

Dear Registrant:

We are really looking forward to seeing you at our annual NYSMEA conference in Southampton this weekend! Following is some information you might find helpful:

- Registration will take place in Chancellors Hall. Please consult the map of the campus (www.stonybrook.edu/sb/southampton/SBSmap_2008.pdf) to see where this is.

Registration will be open at the following hours and places:

Friday: 11:30 am – 4 pm in Chancellors Hall
 4 pm - 5:30 pm at the Marine Station
 6 pm – 7:30 pm in Student Café

Saturday: 8 am – 12 pm in Chancellors Hall

- There are no official conference activities scheduled Friday afternoon until the wine & cheese reception at the Marine Station at 4:00. But you can arrive any time after 11:30 Friday morning, register, check into the dorm, and then go explore the town of Southampton, or take a walk on the beach! Please note that no lunch will be served on Friday, so you should make plans to eat elsewhere (or pack your own lunch) if you arrive before 4:00 on Friday.
- If you did not pay by PayPal ahead of time, please bring your checkbook with you to settle up.
- Each registrant has been issued a username and password in order to get internet service from wifi hot spots on campus. Feel free to bring your laptop, and be sure to ask for your code words when you register.
- We will have plastic badge holders for your name badge, but in the interest of sustainability, we encourage you to bring a holder you may already own from a past conference.
- Along those same lines, we will provide you with a refillable water bottle which we hope you will use throughout the weekend. Stony Brook Southampton has banned the selling of bottled water on campus. There will be pitchers of water at meals, but if you like to carry bottled water with you, please use a refillable container.
- If you are staying in the dorm, you will check in to Southold Dorm after registering. Linens, a pillow, and a towel are provided. Bring your own soap and a blanket. A student staff person will be on duty to check you in at the dorm from 11 am – 4 pm on Friday and 8 am – 4 pm on Saturday. If you arrive after those hours, call 631-704-1305 to check in. **Very important: It is imperative that you return your dorm key directly to a staff person at the end of your stay. Do not just leave the key in your room. If your key is lost, you will be charged \$175!** A staff person will be on duty in Southold dorm from 7:30 am – 11 am on Sunday to receive your key when you depart.

- The weather report looks pretty good for the weekend: possible rain on Friday and Saturday, then mostly sunny on Sunday. Dress is casual throughout the conference. You might want to pack some clothes to keep you warm in the early morning and the evenings.
- Kayaking is available from the Marine Station dock, but you must bring your own boat. There is no organized group outing, but you are encouraged to enjoy the water!
- Not very many people signed up for a boat trip! We would like to still offer a trip on Saturday afternoon; if we get at least 10 people signed up, then the trip will take place. The trip costs \$20. You may sign up for this at registration.
- You will receive a conference schedule and a folder of materials upon check-in, but not a large conference booklet with biographies of the speakers and presenters. You can read those on-line on our website: www.nysmea.org/con09/speakers09.htm#Featured%20Presenters.
- Our speaker on Saturday night, Deborah Cramer (*Smithsonian Ocean: Our Water Our World* and *Great Waters: An Atlantic Passage*), and our speaker on Sunday morning, Heather Perry (*Confluence: Merrymeeting Bay*), each have beautiful books that will be available for purchase (and to be signed) after the dinner on Saturday night. You can pay for the books with a credit card or cash.
- **Please bring your checkbook to the auction on Saturday night!** We have an amazing array of valuable, useful, and beautiful items that have been donated for this event. These include books, DVDs, gift baskets, wine tasting tours, marine fossils, artwork, passes to the NY Aquarium and the American Museum of Natural History, and much more! The income from the auction helps make it possible for NYSMEA to stay active in the world of marine education, so please plan to spend money on these fine items!

That should take care of it. See you this weekend. Safe travels!

Sarah Richards
NYSMEA 2009 Co-Coordinator