great success during the forty-five years since the school's founding. The resources available to students in the form of facilities, curriculum and faculty are extensive. The RSMAS library is accessible to students 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Each student receives nearly unlimited time on the school's computing system, which includes links to a variety of academic and research networks. And, of course, individual divisions provide facilities equipped to satisfy research needs within their respective sub-disciplines. The small student-to-faculty ratio (~2) enables students to work closely with their advisors and to play an active role in research. These factors and more come together at the RSMAS to create an exceptional educational environment.

Despite the excellent provisions of the RSMAS, students have gone a step further and established two organizations to address student needs and concerns. These are the Marine Science Graduate Student Organization (MSGSO) and the Organization of Tropical Marine Science Students (OTMSS). Soon after the founding of the RSMAS, the MSGSO was established to insure student representation within the University. It has remained an active voice throughout the school's history. A representative of the MSGSO occupies a voting position on the school's Academic Committee and participates in the formulation of policy regarding students. The MSGSO also provides a number of services such as short-term, no-interest loans and new student orientation intended to help with the problems of "student life." As a means of promoting student-faculty exchange as well as student-student interaction, the MSGSO operates a commons complete with music and a full bar. Finally, the MSGSO has created a travel fund program to provide financial assistance to students presenting the results of their research at scientific meetings.

Monies allotted to this fund annually are matched by the Office of the Dean. Excluding the Dean's matching funds, the MSGSO receives no monetary support from the University, and all of its annual budget is met through fund-raising activities. Chief among these is the Annual MSGSO Student Auction, an event in which businesses and individuals donate their services and merchandise. The donations are auctioned with earnings going to the MSGSO. Last year the event raised nearly $8,000.

The Organization of Tropical Marine Science Students was established in 1986 to promote activities which contribute directly to the education and training of marine science students.

The OTMSS sponsors a number of field trips to various environments in South Florida and the Caribbean, stressing the importance of an interdisciplinary approach in the marine sciences. Through these organized trips, students gain direct exposure to, and an increased appreciation of, the sub-disciplines of their fellow students. Field trip leaders are faculty members or students with specialties in the areas to be visited. Beginning this fall, the OTMSS will sponsor a series of workshops directed at improving students' presentation skills. The importance of effective communication is fully recognized among students at the RSMAS, and the planned workshops will combine expert instruction with practical experience. Individual workshops will cover written and verbal skills, and will be lead by selected faculty members noted for their presentation skills.

The above are just a few of the ways that graduate students at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science are enriching the educational experience for themselves and their fellow students. We encourage other students to share their successes.

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

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SATELLITE ALTIMETRY

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