



25 November 2008

To SML Core and Associate Faculty, Guest Lecturers, and Teaching Assistants:

I appreciate your service at SML Summer 2008, and hope that you enjoyed your time on Appledore as much as I did. This fall, two long-term causes of SML are moving ahead: 1) we are negotiating with Star Island Corporation to purchase Appledore Island; and 2) we have been authorized by Cornell and UNH to run summer programs at Creek Farm in 2010 and 2011.

Good news aside, the world financial crisis makes it imperative to reduce SML's expenditures while maintaining program excellence and revenues. The cuts that I must make pose challenges to SML's 2009 operations. In particular, we will operate next summer with a smaller on-island staff than in 2008 (this will require that TAs be more involved in island program operations). We have an excellent 12-month staff, and, despite the challenges we will face next summer, I know that they will help us preserve the excellence of our academic programs.

I also am asking you to reduce direct expenditures related to your course next summer. In particular, please plan ahead so that we can make your needed purchases far in advance. This will help in two ways. First, we usually can purchase supplies less expensively if we can do it in advance. Second, sufficient lead-time will help reduce needless last minute stress for our staff.

As another way to reduce expenditures, we will not operate courses that attract fewer than six enrollees. Courses with smaller enrollment usually do not generate enough revenue to cover costs, nor do they work well academically for students or faculty. This decision presents a recruiting challenge if we are to successfully offer our full slate of courses and maintain our revenue. Thus, we need your help to recruit students. Please:

- Recommend specific courses at SML to your undergraduate advisees
- Distribute course flyers in your classes and around your campus
- Send a recruiting e-mail message to majors in your department (we can send you a copy of the message that we send out to Cornell Biology majors)
- Spend 5 or more minutes in classes showing the SML movie (90 seconds) and SML PowerPoint slide to advertise your own SML course or other SML courses
- Emphasize that financial aid is awarded on a "first-come, first-served" basis

Please contact Robin Hadlock Seeley (rhs4@cornell.edu; 607-379-3342) or Jane Paige (shoals-lab@cornell.edu; 607-255-3717) to learn more about how to help with SML recruiting. Let's work together to ensure that SML Summer 2009 is a big success.

Again, thank you for your time, enthusiasm, and dedication. We look forward to working with you next summer!

Sincerely,

William E. Bemis
Kingsbury Director