

**Southern Association of Marine Laboratories
2007 Annual Meeting Notes**

**Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Savannah State University
(Local Hosts: Jim Sanders, Matt Gilligan)**

Wednesday 25 April 2007

7:30 pm Executive Committee meeting (see separate minutes attached)
Sanders' home, 11 Wesley Crossing, (912) 598-2792

Thursday, 26 April – Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SkIO)

Introduction and Welcome

M. Orbach and J. Sanders

Mike introduced special guests; mentioned the wonderful Wednesday night reception at the home of Jim and Dodie Sanders, thanking Jim, gave quick overview of Agenda.

Jim introduced Lisa Doser; will make all arrangements; her office is in the main building, dial 2400. Introduced Kelton Clark, Morgan State University, Estuarine Research Center. Tomorrow morning going to Savannah State, check out of hotel. At break will have sign-up sheet to get flight information for transportation to the airport.

Note that the breakfast is a full one at SSU.

Tony Michael thanked SAML for being able to participate.

SAML Laboratory Updates:

Allen	Dr. Dennis	USC Baruch Laboratory
		Looked up the original documents of SAML; Spring 1986; found photogr; 30 yr-rd res faculty positions; campus based faculty; 88 proj 125 investigators some visiting sciet; mol bio – landscp ecol; common theme ecosys sci, esp gl cl ch impact on salt marsh; home for NERRS Winyah Bay Prg; large educ outreach component; construct of new discovery center; ehancing facility with cable connect between bldg on site.
Anderson	Dr. Iris	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
		State agency; school of mar sci grad progr for W&M; %age from state decreasing, >50% coming from fed grants; have 2 new bldgs 71kk res facility; 43kk sea water res lab; hurricane damage took out piers and small bldg in boat basin; replaced piers (~400k replacement) washed out again. Now building a concrete pier. VA SG officially moved to VIMS, will advertise for perm Dir. Select 21 new students; support is for 50% VA students, hard to meet target; many faculty in next 5 years; 2 new fisheries appts to repl; chemist, stat, facil mngr, dir aq cntr; change to VIMS, new Pres of W&M very interstd in VIMS, start undergrad minor, may see new funding re: teaching.

Millbrand	Dr. Erich	Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Laboratory
		Started in 2002 by SB; standing in as interim Dir; search new Dir; 2 PhD, can hire another PHD; autotrophic systems shallow water; mangrove commun; nutrient-macroalgal dyn; field lab – lack of infrastructure - reached out to colleagues at FGCU provide more secure academic support; built small greenhouse facility; single buoy monitoring broadcasting water qual info – trying to develop network around Lake Ochichobe; funding structu – private donations \$0.5kk/yr suppl
Boyer	Dr. Joseph	Southeast Environmental Research Center at Florida International University
		½ facul are mar related; LTR renewal – long-term funding for FL Evergl; entrenchment mode; Univ got approval for Med Schl so resources are focused there; lost HAB faculty; Dan Childress is going to nsf for year, but moving to Ariz; should be advertising for one of these positions; ctr is not an academic dept; working to integrate the small mar boil prgm into theirs – that progr seeking a director; endowed chair for short-term (summer mostly) appts
Brinkmeyer	Dr. Robin	TAMU, Galveston
		T&AM marine science at Galveston; Galveston; 100 grad stud; constru in process \$15kk sci bldg design; start fall 2008; 2 endowed chairs; 4 new hires
Burnett	Dr. Lou	Grice Marine Lab, College of Charleston
		12,000 stud; 2000 grad stud; lab at Ft Johnson; new Pres Feb George Benson; nsf REU progr summer pro since 1992; 9 Faculty at Ft J from faculty of 31; proj new 3 facul; apprvd for \$3KK facili residential—2 apt complexes + classrm + sm confer + Direc Ofc. Rec'd gift from grandson George Grice III – estab lectureship in name of GG II; final stages endow char bioinformat hire; new emphasis in grad prgm in marine genomics; in search for person to teach Phys Ocegpr course grd -- r
Clark	Dr. Kelton	Estuarine Research Center at Morgan State University
		Balt Md; aq 2 yr ago; mvg away from operational planning into action; incr extr mur fund 50%; added first PHD researcher; Educ coord; working on getting first grad stud; starting undergrad prgm in mar sci.; found research staff in other programs that can teach in the undergrad prgm; starting a PHD tract in enviro sci; have new teleconf capabilities-wireless to 1.5 mi to boat and field; adds in connect to inner-city schls; have strategic plan that facilitates interact with funding agen.
Crozier	Dr. George	Dauphin Island Sea Lab
		Occupied 10k blg – bomb proof; add new NOAA/NMFS lab dedic to ecosys based fish mgt progr; fish-oceanogr group – ConocoPhillips paid for much of early work...now state funding; apex predator prg on sharks, funded by NMFS in Pascg; that lab was decimated most are in trailers; had to toss gray literature – traumatic event; invnolv w/ N Gulf institute; added 1 new faculty Ruth Carmichael; 2 searches underway; George is retiring – directorship is open; bus is good and budget looks good; SG is a line in their state budget
Demski	Dr. Leo	New College of Florida, Pritzker Marine Bio. Ctr.
		On leave as Dir; Honors College of FL, now independ; Sandra Gilchrist is acting; added outreach to gifted HS students – awarded a field course from ??; writing a book – historical fiction about fish
Galloway	Dr. Sylvia	NOAA/NOS/CCEHBR
		Lab (CCEHBR -- Ecosystem Health Risk Center) undergoing

		reorganization as part of the overall reorganization of NCCOS – Building and renovation: 1200 sqft Coral culture facility almost complete; XXXX sqft of laboratory space being renovation for the Harmful Algal Bloom & Toxins Program;
Gilligan	Dr. Matt	Savannah State University
		Historical SSU was founded in 1890 and is the oldest public historically black institution in Georgia. There are approximately 3000 students on campus; the marine science program is in the College of Sciences and Technology and currently has 65 undergraduate and 20 graduate students in marine sciences. renovation the top two floors of a Camilla-Hubert Hall adjacent to marine science building will give us substantial additional laboratory and office space. We currently are located in a building housing a wet-lab with piped salt-water adjacent to our RV dock. This facility also houses offices, technology support for the students and a classroom.
Hahn	Dr. Aleta	NMFS/SEFSC Beaufort- Pivers Island Just got budget; almost level funded; Magnuson Act reauthorization driving many activities; assests requ'd; NOAA regionalization process driving many activities; set up NOAA in the Carolinas meeting annually; mving to ecosys managt practices; 40% of Beauf lab; instit reorg looking towards the ecosys mgt – recruitg ecology or ecosys boil 13/14; Branch chief sust fish brch 15; fish stock asst, about to fill; educ particip NERRS –Estuary alive webcast focus on coastal carlolina work ---targeted to 4-5-6 grades.
Hawkins	Dr. Bill	Gulf Coast Research Laboratory/ University of Southern Mississippi
		Unable to attend due to illness.
Holliday	Dr. Tammy	TAMU – Galveston
		100 grad stud; construc. in process \$15kk sci bldg design; start fall 2008; 2 endowed chairs; 4 new hires
Huff	Dr. Alan	Florida Marine Institute, Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
		23 facilities located around the state; Fish & Wildlife inst has a \$50kk budget; started as a marine fish hatchery network; distributed activities that are somewhat similar, but specialized interests locally; \$2kk comes from state funds while rest is private funding ~ \$10-20kk.
Johnson	Dr. David	NOAA/NOS&NMFS- Beaufort Lab
		Reorg completed; will be able to fill positions 2-5 at senior levels; staff (7 org) 110; constr – 17k sqft admin bldg; new bridge operat; Installed new elevator; 4kk for new construct will develop master plan; will construct new marine workshop; first of research bldg wet lab ~15kk; dealing with mold issues
Jordan	Dr. Steve	USEPA- Gulf Breeze Lab
		National Health and Environmental Effects Research Lab; Gulf Ecol Div; Dir – Bill Benson on detail EPAs chief sciet but back and doing both jobs; 100% revd from Ivan & Dennis (\$3kK damage) bldg new \$3kk – operation staging facility; have 65 fed 60 contr; strictly res no educ. Gulf hypoxia and nutrients; partner USGS in GoM, coastal wetlands asmt; stud contr position – pay on sliding scale 1-2 yr contracts
Lacy	Dr. Eric	Marine Biomedicine & Environmental Sciences Center , Medical University of South Carolina
		Univ wide ctr; PhD prg 25 grad stud; 15% funding from state rest extramural; NSF NIH USDA NIEHS; # faculty

		Bridge gap between environ & medicine; reach out to other partners to enhance faculty up to 50. Sent student off-site to Shirley's lab; try to be virtual center. HML OHH Cntr at Ft J – genomics and chemistry is the connect HML dedicated to biotechnol -- \$8KK for 2 end chrs, bioinformatics, mar gen; adding new ofc bldg also house lab for new mar
Luetlich,	Rick	UNC Chapel Hill –IMS
		8 Faculty; research focus; bio-ecol; \$8KK state budget; grant support; hosting undergrad for fall sem – Carolina environ progr stay at Duke Lab; dev strategic plan; instit remained size for 30 yr, Instit for Environ may give opportunity for growth; Pres of UNC has changed – seem to have good support from new Pres, so opportunities appear to exist, working with NC State to expand jointly their programs
Mahadevan	Dr. Kumar	Mote Marine Laboratory
		Opened 8.5KK bldg for mar mm cntr; not as green as they would like; Hd fire in aq facility; opened a new mar policy instit
Michaels	Dr. Anthony	USC College, University of Southern California
		Director, Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies President of NAML; umbrella on main campus for mar sci – mar lab on Catalina isl; bld cluster of housing on main campus; 6000 visitors yr K-gray educ; hired # faculty recently; starting companies for utilizing faculty inventions
Orbach	Dr. Mike	Duke Marine Laboratory
		Nov opened first green bld Oc Cons Centr; recruiting biol ocg; prof of mar tech (sch enviro sch eng) no longer director of lab since 1998, stepped down last fall. New position recruit – Cindy Vandover joined in August. Sharing duties SAML/NAML.
Pomponi	Dr. Shirley	Harbor Branch Oceanographic Inst.
		Don introduced; Private res insti 35 yr; suffered from Hurr (2004); 30kk damage and insur only covrd half; cont res active; funding fed & state; sm amt endow; coastal ecol & deep sea boil; nsf; mar nat prod; sea grass commun; 4 special licens \$3kk supports mm res & conserve; w USDA culturing techniq –warm wat aq recirc sys; Ofc nav res adva sea autonomous vehicles technol; deep reef commun; member of UNOLS; looking for rev source for ships/underwat veh; merging with FL Atl U (\$40kk up front bldg renov- \$8.5kk recurring) become a sep Res Instit not part of a dept.
Sanders	Dr. Jim	Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
		Cattle plantation owned by Roebing family; property given to state; Marine institution started in as state institution, but became university facility; research and research based instruction for marine environments work with Univ around state 17 faculty; budget ¾ federally funded; research is 90%; very little classroom teaching; graduate student mentoring or May-mester. Ship arrived yesterday and has some problems just coming out of shipyard.
Sizemore	Dr. Ron	UNC Wilmington
		Cntr 25kk 40 facul; 60 staff; another 50 on main campus; empty labs are now fully filled and overflowing; \$24kk operational plan; new biotech bldg 50-80kk sqft in planning for construction; hire post docs to work on apply proj – send to MBA program in evening; first year

		class already has product from their research; hiring third class in May. Worried about core program.
Thompson	Dr. Joel	Galbraith Marine Science Laboratory, Eckerd College
Tunnell	Dr. Wes	HRI/CCS, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
		Center for Coastal Studies – doing well; Tx coastal issues; Harte inst hiring endowed chairs 3 hir 3 to go; GIS in 2 m0; 1 in socio-econom Oceogr; redoing the 1954 update of the GoM geog, ocengr, biolg – 7vol; Tom Shirley mms won NOPP award – proj on WWII shipwrecks as art reefs; invas sp proj; Law of the Sea Inst
Van Dolah	Dr. Bob	SCDNR-MRRI
		Unable to attend due to illness.
Vargo	Dr. Sandra	FI Insti Oceanogr – Keys Mar Lab Full serv mar sci res and educ ctr – no full staff but 8 support staff; hurricane storm surge; gradually doing repairs; permitting issues; \$1kk damage to boat basin/seawall; within yr be back in full operational status; have housing and some res facil working.

Internal Issues I:

Updates from:

- Hurricane Relief Fund Plans

D. Johnson, K. Clark, G. Crozier

Haven't made a great deal of progress with plans; devastating storm survival depend upon what is immediately available to you; everyone turns to fixing the problem at hand; WAML put up \$5K in cash to help SAML...origin that WAML's startup money came from SAML...so WAML wanted to help SAML; suggest that Lab director be responsible to utilize the funds to best support the lower-level staff that are hardest hit during this type of emergency...recommend that Director restrict distribution to those that have the greatest need...one issue was always communication, second is fuel...Emergency assistance does things like clear roads, etc. David found that cell phones work but power didn't...bought boosters (West Marine, not carrier specific) for cell phones and batteries to power cell phones for weeks. Aleta purchased satellite dishes and two satellite phones – given to the staff staying local. System for employees to report in...injuries, property loss, location, ability to report for work...office of homeland security controls this in NOAA, system is not particularly useful...David Johnson created own system, web-based...name, home address, provide questions, with ability to add info...all questions above. NOAA has report requirement that is not realistically met within the deadline that NOAA sets; David's system will automatically generate the information and send it to NOAA. ? of password protection preventing another agent of the employee providing the information. Iris mentioned that State of Virginia working on trying on 3 options for contacting students/staff in large institutions during emergency situations in rapid fashion --- this is a purchased function located at a separate site; Wes, situation during Rita that they closed the University too soon and when it didn't hit all the folks that evacuated could not be contacted, so now all staff is required to provide contact points following evacuation. Aleta's staff (all SEFC) calls a toll-free number in Oregon leaving message with required information. Disposable cell phones are distributed during disasters to staff who don't have cell phones. Phone tree is a local means of communicating. ? is what can SAML do to share resources and information (Mike O). George suggests that the discussions are the most valuable thing that SAML can do. Satellite phones seem like a

good idea...but it has limitations; most labs should test their system regularly. George suggests that it is important to have a central meeting point for the staff for the day after the storm for those that stayed behind. A suggestion is to have mobile generators and be willing to share with other labs during disaster response. SAML list-serve served well for sharing assistance. Aleta will provide information on dishes and company in Oregon. Aleta suggests have a large container for fuel to run generators. Plastic cards with important telephone numbers specific for the laboratory given to each employee. Question whether NAML should look into getting a fund to assist in disaster relief...some suggest that would be FEMA; it was noted that FEMA doesn't cover Federal agency facilities, or private non-profit organizations. Text-messaging is good for information outward, but getting information back is another big problem. Most important thing SAML can do is have nearby functional labs to provide really necessary items; need to stay in touch and move items really needed. Kumar suggestion: SAML should fund somebody to get all the various plans from SAML labs to form a consolidated information source.

- Education Committee

M. Gilligan, Don Hockaday

Don H. is out of the country. See student awards info page. Matt asked that participants read the attachment from Don and discuss in the afternoon session. Matt's comment on awards, there are 3 potentially transformative experiences in marine student's lives: marine lab experience; shipboard experience; receipt of an award for presentations/posters. He noted that ASLO only marine meeting that has student only sessions...Platform and posters.

- Update on boat issues

T. Michaels, others

There is a local set of issues...local coast guard differs in interaction: LA situation many educational opportunities, some for-profit operator vs aggressive commercial operators who thought they should have the contract...involved the National Coast Guard; Research Vessel vs Commercial vessel, what can be done on each. One perspective is that the only education conducted on a RV is graduate students doing research...all others out, i.e., undergraduate research, undergraduate education, K-12 education; can't have dual-use; if a RV morphs into people carrier commercial vessels...caused great problem. Tony checked and the national edict didn't go out as stated by the CG to the local LA area. The process for the local CG to legally take back the National edict...K-12 will still be passengers (inspected vessels), but all undergraduate and graduate students will be researchers. If National CG had known that there was a precedent like that in the state of VA they would have used those documents and avoided reinventing the process. Under the new rules Tony's facility will have to keep a couple of skiffs as inspected vessels with licensed captains – HS teachers, elder hostel- Adult education is acceptable – key is to be enrolled, avoid tourism business? Simpler Captain's license process is being developed. Devils advocate – Mike O – why are RVs exempt from inspection; Tony suggested that the responsibility for inspection is transferred to RV owners from CG; exemption for RV due to operations that are not feasible on inspected vessels; general opinion is that not interested in seeking uniformity across all labs and CG nationally – better to have local CG to tailor decision process at the local level. Iris suggests that use UNOLS lawyer to nationalize the CG policy toward RVs. George Crozier's RV takes out HS students on research cruises...he is comfortable that they have a very safe program...they are not considered as passengers.

Business Meeting (see separate minutes, 4/26 afternoon)

M. Orbach

External Issues I:

▪ Federal Budget and Agency

Joel Widder

Joel represents a government relations firm (Lewis-Burke) with a research and education focus. They specialize in advocacy work, exclusively in the Federal budget environment:

See handout for his Powerpoint presentation.

Focusing on Commerce-Justice-State Subcommittees. Joel summarized the Federal Budget outlook for FY08 and beyond. He pointed out that the only major funding increase is in the American Competitiveness Initiative (specifically the Physical sciences); the ACI involves NSF, Dep of Energy, Ofc of Science, Commerce, NIST but not NASA, NOAA, Naval Research. He summarized some of the various bills and Acts being considered in Congress that impact the marine world. He finished by indicating how NAML can raise visibility for Ocean, Coastal and Great Lakes issues.

▪ Plans for FY08 and Beyond

Wendy Eichorst

See electronic copy of Powerpoint presentation.

Discussion of how Lewis Burke has grown in its support of NAML; check page 3 of the NAML handout – EPA is included in the latest strategy. Impact of past election the Congress is much more open to discussion...case in point Climate Change. Discussion is positive and forward thinking. Question is NOAA being aggressive enough on the Climate Change issue -- - probably not going to be able to play leadership role; will come from outside communities. Need session on how coastal states will deal with changes brought about by Climate Change...maybe get pairs of Governors and Lab Directors to discuss how changes will occur and how can be dealt with. What is game plan for EPA? – EPA moved from historically Appropriation committee to Interior subcommittee; NSF and NASA moved to CJS appropriation subcomm. What is status of OHH centers future funding NIEHS/NSF...thinks will be recompetition, probably will be funding less centers. Will there be a coordinating meeting between Lewis-Burke and lobbyists from some of the Marine Laboratories/Universities? Suggestion: it would be good to place specific needs of Marine Laboratories in context of NAML agenda.

NOTE: all NAML information is on the NAML webpage.

External Issue II:

NOAA's Education Partnership Programs—
Role of Marine Labs

M. Gilligan et al.

Demographic shifts; black and Hispanics are profoundly underrepresented. There is a huge turnover predicted in marine science community. These groups are invisible at the MS/PhD level especially. The EPP program is changing the demographics...good strategic planning to encourage diversity. Promotion of ocean literacy by the ICOSRMI cabinet level group reports to White House. Reviewed the high-power (5 regional) meetings of Increase Ocean Literacy. Made several recommendation: form Marine Education Panel; strengthen regional interests; media – relevant, speak language of media, imagery, stick to science, invest in messaging; future workforce – community colleges are stepping stones for large portions of the underrepresented populations – diverse entry pool, continuing career progression, work place empowerment & treatment; model programs – literature available; EPP program partnership

with Minority-serving institutions, NOAA summer internships; Building a future workforce – ask right questions, include comm. College, develop excellence in science award, include the disabled, link marine labs and MSIs (MUI – Minority Underrepresented Institution). VIMS provide an encouraging environment, but also a support system and financial support.

Discussion on Ernest Just Award for excellence in marine science: Paul Sandifer and Matt Gilligan developed initial thoughts. How will this award be funded? Should SAML/NAML support this concept and form committee to develop the program? NAML will take this to their newly formed education sub-committee that Matt chairs.

Tour of SkIO and R/V Savannah (a tour of SkIO was conducted by Jim Sanders followed by a scrumptious dinner featuring a Low Country Boil).

Friday, 27 April – Savannah State University (SSU)

Introduction

M. Gilligan

Gave history of Savannah SU. Get Matt's ppt. he will email
Introduced Dr. Julius Scott, acting President.

Internal Issue II:

- Salary Survey

Jim Sanders for B. Van Dolah

See attached survey document. Jim encourages all Labs to send in their data in the next 30 days and Bob will compile and return to the members. Note: annualized salaries. This data is very useful for all labs when making a case to enhance salary ranges in your own system. It was pointed out that other useful information is 'benefits and perks'.

Internal/External Issue III:

- NAML Progress and Programs

T. Michaels

The question of corporate status of the three regional associations; recommend explore SAML go under NAML 501C and disband the Mississippi Corporation. Consider moving all associations under NAML so that only one IRS filing required.

Tony thanked SAML for invitation to attend; pointed out Jim Sanders will be next NAML president. Mentioned that under Jeff Reuter NAML made a very beneficial change to become the voice for all the AML labs... all of the associations goal to serve the needs of the members. How do you successfully do environmental science within a University? ...fundamental challenge to labs...most of environmental science research has its genesis in marine labs, therefore we are uniquely poised to lead in this discipline; we have a unique community of diverse disciplines and we should use this model to advance our research. He suggests we have been weak in the public policy arena, but we can develop these tools to expand our world view of environmental research...go beyond the traditional activities. He feels that our associations can assist in this process. At his U they would like to develop a set of leadership training programs; maybe 2-day that could be extended to Assn labs. Skills good for academic setting are not necessarily sufficient for the management arena (ie. Lab Director).

Merger of CORE and JOI; has potential to be important to the AMLs even though they serve a limited audience of maybe 10 labs. Merger goal is successful management of large

grants. Big difference will be elected board from the membership; they finally are recognizing marine labs, minimally, but changing.

Reminder Fall NAML meeting at Catalina Island.

New goal for NAML is in the education arena; Matt is helping at the national level. Matt suggests that the Ernest Just Award might be more successful at the NAML level; welcomes all who would like to serve on the NAML Education Committee. One topic is the decline in summer marine education programs. Tony feels that the explosion of REUs has taken the students away from participating in pay-for-education summer programs and replaced it with paid research positions. Another issue is housing associated with these programs, wherein the programs are well-developed and supported, but housing is lacking.

Question what are other things that NAML should be doing? Awards. Leadership in getting multi-institution grants...large effort shepherding. Workforce creation, competitiveness...provide housing to bring students. There are other technologies in marine labs that might be pushed other than remote sensing etc. Needs to be framed in a bigger vision...more than the vision of 'blue water oceanography'. One suggestion is to establish sub-committee on how to apply for funding from NIH for 'ocean science'. Straw vote supported the establishment of this committee.

Wrap-up

Note: Kumar asks that Bob Van Dolah provide any documents and information from early years on the development of non-profit status for SAML.

12:00 pm Adjourn.

2007 SAML Executive Committee

President – Mike Orbach*	(2006-2007)
President-elect – Wes Tunnell*	(2006-2007)
Past President – Jim Sanders**	(2006-2007)
Secretary – Sylvia Galloway	Continuous
Treasurer – Kumar Mahadevan*	For Life
Board Members at Large:	
Bill Hawkins	(2005-2007)
Matt Gilligan*	(2006-2008)
Madilyn Fletcher	(2007-2009)

*Member, NAML Board, representing SAML

**Member, NAML Board, ex-officio