

November 2006

# NO DROPPINGS

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For Christmas I would like .....



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## Member Profile: Dawn Wright

by Leigh Hamilton, CMUG Member

CMUG member Dawn Wright (a.k.a. “Deepsea Dawn”), of Corvallis, is a professor of Geography and Oceanography at OSU, where she has been on the faculty since 1995.

She calls Kahului, Maui, Hawaii her hometown. Her education has taken her to Wheaton College in Illinois for a BS in Geology, Texas A&M for a Masters in oceanography. She received her Ph.D. in geography and marine geology at the University of California at Santa Barbara.

Prior to joining the OSU faculty, she was a seagoing marine technician for the International Ocean Drilling Program and a post-doctoral research associate at the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Newport, Oregon. A few years after the deepsea vehicle Argo I was used to discover the HMS Titanic in 1986, Dawn was presented with some of the first geographic information system (GIS) data sets to be collected with that vehicle while a graduate student at UCSB.

It was then that she first became acutely aware of the challenges of applying GIS to deep marine environments. She has since completed oceanographic fieldwork (oftentimes with GIS) in some of the most geologically-active regions on the planet, including the East Pacific Rise, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, the Juan

de Fuca Ridge, the Tonga Trench, volcanoes under the Japan Sea and the Indian Ocean, and, most recently, American Samoa. In 1991 Dawn became the first African-American woman to dive to the ocean floor in the Alvin submersible.

“The sense of fun, the ease of use, and the backstory of Steve Jobs and how he and his buds started Apple,” drew her to the Macintosh. She wants to know if CMUG members have read the great book, “Revolution in the Valley: The Insanely Great Story of How the Mac Was Made” by Andy Hertzfeld.

“I was introduced to a Mac in 1985 on a research ship out in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. There was a little Mac Plus sitting by itself with no one using it (everyone else was using Digital Equipment Corporation PCs that were standard fare onboard for word and data processing, as well as Sun Unix workstations).

“Our main objectives for the expedition were being compromised due to constant equipment failure. There was a lot of free time onboard. During my free time I

became captivated by the little Mac and experimented with its graphics programs.”

She has also taught her mother the ways of Macintosh. Her most used applications are MS Office, Photoshop, Safari, iTunes, iPhoto, NetNewsWire (for RSS feeds), Grab (for screen grabs),







and Fledermaus (a scientific visualization -- 3D -- viewer by Interactive Visualization Systems).

Her all-time favorite computer game is Sid Meiers Pirates. Her favorite TV & movies include the StarWars series, Harry Potter, Pirates of the Caribbean, and the CBS Numb3rs series. She is a fan of SpongeBob Squarepants. Her reading tends toward biography. Her favorite foods are pasta, dried berries and (no surprise) Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream.

Her pet, Lydia, the OSU Department of Geosciences departmental pet dog is featured on her web page <http://dusk.geo.orst.edu/lydia>.

Dawn is a world traveler due to her work on more than 20 research expeditions with ports of call all over the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian Ocean and two trips to Antarctica.

Her for fun hobbies are cycling (road and mountain), pirates (her OSU research lab is called "Davey Jones Locker"), independent films, classic films of the '30s, '40s and '50s, Peanuts Collector Club member (she is a "Snoopy groupie"), and building with Legos. Some of her Lego projects can be seen at [http://seafloormapping.net/pirate\\_legos](http://seafloormapping.net/pirate_legos).

Be sure and check out her websites to fully appreciate her accomplishments.