

SEA Semester®



Environmental Studies in Woods Hole & at Sea

Sea Education Association | SEA Semester • P.O. Box 6 • Woods Hole, MA 02543 • 800.552.3633 • www.sea.edu

February 7, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

2014 SPRING LECTURE SERIES | FEBRUARY 2014

For more information, contact:

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February 16 – May 18, 2014 | 1pm

Sea Education Association

James L. Madden Center Lecture Hall

171 Woods Hole Road, Falmouth, MA

508-540-3954

Free and open to the public

February 16 | Dr. Jeff Schell, *Caribbean Sketchbook: A Journey Through History, Culture and Conservation*

March 16 | Dr. Amy NS Siuda, *Drifting Oases of Life on the Deep Blue Sea*

April 13 | Dr. Chuck Lea, *Deep Sea Fish and Squid and the Open Ocean Environment*

May 18 | Captain Elliot Rappaport, *Leadership Training in the Marine Environment*

Upcoming February Lecture:

Caribbean Sketchbook: A Journey Through History, Culture and Conservation

By Dr. Jeff Schell

WHEN:

February 16, 2014 at 1pm

WHERE:

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Presentation Summary

What is the Caribbean? To most North Americans and Europeans of the 21st century the Caribbean is a favorite vacation destination, an escape from the cold, stressful, and dreary winter routine to a worry-free land of sun, beaches, and rum.

For those born and raised in the Caribbean, it is an archipelago populated by a culturally rich mosaic of independent island nations and territories. Though each is unique, the islands and people of the Caribbean share a common history of overcoming centuries of cultural oppression and environmental destruction that began with the arrival of Columbus and continued through centuries of colonial rule and expansion of slavery. These fledgling countries continue the struggle to retain their cultural identity while simultaneously forging a prosperous and stable economy that increasingly relies on tourism. But

tourism depends upon a healthy environment, and herein lies the problem. As tourism development progresses and tourist numbers increase, the very environment that attracted visitors in the first place – pristine beaches, clean and clear waters, verdant mountains and colorful reefs with unfamiliar and diverse wildlife – is subject to increased risk of over exploitation and deterioration. Consequently, these small island nations face the challenge of extracting economic value from limited natural resources without furthering their destruction.

For the past five years, SEA students have visited the Caribbean and explored this complex history through our 'Colonization to Conservation in the Caribbean' program. Against a backdrop of sweeping history, our students examine the political, economic, and geographic hurdles to the sustainable development and management of tourism in the Caribbean. As our guide, we will use sketches, illustrations and watercolors chosen from student field journals and influential historic documents. We will journey to several Caribbean islands to examine specific conservation issues that have arisen due to decades of expanding tourism. We will then highlight how recent innovative approaches to tourism are defining a new era of Caribbean sustainability.

About the Lecturer

Jeff joined Sea Education Association as a scientist in 1994; it was his first time on a tall ship and his first view of a Caribbean island and the diverse culture of its people. Over the next several years Jeff would teach undergraduate students how to safely conduct oceanographic research from a tall ship on 12 Sea Semester programs, most of them in the Caribbean. After a 'short break' to earn his PhD, Jeff was back onboard SEA's ships in 2002, this time as a Chief Scientist and faculty oceanographer. He has been sailing and teaching oceanography with SEA ever since. In 2009, Jeff joined a team of SEA faculty to teach an innovative program entitled Colonization to Conservation in the Caribbean (CCC). This program, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary teaching, encourages students to explore a question from multiple perspectives, to consider historic, economic, and cultural contexts underlying environmental issues, and to engage with primary historic documents, maps, and illustrations to foster original interpretation and analysis. For the past three years Jeff has been the academic coordinator for the CCC program and continues to enjoy sailing, teaching, and studying in the Caribbean.

Dr. Jeffrey M. Schell is an associate professor of oceanography at Sea Education Association with a PhD in zoology and aquatic ecology from University of Wisconsin – Madison, an MS degree in marine environmental science from SUNY Stony Brook, and a BS in biology from Holy Cross College. Dr. Schell's research centers around the question: what are the environmental and ecological factors that determine the distribution, abundance, and diversity of different biotic communities? Over the years Jeff has studied the distribution and mating behavior of salamanders in small New England ponds, the dispersal patterns and migratory adaptations of crab larvae from Atlantic and Gulf Coast estuaries, and the diversity and species composition of plankton communities from Midwestern lakes exposed to changes in land use development. More recently Jeff has examined long-term temporal changes in the distribution of the brown algae *Sargassum* in the North Atlantic Ocean using SEA's data archive of net tows.

For more information on the lecture series and specific lectures/lecturers, please contact Jennica Deely, Marketing Coordinator with SEA.

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