

6-5-2012

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Stephanie Lawler

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Recommended Citation

Lawler, Stephanie, "burg Blogs : 2012 : 06 : 05 : T-minus 5 Days and Counting..." (2012). *USFSP News and Press Releases* . 90.
https://digital.usfsp.edu/usfsp_news_press_releases/90

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T-minus 5 Days and Counting...

Posted [June 5, 2012](#) at 4:52 pm by [Stephanie Lawler '11](#)



Exploring the Deep Blue

In 5 days I will be leaving for my first research cruise. Since I was young I have always been intrigued by the ocean. For this reason I received my bachelors degree in Environmental Science and will be continuing my education in Marine Science/Marine Biology. In addition to this cruise, I have spent the last few months interning and volunteering in various Marine Science fields. I hope to gain so much from these experiences.

Excitement and preparation began last weekend as I collected most of the things needed for this adventure. Not having spent much time on a boat I was taken aback by the limited amenities. Last minute shopping provided me the materials necessary for a great voyage. Three types of sea sickness medicine, sturdier boat shoes, new bathing suits, board shorts and new glasses straps were just a few of the items that have been packed for this trip. Smart packing is key to insuring a successful trip.

No turning back now..

My adventure begins Saturday with an early morning wake up followed by a drive to Ft. Myers to catch the ferry. From there the three hour ferry with arrive in Key West, where I will then board the RV Bellows to begin my journey. The trip will consist of 8 days on the water mapping the sea floor. I look forward to experiencing new things and becoming completely immersed in research. I will be logging my experiences and taking photos throughout my journey. I look forward to sharing these with you upon my return.

About the blogger



I am proud to be a graduate of USF St. Pete. This past fall I graduated with a bachelors degree in Environmental Science and Policy with a minor in Political Science. I am originally from Orlando and have been a resident of St. Petersburg for 3 years. This city is incredible and I have loved every moment of my time here. While at USFSP I had the opportunity to serve as an Ambassador, the President of the Student Environmental Awareness Society, and an Orientation leader. I love life and aim to experience everything it has to offer.