

## UNOLS Council

In early July, I sent a letter confirming that Harbor Branch had signed an agreement to provide full time ship support for environmental research offshore Brazil. This 5 year commitment was part of a proposal package and was contingent upon a successful bid. Together with our partner, Cepemar Environmental Services, we have been since been selected and anticipate beginning work in Brazil early next calendar year. Consequently, the R/V Seward Johnson will no longer serve within the UNOLS fleet.

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution has a long and successful history supporting the scientific community as a UNOLS ship operator. The decision to move in a new direction was a difficult one, driven by financial necessity. We were simply unable to cover all of the ship expenses with the operating schedule realities of the past few years. With only a handful of funded days on the books next year, it would not be possible to operate within UNOLS no matter how much we might have wanted to. While we can no longer serve within UNOLS as a ship operator, we value our membership and will continue to play an active role in the organization. As an oceanographic institution, our legacy and future lies with an active oceangoing program of exploration, research, education and conservation. Harbor Branch, a research institute within Florida Atlantic University, is committed to continuing and strengthening our exploration program; aggressively pursuing new tools, researchers, and programs. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the UNOLS community and working from UNOLS member ships.

Please feel free to call upon me should you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Pete Tatro  
Associate Executive Director  
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University