



Southern California Marine Institute

Spring 2013
Newsletter

Southern California Marine Institute, 820 S Seaside Ave, Terminal Island CA 90731
<http://scmi.us/> scmi@csulb.edu 310.519.3172

Message from the Director

By Dr. Daniel Pondella II

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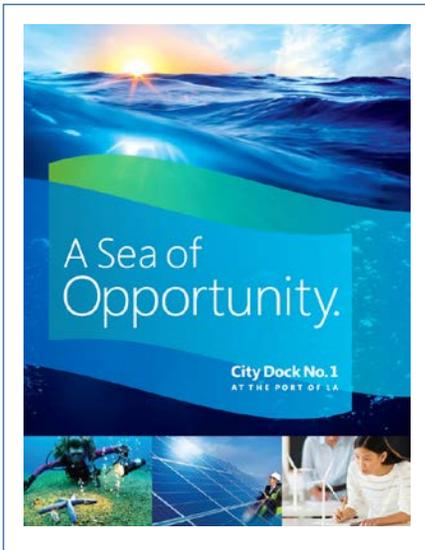
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The excitement and optimism about the new SCMI has reinvigorated our consortium

I find it hard to believe Larry Allen stepped down as director and returned to CSUN last July. It has been a whirlwind since I started as director. What is going on at SCMI is really exciting. As you will see, we are in the process of developing and moving to an entirely new marine facility at City Dock #1 in the Port of Los Angeles. Unfortunately, there were not any classes in graduate school about developing new facilities from scratch, so it has been quite the learning experience. One thing I can tell you is that things are changing. The excitement and optimism about the new SCMI has reinvigorated our consortium and we have decided that there is no reason to wait until the move to improve our facility and programs. Just some examples of this progress are: our new seawater system is coming on line, we have purchased and installed new docks, and we are building a dive locker. All of our improvements are increasing our ability to support our research and educational mission. As such, we are seeing an increase in use and interest in our facility. Our goal is to be 'bursting at the seams' before we move; I think we are well on our way.

The City Dock No. 1 Project

“A new marine research facility”



The City Dock No. 1 Project has picked up speed and the plans are moving forward. City Dock No.1 is the proposed site for a new marine research facility and SCMI’s new home. City Dock No. 1 is a 28–acre campus that will house a state–of–the–art research and education facilities right in the Port of Los Angeles. The planned site will include:

- 4,100 linear feet of waterfront dock and wharf space.
- Multiple deep draft berths to accommodate large research vessels.
- A Circulating seawater and marine life support system.
- Research, analysis, and teaching laboratories directly on the harbor.
- Common support facilities: analytical seawater lab, machine shop, dive locker and vessel maintenance.
- Interpretive Center for school field trips and community outreach.
- Environmentally conscience design to minimize energy and water usage.



CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina

By Adriana Bell

Fall 2012 Marine Biology Semester on Catalina was a great success. There were a total of 20 students from three different CSUs (CSULB, CSUN, and SFSU). We have received very positive feedback from the participating students. CSUN student Dani Estes said "I have never had a more challenging or rewarding experience. I really got a jump start on the knowledge I will need for my future career goals. The professors, classes, and facilities are all amazing and make learning all the difficult material much easier and more satisfying. Meeting people with similar passions and interests as yourself really starts a spark down deep inside of you to work harder for what you want to get out of this world."

The fall 2013 semester applications are being processed and the applicants look very promising. We are seeing more of a variety of CSU campuses applying and we are enthusiastic to see the program grow.

[The CSU Marine Biology Semester on Catalina](#) is a wonderful opportunity for CSU students to learn hands on marine biology and be better prepared them to enter a marine science career.



"I have never had a more challenging or rewarding experience."



SCMI's New Closed Seawater Filtration

By Adriana Bell

SCMI has made great strides in constructing a new closed seawater filtration system. Facility Coordinator and Aquarist Brian Tufts has been working hard over the last year constructing and designing the closed seawater system to the highest of standards. The system will have the capacity to hold 5,000 gallons and support our 16 holding tanks. With the construction of the new closed system SCMI will have the opportunity to support a greater amount of research projects and will eliminate our need for a costly NPDES permit.

Closed Seawater Filtration System Due To Go Live in the Spring

OSI AAUS Research Dive Certification Program

[The Ocean Studies Institute \(OSI\) AAUS Research Divers Certification](#)

Program is a 14 day course focused on technical, academic and scientific diving skills. During the course divers will complete a total of 14 dives which include, boat dives, deep water dive, night dive, beach dive, and aquarium dive. Highlights of the course are an overnight trip to Catalina Island to conduct various types of technical dives including a night dive.

The OSI dive program is open to all members of the consortium that are required to engage in technical, academic or scientific diving.

Future plans for the program include a dive locker at the SCMI facility and offering a Winter Research Dive Course to better serve our research divers.

Summer Research Dive
Course:

June 1-15, 2013

Enrollment Deadline:

May 1st 2013

Course Fees:

\$500 OSI member
Institutions students

\$600 Non-OSI member
Institution students

SCMI Staff

Dr. Daniel Pondella II: Director

Tom Chavez: Assistant Director/Business Manager

Dan Warren: Operations and Scheduling Coordinator

Carrie Wolfe: Research and Education Coordinator

Brian Tufts: Facilities Coordinator and Head Aquarist

Dennis Dunn: Captain of the RV Yellowfin

Denis Mahaffy: Vessel Support Technician

Jim Cvitanovich: OSI Dive Safety Officer

Bob Adams: Demonstration Technician

Adriana Bell: Demonstration Technician



SCMI

820 S Seaside Ave
Terminal Island, CA 90731

Phone:

310.519.3172

Fax:

310.519.1054

E-mail:

scmi@csulb.edu

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