

August 18, 2004

▶ Volume 5

# MGG NEWS

## A Message from our Chairman



Gregor Eberli, Chairman

A division is as good as its faculty, students and staff. But what is "good" in a soft money institution like RSMAS? For the faculty and researchers "good" means that they generate enough income to support their research, produce significant results and papers to be recognized within the scientific community, and teach students and guide them in their research. I am pleased to report that last year the MGG faculty has succeeded in all three tasks. Many 1st-rate papers were published and our junior faculties, Gene Rankey and Falk Amelung, each won a best paper award in their respective fields. The faculty secured more than 2.5 million dollars of grants during the last fiscal year, guaranteeing a continuation of their research activities. No division can shine without having excellent students, and we are proud to have an energetic student body in MGG. Their quality is best documented by their recognition within the community for their scientific contributions. Tiina Manne (student of Hal Wanless) received the Smith Prize for the best Masters thesis while Gina Schmalzle (student of Tim Dixon) received an outstanding paper award from AGU and the Earth System Science Fellowship from NASA. We are also happy that a new wave of nine new students

joined MGG and the Department of Geological Science last year. Last but not least, a division relies on its staff for smooth operation. We always knew that we had excellent staff but this year, finally, the school also recognized this fact and awarded the Administrative Assistant Employee of the Year Award to Karen Neher from MGG. All these accomplishments are the result of hard work and the adjustment to ever-changing conditions in research and education. For example, to reach the high level of funding a variety of sources needed to be approached. Grants from National Science Foundation are still a major source of income but today, large grants from ONR, NASA, private industry, and other sources are just as important. Over the last year, outreach to the general public has increased within MGG. Two examples are the INSTAR program (which is a K-12 science teacher professional development program) and the Comparative Sedimentology Laboratory Field Seminars to the Bahamas and Belize for professional geologists. In addition, Robert Ginsburg has an active program in coral reef research and education in several Caribbean countries and is active in the school-wide outreach lecture series "Sea Secrets". The increased effort in education is in line with demands of the funding agencies to involve active researchers in public education. In the coming year we are again confronted with changes, as the relationship with the main campus and the Department of Geological Sciences will be redefined.

## Bruce Rosendahl Retires



Bruce Rosendahl

As of April 1, 2004, **Bruce Rosendahl** officially retired from RSMAS and UM and became professor emeritus. Bruce moved to Annapolis where his wife works and where he will continue to work on continental margin geology. Bruce had been at RSMAS for 14.5 years, first as Dean and later as professor in MGG. He was the first occupant of the "Lewis G. Weeks Chair in Geology". During his time as the Dean when his salary was covered, he requested that the proceeds of the Weeks endowment be used to guarantee salaries for young faculty within MGG. Don McNeill, Jacqueline Dixon, Tim Dixon, Jim Natland, Julie Hood, Chris Scholz and Gregor Eberli were hired with this financial support. By hiring a couple, Jackie and Tim Dixon, he started a trend that has been proven to be very successful within the school. When Bruce returned to MGG as a faculty, he continued to do research but his true passion was teaching, especially undergraduate courses. Consistently excellent scores proved that he not only loved it but was incredibly good at it.

Bruce, we wish you all the best and hope you stop by every once in a while on your way to Key

## Student Defenses

### Carlos Alvarez (PhD)

Defended: September 24, 2003

Advisors: Larry Peterson & Pat Blackwelder

Title: Ostracods, Stable Isotopes & the Paleo-Environmental Reconstruction of Coastal & Lacustrine Environments in South Florida over Decadal to Millennial Timescales

### Edumundo Norabuena (PhD)

Defended: December 1, 2003

Advisor: Tim Dixon

Title: Space Geodetic Studies of Crustal Deformation in Subduction Zones: The Central Andes and Costa Rica

# MGG News



Dr. Eugene Rankey

◆ Congratulations to **Dr. Eugene Rankey**, recipient of the 2002 SEPM's *Journal of Sedimentary Research* Outstanding Paper Award for his paper, *Spatial patterns of sediment accumulation on a Holocene carbonate tidal flat, northwest Andros Island, Bahamas*. The award was presented at the SEPM President's Reception during the SEPM/AAPG Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas on April 20, 2004.



Dr. Millerero presenting "The Mary Roche Fellowship" to Christopher Moses.

◆ Congratulations to **Christopher Moses**, the recipient of *The Mary Roche Fellowship*. This is a \$10,000 fellowship to be used to cover educational/research related expenses including stipend, tuition, travel, and books. **Chris** is also the recipient of the 2004 MGG *Student of the Year Award*.



Noel Gourmelen and Dr. Frank Millerero

◆ **Noel Gourmelen** received the 2003 RSMAS Fellowship in recognition of scholastic achievement. Congratulations Noel!



Tiina Manne posing with Dean Otis Brown after receiving the Smith Prize.

◆ Congratulations to **Tiina Manne**, the recipient of the Smith Prize for her thesis *Archaeocyath Growth Morphology as a Reflection of Bioherm Form, Cavity Development and Life Habit Newfoundland and Labrador, Northeastern Canada*.

◆ **Karen Neher** is the recipient of the 2003 Administration Assistant Employee of the Year Award for outstanding achievement and faithful and devoted service. Great job, Karen!



Karen Neher



Maia Evelyn Atlas

◆ Congratulations to **Zac Atlas** and his wife, Silvia, on the birth of their first baby, born June 5 at 5:24am, weighing 6 lbs 14 oz and 21 in long. Both mother and baby Maia Evelyn are home and doing wonderfully.

◆ Congratulations to **Dr. Falk Amelung**, one of four recipients to receive the 2004 E.B. Burwell, Jr. Award in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the interdisciplinary field of engineering geology and for the publication of their paper, *Land Subsidence in Las Vegas, Nevada, 1935-2000: New Geodetic Data Show Evolution, Revised Spatial Patterns, and Reduced Rates: Envi-*



Dr. Falk Amelung

*ronmental & Engineering Geoscience*, v., no. 3.

◆ Congratulations Kathryn! **Kathryn Lamb** was married to Jeff Wozniak on September 6, 2003 in Elmira, NY. She had two wedding ser-



Kathryn and Jeff Wozniak

services: Presbyterian and Russian (Christian) Orthodox; and a breathtaking reception at the Wagner Vineyards on Seneca Lake in the heart of New York's wine country.



Barbara Rassmann of ExxonMobil chats with students at the reception.

◆ ExxonMobil has been recruiting graduate students from MGG for years. Every fall Barbara Rassmann, a geological advisor for ExxonMobil spends three days in MGG interviewing students for potential jobs. As a result we have had many of our graduates hired. Just in the past two years Corey Moss and Alexander Janik accepted jobs with the company. Last year, MGG was awarded a \$5000 grant for educational purposes. This Grant money was used to offset costs for students' fieldtrip to Puerto Rico (Tectonics/Structural Geology) and to the Bahamas (Sedimentology). Mark Chilton, a recruiter and employee of ExxonMobil stated that 'the company has maintained a steadfast commitment to higher education, supporting initiatives and universities that align with the goals and needs of the company and their employees. With these departmental grants, funds are specifically directed to those university departments that are educating the highly-qualified graduates that ExxonMobil recruit and hire.'



Dr. Mark Grasmueck

◆ Congratulations to our very own, **Dr. Mark Grasmueck**. Dr. Grasmueck participated in the 2004 Corporate Run and was noted as the 3rd fastest runner at RSMAS and received an award from the University of Miami for being UM's fastest male runner in the race between the age of 30-39 years old.

◆ **Dr. Philip Kramer** is employed full-time with the Natural Conservancy and as of November 1, 2003 he was appointed as a Research Assistant Professor (voluntary faculty) in MGG, whereas he will continue conducting fieldwork and supervising students.

◆ Congratulations to **Gina Schmalzle**, the recipient of the 2003 AGU Outstanding Paper Award for the presentation of her paper, *Effects of lateral heterogeneity on strain accumulation across the Carrizo Plain segment of the SAF*. **Gina** has also been awarded the Earth System Science Fellowship for the 2004/2005 academic year. The award is for \$24,000 and is eligible for three years. Great job Gina!



Gina Schmalzle

## A Rising Poet in MGG

**I**t is usually difficult to get alumni as well as MGG faculty, students, and research staff to write an article for the newsletter. It is actually like pulling teeth or reeling in a huge fish except it's nothing but dead weight and it almost zaps me completely of energy and enthusiasm for putting together the best newsletter possible. So I decided that I would write this article to fill in some of the blank spaces hoping it will inspire you to write an article in the future. Now, of course, you don't expect me to write anything scientifically. No, I will write about my experience at my very first poetry festival.

The majority of you do not know about my passion for reading and writing poetry. I don't have a favorite poet, although I do have several poems I am very fond of, such as *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer, *Phenomenal Woman* by Maya Angelo, *Dream Deferred* by Langston Hughes... You might say that my love for poetry was spoon-fed by a substitute teacher I had in elementary school who insisted that the class learn the poem *Trees*. The teacher demonstrated the poem with such drama that it captivated me. Most of my classmates were annoyed having to dramatically recite this poem, but I enjoyed it so much that I began writing poetry myself. It was amazing to me how this poet was able to take a tree and metaphorically emerge it to human form.

After years of not sharing any of my poetry with anyone, I broke the silent code last year by joining a poetry guild, *Lip, Tongue, and Ear Production*. Less than a year of participating in this group I was selected by the board members to be one of 10 members of a mentor program. Through the mentorship program I have attended local and national poetry readings at universities, public libraries, and private facilities, and I have attended workshops that teach how to escape writer's block to how to dramatically perform your poetry in competitions and poetry readings. My first tour with the group was to Austin, Texas to attend an international poetry festival—an experience never to be forgotten.

I met poets from all over the world: United States, London, Singapore, Africa, Canada, Haiti... Some were full-time professional poets and other did it as a hobby, but each poet was unique in their own way of sharing love, political, incidental, and controversial poetry. Some did readings while others dramatically performed their poetry/monologues—and their accents were unusually remarkable and it made their performance even more interesting.

Joining *Lip, Tongue, and Ear* has been an exceptionally good move for me. It has given me an opportunity of not only sharing my poetry, but also an opportunity to hear other great up-coming poets. In partaking in the public readings, I have received awards of participation from Mayor Alex Penelas, Miami Dade Community College for the 2003 International Book Fair, and a trophy from *Lip, Tongue, and Ear* for competing in the 2004 poetry slam.

Can you imagine...Avis the poet?

## Welcome to New Members of MGG

### Students

**Emily Bowlin** is now looking at various reef systems and documenting current stress levels with the hope to study stresses on reef systems specifically nutrient and sedimentation stresses.

**Eduardo Cruz** is focusing on patterns and processes in modern and Pleistocene oolitic shoals. Sedimentology and high resolution satellite data on these shoals will be used to define shape, grain and flow attributes and integrate to the core data. The goal is to establish predictive models in a heterogeneous bank margin prolific reservoir.

**Daniel Doolittle** is focusing on ecological monitoring of coral reefs with remote sensing technologies.

**Ana Gaspar** is working on project - RIBS (Research Initiative on Bahamian Stomatolites) with Dr. Pamela Reid.

**Brooke Gintert** is focusing on the impact of *Palythoa caribaeorum* on coral community dynam-

ics within the Florida Keys.

**Melany McFadden** is focusing on using stable isotopes in both the organic and inorganic fractions of sediment cores collected from the Gulf of Papua off the coast of Papua New Guinea. She will develop a record of paleoclimatology and paleoceanography during the Holocene and late Pleistocene.

**Robert Otto** is studying acquired sediment samples from four previous cruises on the Great Bahama Bank of which he will focus on the distribution of organic content across the bank and identify the internal structure of the grains to refine earlier facies descriptions.

**Christina Smith** is focusing on the historic and present influences of freshwater artesian springs in Biscayne Bay.

**Kathleen Willis** is focusing on Sulfur geochemistry and isotope composition within carbonate associated sulfur (CAS), and will measure sulfur concentrations and isotopes found within modern and

ancient depositional environments, and will look at the effect of diagenesis and fluid flow on Sulfur concentrations.

### Research Staff

**Beatrice Cailean** is a graduate of The Christian Albrechts University of Kiel, Germany. She is a postdoctoral associate working with Dr. Timothy Dixon.

**Steve Truss** is from the University of Leeds and is a postdoctoral associate working with Dr. Mark Grasmueck.

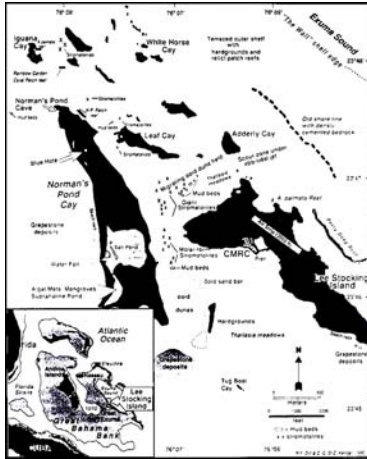
**Sandra Vega** is from Stanford University and is a postdoctoral associate working with Dr. Mark Grasmueck.

**Carlos A. Alvarez Zarikian** is a postdoctoral associate working for the U.S. Geological Survey-FISC through the CESU office at the Rosenstiel School.

## Experiencing Reefs, Oolitic Shoals, Giant Stromatolites and Freshwater Ponds: The MGG Student Field Trip to Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas

By: Kathleen Willis and Robert Otto

Dr. Gregor Eberli led an exceptional MGG student field trip to Lee Stocking Island, Bahamas from May 24<sup>th</sup>—29<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Eleven graduates, two post-doc students, and one recent graduate participated in this outstanding learning experience. On Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, our group had a rocky start as we flew directly overhead of the Georgetown airport in the Exuma Islands but were forced to return to Miami due to bad weather conditions.



Undaunted, we showed up at the airport the next day. At this attempt, we successfully landed in Georgetown and after a van ride from the airport to the port of Barratterre we completed our trip by boat to the Perry Institute for Marine Science on Lee Stocking Island.

Over the next four days, we studied the modern carbonate environments within and around Lee Stocking Island.

Lee Stocking Island (LSI) is one of the many Exuma Islands and cays that form the boundary between the eastern rim of the Great Bahama Bank and the deep Exuma Sound (see Map above). During our field study, we explored the windward and leeward side of LSI and nearby cays examining subtidal, intratidal and beach processes and environments. We focused on the sedimentological, biological, and oceanographic processes that create depositional environments. To that end, our first morning was spent snorkeling along Twin Beach, on the leeward side of LSI where mounded burrow structures populate the shallow, low energy bay. During a hike across Twin Beach we observed outcrops of Pleistocene beach deposits and Holocene eolian sands. After continuing into the interior of the



*Mounded burrow structures populating the shallow and low energy bay.*



*Freshwater pond capped with a meter-thick stromatolitic mat.*



*Reclining: Eduardo Cruz; First Row: Robert Otto, Christina Smith, Brigitte Vlaswinkel, Guillermina Sagasti, Kelley Steffen, Emily Bowlin, Josine Kelling; Second Row: Guillaume Koerner, Kathleen Willis, Ralf Weger, Miriam Andres, Gregor Baechle, Kelly Bergman, Gregor Eberli, Guido Bracco-Gartner*

island, we explored an ephemeral freshwater pond which was capped with a meter-thick stromatolitic mat.

In the afternoon, we migrated over to the windward side of the island to investigate the modern carbonate platform edge and reef. Near the end of the day we snorkeled through a 5-8 meter deep channel observing large-scale (up to 3m in height) stromatolites. It was readily apparent how migrating ooid dunes were covering up the stromatolites.



*Ooid dunes covering the stromatolites.*

On Thursday and Saturday morning, we focused on tidal processes and the sedimentary structures of oolitic shoals, sand waves, and tidal channels within varying flow strengths and water depths. On Thursday afternoon we snorkeled through a sandy, mangrove-lined tidal channel to reach the pond on Norman's Pond Cay. We also examined modern beach rock deposits and the biota of this shallow subtidal environment. On Friday afternoon, we waded through a densely-populated muddy mangrove channel and tidal flat located southwest of LSI. Later, we snorkeled around the surrounding muddy tidal channel and mud-dominated low-energy outer bay. On our final morning, we examined a patch reef along Leaf Cay, located north of LSI.

On behalf of all the students who participated on this field excursion, we would like to thank David Gomberg, ExxonMobil, and the CSL for the financial support that made this trip possible. Such a unique field opportunity to explore modern carbonate processes within our Bahamian "backyard" yields valuable depth to our graduate experience.

# MGGers on Board The Explorer of the Seas

By Amel Saied

Ever since I went on the Explorer of the Seas (Royal Caribbean biggest cruise ship) during the holidays of December 2003, I can't help but wonder where it is at this very moment—whether the visiting scientist on board is logging the information correctly, and if he or she was able to collect sea water samples at all the stations along the track for the SIL lab (Stable Isotope Laboratory). A couple of years ago, a joint effort between Royal Caribbean, RSMAS, NOAA and NSF led to an outreach program consisting of two scientific laboratories (Atmospheric and Marine laboratories) and a number of marine and atmospheric monitoring devices aboard the Explorer of the Seas. The purpose was to take advantage of an opportunity to educate the general public and the opportunity to do research aboard a cruise line ship that follows the same tracks over and over again for years, covering a substantial area that will allow us to gather basic data about the Ocean and the Atmosphere along the way. In the case of the Explorer of the Seas, the area tracked is the Caribbean.

Starting on a Western track (See web site below), the Explorer of the Seas leaves Miami on a Saturday afternoon. After circling a portion of the Caribbean it stops among other ports at Grand Cayman and Cozumel, then it docks back at the port of Miami the following Saturday morning—just in time to prepare for the afternoon's Eastern track (See



Amel Saied's sister, Samia, in Labadee (first port on the Western track).



Photo from RSMAS webpage (website address below).



Kelley Steffen (holding nephew, Alexander) and her sister, Katie, poses after enjoying the view of the ocean.



Amel Saied giving tour of the Ocean lab. To passengers aboard the ship.

web site below) that includes visiting the Bahamas, Porto Rico and St Martins. The travel aboard this ship is more than a vacation. Daily the passengers have the opportunity to attend scientific seminars, watch marine/atmospheric related documentaries, or sign up for guided tours of the labs. Don Cuchirara and Chip Maxwell are the two permanent scientists on board (alternating shifts biweekly). Their duties are to oversee the labs, maintain and operate the instruments, and introduce the visiting scientists to the on board scientific and educational activities.

A good number of MGGers have participated as visiting scientists aboard the Explorer since the start of this program. A visiting scientist needs only to have a Science background and be accepted on board to give talks and lead tours. In exchange for their service, they are provided room and board for themselves and a guest for a week aboard the ship.

There is no doubt that this Program is beneficial to everyone. At the 2003 AGU Meeting, Dr. Peter Swart presented the first poster on data from water samples collected aboard the Explorer of the Seas and measured in the SIL lab; and several MGG students have taken advantage of the opportunity to share and learn. Here are a few quotes from a few of them. **Kathryn Lamb**: "a great place to bring science to the general public." **Chris Moses**: "The labs aboard Explorer of the Seas provide a real research platform for ocean-going scientists here at the University of Miami as well as those from other institutions. The Explorer sails the same route every two weeks allowing

marine scientists to achieve a temporal resolution much higher than normal for cruise dependent research projects. It also provides the scientists with a keen opportunity for outreach to the non-scientific community." **Kelley Steffen**: "good opportunity for scientists to share information with normal people. It is awesome to show folks how interesting and useful science is. **Brigitte**

**Vlaswinkel**: "it is a super cool program—nice data set, nice vacation." **Kelly Bergman** along the same line thinks that "the program provides a chance to expose tourists to the geology and biology of the Caribbean." **Layaan Al-Kharusi** says "it was a great and unique experience that makes RSMAS stand apart from all the other marine schools in the U.S."



Brigitte Vlaswinkel and her mother, enjoying their stay aboard the Explorer of the Sea

For more information about this Program, visit the website at <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/rccl/>.

## The 11<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Meeting Comes of Age

In 1977, the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Coral Reef Meeting hosted by the University of Miami and organized by Bob Ginsburg attracted 500 scientists. This year, the 10<sup>th</sup> International Meeting in Okinawa attracted 1,500. In four years time, the meeting comes back to the United States and the Atlantic for the first time in 21 years. The meeting will be held in Fort Lauderdale, organized by NOVA and MGG adjunct professor Dr. Richard Dodge with a local organizing committee of 12 including Bob Ginsburg and Peter Swart. In 2008 the organizers are anticipating approximately



Lisa Greer and her baby, Maya.



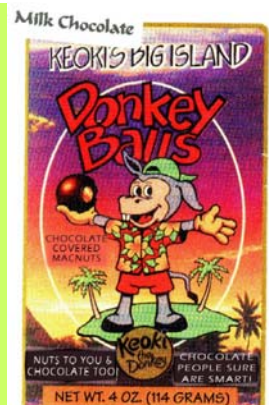
Peter Swart and Dick Dodge (FIU).

2,500 participants, with a strong influence from the Caribbean and South America. In order to win the right to hold the meeting in Florida, the local committee had to assemble a package and present their case to the council of the International Society for Coral Reefs which met in Okinawa. The bid was successful beating bids from Brisbane and Cancun. Although four years is long way off, the preparation have already started and the local committee are preparing to canvas the Coral Reef Task Force which meets in Miami in September 2004 and prepare a 'killer' web site. The meeting in our back garden will be a great opportunity for reef studies to shine in the international spot light.

### Geological Riddle

What geologic term is a donkey followed by a ball?

(Answer on Page 8)



## Scientists and teachers learning together in South Florida's playground

By Genevieve Healy



Genevieve Healy (right) and a Miami-Dade County Teacher

**P**roject INSTAR (*Investigating Nature through Science Teacher Active Research*) is a K-12 science teacher professional development institute that engages Miami-Dade County Public School (M-DCPS) teachers in real marine science research activities that they can use back in their classrooms. The Institute began in 1998 with funding from the National Science Foundation and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools. The idea for this kind of a program for teachers began while I was a graduate student at RSMAS. Prior to starting my Masters's degree, I taught middle school science for three years in Rocky River, Ohio; a suburb outside of Cleveland. I moved to Florida intending to complete my Master's and return to teaching. Instead, I was fascinated by all of the interesting science research going on in South Florida and the extensive outdoor classroom that was in most teachers' "backyards" and wanted to find a way to get more teachers acquainted with "real" science and their local environment. With the brainstorming efforts of a few scientists in the Division of Marine Geology such as

**Mike Grammar** and **Phil Kramer**, I wrote a grant, my first grant, to NSF and was funded. M-DCPS matched the grant and Project INSTAR was underway.

Project INSTAR just completed its seventh successful year of training local teachers about the fascinating outdoor laboratory and ecosystems in south Florida. The mission of the Institute is to bridge the gap between scientific research and K-12 education by enhancing the content knowledge, teaching skills, and field techniques of K-12 teachers by offering laboratory, field, and technology training in various coastal science themes. The four themes include earth systems, marine animals, tropical meteorology, and coral reefs. The earth systems theme is led by **Dr. Peter Swart** and **Corey Schroeder** from MGG and **Quinton Nealy** from M-DCPS. The participants learn the



concepts of hydrology in the context of the South Florida geology and the environment. They participate in field trips to the Everglades, Biscayne Bay and the Coral Gables Waterway. The Coral Reef theme is headed up by former RSMAS researcher **Julien Zaragoza** with the assistance of **Charlie Morrison** and **Judy Prickett** from M-DCPS.



In this theme, participants focus on coral reefs and nearshore communities and their inhabitants. They go on field trips to some of Dade County's most remarkable examples of marine and nearshore communities- Crandon Park, Matheson Hammock, and various reefs in Biscayne National Park. The lead instructor for the marine animals theme is **Tom Capo** from the RSMAS Aplysia lab, along with **Kirsten Schwarte** from M-DCPS. Participants in this theme, examine the planktonic lifestyles of marine organisms, studying basic fish physiology and learning how technology is being applied to marine science. And finally, the tropical meteorology theme is led by **Evan Forde** and **Shirley Murillo** from NOAA/AOML along with **Dr. Erika Key** from RSMAS/MPO. The primary goal of this theme is to familiarize teachers with tropical weather and climate so that they will be prepared to teach the basic concepts and inspire a greater interest in this field.

Over seven years, the Institute has taught 267 teachers from 27 high schools, 23 middle schools, and 15 elementary schools in Dade County. These teachers have effectively impacted over 60,000 students about the science, nature and beauty of the south Florida ecosystems.

## Outreach Field Seminars to the Bahamas

**T**he Comparative Sedimentology Laboratory organized two field trips to the Bahamas for professional geologists on board the RV Coral Reef. The sediments along the Exuma Bank Margin were the destination of the first trip. **Don McNeill**, **Gregor Eberli** and **Eduardo Cruz** showed geologists from Petrobras oil company from Brazil the eolian and tidal deposits along this windward platform margin, in particular the dimensions and facies heterogeneity in the sand belts.



AAPG seminar participants snorkel towards the patch reef off Joulter's Cay that recently became the anchor place for a sailboat.

The one-week seminar was the final part of a three month advanced carbonate course within Petrobras. Perfect weather and gorgeous scenery along the Exuma Island chain made this trip a very pleasant educational final week of their course.

As every year in June, **Gregor Eberli**, **Mitch Harris** and **Mike Grammar**, run a seminar to the Bahamas within the AAPG advanced education program. This seminar, entitled "Sequence Stratigraphy And Reservoir Distribution In A Modern Carbonate Platform, Bahamas", consists of a core workshop (1 day) combined with the examination of modern and Pleistocene deposits on Great Bahama Bank (5 days). This combi-



Geologists from Petrobras enjoy the ride through the tidal channel of Shroud Cay during their last day on the Exumas field seminar.

nation of subsurface data and modern and ancient deposits helps to illustrate the vertical and horizontal variability of facies and rock properties in carbonate platform reservoirs. This year's group consisted of 10 geologists from various countries, including 2 women from Kazakhstan who had never seen the ocean. As usual, the participants enjoyed the field portion of the seminar immensely. Walking through the muds of Andros, strolling around the ooid shoals of Joulter's and swimming around the reefs north of Andros Island is an easy and very illustrative way to study and learn more about these different carbonate environments.

# THE ALUMNI CORNER



**Sarah Gelsenliter and Andy Risi** live in Tampa, Florida. They have two children: Morgan and Joe. They have a wetland restoration company and are keeping pretty busy.

After receiving his MS under Larry Peterson at RSMAS, **Corey Moss** went on to received his PhD in Geological Sciences working under Lou Bartek at UNC-Chapel Hill in 2002. He is currently working in the Reservoir Characterization Division at ExxonMobil's Upstream Research Company in Houston, Texas. Corey got married a couple of years ago to Katie, who he met in Alabama, and has an eight month old daughter named Lily.



**Dominic Esker** and his wife, Claudia and son, Zachary visited RSMAS in April 2004. Dominc is living in Boonton, New Jersey and he is the science department chair at Bergen Catholic High School. Claudia is a grants writer at Ramapo College.

**Alberto G. Figueiredo** received his Ph.D. in 1984 under the advisory of Hal Wanless and returned to Brazil where he is a professor in Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro.



**Geoff Ellis** and his wife, Kathy, lives in Covina, California. They are the proud parents of a baby boy, Miles Rendall who was born on November 24, 2003. Geoff is working at the California Institute of Technology.



**René Price** and her husband Jim Fourqurean celebrated the birth of their son James Price Fourqurean on March 30, 2004. He was greatly welcomed into the family by their other two children Virginia (8) and Robbie (5). René reports that Jimi is a happy baby and full of smiles .

**Andy Fisher** lives in Santa Cruz, California with his wife, Carrie Pomeroy, and their 8 month old daughter, Cora.



Congratulations to **Michelle Lopez** on the birth of her baby girl, Milla. Michelle is living in Urbana, Illinois.



**Alexandra Janik** was hired and is now working for ExxonMobil in Houston, Texas. Congratulations Alexandra!

## Division of Marine Geology and Geophysics



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## Life After RSMAS By Mark Palmer

After visiting numerous graduate schools I knew instantly that I had finally arrived at the right place when I entered Dr. Ginsburg's office for an interview. There on the floor were three gentlemen (Dr. G., Wolfgang Schlager and David Gombert) discussing bathymetry, azimuths and transects while poring over a nautical chart of the Florida shelf margin. A few weeks before while visiting the marine geology department at the University of Puerto Rico, I met Dave Beach who informed me about a very strong academic and field oriented carbonate sedimentology program at the University of Miami (RSMAS) and that he was going there for his PhD.

My academic and lifestyle goals at the time were to explore and study the islands and oceans that comprise carbonate systems and now someone was willing to support me to do that. After formal acceptance by the MGG department, I enrolled in the rigorous scuba certification course taught by Tom Mount and the RSMAS marine department learning skills and diving physiology I still utilize 500 dives and 30 years later.

My thesis research was to define the three dimensional facies anatomy of Holocene sediments along a leeward platform margin (Tongue-Of-The-Ocean) in the Bahamas. This required a lot of scuba diving to acquire numerous cores, surface sediments as well as the acquisition and interpretation of seismic data. This research was an exploration project and, though I did not realize it at the time, I was learning to do the job I have had ever since.

These days I am exploring for hydrocarbons trapped in Pennsylvanian (age) ooid shoals and Ordovician (age) karst structures on the Central Kansas Uplift. I am utilizing cores, drill cuttings and 3 dimensional seismic data just as I learned to do in Grad school. And, several times a year my wife, Mary Ann, and I take scuba diving trips to the Caribbean and the Bahamas so I don't forget my carbonate facies relationships!



Mark and Mary Ann Palmer in Grand Turks on their many scuba diving trips.

**Answer to riddle from page 5:**  
Asthenosphere — Ass•then•a•sphere

**ALUMNI VISITORS:** Dominic Esker, Corey Moss, Tony Poriez, Rene Price, Sarah Gelsanliter, Jose Masaferrro, Mike Grammer, Volker Vahrenkamp, Genny Healy, Mitch Harris, Mike Finney, Jerry Iturino, Barbie Bischof, Americo Neves Rosa, Victor Rossinsky, Fred Baddour, Tom Missimer

### NEEDED: GEOTOPIC SPEAKERS!!

**Are you coming to Miami? Why not come to visit MGG and give a Geotopics Seminar? If you are planning to come and wish to give a talk, contact Avis Miller at:**  
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