

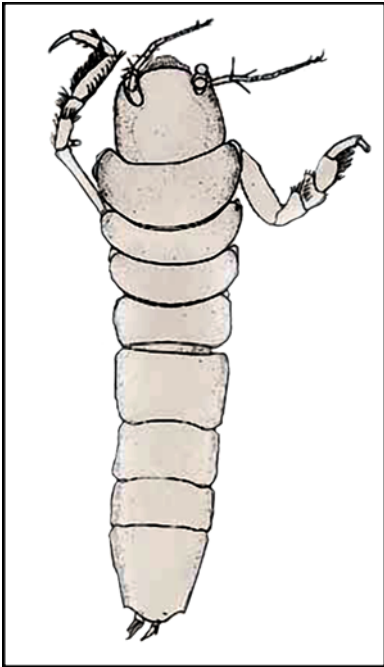
Chancellor receives crustaceous honor

BY MARK SCHREINER

Staff Writer

A new line of ocean creatures, discovered by UNCW professor Robert George in the deep waters off Cape Hatteras, will bear the name of the university's chancellor.

As part of research along the newly discovered 4-mile-deep coral reefs, Dr. George outlined six new species of crustaceans, including *Leutziniscus jebamoni*, a quarter-inch-long creature that looks like a lobster.



The Latin name is derived from the names of James Leutze, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and Dr. George's mother, Jebamoni Roberts.

Dr. Leutze, known internationally for his television programs on world politics and the ecology of the Southeast coast, said he was honored by the distinction.

"I want to congratulate Dr. George on this discovery and commend him for his efforts to protect North Carolina's deep-sea treasures," Dr. Leutze said in statement. "We both share a concern for the environment and a commitment to conserve our natural resources."

The Leutze genus is an important find, Dr. George said, because scientists before the discovery of deep-sea coral reefs in the 1990s did not expect to find sizable shrimp or other crustaceans thriving at such depths, where water temperatures are cold and there is little light.

"We did not find these animals in commercial quantities; that will require more study," said Dr. George, who has been a UNCW professor for 30 years. "But someday, the future of commercial fishing may be at the bottom of the ocean."

He wrote about the discoveries in the December issue of the Journal

of Natural History. Animal samples, as well as new genus and species names, will be soon cataloged in the U.S. National Collection at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Dr. George also named the two Hatteras Abyss reefs: the first for Benjamin Franklin, the statesman and scientist who named the Gulf Stream, and the second for Louis Agassiz, the founder of modern marine science.

Only about 10 percent of the life forms living at the bottom of the abyss have been cataloged, Dr. George estimated.

"The deep-sea area off of North Carolina is rich in diversity, much like that of a tropical rain forest," he said. "There are probably thousands of species living within a square-mile area."

The state and federal governments need to ensure that the area is protected, he said.

The sample in which the Leutze genus was found was collected during an expedition organized by the Duke University marine science lab at Beaufort, he said. The animals, which live at or near the ocean floor, were collected by a robotic device remotely controlled by a trawler on the surface of the water.