

Celebrating 30 years in the Ocean State

The Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program celebrated the 30th anniversary of URI's designation as a Sea Grant College in a reception at URI President Robert Carothers' home last November. URI was instrumental in creating the National Sea Grant College Program, and in 1971 URI was one of the first four universities officially designated a Sea Grant College.

"I believe Sea Grant has done much to make Rhode Islanders aware of the importance of Narragansett Bay and the surrounding ocean to its economy and its general well being. We call ourselves the 'Ocean State.' Sea Grant can take some credit for that ocean awareness. It was not that way 30 years ago," said John Knauss, the Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program's first director and former dean of the URI Graduate School of Oceanography (GSO).

Former Senator Claiborne Pell attended the celebration and was honored for his instrumental efforts in founding the national program. Other honorees were Knauss, former Sea Grant Director Scott Nixon, former Sea Grant Director Neils Rorholm, former GSO Office of Marine Programs Director Walter Gray, URI Oceanography Professor Emeritus Nelson Marshall, URI Oceanography Professor Emeritus Saul Salla, and R.I. Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) Division of Natural Resources assistant Director David Borden.

As Sea Grant celebrated its history, Barry Costa-Pierce, Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program director, looked ahead. "The current demand for Sea Grant programming is extraordinary. Rhode Island's multi-million dollar marine economy is burgeoning. Sea Grant will continue to provide the best possible science to assist decisions that impact fisheries, coastal communities, and the marine environment," Costa-Pierce said.

To receive a free copy of *Rhode Island Sea Grant College Program: Celebrating 30 Years in the Ocean State & 2001–2003 Program Guide*, contact Sea Grant at (401) 874-6842, by e-mail 41N@gso.uri.edu, or on the Web at: seagrants.gso.uri.edu.

—Monica Allard Cox



Sen. Claiborne Pell honored for his instrumental efforts in founding the National Sea Grant Program. Pell's wife, Nuala, was on hand for the festivities. *Photo by Tony Corey.*