



American Institute Of Marine Studies

December 16, 2003

The American Institute Of Marine Studies gifts \$1,000,000 to the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science to provide undergraduate and graduate student scholarships and to underwrite research grants to help sustain our fisheries.



(From Left to Right) Dr. Donna Shalala (University of Miami President), Olga Conway (AIMS), Dr. Otis Brown (Dean of RSMAS), Fred Kraft (President of AIMS)

Before you get depressed from reading pessimistic assessments of the future of our coral reefs or despair in global discoveries of high concentrations of toxic waste in large ocean predators, check with Fred Kraft, the man with a million dollar smile. Kraft, who is the President of the American Institute of Marine Studies (AIMS) recently pledged to donate one million dollars to the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) in order to "do his part". Kraft believes that "Businesses need to take a pro-active roll in answering tough questions that we are asking about the future of our oceans."



No newcomer to charitable/philanthropic campaigns involving marine research and education, Mr. Kraft has had over 20 years experience in fund raising. Of his many success stories, this pledge actuates an eight-year endeavor (by AIMS) to amalgamate Broward County Public Schools with local Universities and the Marine Industry. By funding research in the Universities, students with AIMS scholarships have opportunities to make “cutting edge” discoveries in oceanography. Simultaneously they mentor High School and Middle School students that have chosen marine science courses while they are attending magnet schools in South Florida.



According to Kraft, "We're in the business of acquiring yachts as charitable donations. Why not put them to good use?" We have a 62' Whitaker (sports fisherman) and we intend to send it to the Bahamas with a research team from the University's Center for Sustainable Fisheries. Top scientists from RSMAS will spend a month in the Bahamian Out Islands collecting scientific data and teaching students about a fishery on the brink of collapse. My job is to see to it that they get what they need in order to live, cruise and study aboard these vessels so that many more trips can be planed in the future."

The question of whether this support makes a difference in saving the reefs can best be answered buy the many students whom AIMS supports through scholarships. Doctoral student, Neil Hammerschlag (http://www.reefquest.com/neil_cv.htm) was awarded a \$25,000 / year scholarship to finish his PhD at RSMAS. Using AIMS research vessels, he will study sharks locally in the Bahamas and Cape Town, South Africa. For more information and to keep up with what Neil is doing, please visit www.aimsamerica.org/neilhammerschlag.htm



University Of Miami undergraduate student, Daniell Washington was awarded a full four-year scholarship worth \$130,000. Daniell states, "I've realized that my next step will be to attend the University of Miami and participate in specialized studies in the marine science field. As the recipient of the 2004 A.I.M.S. Undergraduate scholarship, I am honored to have been chosen and to attend such a prestigious university. I've come to understand that as a member of the next generation, it is my responsibility to use my education as a tool to protect and preserve the ocean in order for future generations to be able to appreciate its true magnificence and beauty." For more information and to keep up with how Daniell is doing, please visit www.aimsamerica.org/daniellwashington.htm

Scholarship awardee, Erik Davis attends classes but is also being trained (by AIMS) to get his 100 Ton "6-Pack" Captain's License so that donated vessels can be skippered by "home-grown" marine scientists who care about the ocean and Fisheries Research. For more information and to keep up with what Erik is doing, please visit www.aimsamerica.org/erikdavis.htm



Fred Kraft is an honorary member of the University of Miami's Admiral Society and is a respected philanthropist of marine science research and education. Accessibility is a unique and important aspect of Kraft's services. His expertise in charitable donations is available at any time. If you wish to make a charitable cash donation to help the "cause" or would like to donate personal property such as yachts, boats, classic cars, real estate, or artwork, please be sure and visit the AIMS website at www.aimsamerica.org or call [800.826.6840](tel:800.826.6840) for more information.

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