



Bi-weekly Newsletter

April 5, 2006

Astronauts Submerge for 18 Days in UNCW's Aquarius Undersea Laboratory

On April 3, 2006, three astronauts, a physician, and two NURC/UNCW technicians will begin living on the seafloor at a depth of 60 feet and three miles offshore in the Atlantic Ocean using the world's only undersea habitat, *Aquarius*. For NASA's Extreme Environment Mission Operations (NEEMO) excursion, the team will use *Aquarius* to evaluate new medical techniques in remote robotic diagnostics and surgery and test human performance and health characteristics related to fatigue and stress. The crew also will explore the seascape surrounding the underwater laboratory using remotely operated robotic vehicles and navigation and tracking devices as a test bed for lunar exploration. In short, this *Aquarius* mission will conduct experiments that simulate what might happen during medical emergencies in space, while on the moon, or on the way to Mars. The technologies developed may have applications for medical care on our own planet. For more information visit:

<http://appserv02.uncw.edu/news/article.asp?ID=1888>



Aliens of the Deep

Inspired by astrobiology – the study of life on other worlds – this 3D IMAX movie documents the exploration of deep ocean environments by a group of young marine biologists and NASA researchers. Check out the accompanying website to discover more about this scientific mission. There are links to educational materials.

<http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/aliensofthedeep/>

Chemists Celebrate Earth Day 2006

This Earth Day chemists are urging everyone to "Plant It for the Planet." Celebrate the chemistry of the soil and plants by hosting activities that will benefit the community like planting flowers, trees, grass, etc...for more suggestions and educational resources go to:

<http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acdisplay.html?DOC=oca%5Cearthday%5Cindex.html>

The World Wildlife Fund also offers free E-cards that you can send to people you know to remind them to celebrate Earth Day on April 22, 2006. <http://www.worldwildlife.org/ecards/index.cfm>

NSTA National Science Conference April 6-9th

Dr. Harris and Mrs. Shafer are off to Anaheim, California for the 54th annual National Conference on Science Education. They will be giving a presentation on our GK-12 **SCORE** program, highlighting the involvement of UNCW science faculty and graduate students in the development of activities that encourage the use of hands-on, inquiry-based science investigations in middle school classrooms. The theme for this year's conference is Science, the Universal Language.

