

## **MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering**

The Joint Program (JP) of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offers advanced degrees in oceanography and applied ocean science and engineering. Graduate study encompasses virtually all of the basic sciences as they apply to the marine environment: physics, chemistry, geology, geophysics, and biology. Students who choose applied ocean science and engineering may concentrate in the major fields (civil, environmental, mechanical/ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 160 scientists/faculty from the two institutions participate in the Joint Program. There are currently 145 students enrolled in the five areas of study offered: biological, chemical, or physical oceanography, marine geology and geophysics, and oceanographic engineering.

Since all MIT faculty involved in the JP are members of an academic department, their individual accomplishments and awards are reported through those departments. These include the departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Biology, and Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

### **Gender Climate at Sea Committee: Progress Report**

This committee was formed at the request of Dr. Robert B. Gagosian, president and director of WHOI, and Professor Robert Brown, former provost of MIT, in response to a recommendation made during the 2004 visit of the External Review Committee for the MIT/WHOI Joint Program. The committee's mission was to investigate the extent of gender-related issues on research vessels or WHOI and MIT field programs; review current policies, training, and educational materials for addressing gender issues at sea for students, faculty, staff, and crew; and make recommendations to the Joint Program with regard to responding to concerns and issues that may arise from the committee's deliberations.

The committee agreed to meet after one year and review the implementation and effectiveness of the recommendations made by the committee in its final report. The following benchmarks were achieved:

- A workshop held last summer was well attended by the current students and was extremely successful. An additional workshop, with a quiz, was included in the recent orientation held at WHOI for all incoming JP students and will be repeated at each summer orientation from now on.
- A brochure on the issues involved was printed and distributed to all students, staff, and postdocs. New scientists will also be given this brochure.
- An online version of the brochure is available on the WHOI website; the section of the website dealing with cruise planning will be linked to this site.

- A separate eight-page memo defining harassment and/or improper behavior was created by WHOI's Equal Employment Opportunity officer and distributed to all current WHOI staff and employees. This memo, which is more detailed than the brochure, contains a list of persons to whom suspected incidents of unequal treatment should be reported. An alternative, independent, and confidential resource called Openline was also created to provide an anonymous route for reporting instances of improper or unethical conduct.

The creation of a training video was also discussed. This video would be shown to JP students and faculty before each cruise and be shared with University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System to assist in training of non-WHOI ship crews who currently are not given any training dealing explicitly with improper conduct.

### **Creation of a New Alumni Website**

A new JP alumni website is being designed. This new design will provide improved search abilities as well as direct links to sites where donors can make gifts directly to designated JP alumni funds. There will also be a section devoted to news and current events, as well as a Forum where alumni can post topics of their choosing, or ask for more information about any aspect relating to the alumni community.

The new website will be formally launched by the end of 2007.

**Paola Rizzoli, Director**

**Ronni Schwartz, Administrator**

*More information about the Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering can be found on the web at: <http://web.mit.edu/mit-who/ww/>.*