



Regional e-Notes ~ Volume 10, Issue 10 ~ October 2018

Letter from the Director

Aloha & Happy Halloween!

As revelers celebrate the traditions of this holiday, my team and I are "dusting off the cobwebs" per se, as we box up our office and prepare to move our headquarters to the University of Hawaii Manoa campus.

As we prepare for our big move, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Oceanic Institute (OI) of Hawaii Pacific University for serving as CTSA's primary host institution for the last three decades, and to the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resource (CTAHR) for supporting our program in this new chapter. I am also very grateful to Dr. Nicholas Comerford, the Dean of CTAHR and the Chair of CTSA Board of Directors, for his willingness to provide guidance and logistical assistance; he has been instrumental in facilitating our move. Keep an eye out for our interview with Dean Comerford in next month's e-notes.



While it is bittersweet to leave OI after decades of housing our Center on its beautiful campus in windward Oahu, we are looking forward to expanding CTSA services at our lovely new office in the Agriculture Science building. Our new location on the UH campus will allow us to work closer with CTAHR and also take advantage of access to other departments that may be able to join forces for interdisciplinary research. I believe that partnership and an integrated...[Read More](#)

HSBIR Matching Fund application for Phase 2 & 3 open until Nov 30

The Hawaii Small Business Innovative Research (HSBIR) Matching Fund application for Phase 2 & 3 is now open until November 20, 2018.

The Hawaii Small Business Innovation Research program provides matching funds to help companies further the development of new products to solve critical issues. Up to \$500,000 in matching funds may be awarded to companies receiving SBIR Phase 2 & 3 awards.

The Hawaii SBIR matching grant program is the longest state funded SBIR matching program in the United States. Initially the grant program only funded companies that received Phase I grants. In 2016, the program was expanded to help companies who are moving their advanced



technology products from research into the market. First time applicants will be... [Read More](#)

Reflecting on the Impacts of Aquaculture During National Seafood Month



National Seafood Month is an annual designation observed each October. This designation—originally created by congress decades ago—provides an opportunity for our industry to celebrate seafood and all of its numerous benefits to our health and economy.

Whether wild or farmed, seafood is a staple for many across the world. Globally, fish provides more than 3.1 billion people with almost 20 percent of their average per capita intake of animal protein, and 4.3 billion people with 15 percent of such protein. However, natural fisheries stocks throughout the world, including the U.S., are threatened by overfishing and statistics show that total production from capture fisheries worldwide may have reached maximal yield in 1996. FAO projects that in order to maintain the current level of per capita utilization, global aquaculture production will need to reach 80 million tons by 2050.

The U.S. aquaculture industry has grown steadily over the past decade, with nationwide production in 2016 reaching 444,369 tons. Comparatively, the top aquaculture producer in the world, China, generated 62.86 million tons (57.6 percent) of world aquaculture production of fish, crustaceans, mollusks and plants in 2016. Imports continue to supplement the seafood supply to U.S. consumers. According to NOAA Fisheries Fishery Statistics No. 2016-2, the U.S. seafood trade deficit surpassed the \$10 billion mark for the first time in 2010 and reached \$14.1 billion in 2016.

These statistics clearly support the suggestion made by the U.S. Joint Subcommittee on Aquaculture, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture that further development of the U.S. aquaculture industry is in the national interest. Furthermore, as our world continues to change and the population increases, food safety, nutrition...[Read More](#)

AquaClip: In Memory of Ruth Gates

CTSA is sad to hear of the passing of Dr. Ruth Gates, Director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB). She was an energetic and optimistic champion for coral reefs who will be dearly missed. The following is an article honoring her and highlighting some of her important work:



Ruth Gates, who died Thursday at age 56, was known as much for her laugh as for her science. She laughed easily, loudly, and infectiously. When she first snorkeled around Heron Island, in Australia's Great Barrier Reef, she reportedly laughed so loudly that boat drivers could hear her from the surface. "Laughing even underwater—that's Ruth," says Tracy Ainsworth, a close friend and coral scientist at The University of New South Wales at Sydney. "She was so thrilled by the reef that she couldn't contain her joy."

Coral scientists have little to laugh about these days. Between rising temperatures, acidifying water, pollution, diseases, storms, and other threats, reefs around the world are dying, transforming from bountiful worlds of color and life into deathly realms of spectral white. Half the world's reefs have died in the past few decades. Even the mighty Great Barrier Reef is a shadow

of its former glory. Every year, the drumbeat of doom-filled news seems to pound more loudly. For the many scientists who have devoted their lives to studying these ecosystems and are now forced to watch their slow demise, it can be hard to stay afloat.

But Ruth Gates was never given to doom. As one of the world's foremost coral scientists, she was under no illusions about the perils that corals face-but she was relentlessly optimistic nonetheless. She firmly believed that reefs could be saved and was looking for ways to do so, perhaps by breeding hardier varieties of corals that could better weather the climatic upheavals of the future.

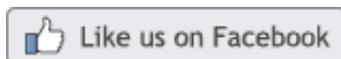
In part, Gates's optimism was an explicit strategy meant to spur others into action. But it was also a profound part of her identity. Even colleagues who describe themselves as glass-half-full people told me that they would ask "What would Ruth do?" when they felt despair. Others spoke about her irrepressible enthusiasm and riotous sense of humor.

Gates passed away five months after she was first diagnosed with brain cancer. She is survived by her wife, Robin Burton-Gates; her brother, Tim Gates; her extended family; and a vast community of colleagues and friends. "We constantly laughed, even through her treatments," says Burton-Gates.

To lose anyone is tragic, but to lose someone like Gates-an optimist's optimist, a cornerstone of hope-is especially so. Her friends collectively describe her as someone who truly contained multitudes. Empath and fighter, iconoclast and team player, introvert and spokesperson-she was all these things, as well as an outspoken advocate for corals and the people who study them. "She was radiance that we were privileged to gather around, our hands toward the fire," said Ouida Meier, one of her lab managers, in an email to her team.

Source: [The Atlantic](#) / [Read Full Article](#)

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The Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture (CTSA) is one of five regional aquaculture centers in the United States established and funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) under grants 2012-38500-19566, 2014-38500-22241, and 2016-38500-25751. The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development. CTSA was established in 1986 and is jointly administered by the Oceanic Institute of Hawaii Pacific University and the University of Hawaii.

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