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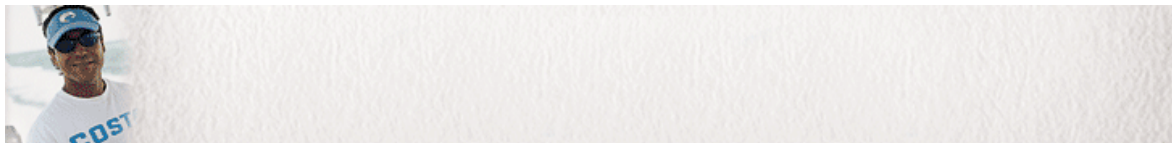
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Researcher selected for aquatic conference steering committee

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Posted: Sunday, February 27, 2011 5:15 pm

Preston Redden
Staff Writer | 0 comments

George Cobb, a researcher at The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH), has been selected for the steering committee for an aquatic conference. The conference takes place next month.

Cobb said the steering committee has many responsibilities and it is an honor to be a part of this one. There are two other members on the committee. The conference takes place March 29 through March 31 in Monterrey, Calif.

"The steering committee plans the whole conference," Cobb said. "We come up with topics that should be discussed at the conference and choose who we want to invite to the conference."

Cobb said he was selected to be a part of the committee because of his friendship with Geoff Scott, a researcher at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Charleston, S.C.

"Geoff Scott is also a member of the steering committee," Cobb said. "A professor at California State, Santa Barbara, is also on the committee."

Cobb's colleagues said Cobb will make a great addition to the conference. Todd Anderson, professor of environmental toxicology at TIEHH, said Cobb is a revolutionary in his field.

"One of the dilemmas of our profession is collecting data without harming the subject," Anderson said. "Cobb discovered that instead of testing birds for different toxins they might have been exposed to, we can test the shell of the egg that bird was hatched in instead of testing and potentially harming the actual bird."

Cobb has made an influence on different professors in different departments. Andrew Jackson, professor of civil and environmental engineering, said he has seen Cobb speak at conferences before.

"Dr. Cobb is very knowledgeable in his field," Jackson said. "He has national and international influence. Dr. Cobb is well-known, and I think he will make a big impact on the conference."

Cobb said the itinerary is still being determined; however, he hopes to lead a few discussions during the conference.

Jackson said he and Cobb worked together multiple times during their time at Tech. Jackson and Cobb met 13

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years ago at Tech.

"In engineering, we are more involved with the fates of the contaminants we study," Jackson said. "Dr. Cobb is more involved in the effects of contaminants. We usually compare samples since our research is opposite of each other."

Since the conference is near the ocean, Cobb said there will be some oceanic sampling happening.

"Here at TIEHH, we deploy people to collect aquatic samples," Cobb said. "These people send back a syringe full of liquid. This liquid has been collected on a sorbent material and is much easier to handle than 80 pounds of water."

Anderson agrees Cobb will make a great addition to the conference. Anderson said he and Cobb work in the same department at TIEHH.

"I work with Dr. Cobb on a daily basis," Anderson said. "I know he will plan an organized conference and he is connected enough and respected enough to pull in a large audience."

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