

AQUATIC & FISHERY SCIENCES

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHOOL OF AQUATIC & FISHERY SCIENCES • UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

SPRING-SUMMER '07

2 Alumni Reception

3 Pacific Ecology & Evolution Conference

4 New Faculty Introductions

7 Tom Rogers: A Life-Long Legacy

8 Kenneth K. Chew Endowed Professorship in Aquaculture

9 Gilbert B. Pauley Endowed Student Support Fund

10 Managing Temperate Reef Resources—Don Gunderson Tackles the Issue

11 In Memoriam: Ole Mathisen

From the Director

Every year in late winter, our Dean, Arthur Nowell (College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences), makes a strategic journey to upper campus where he extols the substantial benefits of education and research in our College to the Provost and her staff. This is an immensely important event to our School: it is the opportunity for the Dean to present SAFS as one of the best programs for experiential learning—one that emphasizes a broad array of critical career and life skills. I enjoy working with the Dean to compile data for this meeting—a process that reminds me of the outstanding quality of our students and the excellence of our faculty, staff, and programs.

What kind of evidence showcases our message to the Provost that SAFS is among the best aquatic and fishery sciences programs nationally and internationally? The Chronicle of Higher Education, in its January 12, 2007 issue, ranked SAFS first in the nation in “fisheries science and management” based on a faculty “productivity index.” We’re proud of this distinction, but we prefer to provide the Provost and you with more tangible demon-

strations of how our students and their achievements contribute to SAFS’ stature.

Our faculty believes that the opportunity to move through the entire process of scientific inquiry to the point of peer evaluation is integral to student education. Valuable learning is derived not only by stepping through the scientific method to define a question and hypothesis, design experiments or surveys to collect data, and analyze the findings; it also comes through interpreting the findings in written form that meets the high standards of the peer review process. Therefore, publications are a valuable measure of the quality of student learning. We routinely track the number of peer-reviewed journal articles published by students as primary authors: In many years, students are primary authors on more publications than are faculty.

Our students also talk a lot...and we’re very proud of that trait. Students in our programs are encouraged to present their work at a variety of venues, including seminars, conferences, and symposia. Most graduate students attend at least one major scientific meeting each year

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<http://fish.washington.edu>



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where they present formal talks or posters. Our undergraduates give formal presentations of their research as the culmination of their Capstone experience (the senior project). The quality of student effort at the Spring 2007 session was impressive: from stream restoration to physiological stress in diseased abalone, their work was sophisticated and their talks excellent.

Our students have so many opportunities for experiential learning thanks, in large measure, to generous giving by SAFS alumni and friends, as well as faculty and staff. As never before in the University's history, the power of giving to make a difference in student education is at the fore, as the Campaign UW demonstrates so well.

I bring your attention to a recently established Campaign feature—the “Faculty–Staff–Retiree Campaign for Students.” This initiative enables faculty, staff, and retired UW employees to establish a permanent endowment, in their name, with a pledge of \$5,000 to \$10,000, which the University matches 1:1. To secure the match, donors must pledge by June 2008, but contributions may be made over a five-year period. Cara Mathison of the Dean's Office (206-685-1456; caram@u.washington.edu) will be happy to provide information and work with you if you are interested.

Inspired by our good friends Gil Pauley, SAFS Professor Emeritus, and his wife Pat (featured on page 9), my wife Jan and I are joining several SAFS faculty who have pledged to create endowments for student support. As a SAFS faculty member for more than 25 years, I have seen students benefit from generous endowments designed to allow wide, flexible use. With this flexibility in mind, we will keep language of our fund broad, knowing that the SAFS scholarship committee will wisely disperse the proceeds in support of student learning.

Another program, “Students First,” enables donors to create scholarships in specific departments, beginning at a minimum contribution of \$100,000, which is matched on a 50% basis. This program features a “consortium endowment,” which allows several parties to pool resources to reach the \$100,000 threshold. Although this figure is high, I have seen the gifts of generous individuals and organizations that support SAFS grow to this level.

To the many of you who continue to give to SAFS on behalf of our students, faculty, and teaching program, please know that all amounts are greatly valued and essential to ensure our continued place as one of the best aquatic science schools in the nation. If you would like to make a contribution to our program, we invite you visit <http://fish.washington.edu/fund>.

—David Armstrong, Director



SAFS

Alumni Reception

YOU'RE INVITED!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

7:00 TO 9:00 PM

SAN FRANCISCO

In September 2005, SAFS hosted its first reception for alumni and associates at the annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage. We were delighted with the strong turn-out, ranging from current graduate students to alumni going back several decades—many more people attended than we had anticipated. Given the success of that event, and the enthusiastic feedback we received, we decided to hold another gathering in fall 2007.

And so, we are pleased to invite you to an evening reception at the American Fishery Society's 137th annual meeting on Monday, September 3, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the San Francisco Marriott Hotel. For more information, please contact safsdesk@u.washington.edu or 206-543-4270.



Pacific Ecology & Evolution Conference

For the last 28 years, graduate students have been organizing the annual Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference (PEEC), drawing students from universities in Canada, Washington, Oregon, and California. This year, three SAFS graduate students—Joe Anderson, Erik Schoen, and Peter Westley—organized the conference. Topics included community and behavioral ecology, population dynamics, species diversity, disturbance, and disease.

Joe described the conference's purpose: "The idea is to provide students an informal way to practice their speaking skills and talk about ideas with their colleagues. There is a full day of presentations and a poster session, but the pressure is less intense than at a big, national conference."

The conference had 58 participants from 18 colleges and universities, including 10 from SAFS. Erik said, "Through the talks and social interactions, students saw how their work was interconnected with what others are working on. This was really cool."

At PEEC, students are exposed to diverse topics. Joe elaborated: "At SAFS seminars, we get the fish story. PEEC had talks on mountain goats, sparrows, toads, plants, micorrhizal fungi—a host of things that are interesting from a broad natural history perspective. For SAFS students, it was good exposure outside fisheries."

This year, 10 undergraduate students also attended and gave presentations. Peter said, "As far as we know, this was a first. We waived the registration fee to encourage them." Joe added, "They appreciated this opportunity very much, and for many it was their first presentation."

Erik spoke to the open format of PEEC: "Anyone who wanted to give a presentation was allowed to. It was very relaxed: people presented in their socks; we used a broom handle because we couldn't find the laser pointer!" Peter added, "The PEEC tradition is non-competitive; there are no awards for talks."

All three coordinators agreed that the keynote address from Dolph Schluter (University of British Columbia, Zoology and Biodiversity Research Centre) was a highlight. Peter said, "He presented an excellent, unifying talk at the end of the conference."

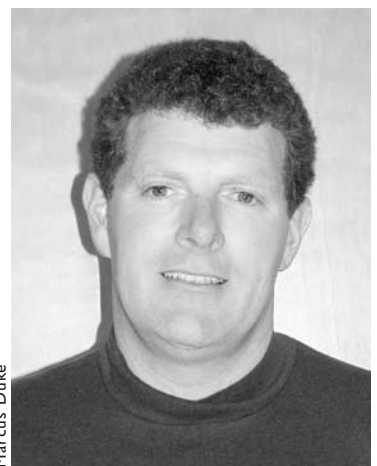
Joe, Erik, and Peter acknowledged the generous financial support provided by SAFS, which funded the undergraduate scholarships and helped to defray the costs for all conference participants. ■

"PEEC had talks on... a host of things that are interesting from a broad natural history perspective. For SAFS students, it was good exposure outside fisheries."



Nate Mantua, Associate Research Professor

PhD, 1996, UW: Numerical modeling studies of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation



Marcus Duke

Nate studies large-scale climate change and climate impacts on human activities and ecosystems. He is well known for his El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) research. Since 1995, he has been working with the UW Climate Impacts Group.

Nate grew up on Bodega Bay, California, where he was introduced to El Niño through first-hand observations along the coast. At age 16, he went fishing for species such as salmon and rockfish, only to find bonita and ocean sunfish, and very few salmon. The water was very warm, and winter weather was fierce with frequent storms and lots of damage.

“People blamed El Niño,” Nate said. Given his interest in fishing and the natural environment, studying climate phenomena in college was a natural progression.

MD: What attracted you to the UW and SAFS?

NM: The Atmospheric Sciences program was, and still is, on the cutting edge of El Niño science. And, during my PhD work, I took SAFS Professor Bob Francis’ fisheries oceanography class, and he and I really hit it off. We were thinking about similar issues like climate influences on marine ecosystems. I always found SAFS appealing because of the interdisciplinary nature of fishery problems.

MD: What are your research goals at SAFS?

NM: I hope to develop a research program that tackles climate–habitat–fisheries interactions at a wide range of scales in space and time. I’m interested in the role of climate in short-term resource management issues, as well as longer-term conservation problems.

MD: Why does ENSO seem to impact countries in warmer climates more than anywhere else?

NM: ENSO is basically a tropical phenomenon that has a global reach, and its climate impacts are greatest in the tropics—generally speaking, typically wet areas like southeast Asia experience droughts, while typically dry areas (like the coastal deserts of Peru and the Galapagos Islands) experience torrential rains.

MD: What happened to the El Niño last winter?

NM: There was a “modest” El Niño in the tropics that didn’t unfold according to script. Changes in both the tropical and western US rainfall patterns were atypical. The Pacific storm track brought us a very normal winter, while in California it hardly rained. In the last 15–20 years, several El Niños departed from the “typical” script. It’s become clear that there are different “flavors” of ENSO and this winter saw one of the less frequently observed flavors. El Niño is not one thing; it’s a spectrum or continuum of climate events in the tropics, and we just don’t understand these phenomena very well.

MD: How do you view the interactions of climatic phenomena?

NM: There are a handful of important “oscillations,” or “O’s”, in addition to ENSO, like the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and the North Atlantic Oscillation. People looking for patterns in the noisy climate system have learned that even the O’s are more complex than a single name suggests, which is why we talk about “flavors.” Then there’s the global warming pattern—getting louder, larger, and more important every year. It’s important to think about how natural patterns interact with global warming.

MD: How can we manage in light of such huge system changes?

NM: Answering that question requires us to go from a global to a regional scale, where most management decisions are made. Bridging that spatial gap between really big, coarse information and fine-scale interests is a major challenge. So is coming to grips with the fact that, even in the best cases, our ability to predict the future is extremely limited. ■

Julian Olden, Assistant Professor

PhD, 2004, Colorado State University: Fish fauna homogenization of the US, life-history correlates of native extinctions and non-native invasions in the American Southwest, and the bi-directional impacts of dams in the American Southeast

Julian is a freshwater ecologist with interests in conservation biogeography, fish community ecology, and large-scale implications of flow alterations, invasive species, and climate change.

A native of Canada, Julian spent his childhood living on a sailboat on the Great Lakes. This experience and sailing to places such as the Caribbean were a major influence on the direction he chose for his education.

For his MS thesis, Julian explored how environmental and spatial factors shape the fish communities of central Ontario lakes. He then went to Colorado State University (CSU), Ft. Collins, for his doctoral studies. Prior to SAFS, Julian was a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for Limnology, University of Wisconsin, where he studied the invasion dynamics of crayfish in north-temperate lakes.

MD: What drew you to Colorado?

JO: I was very interested in streams in the context of aquatic invasions. The lower Colorado River is highly arid and is the lifeline for growing areas like Los Angeles and Las Vegas. At CSU, I got a dose of western water laws and the escalating water wars. This motivated me to look at how river flows altered by humans threaten native fish biodiversity and promote species invasions in the lower Colorado River basin.

MD: Are these introduced species better suited to the changing environment?

JO: Yes: Rivers in the Southwest historically were big, flashy systems, with large floods during the monsoon season. Native fishes evolved to cope with extreme flooding and drought whereas exotic species were unable to successfully establish. Now, because dams have stabilized river flow, many exotic species have gotten a stronghold.

I was interested in determining whether we can better manage dams to release water that mimics the more natural flow regimes that would be advantageous for native species over invaders.

MD: Your post-doctoral work was also on exotic species, but from a different angle.

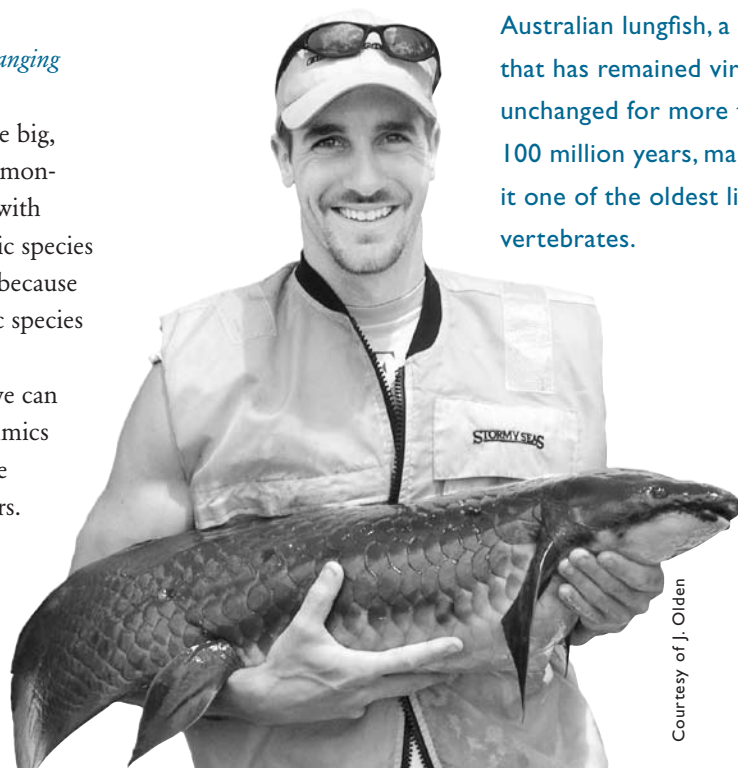
JO: During my post-doc, I realized that, when we talk about invasive species, we're often talking about how best to control them and minimize their impacts. In terms of the Great Lakes, roughly 180 exotic species have been introduced and are costing millions of dollars per year in damages and control efforts. I thought, "How can we better *prevent* the introduction of exotic species in the first place?" Ultimately, that will be much cheaper than controlling them once they're already introduced.

MD: How does climate change factor into your studies?

JO: I'm focusing on the interactions between multiple agents of large-scale forcing, including exotic species and climate change. I'm exploring how regional warming trends may favor the secondary spread of invasive fish species across the landscape. Many non-native species are "sleeping giants": they're already here but they haven't reached their full potential yet; in light of future climate change, we expect distribution of these species to change and their impacts to magnify.

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Julian holds an air-breathing, Australian lungfish, a species that has remained virtually unchanged for more than 100 million years, making it one of the oldest living vertebrates.



Courtesy of J. Olden

Steven Roberts, Assistant Professor

PhD, 2002, University of Notre Dame: Characterization of growth hormone in yellow perch and myostatin in several teleost species



M. Duke

Steven Roberts hails from Charlotte, North Carolina. He grew up on a freshwater lake, which contributed to his desire to get involved in aquatic sciences and study fishes. His specialties are comparative physiology and functional genomics, which he applies to conservation and aquaculture-related issues.

Steven earned his undergraduate degree at North Carolina State University, with a major in natural resources. Early in his studies, SAFS loomed on the horizon: He studied fish reproduction with SAFS alumnus Craig Sullivan (UW '86), and after graduating, he worked at the University of North Carolina Wilmington with Mary Moser, who held a post-doctoral position at SAFS during 1987–89.

As a graduate student at the University of Notre Dame, Steven began using molecular biology as a tool to study fish physiology.

MD: What aspects of fish physiology did you study in graduate school?

SR: Primarily growth physiology and growth hormone expression: I was initially interested in a local species, yellow perch. I wanted to understand why male and female growth differed. I used molecular tools to measure protein levels of growth hormone in fish over time and between sexes.

In the late 1990s, myostatin had been discovered in mammals. This gene significantly affects growth: if you remove this gene in mice you get 20–30% more muscle mass. The question was, “Is this mechanism present in fish and does it play a role in growth?” Answering this question was the focus of my PhD work and I’m still studying this issue.

Once we determined the myostatin gene existed in salmon, we investigated the gene’s expression—where a gene’s DNA sequence converts into the functional proteins of the cell—under different experimental regimes.

MD: Your post-doctoral research at Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory had some unusual aspects to it.

SR: There, I became interested in what controlled growth and metamorphoses in shellfish. Most of my research focused on bay scallop development and genetics,

though I spent time examining oyster immune function and pathogens in the marine environment. While at the MBL, I participated in several unique collaborative research projects, including long-term memory in *Hermisenda* (sea slug) and *Sepia* (cuttlefish), camouflage, and zebrafish olfaction. The research on cephalopod camouflage was particularly fascinating, given cephalopods’ ability to mimic their environment without color vision.

MD: What attracted you to this school and what are your research plans here?

SR: Much of the science here is applied. As an undergrad, I worked on solving problems with a practical application. While I did a lot of basic work in graduate school, I always knew I wanted to apply my skills to bigger-picture issues such as fishery management and resource conservation.

I am continuing my Wood’s Hole work here, studying how environment, parasites, and disease affect shellfish. I want to answer the question, “How do different populations and individual organisms adapt over time to resist disease or environmental stress?” Towards that, I’m working with SAFS faculty Carolyn Friedman on a regional species of interest, abalone.

MD: You’ll be teaching a bioinformatics course this fall. What’s that about?

SR: It’s about information management: students will learn how to capitalize on existing (published) molecular information, like genome sequences. I call it “armchair molecular biology!” I think it can help students exploit resources already available, preventing them from reinventing the wheel and helping them to better focus their work. ■

Tom Rogers

A LIFE-LONG LEGACY

At the UW, staff are essential for ensuring that our academic and research programs run smoothly. SAFS has a long history of exceptional, dedicated staff members: more than 20 of our staff have been with SAFS for more than 10 years, and nearly half of those exceed 20 years.

One such staff member is Tom Rogers. In 1992, Tom started his “official” career with the school, where his many duties included boat, shop, and building management. But in reality, he has been a part of the School program for 37 years.

Starting in 1970, Tom accompanied his dad, SAFS Professor Don Rogers (1932–2004), to the School’s Alaska field camps each summer. He participated in field activities as a volunteer, and by his early teens, he was repairing boat motors and doing field work. It’s no surprise, then, that Tom eventually was hired to maintain the camps’ boats and buildings.

Tom cultivated his talent for mechanics through all the shop classes he took in high school. After high school, he was a mechanic for Porsche/VW shop and Sears. He also studied airplane mechanics, receiving his FAA license to do airplane maintenance.

The Alaska connection was one lure to his ultimate employment at SAFS, but Tom also spent a spring break in the early 1970s working in the School’s shop, which planted the seed in him: “I thought [shop manager] Bill Nelson had a pretty good job.” And in 1980, he was hired by SAFS professor Ole Mathisen to do field work on Iliamna Lake.

Tom’s interests go beyond mechanics, and include video production—which he pursued at North Seattle Community College—and playing guitar. And Tom volunteered for six years as support staff for the annual Iditarod dog-sled race in Alaska.

In recent years, Tom had been considering a career change, and in May 2007, he resigned from SAFS. He is planning to invest in a engine repair product, which he hopes will generate his main source of income. He also hopes to continue his volunteer work for the Democratic party, which he has been doing for several years now.

On behalf of all of us at SAFS, past and present, we say “thank you, Tom” for all your years of hard work and dedication. We wish you the best in your future endeavors. ■



SAFS Archives

Tom Rogers at the helm of one of SAFS research vessels. Background image: field camp at Lake Aleknagik, Alaska

Kenneth K. Chew

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP IN AQUACULTURE KICKS OFF

Ken Chew is a “lifer” at our school. A native of Red Bluff, California, he came to SAFS (then School of Fisheries) to pursue MS (1958) and PhD (1962) degrees. He went on to become a SAFS faculty member (1962–2004) and Interim Director (1996–1998). He also was Director for the Western Regional Aquaculture Center (1987–1996 and 1998–2004), a USDA program that provides research opportunities for many of our students. And he was Associate Dean of the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences (1998–2004). Even in retirement, he remains active, currently serving as a Commissioner for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Ken is a renowned authority on molluscan biology who has contributed extensively to invertebrate research and who played a key role in developing a thriving shellfish industry in the Pacific Northwest. Ken’s influence extends well beyond the Northwest: he has worked on aquaculture issues in Australia, Canada, China, Chile, Japan, Thailand, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

Ken’s service has been acknowledged through several awards, including the Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award from the College of Ocean and Fishery Sciences (1993), the first David H. Wallace Award from the National Shellfisheries Association (1982), and Honorary Life Membership in the World Aquaculture Society. More recently he was honored by the US Department of Agriculture for his outstanding contribution to aquaculture development in the USA.

At Ken’s retirement party in 2001, Washington Governor Gary Locke announced the establishment of an endowed professorship in Ken’s name. Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, including Victor (UW ’27) and Tamara Loosanoff and their family, minimum

Ken
enjoying
his favorite
seafood
dish



Courtesy of K Chew

funding of \$250,000 has been met, and we are now in a position to put these funds to use.

It is Ken’s vision that the Professorship assist the School to attract renowned scholars from around the globe. Consequently, the Chew Professorship will provide funding to bring scientists and faculty to SAFS for extended periods—including sabbaticals—during which they will interact with school faculty conducting aquaculture-related research; they will also be encouraged to teach.

On May 17, friends and colleagues of Ken’s celebrated the inauguration of the Chew Professorship. The celebration started with a seminar presented by the first person to be awarded the Chew Professorship, Dennis Hedgecock. Dennis—a professor in the Biological Sciences Department, University of Southern California—is a world-renowned shellfish geneticist who specializes in the study of Pacific oysters. Given that he studies Ken’s favorite seafood, it should be no surprise that they are friends. The celebration included testimonials to Ken and a sumptuous reception. The event was attended by nearly 200 colleagues, friends, and former students.

For more information about this professorship, or if you would like to contribute, please contact Linda Maxson, lmaxson@u.washington.edu, 206-221-6808.



Mike Ruse

Dr. Colin Nash, NOAA Fisheries, presents Ken with the “Sustained Contribution Award” at the Third International Symposium on Stock Enhancement and Sea Ranching in September 2006.

Gilbert B. Pauley

ENDOWED STUDENT SUPPORT FUND

Gilbert B. Pauley is a professor emeritus of SAFS and a past member and leader of the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (Coop). Gil had a long, distinguished career at the School and Coop, serving from 1974 until 1997.

The Coop, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in May 2007, is one of 40 units in 38 states that constitute the national Cooperative Research Unit Program (part of the US Geological Survey). Working with universities, state fish and wildlife agencies, and the Wildlife Management Institute, the Coops coordinate research and graduate training programs.

The longstanding relationship the Coop has had with SAFS has yielded mutually beneficial results, providing opportunities and funding for numerous students to pursue research, and in turn, helping the Coop address pressing wildlife and fish management issues.

In 2002, Gil and his wife Pat established a fund to support UW and Washington State University students conducting Coop research. The fund has been used to award graduate students for best oral and poster presentations at the Unit's Annual Cooperators Meeting. The funds pay for travel expenses to conferences, where the students present the results of their research.

Gil explained why they chose to support student travel: "Attending scientific conferences is critical to student development. It gives students the chance to practice communicating in front of a group of peers about their work; and, by presenting their work before it's published, they have a chance to get some feedback." He added, "These conferences enable students to interact and network with the rest of the scientific community."

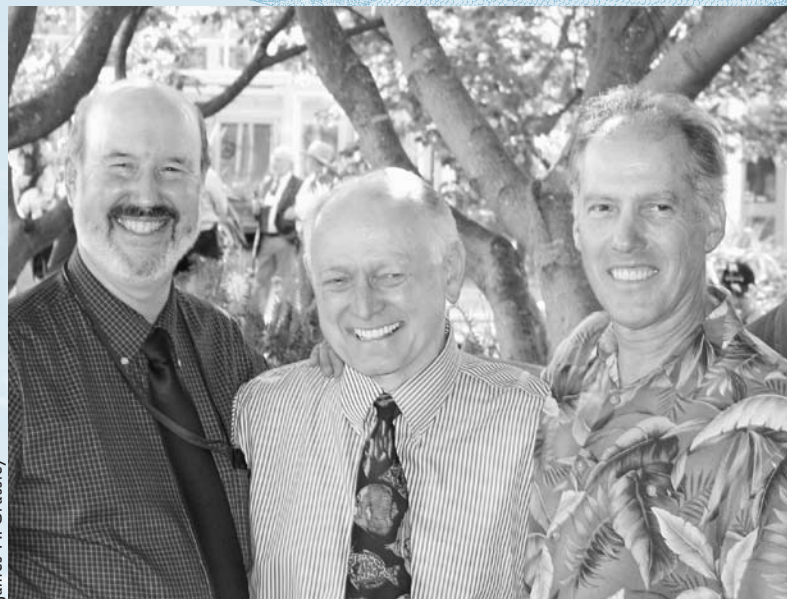
Several winners of the Pauley travel award spoke to the value of the fund: Jenifer McIntyre—oral presentation winner, 2006—said "This generous award allowed me to travel to Newfoundland, Canada, for the Seventh International Congress on Fish Biology, where I was awarded the best student paper in my session. Without the Pauley award, the trip would have been prohibitively expensive."

Mike Mazur—oral presentation winner in 2005—used the fund to attend the Hydroacoustic Mobile Survey Workshop in Wyoming. He reflected, "The award enabled

me to present my research to applied research scientists and managers, beyond the Pacific Northwest, at a small, informal venue, where I forged valuable relationships critical to any young scientist's success. Thanks to the Pauley fund, I was able to bridge the gap between the academic and applied science world and interact with a group of researchers that ordinarily would not know about my work."

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Gilbert B. Pauley Endowed Student Support Fund. This fund will help ensure travel funding, in perpetuity, for students awarded at each year's Cooperators' Meeting.

We extend our gratitude to Gil and Pat Pauley for their generous support of students in the Coop and SAFS programs. For more information on giving at SAFS, please contact Cara Mathison, caram@u.washington.edu, 206-685-1456. For more information on the Campaign for Students, please see http://uwfoundation.org/home/staff_info.asp.



James M. Grassley

Gil Pauley (center) with Coop Leader Chris Grue (left) and David Armstrong at the Coop's 40th anniversary celebration

Managing Temperate Reef Resources

DON GUNDERSON TACKLES THE ISSUE

<http://depts.washington.edu/reefsymp/>

Temperate reefs in the nearshore are very productive ecosystems, and the fishes and shellfishes that inhabit them are valuable economic and recreational resources for coastal residents. But many reef fishes are long-lived and highly vulnerable to overfishing, and—given limited data—managing them effectively is difficult.

Currently, no comprehensive programs exist for managing these resources in Washington and Oregon. And so, SAFS faculty member Don Gunderson saw an opportunity to address the challenges to sustaining temperate reef fishes. With funding in part from SAFS for event planning and staff support, Don assembled managers, scientists, and stakeholders—including the tribes, NGOs, and the private sector—to start developing a management system that will be effective, enforceable, and economical.

Don is a school alumnus (UW '75) who joined our faculty in 1978; he retired in January 2007 and is now a professor emeritus. He is well-known for his expertise in assessment, population dynamics, and management of

marine fish stocks. In his later career, he became interested in studying marine protected areas.

He has served on 35 thesis/dissertation committees. In recent years, he taught the popular immersion class at the Friday Harbor Laboratories, known as the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeships in Marine Fish Ecology.

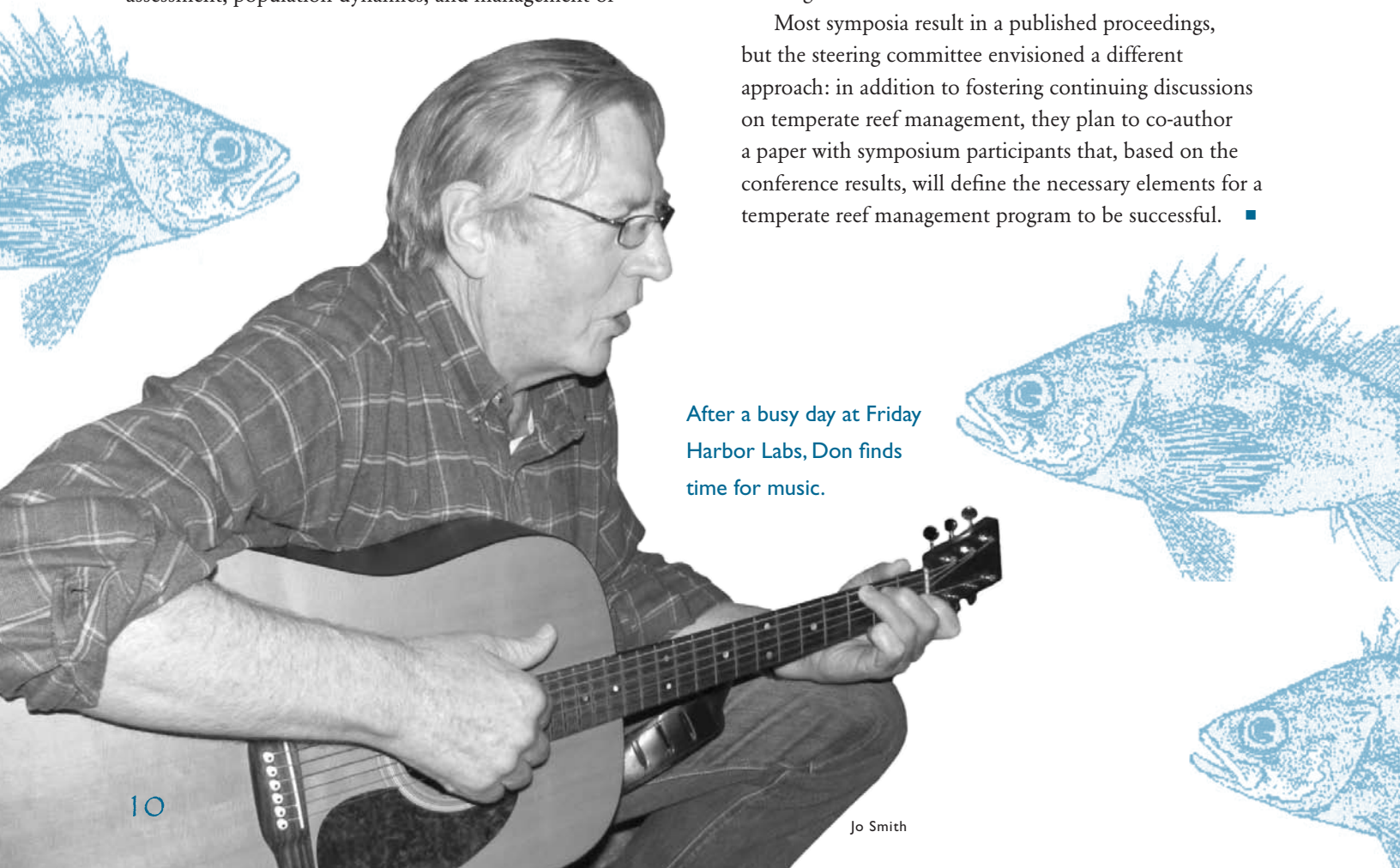
Friends, colleagues, and students of Don also know him for his great appreciation of music. To say his tastes are eclectic understates his broad interests, from Coltrane-era jazz to Public Enemy and just about everything in between. He also plays guitar and is a song writer.

Retirement notwithstanding, Don remains active in fisheries science: Most recently, he spent a semester at Pukyong National University in Pusan, Korea, teaching a graduate seminar and an undergraduate course, and conducting research with SAFS alumni, Chang Ik Zhang (UW '87) and Suam Kim (UW '87).

In early June 2007, he convened the two-day temperate reef symposium. In fall 2007, he will return to Korea to teach again.

Most symposia result in a published proceedings, but the steering committee envisioned a different approach: in addition to fostering continuing discussions on temperate reef management, they plan to co-author a paper with symposium participants that, based on the conference results, will define the necessary elements for a temperate reef management program to be successful. ■

After a busy day at Friday Harbor Labs, Don finds time for music.



In Memoriam: Ole Mathisen

1919–2007

Ole Alfred Mathisen passed away on March 12, 2007, at the age of 88. He was born in Oslo, Norway, on February 9, 1919, and studied zoology at the University of Oslo. During World War II he served in the Norwegian Underground Service. He came to the USA after the war to continue his studies at the University of Washington and earned his PhD in Fisheries Biology in 1955.

He was a Professor at the UW College of Fisheries, teaching and conducting research, from 1955 to 1982. During this time, he spent summers in Bristol Bay, Alaska, studying the population dynamics of sockeye salmon. In 1983, he became the Dean of the College of Fisheries and Ocean Science, University of Alaska in Juneau. He served as a visiting scholar at the University of Moscow in 1960–1961 and also was a Fulbright Scholar in Norway during 1965–1966 and in Malaysia during 1988–1989.

During his professional life, Ole participated in many scientific expeditions to regions ranging from the Bikini Atoll to the Antarctic to South America and the African continent. After his retirement from the University of Alaska, he built a log cabin near Friday Harbor on San Juan Island, Washington, where he continued his research and many professional activities.

Tom Quinn of the Alaska Salmon Program and SAFS faculty member, credits Ole with helping to establish one of the longest-running and most comprehensive research programs of its kind, paving the way for modern conservation and sustainable fisheries:

“To say that Ole Mathisen cast a big shadow would be quite an understatement. He was one of the true pioneers of the School’s Fisheries Research Institute, building not only the research program but the cabins as well. Both were built on solid foundations and are strong today. Ole Mathisen, and other former SAFS faculty members Bud Burgner, Don Bevan, and Don Rogers were exceptional scientists, who had great insights into the ecology of salmon. They came into areas that were very poorly known prior to Alaska’s statehood, and designed long-term research programs that have yielded a rich storehouse of knowledge about the interactions between salmon, density, and climate.



Heidi Mathisen

Ole Mathisen

Before there was talk about climate change, those men were establishing datasets on lake level, ice-breakup, temperature, and a host of other things that now reveal the process of global warming. Terms like conservation biology, ecosystem management, and biodiversity were not part of their lexicon either, but their writings clearly showed their commitment to conservation and sustainable fisheries, salmon runs, and the ecosystems on which they depend. With the passing of Ole Mathisen we have lost a giant in Pacific Northwest fisheries science, but his legacy lives on in the programs he helped start.”

Ole is survived by his wife of 58 years, Randi, his two children and their spouses, Sven and Gro and granddaughters, Karine and Benedikte of Oslo, Norway, and Heidi and Klaus and grandchildren Kristiaan and Annika of Seattle, and many friends and former students all over the world.

Remembrances may be sent to the Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle WA 98117 (<http://www.nordicmuseum.org>). ■

Julian Olden

Assistant Professor

—continued from page 5

MD: What attracted you to SAFS?

JO: What's not to love! Foremost, it's a leading fisheries school. With respect to my research, the Northwest is still in the early phases of exotic species invasions. For example, I'm studying the invasive red swamp crayfish—native to the southern US and the most exotic crayfish worldwide. It was first recorded in 2000 in Washington, and we have much to do to slow its spread and minimize its impact.

Because my research explores the interaction between invasive species and climate change, the UW's breadth of expertise in these research areas attracted me. I see a lot of potential here for collaboration on this focus.

MD: What courses are you currently teaching?

JO: I just finished the Applied Multivariate Statistics course this spring, and in fall 2007, I will teach a new course on Aquatic Invasion Ecology.

AQUATIC & FISHERY SCIENCES

The *Aquatic & Fishery Sciences Newsletter* provides current information on teaching, research, and service.

Comments are welcome.

Director *David Armstrong*

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