



**Florida Sea Grant  
Elise B. Newell Seminar Series  
2009**



*Elise B. Newell served as the fiscal officer for Florida Sea Grant from 1979 until her death in 1997.*

*During that time she mentored colleagues statewide and nationally, always seeking ways to advance the efforts of faculty and students. The aim of the seminar series reflects Elise's commitment to excellence and service to Florida's campuses.*



*Florida Sea Grant  
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2009*

Florida Sea Grant is pleased to present the 2009 Elise B. Newell Seminar Series. Annually these seminars allow persons from on and off Florida's campuses to learn more about timely issues concerning the coasts and oceans. The format for each event includes a formal presentation and individual and small group discussions with faculty, students and resource managers. We are pleased that this year's program, with nine seminars at eight Florida universities, again brings nationally and internationally renowned scholars and scientists to meet with Florida's own leaders in the academic and natural resource management community. Florida faces great pressures on its coastal and marine resources, and it also stands at the forefront of research, education and extension efforts in the field. Through these seminars, Sea Grant fosters the goal of providing highly relevant academic service to the public of Florida.

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*Florida A&M University, Florida Atlantic University,  
Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Institute of Technology,  
Florida International University, Florida State University, New College of Florida,  
University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Miami,  
University of North Florida, University of South Florida, University of West Florida,  
Nova Southeastern University, Mote Marine Laboratory,  
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution*

**January 14 - 16, 2009**  
**University of South Florida**  
**U.S. Geological Survey**

*The salt marsh paradigm revisited: a tier III stable isotope and biochemical condition approach to evaluating essential fish habitat*

*The anthropocene: restoration ecology and coastal management in the age of humans*

Dr. Michael P. Weinstein  
Montclair State University

*Dr. Michael P. Weinstein* has conducted extensive research in the areas of coastal ecology, sustainability science, fisheries science, wetland ecology, and restoration ecology, primarily in salt marshes, seagrass meadows, and mangrove habitats. The recipient of many awards, he has served on numerous National Research Council Committees, an NCEAS Working Group, the US-Japan CEST Panel, SDWA Audit Panel, and the US-China Initiative in Sustainable Development. He was a member of the National Working Group for preparing the Nationwide Strategy for Coastal Habitat Restoration. He has authored more than 180 journal articles, abstracts, books, chapters and monographs. His most recent text, *Concepts and Controversies in Tidal Marsh Ecology* has had international impact on the direction of tidal marsh research and restoration science.

Host: Dr. Susan S. Bell, University of South Florida, 813.974.2542, sbell@cas.usf.edu

**January 22, 2009**  
**Coastal and Marine Laboratory**  
**Florida State University**

*Florida's coral reefs: threats, declines, management,  
and signs of hope*

*Climate change and coral reef resilience: are we expecting too  
much from marine reserves?*

Dr. John Bruno  
University of North Carolina

*Dr. John Bruno* is a marine ecologist and conservation biologist. His research is focused on understanding and conserving the structure and dynamics of coastal marine communities. He works in a variety of marine habitats, including coral reefs, coastal wetland communities, oyster reefs and seagrass beds. Current projects in the Bruno laboratory include investigations of the link between ocean temperatures and regional-scale coral disease epidemics, the importance of predator biodiversity in food webs and the dispersal and meta-community dynamics of marine plants and animals. Dr. Bruno earned his Ph.D. in 2000 from Brown University in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and was subsequently a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University. Since 2001, he has served on the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Marine Sciences. Dr. Bruno serves as an editor of *Ecology*, *Ecological Monographs*, and *Encyclopedia of the Earth*. He has published over 45 peer-reviewed manuscripts, many of them in high-profile journals.

Host: Drs. Laura Petes and Randall Hughes, Florida State University,  
850.697.4099, lpetes@bio.fsu.edu

**January 28 and 30, 2009**  
**University of Florida**  
**Whitney Laboratory of BioScience**

*Managing the resilience of Caribbean reefs in the face of climate change*

Dr. Peter J. Mumby  
University of Exeter, UK

*Dr. Peter Mumby* is one of the leading marine ecologists in the world. His work on ecology and conservation of tropical marine fish and coral communities of the Caribbean has greatly informed and transformed the way we do conservation in the region. Dr. Mumby is highly multi-disciplinary in his approach and uses population and spatial modeling, small-scale experiments and large-scale surveys to get at his questions. Dr. Mumby earned his Ph.D. in 1997 from University of Sheffield. Dr. Mumby currently serves on the faculty at the University of Exeter. He has published two books and over 70 journal articles. Dr. Mumby serves on the editorial board of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Series B*; ecological editor of the journal *Coral Reefs*; review editor of *Marine Ecology Progress Series*; chair, Remote Sensing Working Group, World Bank/GEF Coral Reef Targeted Research; member of advisory group to World Bank/GEF Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project; and scientific council, Living Oceans Foundation, Washington, D.C.

Host: Dr. Brian Silliman, University of Florida, 352.392.1137, brs@ufl.edu

**January 29 and 30, 2009**  
**University of North Florida**

*Climate change, sea-level rise, and storms: past, present, and future  
of our coastal system*

*A 180 million year record of change: the Atlantic continental margin*

Dr. Stanley Riggs  
East Carolina University

*Dr. Stanley Riggs* is a coastal and marine geologist who has been conducting research on modern coastal systems since 1964 and has been on the faculty at East Carolina University since 1967. His research extends from inland river, lake, and wetland environments, to estuarine and barrier island systems, and seaward across the continental shelf. His areas of interest lie in sedimentation, Quaternary and Tertiary stratigraphy, coastal and mineral resources, and their inter-relationship with the development of human civilization. Dr. Riggs has been actively involved in numerous technical coastal and mineral resource issues at the Federal, State, and local levels that included appointments to many commissions, task forces, panels, and committees. These appointments, as well as many of his publications, have dealt directly with integrating scientific understanding and utilization and management of various coastal systems including such critical issues as climate change and sea-level rise, shoreline erosion and land loss, hazard zone delineation, inlet dynamics, water quality, and habitat preservation.

Host: Dr. Cliff Ross, University of North Florida, 904.620.1853,  
cliff.ross@unf.edu

**February 6, 2009**  
**Florida A&M University**

*Effects of global warming on marine microbial pathogens  
and human infectious diseases*

Dr. Rita Colwell  
University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute

*Dr. Rita Colwell* is Chairman of Canon US Life Sciences, Inc. and Distinguished University Professor both at the University of Maryland at College Park and at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Her interests are focused on global infectious diseases, water, and health, and she is currently developing an international network to address emerging infectious diseases and water issues, including safe drinking water for both the developed and developing world. Dr. Colwell served as the 11th Director of the National Science Foundation, 1998-2004. In her capacity as NSF Director, she served as Co-chair of the Committee on Science of the National Science and Technology Council. One of her major interests include K-12 science and mathematics education, graduate science and engineering education and the increased participation of women and minorities in science and engineering. Dr. Colwell is a nationally-respected scientist and educator, and has authored or co-authored 16 books and more than 700 scientific publications. She has also been awarded 40 honorary degrees from institutions of higher education, including her Alma Mater, Purdue University and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences. A geological site in Antarctica, Colwell Massif, has been named in recognition of her work in the polar regions.

Host: Dr. Henry Neal Williams, Florida A&M University,  
850.599.3550, [henryneal.williams@famu.edu](mailto:henryneal.williams@famu.edu)

**February 9, 2009**  
**Florida Gulf Coast University**

*Hypoxia – spreading dead zones and consequences for marine ecosystems*

Dr. Robert Diaz  
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

*Dr. Robert Diaz* is a Professor of Marine Science at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), College of William & Mary, VA. He is the recipient of numerous research grants, the author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications in journals and books, and has numerous presentations to his credit both nationally and internationally. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including ‘Honorary Doctorate from Gothenburg University in Sweden’. In addition, he served on the boards of numerous committees and agencies including NOAA coastal habitat scheme, review panel for New Jersey Sea Grant, Outer Continental Shelf Scientific Committee of the Minerals Management Advisory, MMS, Department of the Interior, Pew Ocean Commission, World Resources Institute workgroup on global assessment of the effects of eutrophication, and United Nations Environment Program. Dr. Diaz has mentored several undergraduate, and graduate students and has mentored 9 Ph.D. students, 15 Masters’ students and served on various Doctoral students' Dissertation Committees and Masters Theses. Dr. Diaz’s research interests include hypoxia, benthic ecology, benthic mapping, coastal eutrophication, deep-sea biodiversity, benthic habitat classification, coastal zone management and climate change.

Host: Dr. Aswani K. Voley, Florida Gulf coast University,  
239.590.7216, avoley@fgcu.edu

**February 19, 2009**  
**Florida Gulf Coast University**

*Consumer Rule: predator primary in shallow benthic ecosystems*

Dr. Kenneth L. Heck, Jr.  
Dauphin Island Sea Lab

*Dr. Kenneth L. Heck, Jr.* is a marine ecologist whose research has focused on plant-animal interactions in coastal wetlands and on understanding the role of seagrass meadows and salt marshes in the production of finfish and shellfish. From 1976-1986 he was Assistant and then Associate Curator and also Director of the Patrick Center for Environmental Research at the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Since 1986 he has been a Senior Scientist at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab (DISL) and an Associate and Full Professor at the University of South Alabama. He served as Research Director and Chair of University Programs at DISL and as Associate Director of the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies at USA. Most recently he has been named Director of the Shelby Center for Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management at DISL. Dr. Heck has edited two volumes of scholarly works and published more than 130 peer-reviewed articles. He has been appointed to editorial positions at the journals *Systematic Zoology*, *Estuaries and Coasts* and is currently Contributing Editor for the international journal *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. Dr. Heck received his B.S. in Biology from the University of West Florida (1970) and, after serving in the U.S. Army, obtained his M.S. (1973) and Ph.D. (1976) in Biology from Florida State University.

Host: Dr. S. Gregory Tolley, 239.590.7216. gtolley@fgcu.edu

**February 25-27, 2009**  
**Florida Institute of Technology**  
**Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution/Florida Atlantic**  
**University**

*Changing approaches to small-scale fisheries management*

Dr. Robert Stephen Pomeroy  
University of Connecticut

*Dr. Robert Pomeroy* is a Professor and Sea Grant Fisheries Extension Specialist, University of Connecticut-Avery Point Campus, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics/Connecticut Sea Grant Program, Groton, Connecticut, USA. He has been principal investigator, chief-scientist and consultant in national (US) and international projects in the areas of natural resource and environmental economics, specifically policy analysis, fisheries management and development, aquaculture economics, coastal resource management, international development, agricultural marketing and agricultural extension. Dr. Pomeroy has worked on research and development projects in over 40 countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. He is a senior research fellow at the World Fish Center in Penang, Malaysia and is the author of the “*How is Your MPA Doing: A Guidebook on Biophysical, Socioeconomic , and Governance Indicators for the Evaluation and Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas.*”

Host: Dr. Ralph G. Turingan, Florida Institute of Technology; 321.674.8037, Turingan@fit.edu, Dr. Dennis Hanisak, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution/Florida Atlantic University, 772.465.2400 x306, Hanisak@hboi.edu

**March 6, 2009**  
**Edward Waters College**

*Impacts of climate change on life and adaptations to survive*

Dr. Gyaneswor Pokharel  
Mountain State University

*Dr. Gyaneswor Pokharel* holds a Doctorate in Engineering from Nagoya University in Japan, and a Master of Science in Geotechnical Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. Dr. Pokharel has more than 12 years' experience in teaching, research, and practice in engineering; particularly in civil engineering, physical phenomena, and application of probabilistic and statistical methods. Particularly noteworthy is that his extensive teaching and research experience at several world-class universities has resulted in a stellar record of publications. He has been granted numerous distinguished fellowships and awards. Dr. Pokharel has presented research papers and has lectured in Japan, Thailand, Korea, India, Nepal, Singapore, China, the United Kingdom and the USA. In addition to teaching at Mountain State University, he continues his research, aided by grants, in engineering, engineering physics and other technical fields

Host: Dr. Prabir K. Mandal, Edward Waters College, 904.470.8091,  
prabir.mandal0807@ewc.edu

## **Elise B. Newell Seminar Series**

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Annually, these seminars bring nationally and internationally renowned scholars and scientists to meet with faculty and students in Florida's academic community for a few days of formal and informal dialogue about timely issues concerning the coast and oceans. Seminars are selected from proposals submitted by faculty from the network of Florida Sea Grant partner institutions. Since the program's creation in 1986, more than 80 distinguished speakers have participated. The call for 2010 Elise B. Newell Seminar Series proposals will be in the fall of 2009.

## **Fellowships and Scholarships Programs Supported by Florida Sea Grant**

### **Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship**

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These fellowships, awarded on competitive basis annually, allow a student to spend a year in Washington, D.C., in the legislative or executive branches of the federal government. In 2008, 50 winners were chosen from the pool of 80 applicants. Ten are placed with legislative hosts, 40 with executive hosts. Since 1982, 37 fellows have been from Florida universities. Florida had three in 2001, one in 2002, 2003 and 2004, three in 2005, one in 2006, three in 2007, one in 2008 and two in 2009.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service - Sea Grant Joint Graduate Fellowship Program in Population Dynamics**

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These fellowships are designed to help Sea Grant fulfill its broad educational responsibilities and to strengthen the collaboration between Sea Grant and NMFS. Fisheries fellows work on thesis problems of public interest and relevance to NMFS and have summer internships at participating NOAA science centers or labs under the guidance of NMFS mentors. Florida currently has one fellow from the University of Miami working on developing improved models for marine fish stock assessment.

### **Aylesworth Foundation for the Advancement of Marine Science**

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Two types of scholarships are awarded annually on a competitive basis – the Aylesworth and Old Salt scholarships. Both are supported completely by private funds and donations. The Aylesworth Scholarship is awarded to students enrolled at a university participating in the Florida Sea Grant College Program. To date, 87 students in 13 different Florida universities have received them. The Old Salt Marine Biology Scholarship is for students enrolled at the University of South Florida only. Sixteen students have received them.

### **NOAA Coastal Services Center Coastal Management Fellowship**

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This competitive program provides professional, on-the-job training and educational opportunities for post-graduate students through technical assistance for state coastal resource management programs. An annual competition is held to select six fellows each year. Two Florida students have been selected.

Florida Sea Grant is a statewide program based at the University of Florida that partners NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research with Florida universities, marine research organizations, businesses, governments and citizens.

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Director

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