moved out to Long Island. It was a lot like the Corleones move to Las Vegas. Four families settled within a few blocks of each other in one of those stinky-tacky suburban neighborhoods. Now, you would expect that this was a big step forward in my education, after all suburban schools should be better than inner city schools. When I finally went to college, I found out in a sociology class that the school system that I had attended was the subject of numerous studies to determine the effects of bad schools. But, Long Island had its good points too. I quickly discovered the bays and beaches. The Great South Bay and Fire Island are exactly like our Texas bays and barrier islands. I spent every day of every summer surfing, and eventually won several contests. After High School I became a lifeguard on the ocean, and spent the next eight years pursuing wine, women and song (with a lot less success on the women part even though I was an ardent pursuer). My only goal in college (SUNY Stony Brook) was to obtain a teaching certificate so that I could be a lifeguard during summers for the rest of my life. Then disaster struck, I found out that I hated teaching high school biology. So, in one of those big decisions that mark the passages of life, I decided to go to graduate school instead of becoming a professional surfer and house painter. Ironically, the only reason I went to graduate school (Northeastern Univ.) was because I wanted to live in Boston which had the highest density of bars and young women anywhere on the east coast. It never entered my mind to study marine life, I only went to beaches to play, not to work. I wanted to study forests (typical for a city kid, isn't it). However, there were no forestry professors, but there were a lot of marine science types,
so I reluctantly did a study in a saltmarsh, and the rest is, as they say, history. After the Masters, I taught freshman biology at Northeastern for two years. I then took a technician job at Oregon State Univ., and worked there for four years. Finally, at the close of the 70's I was at another one of those life changing crossroads. I decided to go back to school for the Ph.D. (at Univ. of South Carolina), and get married to Angela. This was really the beginning of the rest of my life. It transformed me from a wild and crazy, fun-loving guy into the respectable, serious, sour-faced grouch that I am today. Another one of the famous sayings come to mind, "when God really wants to get you, he gives you exactly what you want". And, I do have everything I want. With this much happiness, how can I go on? After four years (and the birth of Kate) in SC, I took a postdoc at the Livermore National Laboratory in California. And after three years in California (and the births of Tess and Jack) we came to lovely Mustang Island in the fall of 1986. The best way to describe my work at UT is that I am studying benthic ecology and dabbling in systems ecology. I guess it is fitting that I am still playing in the mud.

1One interesting side note: in the spring of 1979, I spent 2 weeks on an ice island in Prudhoe Bay studying ice meiofauna, here I met and worked with Ken Dunton. (It's a small world after all).

PROFILE: JERI JEWETT-SMITH

The year I started college at Washington State (1971), it was considered much more relevant to demonstrate against the bombing in Cambodia than to attend class regularly. After two years of rich rhetoric and poor grades, I decided to take a break from school and move to a warmer climate. I settled in Tampa, and returned to school at the University of South Florida. There I met John. He was my T.A. in animal physiology (yes, gasp, but we didn't date until after the course was done). I finished my BA at
South Florida, Spring 1976. John and I were married the following New Year's Eve. Along the way I worked at a series of interesting jobs: cashier at the bookstore, medical assistant in a doctor's office, lab technician at the medical school, pizza cook, bartender and food technologist. Food technologist is a rather lofty title which covered such tasks as chief rat killer in the warehouse, following FDA inspectors, taste testing Spanish olives, and making 1000 gallon batches of pickle salad. After two years as chief pickle picker, I decided that there was very little marine biology in moldy olives and took a job with Environmental Science and Engineering. During one of the projects at ESE I met Dr. Clinton Dawes of USF. He suggested I return to school and get a master's degree in botany. Clinton turned out to be an excellent mentor, and USF a wonderful place to get a graduate education.

About the time I was writing my thesis, John was ready to start his doctorate. He had met Peter Thomas at an ASZ meeting, and had decided to work with Pete at UT. I finished my thesis and joined John in Austin about 6 months later. Moving to Texas was traumatic: no job, no money, fire ants covering the house when it rained, northerners. But love will carry you through. I took a few courses as a special student at UT and met Chase Van Baalen. Chase really knew the ins and outs of photosynthetic processes and was working on the cutting edge of nitrogen metabolism in cyanobacteria.

I began working on my doctoral research, the summer of 1985, in Chase's lab. With Chase's help and that of his technician Rita, I began isolating diatoms from seagrass leaves. Fall came, and I was off to Austin, for course work. That fall, Chase was fighting cancer. He passed away after the new year. I directly attribute my success with axenic technique, both with diatoms and seagrasses, to his teaching, techniques and mind-set.

The difficulty of loosing a major professor was alleviated in part with the help and support of Calvin McMillan, Warren Pulich, Bob Jones and John Smith. Calvin agreed to be my major professor, and I have enjoyed his mentorship. There were other "bad times" along the way but friends and family got me through them. Finishing is definitely a mile stone (or should I say like getting rid of a millstone?).

The Future? I'm taking a teaching position in Walla, Washington, for the spring semester. After that it's back to Galveston to rejoin John and look for a post-doc. Anyone know of an opening for a plant physiological ecologist?

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R/V LONGHORN LONG TERM SCHEDULE

1990 -
January 8 – 12
March 19 – 24
Karl Rocke, ARL, requires 10 to 14 days time, late April or early May, negotiating with Sponsor, firm request due Jan. 90
May 14 – 17
June 1 – July 15
30 days firm, remainder tentative
July 16 – 21
August 14 – 31
8 days firm, remainder tentative
September 10 – 14
September 17 – 30
November 12 – 17
1991 -
January 14 – 17
September – two weeks
1992 –
September – two weeks
revised: December 11, 1989

MSI, STEPS (upper Laguna)
MSI, STEPS (upper & lower Laguna)
MSI, STEPS (upper Laguna)
Univ. of Miami, Harry De Ferrari, ONR
Tongue of the Ocean
MSI, STEPS (upper & lower Laguna)
Institute for Geophysics
Behrens/Slater
MSI, STEPS (upper Laguna)
NSF
MSI, STEPS (upper and lower Laguna)

MSI, STEPS (upper Laguna)
Curtis Suttle, NSF

Curtis Suttle, NSF
The Computer Corner - Paul Montagna.

Erasing data is a crime? This is one for the "can you believe that" file. In a case that has very broad implications, a Georgia man was recently convicted for erasing data from his employers computer. The motive was said to be "the pleasure in messing up the company". One of the implications of this case is that users who erase data, whether by accident or not, can be prosecuted. Two other problems can arise, e.g., scapegoating where someone is blamed for everything that goes wrong, and the other is frameups, it is easy to make it appear someone else has performed the sabotage. So the next time one of you technicians, students, or staff members turn on the computer, remember that you have a potential criminal weapon at your finger tips. Be extra careful when formatting disks, you don't want to reformat that harddisk! In the past the worst that could happen is that your supervisor would be grouchy for a day or two when you accidently erased something. Now, he can send you to jail. As the old saying goes, "the price of poker just went up". Of course, if a supervisor erases the data, he or she is just inept or at worst a fool, but not criminally liable. Where is Orwell and Woody Allen when we really need them?

On a more serious note, I (and I know others) have had problems when a harddisk was inadvertently reformatted. Generally, it takes me one or two days to completely rebuild all the directories. To protect yourself from this disaster buy a copy of the Norton Advanced Utilities, it has a wonderful little program which has the ability to save the harddisk setup, so that it can be restored. Also, don't forget to backup your harddisk regularly, especially if your computer is starting to give you strange messages which might presage a harddisk crash.

NEWS FROM OMNET

THESE ARE ANNOTATED VERSIONS - FOR MORE COMPLETE ANNOUNCEMENTS PLEASE SEE THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE PHOTOCOPY ROOM.

Posted: Wed, Nov 29, 1989 5:02 PM EST  Msg: KGIJ-4103-8499
From: M.BROWN,MMS
FRIENDS OF THE GULF E-MAIL DIRECTORY
The following is a listing of known Omnet e-mail addresses for individuals on the MMS Gulf of Mexico Regional Office's mailing list for oceanographers. It is provided here as the beginning of a complete listing for the general Gulf marine science community. Please send any corrections, deletions, or additions to M.BROWN,MMS. Note that the only PI on the list from MSI is Tony Amos.

Posted: Fri, Dec 1, 1989 3:17 PM EST  Msg: MGIJ-4105-7685
From: C.MOOERS
The Coastal Ocean Prediction Systems (COPS) Planning Workshop was held at UNO on 31 OCT to 2 NOV 89.

Posted: Tue, Dec 5, 1989 10:00 AM EST  Msg: MGIJ-4111-2073
From: A.BUCKLIN
CC: E.HARTWIG, R.SPINRAD, A.BUCKLIN
Sub: NEW ONR PROGRAM: AGGREGATE DYNAMICS
The Office of Naval Research announces an upcoming Accelerated Research Initiative (ARI) sponsored by the Oceanic Biology, Ocean Chemistry, Ocean Optics, Molecular Biology, and Small-Scale Physical Oceanography Programs: MARINE AGGREGATE DYNAMICS. This new ARI will provide funding in the FY91 - 95 time frame...
Posted: Tue, Dec 5, 1989 10:30 AM EST  
Msg: FGIJ-4111-2360
From: IOSBCLIBRARY
It is with great sadness that we learned today of the death of our friend and colleague Marilyn Guin; peacefully at her home in Newport, Oregon on Saturday, December 2 early in the morning in the presence of her loving family.

Posted: Tue, Dec 5, 1989 10:20 PM EST  
Msg: FGIJ-4111-7694
From: JAMMERMAN
SUMMER ALSO MEETING, JUNE 1990, SPECIAL SESSION, EXTRACELLULAR ENZYME ACTIVITIES IN AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Posted: Wed, Dec 6, 1989 8:37 AM EST  
Msg: LGIJ-4112-1118
From: P.GEERDERS
COURSE IN SPACE OCEANOGRAPHY *** 2nd - 22nd September 1990 *** DUNDEE UNIVERSITY, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM ***

Posted: Thu, Dec 7, 1989 1:12 PM EST  
Msg: HGIJ-4113-2960
From: H.DEFERRARI
THE R/V LONGHORN WILL BE OPERATING OUT OF PORT OF MIAMI JUNE 1 THROUGH JULY 16. THREE WEEKS ARE AVAILABLE AT A RATE OF 2K/DAY. THE LONGHORN IS 104 FT. WITH A COMPLETE OCEANOGRAPHIC CAPABILITY AND AN EXPERIENCED CREW. CONTACT HARRY DEFERRARI UNIV OF MIAMI OR JOHN THOMPSON UNIV OF TEXAS. (305-361-4644) OR (512-749-6711).

Posted: Fri, Dec 8, 1989 1:18 PM EST  
Msg: KGIJ-4114-2555
From: M.SPAULDING
CALL FOR PAPERS: OIL SPILLS: MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS
Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts for papers on oil spills with a primary focus on the implications for managing the transport, spill response to and exploration for oil. Special sessions are planned on the Exxon Valdez, World Prodigy, Presidente Rivera and Rachel B spills.

Posted: Tue, Dec 5, 1989 12:10 PM EST  
Msg: HGIJ-4111-3314
From: OMNET.SERVICE
Omnet offers SciSearch - It used to be hard to keep up with all the papers being published in one's field. No more! Omnet is offering its subscribers access to SciSearch, the index to international scientific and technical journal literature. Prepared by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) for Orbit, SciSearch corresponds to the printed Science Citation Index and contains additional records from the Current Contents series of publications. The result is an online database which allows researchers to do keyword and citation searches on approximately 4,500 journals.

JOBS: SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR COMPLETE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE SPICE RACK

Here are two great recipes with one thing in common - cream cheese

La Fogata's Chiles in Cheese (Julia Koepfler)

This dish is fashioned after an appetizer served at La Fogata in San Antonio. To serve it as a main dish just add some grilled or sauteed chicken strips.

1 medium onion, quartered and sliced thinly
6 long green chiles, roasted*, peeled, seeded and cut into thin strips
OR
2 cans of mild green chiles, seeded and cut into strips
8 oz. cream cheese
8 oz. grated mozzarella or monterey jack cheese
1/4 t cumin
cayenne pepper or tabasco sauce to taste

Sauté onion in a non-stick skillet until soft (do not brown). Add chile strips and sauté 1 minute. Lower heat and add cream cheese. Allow cream cheese to melt slowly. Add grated cheese and cumin and stir while it melts. Do not allow the mixture to boil or it may separate. When the mixture has melted add cayenne or tabasco to taste. If the mixture is too thick add a small amount of milk while stirring. Serve with warm flour tortillas which can either be dipped into the cheese or spread with cheese and rolled. Serves 6 as an appetizer or 4 as a main dish.

* To roast peppers, place under hot broiler turning frequently until black on all sides. Allow the peppers to cool or plunge in ice water and then peel off the charred skin.

Joleta's Cheesecake (JoAnn Page)

1 box Zwieback Toast
1 1/2 sticks margarine, softened
1 cup powdered sugar

5 - 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
5 eggs
1 3/4 cup sugar
3 T. Flour
1/2 cup cream or milk
1 t. vanilla

Mix first three ingredients in food processor. Press into bundt cake pan. Refrigerate one hour if possible.

Mix remaining ingredients together. Pour into bundt pan and bake 1 hour at 300°. Turn off oven but leave cake in oven for another hour.