Science Made Public

All talks held at the WHOI Ocean Science Exhibit Center Auditorium, 15 School Street, Woods Hole



JULY 13 AT 2:30 PM

Red Sea Oceanography: A Saudi-U.S. Collaboration Amy Bower, Physical Oceanography Department

The Red Sea, which connects the Mediterranean Sea with the Indian Ocean, is an ocean basin of local, regional and global significance for human activities. It is fringed by extensive coral reefs, many in pristine condition, that provide critical habitat for marine life, support several important fisheries and attract tourists. This region has previously been off-limits to oceanographers, but a new collaboration between WHOI and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) has provided new opportunities for studying the Red Sea. Learn about the importance of the Red Sea and exciting new results about the currents from the first comprehensive large-scale survey of these waters done in March 2010.



JULY 20 AT 2:30 PM

Chasing Uncertainty in the East China Sea

Glen Gawarkiewicz, Physical Oceanography Department Marine scientists today routinely use complex computer models to study ocean circulation and sound propagation in the ocean. Because of the complexity of the ocean circulation, these models have both strengths and weaknesses relative to the many processes which we observe in the real ocean. To test ocean and acoustic models in the East China Sea, a large Taiwanese/U.S. field effort occurred in late summer of 2008 and 2009 to study how well ocean models and acoustic propagation models are able to forecast in the complex continental shelf and slope environment northeast of Taiwan. Along the way, encounters with typhoons, canyons, squid, and international diplomacy will be described.



JULY 27 AT 2:30 PM It's All About the Oil

George Hampson, Oceanographer Emeritus, Biology Department

Oil is a complex mixture of hydrocarbons which vary greatly in molecular structure. Oil refineries process crude oil into useful products from gasoline to asphalt. All of these oils and by products have different toxicity depending on their chemical makeup. Learn about long-term studies of oils spills right here in Buzzards Bay and their impacts on the environment.

For more information, contact Kathy Patterson, 508-289-2700 or kpatterson@whoi.edu www.whoi.edu