



Item: SP: A-5

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

SUBJECT: NAMING OF LABORATORIES AT HARBOR BRANCH OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approval of the naming of the three (3) contiguous labs in the new Lab Science Building at Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, as follows:

**The John and Andrejia Robertson Laboratory
Home of the Robertson Coral Reef Research & Conservation Program**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1999, Bill and John Robertson of the Banbury Fund became interested in Harbor Branch. One of their interests was to foster coral reef research, due to declines in coral reefs that were becoming apparent in the Florida Keys. Five years later, to memorialize the untimely passing of John and his wife Andrejia, the Banbury Fund pledged a \$1 million unrestricted grant to establish the Robertson Coral Reef Research and Conservation Program at Harbor Branch. Developed in collaboration with Research Professor Dennis Hanisak, Ph.D., the Robertson Program is dedicated to understanding and preventing losses in shallow- and deep-water coral communities that result from both natural and man-made causes. The original intent of the donation was to put it toward the Marine Science division and rename the old Johnson Science laboratory in the Robertson's memory. However, this was not to be, because this building was damaged beyond repair after Hurricane's Frances and Jeanne. The family never got a building naming opportunity to memorialize John and Andrejia Robertson. Nonetheless, the Robertsons/Banbury Trust continued to fulfill their pledge of support.

The support of the Banbury Fund has been instrumental to building a world-class research program and enabling a number of truly important conservation initiatives at HBOI. The support of the Robertsons is making a significant difference: identifying and protecting previously unknown deepwater coral reefs, developing new ways of assessing coral health, and fostering the development of new scientists who will devote their careers to this important research.

William S. Robertson is President of the Banbury Fund, Inc. and is currently active as an investor, philanthropist, and manager on behalf of his extended family. Their parents, Charles and Marie Robertson were major philanthropists through their foundation - the Robertson Foundation, and were owners of the A & P grocery chain.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Upon Approval of the Board

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

Supporting Documentation: See Attached

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