

Keynotes

Prize Patrol Knocks on AOML's Doors

On December 12, 1997, AOML's very own "prize patrol," Kristina Katsaros and George Berberian, were given the red-carpet treatment as they roamed AOML's halls searching for the 1997 Holiday Door Decorating Contest winners. In spite of the judges' unquestionable integrity, they somehow managed to collect a generous portion of "good-will gifts," including funny money, chocolate, cheese, assorted candies, and toys. In total, 12 decorated doors presented a unique assortment of holiday perspectives.

Confronted with the formidable task of choosing the five "best" doors, our judges capably performed their duties. Grand prize for the 1997 Holiday Door Decorating Contest was awarded to Christiane Fleurant and Yeun-Ho Daneshzadeh for their educational and informative "Christ-



First Place winners: Christiane Fleurant and Yeun-Ho Daneshzadeh.

ditional wreaths and garlands; Paul Dammann for his whimsical Buzz Lightyear Santa Claus; John Proni for his "less is best" solitary teddy bear; Alejandra Lorenzo for her somewhat sinister insinuation that a ravenous Tyrannosaurus Rex devoured a, no doubt, tasty Santa; and the team of Warren Krug/Doug Anderson for their Ba-Humbug door of silver-sprayed, petrified frogs.

Congratulations to all participants whose imagination and creativity contributed to the good-humored success of the 1997 Holiday Door Decorating Contest.

Congratulations and thanks are also directed toward the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Committee chaired by Alejandra Lorenzo for all the entertaining, fun-filled events they helped to organize and host this past year at AOML.



Second place winner: Evan Forde.

mas Around the World" door. Evan Forde received second place for his OCD Christmas tree door with presents for all the top NOAA/OAR/ERL administrators. Jannette Perez took third place for her ingenuity in creating a door where none existed; Molly Baringer and the team of Chely Garcia/Gail Derr tied for fourth place. Molly's door was deemed the "delicious" door in honor of its cheese and candy decor, while Chely and Gail's door followed a more traditional theme: a giant-sized stocking filled with presents (two of which were for the judges). Greg Banes placed fifth with his all-American door.

Honorable mention was given to the teams of Joyce Berkeley/Neal Dorst and Nancy Griffin/Paul Leighton for their tra-



Third place winner: Jannette Perez.

Welcome 1998: International Year of the Ocean

In recognition of the importance of the marine environment, the United Nations has declared 1998 the International Year of the Ocean (YOTO). This designation provides organizations and governments the opportunity to raise public awareness and understanding of the ocean and related issues.

The United States will be participating in YOTO activities through the Ocean Principals Group, an informal group of federal agencies with ocean interests, under the chairmanship of the NOAA Administrator.



NOAA's Office of Public Affairs, in coordination with public affairs offices from other federal agencies, will launch a public outreach program that can be used by any individual or organization interested in promoting YOTO activities. The outreach program will include:

- Brochures
- Posters and series of artwork.
- A list of key themes and messages.
- YOTO education kits with curriculum and teacher training manuals.
- A toll-free number to call for more information on what can be done to ensure our oceans remain a sustainable resource.

For additional information about YOTO activities, visit the Year of the Ocean web site located at <http://www.yoto98.noaa.gov/index.html>.

Aerobics Class Shaping Up

Ginger Garte, certified aerobics instructor, is interested in teaching an aerobics class at AOML. Ginger will combine high- and low-impact aerobics into a program designed to burn calories quickly and increase both strength and stamina. The following class schedules are possibilities:

Tuesday/Thursday 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Monday/Wednesday 12:00-1:00 p.m.

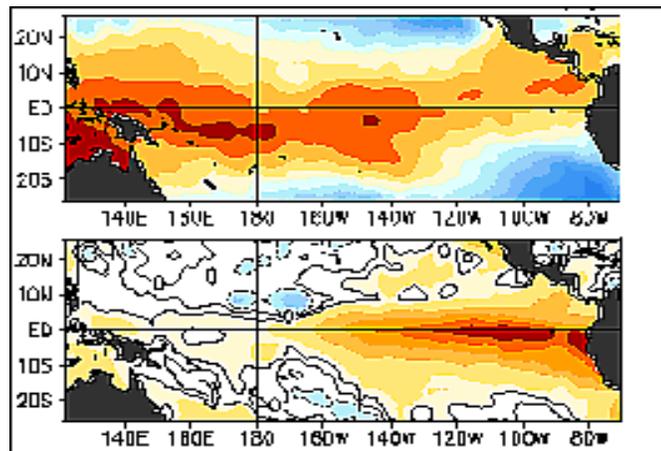
Contact Ginger at her email address (garte@aoml.noaa.gov) for additional information and to let her know which schedule you prefer.

El Niño–Southern Oscillation Update (by David Enfield)

In November 1997, anomalies in the tropical Pacific showed all the signs of a very strong El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) event at its maximum (mature) stage of development. For most variables, including the Southern Oscillation Index (SOI), anomalies either peaked or began to decrease by December 1997. However, the (absolute) sea surface temperatures (SSTs) remain as high as ever and have few equals in the historical record (see figure below). The most significant signs of an impending weakening of the event include: (1) the westward extent of the SST anomalies and their associated sea level and subsurface temperature perturbations have begun a retreat back toward South America; (2) the severe zonal wind anomalies of October and early November, which extended across the entire breadth of the Pacific, have retreated to a relatively weak feature centered on the dateline, while to the east they have been replaced by stronger-than-normal trade winds; and (3) the index of equatorial upper layer volume has reached its peak and is poised for a rapid decrease.

In addition to its severity, which rivals the infamous ENSO of 1982–1983, this current event is unusual in that the first *large* SST anomalies appeared in May, months ahead of the “normal” fall appearance of strong anomalies for previous ENSOs, and four to five months ahead of the 1982–1983 event. The “official” NOAA/NCEP forecast calls for continued anomalies at the present level through March 1998 and has this event ending synchronously with the 1982–1983 event. Since the current ENSO started much earlier, this would make for an event of unprecedented duration.

Most of our present indicators suggest that this event has exhausted its “reservoir” of energy. It is now likely poised for a “downhill slide” toward normal conditions by mid-1998. I represent only my opinion in this and not that of NOAA/NCEP. Nevertheless, if I am correct and the El Niño soon fades, it will still have ample opportunity to affect our winter weather in the coming months. The climate impacts predicted by NOAA still apply and should be taken seriously. The good news, if indeed the event ends soon, is that the climate impacts may not extend into late spring when rapid melting of large snow packs can produce disastrous flooding.



Observed sea surface temperatures (top) and their anomalies (bottom) as a weekly average centered on December 10, 1997. The contour interval is 1°C and the darkest tones represent SSTs over 30°C (top) and anomalies over 5°C (bottom).

Silver Anniversary Update

• A group photograph of AOML employees will be taken Friday, January 9, 1998 at 1:00 p.m. outside the building in front of the AOML sign. Please dress appropriately and wear your best smile.

• An address list is being compiled to contact former AOML employees to invite them to participate in upcoming Silver Anniversary activities. Please contact Gail Derr (derr@aoml.noaa.gov) if you would like to add the names and addresses of any former AOMLers to the listing.

• AOML will host an open house aboard the R/V *Ronald Brown* for employees and their families, Rosenstiel colleagues, and local dignitaries on the evening of February 25, 1998 between 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Congratulations

John F. Festa has been named the Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year for 1997. The award is presented to individuals who have excelled in contributing both their time and energy to the community of Key Biscayne. John received the award for his dedication and drive, endless hours of research and work, and for his ideas and accomplishments, notably the leadership role he assumed in defeating the proposed Rickenbacker Causeway toll increase.

Christopher W. Landsea has accepted an invitation to become an associate editor for the journal *Weather and Forecasting* for a period of three years beginning in January 1998. Chris' areas of expertise include tropical cyclones, seasonal forecasting, African monsoons, and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomena.

Evan B. Forde was recently appointed Chairman of OAR's Educational Outreach Committee. The Committee's mission will be to formulate and implement a strategy that will improve and increase OAR's involvement in the educational development of youth (K-12) throughout the nation.

Yolanda Pruneda, former AOML receptionist, married Deric Rivera on December 20, 1997 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Homestead, Florida. Best wishes to the newlyweds.



Public Transit Corner

The RSMAS Shuttle will begin running again on Monday, January 12, 1998 with the following schedule:

Depart Viscaya Metrorail station for RSMAS:

8:15 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 1:45 p.m., 3:50 p.m.

Depart RSMAS for Viscaya Metrorail station:

8:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m.

(for a complete listing see <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/info/shuttle-sched.html>)

In addition, for those traveling to Florida International University, "CATS," FIU's free shuttle, will be starting up January 5, 1998 and serving 12 stops on campus. Call 348-2187 for additional information.

Workshop Welcomes Participants

Jacqueline McAlexander of Informix Software will present a workshop entitled "Web Application Architectures using the Informix Dynamic Server Universal Data Option" on February 4, 1998 in the first floor conference room from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Her presentation is designed to introduce programmers to object relational database management system concepts and Web application development. Topics to be covered include:

- Background on Informix DSA architecture
- The universal data option
- DataBlades and spatial data processing
- Choices for HTML applications
- Choices for Java applications and applets

All participants are welcome. For more information, contact Reyna Sabina (sabina@aoml.noaa.gov) at 361-4324.

Welcome Aboard

Judith Gray joins us from ERL headquarters in Washington, D.C. to become AOML's new Deputy Director. Judy will work closely with Dr. Katsaros in managing the affairs of AOML and will assume leadership of AOML in Dr. Katsaros' absence.

Gina Morisseau-Leroy joins the Ocean Chemistry Division to provide web site design for the Coral Health Monitoring program.

UPCOMING INFORMAL RESEARCH REPORTS*

Date	Division	Speaker	Title of Report
January 5, 1998	---	Mr. Todd Kimberlain (Colorado State University)	The October 1997 Colorado Blizzard.
January 13, 1998	PhOD	Dr. Tsung-Hung Peng	Evaluation of the carbon sink in the east China Sea.
January 20, 1998	OCD	Dr. Mark D. Powell	Preliminary results on the boundary layer structure of Hurricane Guillermo.
January 29, 1998	OCD	Dr. Rik H. Wanninkhof	To be announced.

*All reports begin at 3:00 p.m. and are held in the first-floor conference room.

Travel

Sam Houston visited Guam from December 20-27, 1997 after the island nation's encounter with super Typhoon Paka. No deaths were reported on Guam, but Typhoon Paka caused approximately \$200M in damages to the island. Sam collected post-landfall data.

James Franklin, Michael Black, and **Stanley Goldenberg** will travel to Honolulu, Hawaii in January 1998 to participate in the North Pacific Experiment (NORPEX). NORPEX is motivated by the anticipated effects on U.S. winter weather caused by the current strong El Niño event. The goal of NORPEX is to improve weather forecasts by collecting and analyzing data taken from the northeast Pacific Ocean via GPS sondes deployed from the Gulfstream-IV aircraft.

Kristina B. Katsaros has been invited to attend a workshop on February 6-7, 1998 in Irvine, California entitled "Ocean Science and Technology: The Next 25 Years." The workshop is hosted by the Office of the Chief Scientist of NOAA in preparation for Year of the Ocean activities.

Members of the HRD staff will be attending the 78th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in Phoenix, Arizona on January 11-16, 1998, as well as the 52nd Interdepartmental Hurricane Conference in Clearwater Beach, Florida on January 26-30, 1998.

Members of PhOD and OCD will be participating in a research cruise aboard the R/V *Ronald Brown* in the Atlantic Ocean from January 8, 1998 to February 24, 1998. This cruise is sponsored by NOAA's Office of Global Programs to quantify the inventories and fluxes of carbon within the worlds' oceans and to complete world survey measurements (a joint NOAA/Department of Energy program).

Classified

GE washer for sale, like new, white, large capacity, \$120.00. Contact Alberto Mestas (mestas@aoml.noaa.gov) at 361-4372.

Mimi Fest Sails into Town

The Gloucester, Massachusetts-based sailing vessel, *Mimi*, will be docked at the RSMAS pier from January 12-16, 1998. Its visit to Miami heralds the return of Mimi Fest, a program dedicated to excellence in education. Mimi Fest will provide educational tours and activities for south Florida school children (kindergarten through 12th grade) Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

In addition to the regular curriculum of the Mimi Fest, the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and the local science community will have educational stations with the support of the following participants:

- RSMAS/International Oceanographic Foundation
- Sea Grant Extension Office
- Miami Seaquarium
- NOAA/AOML
- Dade County 4-H Marine Program
- MAST Academy
- Officer Snook and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

The schedule also includes a "Community Day" on Saturday, January 17, 1998 which will enable the families of school children to visit the displays.

Evan Forde, Educational Outreach Coordinator at AOML, has organized a group of volunteers to staff a display booth during the week to ensure that AOML is capably represented at Mimi Fest.

NASA Presents Research Opportunities

The Universities Space Research Association, on behalf of the Laboratory for Hydro-spheric Processes at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, is seeking postdoctoral or visiting scientists for collaboration on research topics applicable to short-term climate prediction. Applicants are currently being sought for the following:

- Coupled model initialization
- Coupled climate diagnostics
- Ocean model development

Applicants must send a current vita, publication list, contact information for at least three professional references and a brief statement of research interests, expected contributions to NASA's effort, and availability, by January 16, 1998 to:

Universities Space Research Association
Goddard Visiting Scientist Program
7501 Forbes Boulevard, Suite 206
Seabrook, MD 20706
ATTN: NSIPP

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Editor - Kristina Katsaros
Publishing Editor - Gail Derr

The deadline for submitting material for the February issue of *Keynotes* is Friday, January 23, 1998.