



V. Abolins

MRSC Associate Director D. W. Pritchard congratulates Steinberg-Squires winner V. Monica Bricelj.

STEINBERG-SQUIRES AWARD WINNER

The Steinberg-Squires Award, which honors the best graduate thesis produced in an academic year, was presented to V. Monica Bricelj for her M.S. thesis titled, "Fecundity and related aspects of hard clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) reproduction in Great South Bay, New York." Ms. Bricelj received a certificate and a \$200 check. Her name was engraved on a plaque that is displayed permanently in the Center's reference room.

Criteria for selection of the award winner included not only originality and importance of the thesis, but also clarity of writing and the degree of independence shown by the student in pursuing his or her research. The award was established last year through a donation made to the Stony Brook Foundation by Donald F. Squires, Director of the New York Sea Grant Institute, and his wife, Marian Steinberg.

MSRC ASSOCIATES

We welcome D. Scanlon and Dr. and Mrs. H. Weisinger as new MSRC Associates and as continuing members:

H. H. Carter
Alice W. Dunn
Kate Lefferts
Long Island Lighting Company
T. C. Roberts
D. Sayre
Paul Windels

MARINE BIOMASS—HARVESTING THE SUN WITH SEAWEED—B.H. BRINKHUIS

A research program, which I am directing, is being conducted to determine the feasibility of using local seaweed species to harvest solar energy. This research is funded by the Gas Research Institute (GRI) and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The program also involves cooperative research with the General Electric Company and is being coordinated by the New York Sea Grant Institute.

There are three basic biomass research programs in existence today--Land, Aquatic and Marine Biomass. Of these, the Marine Biomass program appears most attractive for one main reason. The production of seaweed matter at sea does not compete with other land uses and aquatic resources--for example, housing and agricultural crops. Much of the nearshore ocean environment is not utilized; there are relatively few competing pressures for this vast area.

The Marine Biomass program got underway in the mid-1970's on the west coast with a proposal to utilize California Giant Kelp as the seaweed resource. This species is one of the fastest growing seaweeds known. It may reach lengths of 150 feet, but more commonly is 60-80 feet long. It is presently harvested by some companies for seaweed extract production (substances like alginates, which are used as stabilizing and emulsifying agents in over 1,000 household and food products. To date, much research has been done to determine factors that affect kelp growth. One factor affecting kelp growth is the supply of nitrogen, which is in high concentrations in the surface waters during the late spring-early summer. This nutrient-rich water is brought to the surface from depths of 500-1,000 meters by a process called "upwelling", the same phenomena that causes extensive fog along the California coast at that time of year. An experimental seaweed farm has been anchored in 2,000 feet of water 5 kilometers from Newport Beach, CA. This farm uses pumps to bring the nutrient-rich water to the surface, where the kelp is attached to a structure about 50 feet below the surface.

The coastal waters of New York are much shallower because of the broad continental shelf. Those waters are also very rich in nitrogen almost all year long, primarily

Prof. Iver Duedall received support from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to support the Third International Ocean Dumping Symposium. Duedall will act as chairman of the symposium to be held at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution this fall. Together with staff member Pat Harder, Duedall also received a grant from Consolidated Edison of New York to investigate methods for the fixation of coal fly ash and its physical and chemical behavior in aquatic systems.

Prof. Glenn Lopez obtained support from the NSF to study the effects of sediment-microorganism associations on deposit-feeding molluscs.

Prof. William Peterson was awarded a Stony Brook Research Development Grant for his investigation of tidal mixing as a mechanism for concentrating zooplankton and larval fish eggs.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT SIGNED AT MSRC

On 19 December 1980, representatives of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York (SUNY) met at MSRC to sign a cooperative agreement to study coastal ocean pollution. Through this agreement, several research projects designated by NOAA will be conducted each year by MSRC personnel.

The research, to be coordinated by NOAA's Office of Marine Pollution Assessment (OMPA), will be national in scope. Included in the new cooperative program will be MSRC's development of emergency teams prepared to initiate immediate investigations of coastal pollution crises as they develop. This rapid response could be applied to such problems as oil spills or major fish kills.

The cooperative agreement was arranged through Dr. Earl Droessler, Director of NOAA's Office of University Affairs. Though NOAA has always maintained strong ties with MSRC, Dr. Droessler feels that such formal agreements enable NOAA to "broaden its scientific ties with the academic community."

Dr. Ferris Webster, NOAA's Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, and OMPA Director R. Lawrence Swanson signed the agreement on NOAA's behalf. Dr. John H. Marburger, President of SUNY at Stony Brook, and MSRC Director J. R. Schubel signed for the University. Mr. Peter Tenbeau of the Research Foundation, who signed the agreement in Albany, was represented at the Stony Brook signing by Mr. E. Schuler.

MSRC DISTRIBUTES NEW POLLUTION NEWSLETTER

MSRC began its distribution of a new quarterly newsletter devoted to people's interactions with the coastal ocean. "Coastal Ocean Pollution Assessment News (COPAS)" brings reports of pollution events and their effects on living resources to an estimated 2,500 subscribers. The newsletter is national in scope, and covers the Great Lakes as well as all coastal waters of the United States and its territories. Material for future issues, which will contain editorials, comments and a calendar of events, will be provided by a network of 24 correspondents. COPAS also publishes articles on potential pollution problems and efforts made to deal with them before they develop.

Anyone wishing a subscription to COPAS should write to COPAS, Marine Sciences Research Center, State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY 11794. There is no charge for domestic subscriptions.



M. Eisel

MSRC Director J. R. Schubel, Research Foundation Administrator E. Schuler, NOAA/OMPA Director R. L. Swanson, and SUNB President J. H. Marburger III (left to right) signing NOAA/SUNY Cooperative Research Agreement on 19 December 1980.



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