Columbia Scientists Take First Samples from Arctic Gakkel Ridge

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gets much slower, and there’s a whole different range of processes involved,” Langmuir said. Langmuir said the mission of the expedition is to learn more about the Arctic Ocean floor and what is forming, how the mantle is melting and how the Gakkel Ridge differs from other mid-ocean ridges.

But Langmuir and the other scientists are also hoping they’ll discover whether the Gakkel Ridge delivers enough heat to support “black smokers,” hot springs on active volcanoes on the sea floor. At these sites, where chimneys emitting 400-degree centigrade water can reach eight or more stories high, anaerobic bacteria support complex ecosystems and exotic animals that can exist without sunlight.

“Since the Gakkel Ridge is at the end of the ridge system and is so remote,” Langmuir said, “we can’t find such hydrothermmal activity, we would expect to find these processes if we have ever seen before.” Langmuir said the researchers expect to face many challenges during the expedition. For one thing, this is the maiden voyage for the U.S. icebreaker, the USCGC Healy, which is reaching this region of the world. Aboard the Healy will be 20 scientists from Columbia, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the University of Tulsa. Also aboard will be 40 coast guard members and a middle school science teacher.

The Healy will travel with the German icebreaker, the Deutschland, to ensure both ships must travel together, so if one becomes lodged in the ice, the other can free it. As the two research vessels travel, they will turn constantly breaking the ice to form lanes in which the other vessel can travel close behind and do the sampling. Langmuir said each research team has a slightly different research mission, and so part of the challenge will be sharing and presenting the data in a way that fulfills the needs of both research parties.

The team will post information about the trip daily, communication permitting, to a special website, www.arcvolcanoes.com. The group will transmit their findings, journals, travelogues and pictures to the Internet via a NASA satellite. The site is being hosted by Columbia’s Earthsface, at www.earth-scape.org, an online multimedia resource of earth science information for scientists and laypeople alike.

Langmuir said he hopes the findings from this expedition will pave the way for a greater understanding of the origins of planetary life. Understanding the whole process of ocean ridges reveals the Earth as a single, unified life machine, “like a black box.” The hydrothermal vents on mid-ocean ridges provide an incubation site for life, and these ridges may be where life originated. The Arctic region provides a unique window into understanding these phenomena and how they relate to ocean ridge volcanic activity.”

Columbia University, 9-11-01

Summer Construction Brings Improvements to Classrooms

BY LAUREN MARSHALL

This summer classrooms received top attention during the largest renovation and improvement program to date. In total $45 million was spent on upgrades that touched 17 buildings on campus.

“The bulk of our annual renovation and construction on campus must be done in the 12-week period when students and faculty are away,” said President Emily Lloyd. “We are pleased that we have developed the resources to complete over $45 million in work in a three month period. This enables Columbia to keep its schools with quick and dramatic improvements.

A completely renovated River House is open to students this year and Wein Hall has new windows, elevators, heating and air conditioning. Renovated reading rooms in Butler Library on the first floor bring additional 24-hour study space to students. The new black box theater and KCRC offices are open to the public in September.

Renovated outdoor spaces, such as Furnald Lawn and south field have new looks, drainage and sprinkler systems.

While improvements can be seen throughout campus, this summer’s projects focused on the upgrade of academic teaching spaces, specifically projects like Hamilton, Jerome Green and Pupin, where a combination of infrastructure and space renovation has improved the space visually and responded to faculty requests for better ventilation, lighting and electronic supply,” said Mark Burstein, vice president for facilities management.

The classroom improvements range from new heating, lighting and furniture to the complete overhaul of amphitheaters and smaller seminar style rooms in several campus buildings.

Eight classrooms in Hamilton Hall underwent a major renovation including floors, chalkboards, wooden paneling, new furniture and the addition of central ventilation, which marked the end of the second phase of a multi-year project to completely renovate the building. Four new high tech classrooms were added to Jerome Green Hall. Pupin Hall’s 280-seat amphitheater, designed in 1932, was brought into the 21st century with the addition of air conditioning, new lighting and seating.

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Continuing Education Flourishes With Increases in Applications, Student Services and a Host of Programs

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Wouk Celebrates 50th Year of The Caine Mutiny

By LORALEE NOLLETTI

Herman Wouk, CCC’34, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his Pulitzer-Prize winning masterpiece The Caine Mutiny, with a reading at Renner Hall on September 17, 1997, Center for Jewish Life at Columbia University on Sep- tember 13 at 6:00 p.m.

Originally published in 1951, The Caine Mutiny has sold over 7 million copies and become a classic novel of World War II. It tells the story of the USS Caine under the command of Lieutenant Commander Philip Queeg, a neurotic captain who loses control of his ship during a typhoon and the ensuing court martial of midshipman Lieutenant Steve Judd.

The novel has many questions of loyalty, patriotism and adherence to military code. Upon its publication, The Caine Mutiny captured the imagination of a country recovering from a devastating war. The novel was produced on Broadway.

Wouk himself served aboard two destroyer-minesweepers, the USS Zane and the USS Southard, from 1942 to 1946. His other works of fiction chronicling the global drama of World War II, The Winds of War (1971) and War and Remembrance (1978), have also become a vital part of our cultural heritage and have been made into television movies.

Herman Wouk’s other works include Marjorie Morningstar (1955), Don’t Stop the Carnival (1965), and The Hope (1994) and The Glory (1994), his historical novels chronicling the creation and early development of the modern state of Israel.

Many of Wouk’s papers are currently in collections at Columbia’s Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

The fifteenth anniversary celebration is sponsored by the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue Society of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Columbia University, the Renner Hall, and Little, Brown & Company. Little Brown’s copy of The Caine Mutiny (Back Bay Books/Little Brown) is the only copy of the novel currently in print.

The reading is free and open to the public.

Frank Wolf

Over the past six years Dean Wolf has worked to develop a single identity for all of the CE programs by combining the publications of formerly separate programs and promoting them through a unified strategy of advertising, direct response and public relations. During this time professional marketing staff hired by Dean Wolf have offered the "continuing education" market and a separate Information Center for the CE programs to handle and source all inquiries from prospective students, allowing CE staff to focus on their resources exclusively on students who are engaged in the application process.

Continuing Education has taken full advantage of the Internet. It promotes all of its programs on the web and provides students services via the Internet, including VLSI orientation materials and chat rooms. CE was the first in the University to offer an online application. It is about the only program to offer an interactive application will be linked to Columbia’s mainframe student information system. Columbia’s CE online application offers open houses for students to contact.

Overall, Dean Wolf believes that as a result of the reorganization, Columbia has the best of both worlds, having a selective college of liberal arts for non-traditional students (Gertner School of Continuing and Professional Education) and a large division for Continuing Education offering programs to both distinct and growing constituencies.