

# The Anchor



January 2006 Volume 1 Issue 3

## Comings and Goings

**Colin Ware** began a six month sabbatical in December at the University of Victoria, BC where he will be working on visualizing ocean flow models and writing a new book on “Visual Thinking” to be published by Morgan Kaufman.

**Kurt Schwehr** has returned from San Diego where he completed his doctoral thesis at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. Kurt spent a few months at CCOM last summer, getting started on the Chart of the Future project, which he will be working on in his position as Research Scientist II.

In December, our Visiting Scholar, **Tony Withers**, returned to Australia (and warmer weather!) and the Australian Hydrographic Office.

**Lorraine Robidoux** has returned to Silver Spring and her position as a Physical Scientist in the NOAA Hydrographic Surveys Division. She is finalizing her Directed Research paper “A Qualitative Assessment of Two MBES Backscatter Analysis Techniques”.

**Hugo Montoro** returned to his position as Head of the Department of Cartography of the Peruvian Hydrographic Office. He completed the Nippon Foundation/GEBCO program in Ocean Bathymetry, as well as completing his Master’s degree in Ocean Mapping. In December, he presented his Directed Research paper “Development of a Prototype National Bathymetric Grid for Peru by Compilation of Soundings from Nautical Charts and Publicly Available Data Sets.” We wish Lorraine and Hugo all the best in their future endeavors.

In January we welcomed **Tom Weber**, in the position of Research Scientist II. Tom joins us from Pennsylvania State University, where he earned his Ph.D in Acoustics.

In December **Glenn McGillicuddy** defended his Master’s Thesis “Characterization of Weak Rope through the Design and Construction of a Portable Tensile Testing Machine”.

**Beccie Conrad** recently attended the Society of Women Engineers National Conference 2005 “Women Engineers Leading Global Diversity” in Anaheim, CA. The SWE National Conference is the largest professional development and career conference for women engineers, attracting more than 3,000 engineering professionals, students and corporate representatives. This year’s conference highlighted the life-changing contributions engineers make to society and the industry-changing impact women engineers have on the profession.

**Walter Smith** has joined CCOM/JHC as a visiting professor and will be here until mid-summer. Walter is a geophysicist for NOAA and will be teaching “Optimal Mapping” during the spring semester. He and his wife, Michelle Gluck, and their children Fiona (18 mos.) and Gillian (4) are enjoying their temporary respite from the traffic and long commute of the Silver Spring/D.C. area. Michelle is a lawyer on leave from her position with the US Department of Justice. While in Durham, she is doing consulting for the UNH office of the General Council.



Walter Smith

## Meet a CCOM Graduate Student

Val Schmidt started the Doctoral Program in Ocean Engineering in August. He and his wife, Alice Sneary, moved to New Hampshire from Ohio, where Val worked for the Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, in the position of Research/ Communications Engineer. At LDEO, he was responsible for project planning, system engineering and project execution for a wide array of scientific projects including data and communications engineering for oceanographic research ships, including the US Icebreaker HEALY. He also worked on projects involving mesh networked wireless sensor systems, remote expendable buoys and air-quality monitoring systems. He started his career in the U.S. Navy, as an officer in the U.S. submarine fleet. After leaving the Navy in 1999, Val worked for Qwest Communications, Intl. as an engineering manager for two years.

He and his wife recently bought a home in Dover, NH. Alice works in Marketing/Public Relations for OCLC Online Computer Library Center. In their free time, they both enjoy playing soccer, and are looking forward to joining a local league.



*Val Schmidt*

## Exploring the Galapagos Rift

In May and June, **Yuri Rzhanov** traveled to the Galapagos Rift on the R/V Atlantis as part of the Woods Hole Oceanic Institute's Expedition 9. The goal was for scientists to learn how the Rosebud hydrothermal vent community has changed since a previous expedition in 2002. Using the manned deep submersible Alvin, along with deep-sea cameras, and chemical and biological sensors, researchers spent two weeks exploring and studying the hydrothermal vents, located 1.6 miles below the sea surface, and about 250 miles from the Galapagos Islands. The chief scientist, Dr.

Timothy Shank, is a biologist from WHOI, and the main geologist, Dr. Daniel Fornari, is the director of the Deep Ocean Exploration Institute at WHOI. Scientists used the mosaics that Yuri made from the imagery collected in the 2002 survey, for dive planning and to compare the state of the site in 2002 and 2005. Yuri is processing the data from the most recent photo and video surveys. The 20-member research team was joined by CBS reporter, Daniel Dubno, who covered the expedition in his "Life below the Galapagos" series, which can be viewed at [www.gizmorama.com](http://www.gizmorama.com).



*Yuri Rzhanov on a previous Galapagos Expedition, soaking up data*



## Baby News!

Briana Sullivan and her husband, Pete, are expecting their first child, a daughter, in May. Congratulations!

## Administrative Notes

\*Please note that the mileage rate changed to \$ .445 per mile effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. You can access the most updated reimbursement form in the CCOM Network Forms folder:

<\\Humpback\tools\Forms\Personal Reimbursement form 1-1-06.xls>

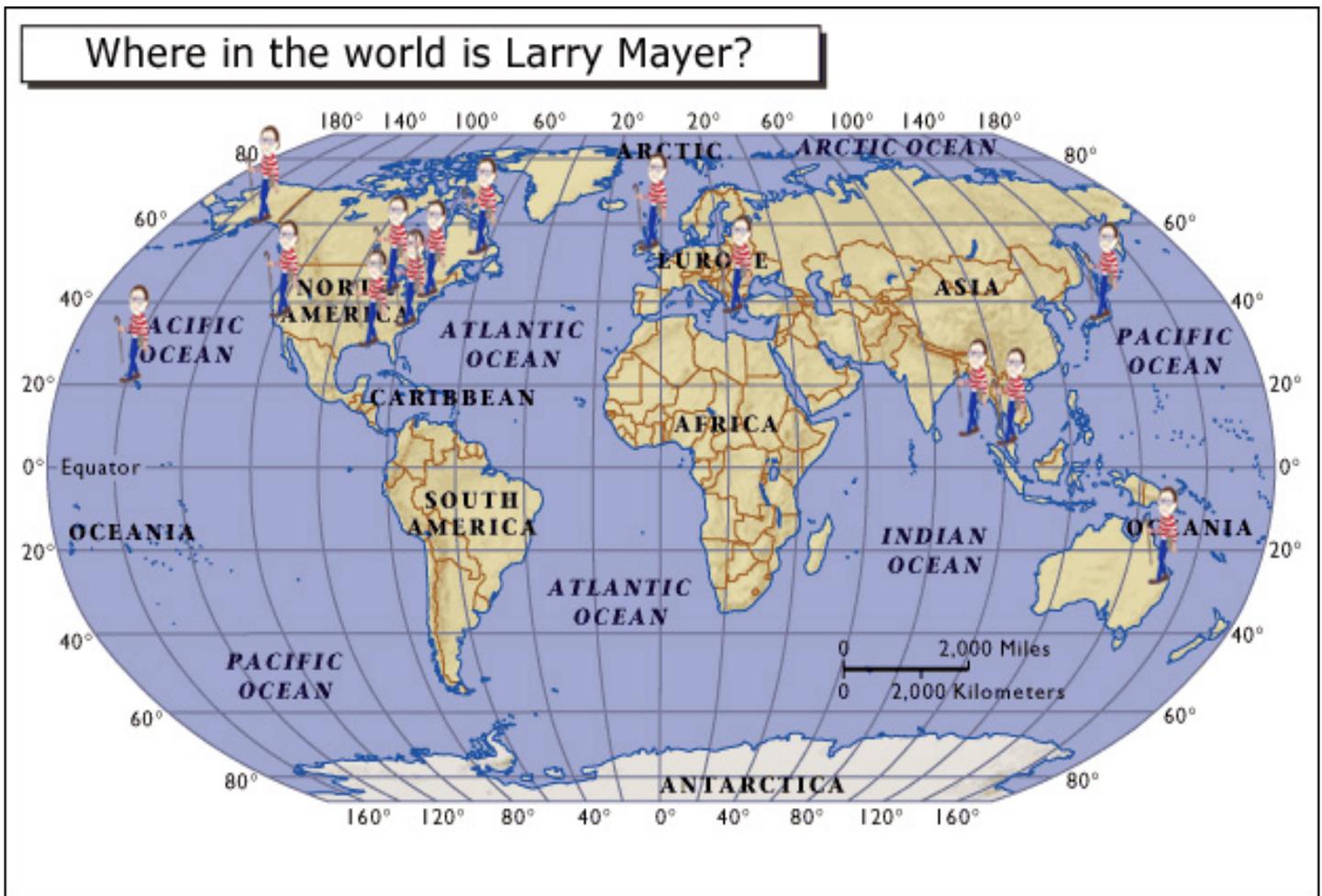
\*A reminder that Thursday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> and Fri. Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> were not paid University holidays. You must use your own vacation time for those days.

\*On Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> the University will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. A list of 2006 University holidays can be found at <http://www.unh.edu/hr/holidays.htm>

\*For the latest announcements about UNH weather-related closings or delayed openings, call 862-0000.

### Where in the World is Larry Mayer??

Do you have a hard time keeping track of Larry's extensive travel schedule? When you look at the many trips he took in 2005, it's no wonder we can never keep track of him! From Mississippi to Alaska....Australia to Japan....Thailand to Greece (and everywhere in between!).... It's hard to visualize all those trips, so we've created an illustration of Larry's travels over the past year.



*Special thanks to Will Fessenden for sharing his Photoshop expertise! (But Larry, you can blame Abby for the idea!)*