

# NOCSnews

September 2008

## Callista at the Southampton Boat Show

Visitors to this year's Southampton Boat Show, which takes place just up the road at Mayflower Park from Saturday 13 September, will get hands-on experience of marine science aboard the NOCS-based inshore Research Vessel, Callista.

Callista was invited to spend five days (13–17 September) nestling among the gin palaces as one of the event's popular Feature Boat attractions.

There will be a range of exhibits on board and the vessel's presence will complement the University's marine science and engineering themed stand on dry land at which NOCS research and technology will also feature.



As well as fulfilling the centre's commitment to imaginative and inspiring outreach, the event will give the Callista team the opportunity to market the increasingly popular Discover Oceanography sessions.

Donors and alumni have also been invited to spend time aboard Callista during the show.

[www.discoveroceanography.co.uk](http://www.discoveroceanography.co.uk)

## NOCS in the media

NOCS researchers have attracted considerable media attention throughout August, with Autosub6000 centre stage.

The Times newspaper (15 August) ran a major feature highlighting the Autosub6000's successful first scientific mission off the Canary Islands – 'Robot sub discovers secrets of the deep that could predict a natural disaster'; [www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article4534967.ec](http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/environment/article4534967.ec)

The feature, written by newly appointed Ocean Correspondent Frank Pope, quoted NOCS researcher Russell Wynn. Frank Pope also visited NOCS this month to talk to several of our scientists, so we hope to see many similar features in The Times in the future.

Plans to send Autosub6000 down into the Cayman Trough in the Caribbean also attracted considerable media interest, with Jon Copley of NOCS being interviewed by several newspapers and broadcasters. Most notable were coverage by BBC Online <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7547695.stm>, where Autosub6000 also featured as 'Big Picture' of the day, and a story in the Daily Mail [www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1043761/Into-abys-British-sub-plunge-the-sea-search-life.html](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1043761/Into-abys-British-sub-plunge-the-sea-search-life.html)

The story was also covered by the widely read London Metro [www.metro.co.uk/news/article.html?in\\_article\\_d=259522&in\\_page\\_id=34](http://www.metro.co.uk/news/article.html?in_article_d=259522&in_page_id=34), in which Jon was amusingly quoted saying "It's a very safe bet that we'll find new species of animal life. I don't know if we're going to find any alien civilisations though."

More seriously, the importance of deep-sea exploration using Autosub6000, and NOCS's research in general, received heavyweight endorsement by eminent philosopher Professor Anthony Grayling (Birkbeck College, London) in New Scientist magazine [www.newscientist.com/channel/opinion/mg19926701.100-comment-the-seabed-is-one-of-the-last-frontiers-on-earth.html](http://www.newscientist.com/channel/opinion/mg19926701.100-comment-the-seabed-is-one-of-the-last-frontiers-on-earth.html)

Finally, but not least, NOCS scientist Lindsay Parson received mention in a front-page story in the Guardian newspaper (28 August) regarding the UK's submission under the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in relation to Ascension Island. Lindsay co-led the British delegation along with Doug Wilson of the UK Foreign Office. See: [www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/aug/28/foreignpolicy.unitednations](http://www.guardian.co.uk/politics/2008/aug/28/foreignpolicy.unitednations).



## A date for your diary

Wednesday 10 December

### Winter Wonderland Christmas Party at the Rose Bowl

Botley Road, West End, Southampton

Dinner, Dance and Dodgems

Dress code: Smart (Black tie if you wish)

£41 per head

Tickets go on sale on 8 September – payment can be made in instalments

Contact Sandy Grapes (26777) or Vikki Gunn (26550) for further details

## Events calendar for September

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 4     | Marine Life Talk – European Shark Week               |
| 8-11  | Challenger Society Conference – Bangor               |
| 8-11  | Dafydd Lloyd Jones conference – CPPM                 |
| 12-17 | Southampton Boat Show – Callista                     |
| 15    | RAPID glider launch – David Smeed                    |
| 16    | Launch of 2008 Cape Farewell cruise (London)         |
| 20    | Alumni Reunion/Giving dinner                         |
| 23-25 | Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Showcase                 |
| 26    | Met Office opening event                             |
| 27    | Rockwatch  |
| 29-30 | International FerryBox & Ship of Opportunity Meeting |
| 30    | Tsunami warning systems event                        |

## Marine Life Talks at NOCS

4 Sept **European Shark Week**  
– Ken Collins

2 Oct **Leviathan, the Whale**  
– Philip Hoare

6 Nov **Marine mammal sounds and effect of man made noise**  
– Paul White



The popular Marine Life Talks are held in the Lecture Theatre and are open to the public.

The talks start at 7.30pm – Free admission

## Research papers and COMS

The COMS team can help maximise responsible and accurate media coverage of research published by NOCS scientists (see NOCS in the media) but need to be informed about interesting and important papers as early possible before publication.

It is not only papers published in the top general science journals such as *Nature* and *Science* that attract media attention. Even as this issue of NOCSnews goes to press, a paper published by NOCS researchers in the journal *Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A* on ocean geo-engineering (<http://journals.royalsociety.org/content/t6x58746951336m1/fulltext.pdf>) is attracting considerable media attention (see [www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/sep/01/climatechange.scienceofclimatechange3](http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2008/sep/01/climatechange.scienceofclimatechange3) and [www.independent.co.uk/news/science/can-engineering-the-earth-save-it-from-catastrophe-914549.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/can-engineering-the-earth-save-it-from-catastrophe-914549.html)). And further coverage is expected.

Please let the COMS team know about any work that you are doing that may be of interest to the general media as soon as it is in press, including any embargo details.

Email: [coms@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:coms@noc.soton.ac.uk)

## Marie Curie contract opportunity

Representatives of Marie Curie Actions, which is a branch of the European Commission, will visit NOCS on 17-18 November 2008. They will conduct a review of UK FP6 Early Stage Training (EST) contracts. Over 25 UK contractors are expected to attend the review, together with some 100 young researchers funded by the Marie Curie Action.

The Marie Curie EST Action is aimed at training young researchers up to PhD level (<http://cordis.europa.eu/mariecurie-actions/est/home.html>). The UK has the largest number of contracts within the European Community with a total value of over £100 million. An EST contract (Biotracs: see [www.noc.soton.ac.uk/BIOTRACS](http://www.noc.soton.ac.uk/BIOTRACS)) is held by Peter Statham and Rachel Mills based in the SOES. The contract funds 12 PhD students. It is jointly held with Bristol University and is worth over 2.2 million Euros.

More information can be obtained from Bob Nesbitt ([rwn2@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:rwn2@noc.soton.ac.uk)).

## Peter is Visiting Fellow

Peter Challenor (OOC) spent four weeks this summer as a visiting Fellow at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Cambridge. He was taking part in a programme on the 'Advanced Design of Experiments'.

The Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences is a national and international visitor research institute. It runs research programmes on selected themes in mathematics and the mathematical sciences, with applications in a wide range of science and technology. It attracts leading mathematical scientists from the UK and from overseas to interact in research over an extended period, hosting programmes from one to six months. In 1995 Andrew Wiles announced the proof of Fermat's Last theorem there.

Most of the Design of Experiments programme was concerned with field or laboratory experiments. But there was a lot of interest in the design of computer experiments of the sort Peter uses to investigate uncertainty in climate predictions.



Peter gave two talks: an invited talk at the opening workshop on 'A Practitioner's View of Computer Experiments', and one on 'Designing for spatial scales' at the 'Designed Experiments: Recent Advances in Methods and Applications (DEMA2008)' conference. The slides from both are available on the Newton Institute's web site [www.newton.ac.uk](http://www.newton.ac.uk); the latter is also available as a video.

## Pogo Fellow from Kenya joins NOCS

Joseph Maina Mbui has recently joined NOCS on a 3-month Pogo (Partnership for Observation of the Global Oceans) fellowship to work with Paolo Cipollini and Val Byfield on Coastal Satellite Altimetry along the Eastern African shore.



Joseph is an ecosystem expert with the Wildlife Conservation Society ([www.wcs.org/globalconservation/marine](http://www.wcs.org/globalconservation/marine)) Coral Reef Program in Mombasa, Kenya, and is keen on learning the applications of the new satellite technique to his research.

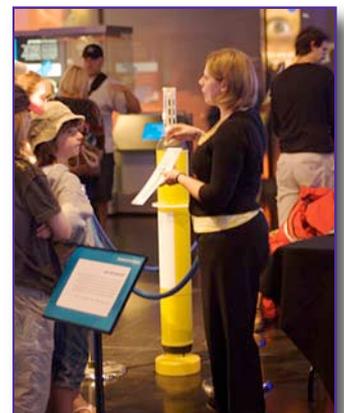
Joseph's arrival is the latest in a series of visits by African scientists to the centre: in fact NOCS is a key player in several recent initiatives contributing to knowledge exchange

with Africa and capacity building in the African continent, such as ALTICORE-Africa.

Owing to our excellent links with Pogo and to the successful liaison work by NOCS scientists (in particular Val Byfield) we have managed to secure two Pogo fellows this year, with the second one, Mariana Soppa from Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais – INPE in Brazil, arriving in September to work with David Cromwell.

## Rapid and Argo at the Science Museum

Visitors to the London Science museum during August had the chance to meet NOCS scientists and learn hands-on about the Rapid Climate Change and Argo observing programmes as part of the Museum's Antenna Event.



NOCS scientists manned three displays showcasing the cutting-edge ocean observing equipment used in both programmes as well as the latest science results from Rapid and Argo. Features included Micro-CAT sensors, 3-dimensional magic planet animations of climate model results, as well as an Argo profiling float and real-time updates of the location of all 3,000 Argo units.

Around 400+ people visited the displays over the three days to chat with the scientists, who successfully captured the interest and attention of visitors of all ages despite the lure of the nearby Dinosaur Simulator.

More information on the Museum's Antenna events can be found at [www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/antenna/](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/antenna/)

## Serpent – Chevron partnership



Continuing a successful collaboration with the international oil giant Chevron, **Andrew Gates and Rob Curry** of the Serpent project (Scientific & Environmental ROV Partnership using Existing Industrial Technology) were invited to talk at the recent Chevron Environment week.

Chevron takes its environmental responsibilities seriously. As an example, it has built biodiversity into its core Operational Excellence Management System, and is equally committed to its ongoing collaboration with the Serpent project.

Andrew and Rob visited Chevron House, Chevron's innovative Aberdeen facility, and headquarters for Chevron Upstream Europe. Their presentation highlighted the biodiversity of life in the deep Faroe-Shetland Channel and looked in depth at the Serpent research



Delicate tendrils of a pair of hydroids *Tubularia* sp. streaming in the underwater current of the Faroe-Shetland Channel. Note the small amphipods on the stalk.

undertaken during Andrew's visits to the Transocean Rather exploration rig last year at the Rosebank prospect.

Rob spoke about the outreach opportunities generated by collaboration with Serpent and screened a slideshow and video of the surprising diversity of creatures seen at the location.

The presentation was very well received and filmed for distribution throughout the Chevron organisation, and the Environmental team requested a copy of the slideshow to be shown on in-house screens at Chevron House.

## New Oracle system

As NERC heads towards a June 2009 'go-live', there are indications that the Shared Service Centre (SSC) project is changing up a gear with final sign-off of the design and build-stage of the new Oracle system, planned for November.

**Chris Green** and **Judith Gardham** attended a series of HR 'sandpit' sessions that are being run by the SSC project. The sandpit is a test area that enables key project-related staff from research councils to have a 'hands-on' look at the new system.

The roll-out of central system and process training should occur in early 2009, before the first research councils, ESRC and EPSRC, go-live. NOCS intends to customise the training to fit the business needs and priorities of our users and deliver it locally, supported by staff identified by divisions as key users, close to the June go-live date.

RCUK SSC Ltd is processing requisitions for goods and services into orders and creating records for the suppliers on the financial system. Please allow ample time for the processing of requisitions while SSC staff gain an understanding of the system. Requisitions should be sent to the procurement section, who will forward them to Swindon.

Staff should send claim forms for travel and subsistence to **Kathy Creighton**.

Information will be posted on NOCSnet as activity on the SSC project increases.

More detail about RCUK SSC Ltd, the organisation that will provide the service to support the business transactions of the research councils, which includes NERC, will be available at their web site [www.ssc.rcuk.ac.uk/](http://www.ssc.rcuk.ac.uk/) launching soon.

## Memorial fund

The memorial fund for Peter Killworth has raised over £10,000.

NOCS and the science community lost a valued colleague and friend when Peter Killworth died on 28 January after a long battle with motor neurone disease. In Spring 2008 NOCS established the Peter Killworth Memorial Fund to provide annual awards to students to support their research, studies and professional development.

We are very pleased to announce that we have raised over £10,000 from NOCS staff, alumni and friends. We extend our thanks to all of the donors for their generosity. The Peter Killworth Memorial Fund will make an impact for future students and will serve to honour Peter's commitment to fostering and encouraging the careers of budding scientists.



## Partnership to Address Climate Change

An innovative research programme that monitors the oceans using sensors fixed to a cargo ship has received further funding from the Swire shipping group.

The Swire Group has generously pledged over £300,000 to support the Swire NOCS Ocean Monitoring System (SNOMS).

The programme is yielding important information about our oceans and global climate change.

NOCS scientists use equipment installed on Swire's cargo ship the MV *Pacific Celebes* to monitor remote areas of the globe where the oceans' interaction with the atmosphere is largely unknown.

In 2006, Swire established the SNOMS programme by providing £100,000 to fund the design and assembly by NOCS of a system to measure carbon dioxide dissolved in the surface waters of the ocean. Now the company is providing additional support to expand the programme. The gift includes £106,000 from the London-based Swire Education Trust to fund a four-year PhD studentship in partnership with the University of Xiamen in China.

Director of NOCS, **Professor Ed Hill**, welcomed the continuing partnership with Swire. He said: "Climate change is recognised as one of the most significant environmental challenges facing humankind. As one of the world's foremost centres for ocean and earth science, with expertise in ocean observation, palaeoceanography, natural hazards and biodiversity research, NOCS is well-poised to lead this exciting programme. We are immensely grateful to the Swire group for enabling us to continue this vital research."



Ed Hill with Richard Kendall, Swire Group and David Hydes who leads the SNOMS project.

## Tooni Mahto

NOCS alumni and marine biologist **Tooni Mahto** is busy making a name for herself as a presenter for the BBC.

Tooni, a keen diver who was awarded an MSc with distinction in Oceanography by SOES a year ago, joins a team of 'intrepid adventurers' working on a new documentary series exploring the depths of the world's oceans. The series will be screened in late 2008/early 2009.

Recent video footage of Tooni in the Svalbard in the Norwegian Arctic can be found on the BBC's website at <http://search.bbc.co.uk/cgi-bin/search/results.pl?uri=%2F&scope=all&go=oolbar&q=tooni+mahto>

## New placement students



*ITG say hello and welcome to this year's placement students who started 4 August.*

**Harriet Rile**, left, this year's PC support student is studying BSc (Hons) Business Information Systems at Southampton Solent University, and **Daniel Richards** (Dan), right, this year's Mac support student is studying BSc (Hons) Computing at the University of Plymouth.



### ...and welcome to:

**Lee Grinter**, CSD/Facilities, working with Lewis Rennison  
**Soma Baranwal**, SOES, working with Paul Wilson  
**Gawen Trathen**, SOES, working with Simon Dean

## Grants Deadlines

**NERC – Environmental Nanoscience Facility**  
[www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/facilities/enf.asp](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/research/sites/facilities/enf.asp)  
Deadline: 22 September 2008  
For details: [www.nerc.ac.uk/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/)

**UNESCO – MAB Young Scientists Awards**  
Deadline: 30 September 2008

For details:  
[www.unesco.org/mab/bursaries/mys.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/mab/bursaries/mys.shtml)

**NERC Arctic Research Infrastructure (ARCFAC)**  
Deadline: 30 September 2008

For details: <http://arcfac.npolar.no>

**NOCS and School of Medicine – Southampton Interface Fund**

Deadline: 30 September 2008

For details: Speak to Sophie Gautier  
([sout@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:sout@noc.soton.ac.uk))

**University of Southampton – MULSER 2008**

Deadline: 31 Sept 2008 for initial feedback  
17 Oct 2008 to DVC

For details: speak to your Research Co-Chairs

**STFC – Follow-on fund**

Deadline: 7 October 2008

For details: [www.scitech.ac.uk/](http://www.scitech.ac.uk/)

**STFC – Science in society science centre awards**

Deadline: 17 October 2008

For details: [www.scitech.ac.uk/](http://www.scitech.ac.uk/)

**ESF – Research Networking Programs 2008**

Deadline: 23 October 2008, 16:00 CET

For details: [www.esf.org/programmes](http://www.esf.org/programmes)

**EPSRC – Energy Challenges for Complexity Science**

Deadline: 29 October 2008

For details:

[www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/EnergyChallengesComplexityScience.htm](http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/CallsForProposals/EnergyChallengesComplexityScience.htm)

**NERC – Fellowships (all Sciences)**

Deadline: 30 October 2008

For details: [www.nerc.ac.uk/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/)

**LIFE+ Environment**

Deadline: 21 November 2008

For details: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/>

**NERC – UK-IODP Grants**

Deadline: 27 November 2008

For details: [www.nerc.ac.uk/](http://www.nerc.ac.uk/)

## Awards

**Pi, (Col)**

\* **Split Award NSRD/SOES**

**Tom Bibby**, SOES, OBE

(**Mark Moore**)

NERC – Standard (£228,834)

\***Jon Copley**, SOES, OBE

(**Kate Stanfield, Paul Tyler**)

NERC – Standard (£378,961)

\***Bram Murton**, NSRD, Geochem

(**Doug Connelly**)

NERC – Standard (£83,696)

**Rachel Mills**, SOES, Geochem

NERC – Standard (£51,847)

**David Hydes**, NSRD, OBE

DEFRA (£226,157)

## Dissertation Prize

*Congratulations to **Jessica Craig** who has been awarded this year's Solent Forum Dissertation Prize for her MSc dissertation entitled 'Seagrass site prediction and mapping: a semi-automated approach applied in the Solent UK'.*

The project was supervised by **Ken Collins**. Following the completion of her MSc, Jessica moved to Aberdeen University where she is studying for a PhD specialising in bioluminescence.

## ...congratulations

to **Meric Srokosz** who has been promoted to Honorary Professor of Physical Oceanography.

## Uni-link change

*The Uni-link bus operation is transferring to Solent Blue Line from 28 September 2008. As a result, Uni-link will be vacating the NOCS site and moving its operational base to Eastleigh.*

The current operator of the Uni-link service, Enterprise, is aiming to remove the portacabins on the site and disconnect electricity and water supplies by 10 October.

There are a few changes to the bus timetable which affect Uni-link users at NOCS.

**UIA Monday – Friday:** The first four buses in the morning will start from Dock Gate 4 instead of NOCS. The first bus from NOCS will leave at 0640.

**U6H Monday – Saturday:** Buses will not go into NOCS. All buses from 0603 until 2120 will depart from the Dock Gate 4 bus stop.

**U6H Saturday and Sunday:** Buses will go from Dock Gate 4 from 0603 until 2120. Buses will start from Ocean Village at 0825 until 1825.

The new timetable will be published soon and will be available through the Uni-link website ([www.uni-link.info](http://www.uni-link.info)).

The ten-year contract was signed this week and is a major step forward for both the University and Solent Blue Line. The use of the bus service is a key element of the NOCS Environmental Management System and Pete Brunskill (Transport Manager) and Neil Smith (University Environment Manager) look forward to continuing to promote its use by staff, students and visitors.

## Safety flash

*Fire Assembly point during Extended/Out of Hours*

0900–1700 Monday to Friday: normal fire evacuation procedures apply.

Outside this period, due to a normally reduced number of persons on site, evacuation procedures differ and all persons must evacuate to Assembly Point E, adjacent to the main entrance.

Security staff will instruct evacuated persons when it is safe to return to the building. If on evacuation no security officers are present at Assembly Point E, please remain in location until they arrive.

On activation of any alarm, Security Officers may not be present at Assembly Point E if they have been instructed to investigate the cause of the activation by the fire authority.

Visit NOCS Health & Safety Intranet for further information.

## Multidisciplinary Funding

*A new joint School of Medicine/NOCS Interface Fund aims to assist in developing innovative and distinctive multidisciplinary research programmes and to stimulate new adventurous working programmes specifically.*

The Interface Fund will provide small amounts of seed/pump-priming funds and up to four awards of £5,000 will be made.

Guidance and the application form can be found on NOCSnet.

Applications should be submitted to **Sophie Gautier** ([s.gautier@noc.soton.ac.uk](mailto:s.gautier@noc.soton.ac.uk)) by 30 September 2008.