

**For Immediate Release  
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## Ocean Classroom Foundation's College Semester at Sea Finds New Home SEAmester Moves to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

Ocean Classroom Foundation and the University of Massachusetts are proud to announce that the SEAmester program, a fully accredited semester at sea for college students, will sail with Ocean Classroom Foundation under the UMass Dartmouth flag starting fall semester 2006.

SEAmester is an open enrollment, co-educational, nine-week semester at sea. Sailing over 3,000 miles each spring and fall, students are immersed in the traditions of the sea, earning 12-15 academic credits in the humanities and marine sciences while working with the professional crew to learn the time-honored arts and skills a seafarer. On each voyage students are challenged both physically and academically, building a confidence in their own abilities that lasts a lifetime. The campus ranges from the deck of the *Spirit of Massachusetts* to coral reefs, from Spanish colonial forts to North Carolina saltmarshes. In SEAmester, students have the opportunity to not only study the ocean world, but to live it.

Over 1,200 students have participated in SEAmester since its inception in 1976 as a program of Long Island University, Southampton College. Ocean Classroom Foundation has been exclusively providing vessel operations for SEAmester since 1997. When LIU closed its Southampton campus in 2005, they authorized Ocean Classroom Foundation to work with a new academic institution to offer this outstanding program to a new generation of undergraduates. UMass Dartmouth has proven to be a perfect choice, with established excellence in a wide variety of marine science and maritime heritage related programs and studies. SEAmester will serve as a "flagship" opportunity in marine science for undergraduate students at UMass Dartmouth.

SEAmester will sail on Ocean Classroom Foundation's schooner *Spirit Massachusetts*. As a replica of the fast and able Gloucester fishing schooners of the late 19th century, *Spirit* is ideally suited to represent Massachusetts' rich maritime heritage as she carries college students on their own personal voyage of discovery sailing from the coast of New England to the Caribbean Sea.

Applications are now being accepted for the fall 2006 and spring 2007 terms. Application deadline for the fall semester is July 10, 2006. SEAmester is open for enrollment to college sophomores, juniors and seniors. Information Sessions about this program will be held at UMass Dartmouth on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:00 pm and 5:00-6:00 pm. For more information please contact UMass Dartmouth Professional & Continuing Education at 508.999.8071, [pceregistration@umassd.edu](mailto:pceregistration@umassd.edu) or [www.umassd.edu/seamester](http://www.umassd.edu/seamester).

### **About Ocean Classroom Foundation**

Ocean Classroom Foundation is a non-profit educational organization that provides programs of sea education and adventure for the youth of America aboard the schooners *Westward*, *Harvey Gamage* and *Spirit of Massachusetts*. Ocean Classroom Foundation is a leader in experiential education, with award-winning programs sailing from the Canadian Maritimes to the Caribbean Sea. For more information on Ocean Classroom Foundation programs call 800.724.7245, [mail@oceanclassroom.org](mailto:mail@oceanclassroom.org) or visit [www.oceanclassroom.org](http://www.oceanclassroom.org).

### **About the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth distinguishes itself as a vibrant public university actively engaged in

personalized teaching and innovative research, and acting as an intellectual catalyst for regional economic, social, and cultural development. Its approximately 8,700 students choose from more than 60 academic programs. Its nearly 400 faculty members in the colleges of arts and sciences, business, engineering, nursing, visual and performing arts, and the school of marine science and technology are engaged in teaching, research and service that focuses on the southeastern Massachusetts region but have impact around the globe.

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