



# the Sandpiper

Star Island's International Affairs Conference Newspaper

TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017

## IA Sports News

BY TOM ALEXANDER

### GREETINGS SHOALERS, FROM THE DUGOUT- Star Island Prospects Softball Minicamp at IA 2017.

The Thomas Leighton arrived early evening Saturday, and shortly after a healthy happy hour and fine vittles from the 5-Star-Rated Oceanic Dining Facility, this season's first class of rookie Shoaler softball prospects began taking the field. This beat writer is pleased to report that the field looks stronger and more diverse than ever! The young lady athletes have finally decided to make their presence known, and it's about time they give the boys a run for their money—challenging for starting spots in this year's minor league line-up.



New ballers came to camp with powerful handles like "Shorty", "Stringbean", "Hammer", "Princess Homer", "Big Hitter", "Lightning Meatball", and "The Phenom". Let's see if they live up to the hype! All I know is that this renegade impromptu practice started just after dinner and went into the darkness — forcing the new Skipper to even miss announcements at the Conference Orientation for the upcoming need for players (much to the Chair's chagrin and forcing a demotion to less than BFF status with one of the bartenders.) Not to worry, though, as initial attendance and participation levels look good.

The first official 3:30 p.m. practice went well, as batters clobbered the yellow orb and kept designated pitcher Dudley "Fireball" Williams on his toes dodging line drives and making him go to the heat early. These kids are going to prove tough competition for the more mature big leaguers who have been seen scouting the field during practice time. I am sure anticipation is overwhelming for their clash with minor league greatness on Tuesday afternoon followed by major league camp on Wednesday in preparation for the Star Island World Series Softball Extravaganza on Thursday against those darn Pelicans.

### A note from the editor

This edition features articles about our weekly theme, a bird rescue, reminders, memories, polar bearing, and more. The editor welcomes family and personal updates, poetry, riddles, narratives about conference activity, personal reflections on international affairs and other topics. Thank you to those who contributed to this edition!

Heather Rush, Editor

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A DARING BIRD RESCUE ON THE PORCH • SEE PAGE 3 FOR THE REST OF THE STORY

### Polar Bear Plunge . Day 2

BY ERNIE CARLSON - YOUR EMBEDDED REPORTER

**MONDAY WAS A DAY** that tried men's (and women's) souls. The morning air was cold and the sky was dark and forbidding as it began to rain. The intrepid band of plungers from Sunday was winnowed by the challenge facing them, and only the most hardy reemerged to make a second plunge.

Let me begin by apologizing to Aliya Leslie for omitting her name from yesterday's roster of the brave.

On the dock providing her usual assurance for safety was Zephyr Girard. No one would have dared the deep without the comfort of her presence.

Leading off today's dare-to-die legion was again the fabulous Winter Flynn accompanied by her support teammate, Lucas Flynn. Their bravery was a spur to those who might have held back under these perilous conditions. Not to be outdone or shamed by the courage of the young, Megan O'Brien, Tony Flaherty, Tom McNaugher, and Stephen Alsdorf jumped in and made a great splash. The great crowd cheered them for their bravery.

The ice was broken (figuratively of course), and Jack Jaffee, Leece Hillegas, Will Gleason, Tommy Alexander, and Denise Alexander followed suit. New recruits Emily Damon, Deb Nelson, Chloe Flynn, and Carrie Meyer joined in, encouraged by the displays of daring-do from veteran polar bears.

Long-time veteran, Lauri Yanis dove right in and concurrently shamed your correspondent into making the plunge. And as a final cap on the adventure, latecomers Aliya, Adelynm, and Charity Leslie daintily entered the water. A fitting end for day two.

# Sustainability of the Global Ocean

## A MONDAY TALK GIVEN BY RASHID SUMAILA

**ON MONDAY MORNING**, Rashid Sumaila spoke on the *Sustainability of the Global Ocean*. Dr. Sumaila has an Engineering degree from Ahmadu Bello University in Nigeria and a PhD in Economics from the University of Norway in Bergen. He was invited to be a visiting professor at University of British Columbia and the position turned into a tenure track position where he has worked ever since. He studies the intersectionality of economics with other disciplines such as ecology on global fishing. His research group has a 5 to 6 million dollar grant to study the human and ecological effects on the global ocean. His other research includes work on intergenerational equity in use of ocean resources and using mathematical modeling of applied game theory to understand management of the world oceans. His wife, Miriam, was going to come with him to Star, but unfortunately had to go to Nigeria to visit her mother who had some health issues. They have 2 sons who are 25 and 19 years of age.

**RASHID SEES HIMSELF** as a Public Economist, i.e. an economist who studies what is best for society as a whole. He tries to learn from different disciplines such as ecology and anthropology to understand how to maintain ocean resources for future generations. He informed us that our ocean is our lives.

- **130 million tons of fish are pulled out of oceans each year**
- **Fish provide 3 billion people with 15% of their animal protein**
- **Total impact of fishing on the global economy is \$500 billion**
- **260 million people earn some income from fishing, mostly in developing countries**
- **50% of global oxygen comes from oceans**

**GLOBAL EFFORT** to catch fish is increasing, but fish catch is not increasing. 80% of commercial fishing vessels are not making money but are economically sustained because of subsidies. Globally, there is a 35 billion dollar subsidy in the fishery sector. The loss from not managing fished resources well could feed 19 million people. The effect of climate change also causes fish to move from around the equator towards the poles. Rashid gave examples to explain effects of fishing. The first example is that high seas are not regulated and managed like the EEZ's (Exclusive Economic Zones) are. Fish don't know where country borders start

and end and move between EEZs and high seas.

Research shows that a tuna moves through the waters of about 53 countries during its lifespan. Depletion of

fish in the high seas depletes fish in the EEZ since most fish species move between the high seas and EEZs. His research finding recommends that high seas should be closed for fishing. Only 10 countries fish 70% of the fish from the high seas. Stopping fishing in the high seas reduces global economic inequality. If this was adopted, Rashid recommends using technology to police the high seas. Most high sea fishing is done by coastal countries and this further deprives land-locked countries that have no access to either EEZs or high seas.

**RASHID NEXT SPOKE** about the South China Sea (SCS) as the largest fishing zone in Asia. The tonnage of the catch from the SCS is decreasing and the landed value dollar amount is dropping faster. This means that the fish caught are getting smaller in size. Fishing is part of why China is claiming islands in the SCS. Management of ocean resources, irrespective of borders, is the only way to hopefully maintain these resources. Norway and Russia worked well together, even during the cold war, to manage cod in the Barents Sea.

Dr. Sumaila's recent research with one of his graduate students shows that only 16% of fishing subsidies go to small-scale fishermen. The majority (84%) goes to large-scale fishers.

**I SAT NEXT TO DR. SUMAILA** on Monday morning at breakfast, and he was casually dressed, but by the time of his presentation, he had changed into a sports jacket, dress pants and shoes to impress the IA audience, who not only were impressed by this, but by the awesome presentation he gave. The discussion questions were also impressively answered.

**If you didn't attend this fabulous presentation, here are examples of the questions Dr. Sumaila asked the audience:**

**Which country has the highest GINI coefficient in the world?**

**Which country has the smallest GINI coefficient in the world?**

**What percentage of fish catch are traded internationally?**

**What percentage of rice grown is traded internationally?**



**Rashid Sumaila**





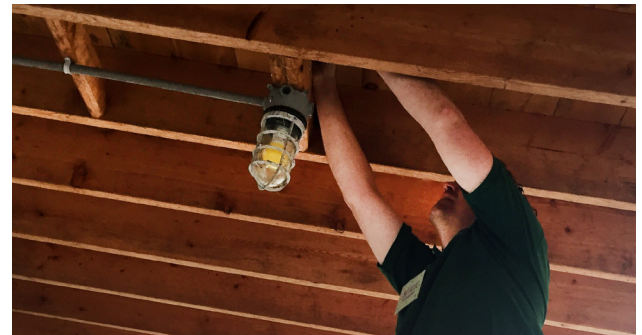
# Avian Rescue Mission!

Submitted By Kristen Laverty

**ON A DREARY MONDAY MORNING**, Dave Nagel and his son Owen observed a swallow in distress on the west end of the Oceanic porch. The mother swallow's foot was tangled in her nest and she was struggling to free herself, no doubt to go out and find food for her babies or get to her high-level job in software development or whatever else mother swallows do. After consulting with a gathering group of concerned onlookers, it was decided to alert the Island Naturalist to see what could be done. Within seconds, intrepid Marine Lab volunteer Nick Bresinsky arrived with ladder and an aura of calm confidence. He safely and gently removed the Mom, untangled her foot using scissors (ably assisted by Dave Watts) and a delicate touch, and placed her back in the nest. She immediately flew off seemingly none the worse for wear. We hope to observe her coming back and wish her well... great work by all!



NICK B., ROSE S. AND DAVE WATTS CAREFULLY CUTTING THE NESTING MATERIAL FROM THE SWALLOW'S FOOT.



MARINE LAB VOLUNTEER NICK BRESINSKY GETTING THE JOB DONE.



NICK B. AND ROSE STOCKMAYER HELPING A MAMA BIRD OUT (DAVE AND OWEN NAGEL IN BACKGROUND).



## All Drinks Considered: News from Happy Hour

**JUST LIKE THE MAILMAN**, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds", nothing can keep us IA conferees from a Star-Garita (or really whatever it is Matt and Lauri make...) As the winds blew, and rains whipped faces, conferees could be seen trudging dutifully up the path towards Happy Hour.

**MANY COULD BE HEARD** shouting that they couldn't hear with everyone huddled in Newton East, but only those destined for a rocky boat ride off-island could be seen leaving the party. In fact, in a complete opposite outcome as on day one, last call was not met with a swift exit towards dinner. It must be that desire to enjoy Happy Hour in happy weather that had the majority of you voting to travel to the future... maybe you are thinking of a day when the sun is shining?

**THANK YOU ALL** for your support of *All Drinks Considered*, please remember to continue voting with donations so that I have plenty to write about.

By Aliza Majewski



## Advice

SUBMITTED BY ISABEL DENHAM

Pope Francis' secret to happiness: "Slow down. Take time off. Live and let live. Don't proselytize. Work for peace. Work at a job that offers basic human dignity. Don't hold on to negative feelings. Move calmly through life. Enjoy art, books, and playfulness."

## Star Island IA Volunteer Project

We have been asked to help with fencing the Pelican garden, weeding, and trellising tomatoes.

**WHEN:** Wednesday • 1:30–3 p.m.

**WHERE:** Meet at Pel garden

**BRING:** A hat, closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and water  
**PROVIDED:** Gloves and tools will be supplied.

**Help provide food for the Island!**

- GINGER DIXON, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

# Coming Home

By Becky Miller

**THEY SAY YOU CAN'T GO HOME AGAIN.** I've always wondered what that meant. Maybe because, up until recently, I'd never really been "away" from home.

I was born in Alexandria, Virginia, moved to Reston, Virginia when I was four years old, and lived there till I graduated from college. I didn't even live away from home during those academic years, opting instead to commute to George Mason University's campus for classes.

I lived with various roommates and eventually a boyfriend who turned into a husband, always in Virginia, never further than 30 minutes from my parents and home town. We moved to Manassas, where I raised my kids, got divorced, and changed careers a few times. But always close to home.

Leaving, for me, meant vacation, and coming home meant coming home from vacation. And my most frequent and farthest flung vacation was always Star Island. Which is sort of twisted, because I always felt that when I arrived at Star, I had, in fact, come "home."

Still, the phrase "you can't go home again," is, I understand, a reference to being away from where you grew up for a long time, and then, upon return, finding it has changed so much that it no longer feels like the home you remember.

And because I had never left home and returned, I couldn't relate. Until now.

Last March, I sold my house, my car, my furniture, and moved to Oregon. Not for a job. Not for a guy. For an adventure, really. I found myself with no kids at home, no parents to care for, no partner to consider, and the realization that I had never lived anywhere except within a small, 25 mile radius, which seemed suddenly quite small indeed. And so I left.

Now, here it is summer, end of July, time for the annual pilgrimage to Star. And despite time change, air fare, increased travel time, and

doubts about leaving my kitty for 12 days, I have returned to my home—or at least, my spirit's home. And next week, I'll return, for the first time ever, to my childhood home, the one I lived in as a kid, the one most of my friends and community still live in, and I find myself strangely confused about how I feel. I miss my friends, and the familiarity of knowing how to get places. I long to be in the presence of those who already know me and don't need my entire life story and have to start from scratch to see if we really have enough in common to stay in one another's lives. And yet...

**There's a piece of me that feels a freshness, a clean slatedness, that comes from being unknown in a new town.**

No one has expectations of my behavior or my depth or my manner of being in this world. I can literally be whoever I want to be, or had been becoming all along, without the tug by family and old friends to return to that which is known..

I'm coming home to Reston and Manassas, and I'm guessing they haven't changed much in the last four months. But even if they had, I'm not so sure the saying "you can't go home again" actually refers to everything else changing. I'm starting to believe it has more to do with me changing. I'm starting to believe that perhaps the saying might instead say something like, "you can go home again, but don't expect it to feel the way it did or for you to feel the way you did, or for you to still fit into the space you once occupied while there, or for your friends to accept the new, improved version of you without question or for your family to treat you suddenly with more respect instead of like the five-year-old they all remember you to be."

Or something like that.



## Enhance your experience and well-being on Star Island with Massage Therapy

Sign-up sheets are located at the front desk

### Overheard on the Porch

"If you're going to travel to outer space, you should bring a goat."

Submit your own *Overheard on Star* quotations to [thesandpiperIA@gmail.com](mailto:thesandpiperIA@gmail.com)

## An Affirmation of Gratitude

By Jonathan Coe

I am grateful, to wake sober and refreshed on Star Island  
 For a hearty breakfast of oatmeal, french toast, coffee and good conversation with Clarisse P and Jessica PP  
 For the smell of wind-driven ocean rain  
 For my LL Bean raincoat on a stormy day  
 For a quick afternoon nap to the sound of wind-driven rain  
 To take a hot shower  
 To watch Matt G make an origami cube for Roxy  
 For a few after-dinner games of cribbage with Miriam

**For all of you.**