

NEWS UPDATE

June 01, 2009 – June 05, 2009

NEW ZEALANDER RETURNS FROM MULTINATIONAL OCEAN DRILLING EXPEDITION

www.otago.ac.nz

06/04/2009

A University of Otago PhD student is the first beneficiary of New Zealand's membership in a multinational collaborative scientific effort aiming to unlock the secrets of the Earth's structure and climate history through drilling into the ocean floor. Geology PhD student Christian Ohneiser has just returned from a two-month expedition at the Pacific Equator aboard the **Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP)** drillship *JOIDES Resolution*. Christian is the first person in the country to participate in the IODP since New Zealand became a member of it earlier this year. Christian joined more than 50 scientists from seven nations. During the expedition sediment cores were recovered from the sea floor some 5km beneath the drillship at six locations dotted along the Pacific Equator between Hawaii and San Diego. The sediment cores contain a unique 53 million year record of ocean chemistry, biology and global climate. To read the full article, click [here](#).

ABOARD SCIENTIFIC DRILL SHIP NEAR JAPAN, UMASS HYDROGEOLOGIST WILL STUDY A MAJOR PACIFIC EARTHQUAKE-BIRTHING ZONE

www.umass.edu

06/03/2009

When the world's first ocean research vessel equipped with super-deep core-drilling equipment begins its next scientific cruise this month, hydrogeologist David Boutt of the University of Massachusetts Amherst will be aboard, preparing to study subsurface fluids from 1.25 miles below the sea floor, the deepest ever sampled, at a premier earthquake-spawning ground off the coast of Japan. Goals of the two-stage summer project led by the Japanese government and known as Nankai Trough Seismogenic Zone Experiment (NanTroSEIZE) include installing sensors in deep boreholes to monitor the Earth's crust for earthquake and tsunami activity off the coast of Japan, in an area where two massive tectonic plates, the Eurasian and the Philippine, meet to create one of the most seismically active areas on the planet. UMass Amherst's Boutt is one of about a dozen scientists from seven nations who will staff the research vessel for its first six-week cruise that begins June 11. To read the full article, click [here](#).

DRILLED CORES YIELD UNIQUE ARCTIC CLIMATE DATA

www.newswise.com

06/02/2009

A team of scientists from the United States, Germany, Russia and Austria returned recently from a six-month sediment drilling expedition at a frozen lake in Siberia, where they retrieved cores going back further than ever before collected in the Arctic—information they call “of absolutely unprecedented significance.” Data will help scientists to understand the region's geologic climate record. Cores collected from three holes under Siberia's Lake El'gygytgyn, “Lake E” for short, are more than 30 times longer (in time) than records from the Greenland Ice Sheet, according to geoscientist Julie Brigham-Grette of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the lead U.S. scientist. The lake was formed 3.6

million years ago when a meteor more than a half-mile in diameter hit the Earth and gouged out the 11-mile wide crater. Findings from Lake E will become integrated into a network of sites collected by the geological community from the Arctic Ocean (ACEX) to Antarctica (especially ANDRILL). To read the full article, click [here](#).