

AOML hosted a Commuter Seminar on July 22nd to assist employees in providing options for commuting to work. Representatives from South Florida Commuter Services and Miami-Dade Transit presented information on the benefits of using public transportation (buses, metrorail, tri-rail), as well as ride sharing, van pooling, transit subsidies, and discount passes. The seminar was organized by Scott Stolz, AOML Associate Director, and Stanley Goldenberg, a long-time public transit enthusiast.

Here are a few useful commuter tips from the seminar:

- The South Florida Commuter Services web site ([www.1800234ride.com](http://www.1800234ride.com)) offers an abundance of information about commuting options in south Florida, as well as an extensive listing of transportation program links.

- Emergency Ride Home Program: Employees who use public transportation, ride share, or bicycle/walk to work at least three days a week are eligible to receive up to six free taxi rides home per year. Register for the program on the South Florida Commuter Services web site.

- View a map of the Miami-Dade Transit B-Bus route at [www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/transit/images/pdfs/routes/102.pdf](http://www.co.miami-dade.fl.us/transit/images/pdfs/routes/102.pdf).

- SmarTraveler Interactive Telephone System: Dial 511 any time for accurate, up-to-the-minute, route specific traffic information.

- Federal employees can participate in NOAA's Transportation Subsidy Program ([www.rdc.noaa.gov/~nfo/files/TSP%20Presentation3.htm](http://www.rdc.noaa.gov/~nfo/files/TSP%20Presentation3.htm)) by completing Form 42-28. Forms must be returned to Cathy Steward by October 1, 2004.

- For general transit information, contact Stanley Goldenberg (305-361-4362; [Stanley.Goldenberg@noaa.gov](mailto:Stanley.Goldenberg@noaa.gov)).

## RSMAS Shuttle

AUGUST 25-DECEMBER 3, 2004  
(MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY)

Viscaya  
Station to  
RSMAS:

8:15 AM  
8:45 AM  
3:50 PM

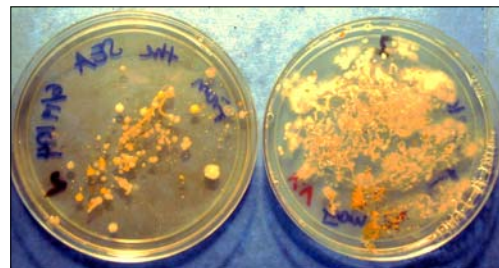
RSMAS  
Station to  
Viscaya:

8:30 AM  
3:30 PM  
5:30 PM

## Students Discover Microscopic World of Marine Bacteria

AOML microbiologist Kelly Goodwin helped teach young girls about the invisible world of marine bacteria at a recent outreach effort jointly sponsored by the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School and the American Association of University Women. "Explore Marine Science" featured activity workshops presented by five women scientists aimed at sparking interest in both science and the ocean. More than 40 girls (6th and 7th graders) attended the event held on Saturday, July 19th, at the Rosenstiel School campus.

Goodwin's presentation, "Seawater: More than Meets the Eye," was designed as a simple introduction to microbiology and the concept of hypothesis-based research. Students were challenged to determine what type of culture media would best support the growth of marine bacteria, microscopic life forms living in the ocean. They were taught how to plate samples onto Petri dishes and then given the task of plating marine (seawater, seaweed, and seagrass) and land-based sources of bacteria (leaves, dirt, swabs from their bodies and the bottoms of their shoes) onto dishes coated with either marine or terrestrial agar. Goodwin used pre-cultured samples to demonstrate the conclusion that bacteria from marine sources grew best on a medium that contained salt.



Photograph from Goodwin's Explore Marine Science web page that depicts bacteria from a marine source (seaweed) growing on a terrestrial (left) and marine (right) medium.

As an additional activity, Goodwin collected the students' samples and gave them her web address ([www.aoml.noaa.gov/ocd/people/goodwin/](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/ocd/people/goodwin/)). With the assistance of laboratory technician Anjali Sardeshmukh, the samples were incubated, photographed, and placed on a newly created web page. Students were invited to visit the web page to view images of their cultured samples and to review what they had learned.

While the field of marine science encompasses many disciplines, Goodwin is optimistic that at least a few girls were inspired by the amazing world that exists within a single drop of seawater and that there's much more to science than meets the eye.

## Site Survey Pinpoints Location for New CREWS Station

A site survey of Discovery Bay, Jamaica was completed in July to pinpoint the best location for a new Coral Reef Early Warning System (CREWS) monitoring station. Jules Craynock, an oceanographer with AOML's Ocean Chemistry Division and the AOML Unit Diving Supervisor, joined a team of Jamaican reef experts as they visited several prospective sites to evaluate ocean floor characteristics and nearby coral reef ecosystems.



As a result of the survey team's efforts, a position for the new CREWS station was determined. Pylon construction is expected to begin late in 2004 or early 2005. If all goes well, the Discovery Bay station should be fully operational by spring 2005. It will become part of the CREWS network of observing stations that monitor environmental conditions at coral reef sites around the world. The Discovery Bay station is being established through a collaborative agreement between NOAA and the Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project.

The CREWS site survey team in Discovery Bay, Jamaica included (left to right): Dr. Peter Gayle, University of West Indies Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory; Sean Green, National Environment and Planning Agency; Jules Craynock, AOML/Ocean Chemistry Division; and Leslie Walling, Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change (MACC) Project for the Caribbean.

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