The Planet Ocean Seminar Series

The Planet Ocean Seminar Series is offered to the general public to provide an opportunity for the greater Wilmington community to benefit directly from the topics of information available to the center in its study areas.

The Planet Ocean Seminar Series is free and open to the public. However, due to limited seating, reservations are required. The seminar will be presented in the main auditorium at the UNCW Center for Marine Science, which is located off of Masonboro Loop Road. The seminar will begin promptly at 6:30 P.M. in the auditorium. A reception will follow the seminar at 7:30 P.M. To make reservations or for further information, please call: UNCW Center for Marine Science at (910) 962-2300.

How the Spineless Protect Themselves:  
*Chemical Warfare on Coral Reefs*  
Dr. Joseph Pawlik

*Tuesday, March 4, 2003*
Dr. Joseph Pawlik is a Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at UNCW, and has his office and research lab at the Center for Marine Science. He received his BS degree in Biology at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, in 1982, whereupon he moved to San Diego to begin working on a PhD at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Here, his background in the ecology of marine invertebrates placed him in the laboratory of an eminent organic chemist, the late Prof. D. John Faulkner, and fostered his interest in the newly developing interdisciplinary science of marine chemical ecology.

He began research on the chemical defenses of marine invertebrates in graduate school, but his dissertation research concerned the natural chemical cues used by the planktonic larvae of a reef-forming worm to sense the best locations to settle and metamorphose into adults. He finished his PhD research in 1988, and after a 2-year term as a Killam Memorial Postdoctoral Scholar at the University of Alberta, Edmonton (spent in residence at Friday Harbor Laboratories, University of Washington), he spent a year at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as a Science and Engineering Postdoctoral Fellow before moving to UNCW in 1991.

For the past 10 years, Dr. Pawlik’s research program has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Undersea Research Program and has focused on the ecological functions of the unusual chemical compounds found in the tissues of benthic invertebrates from coral reefs. He has traveled extensively conducting research, giving scientific presentations and teaching, has been Chief Scientist on 5 oceanographic cruises, has over 60 publications in international journals, and serves as a contributing editor for *Marine Ecology Progress Series*. In May, he will begin a two-year rotational position with the National Science Foundation in Washington, DC to serve as an Associate Director in the Biological Oceanography Program.