

Polar Obsession: On Assignment with *National Geographic* / Florida Keys Shipwreck Trail

# ALERT DIVER

The Magazine of Divers Alert Network

## RESCUE IN THE GULF OF THAILAND

DAN Was There for Me

## EMERGENCY ASCENTS

Managing the Risks

## CLOSED- CIRCUIT REBREATHERS

A New Way to Dive

## STAY WARM, STAY SAFE

Drysuit Diving in  
Extreme Cold

## CENTRAL FIJI

Exploring the  
Healthiest Reefs



AlertDiver.com / FALL 2009



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**LOCAL  
DIVING  
HOTSPOTS**

San Clemente Island  
CALIFORNIA  
Palm Beach County  
FLORIDA

## Scuba U

Hitting the books at Barry University

IT'S THE BEGINNING OF FALL SEMESTER at Miami's Barry University, and for the diving industry majors the next nine months are going to be brutal. There are at least 25 days of scuba diving on the schedule. 300 of their classroom hours will be diving-related and in the spring, there's an intensive two-week destination experience in Bonaire. Summer could be more of the same, with an internship at a dive resort or major dive retailer.

The idea of majoring in scuba may seem like a fantasy, but it's a legitimate course of study at Barry. Since 1989 the school has offered the world's only Bachelor of Science degree with a diving industry major. All jealousy aside, it's a full academic program complete with core classes and a business minor requirement. The diving curriculum includes multiple DAN courses such as Oxygen First Aid for Scuba Diving Injuries, First Aid for Hazardous Marine Life Injuries, Automated External Defibrillators for Scuba Diving and On-Site Neurological Assessment for Divers. Students who participate in the Bonaire trip must also prepare a Risk Management and Dive Safety Operations Plan, based on DAN criteria.

The diving industry program is designed to equip students with a broad range of knowledge and skills in everything from dive safety to the business of diving, says program Director Sharon Kegeles, but it's not a replacement for traditional instructor development courses. Students who wish to pursue careers as full-time instructors must enroll in the off-campus IDC program of their choice.

About 15 students enter the major program each year, and many students seize the chance to customize their educational experience by pairing diving with other professional interests. "I am gaining more from

this program than I ever expected or even thought possible," said Megan Arnold, a senior from Kansas City, Kan., who switched from elementary education. "I can incorporate teaching with my No.1 passion, diving."

— SANDY SONDRÖL

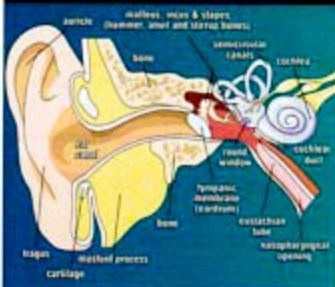
### FOR MORE INFO

LEARN MORE about Barry University's Diving Industry program at [www.barry.edu/diving](http://www.barry.edu/diving)

**DAN**  
ONLINE SEMINAR

## Ears and Diving

Learn the secret to safe, pain-free diving from our medical experts



What's the most problematic piece of equipment in diving? Your ears. Studies show that more than 65 percent of all divers will experience a pressure injury to the middle ear — called middle ear barotrauma — sometime during their diving career. And let's face it: When your ears are injured or you can't equalize water pressure, you can't enjoy the dive.

The key to beating the odds is education, which is why DAN has created its "Ears and Diving" web-based seminar. Drawn from a presentation by Dr. Frans Cronjé, president of DAN Southern Africa, this multimedia seminar uses medical animation, photos and otoscope video to review the physiology of the ear and demonstrate the most effective equalization techniques.

The seminar takes about one hour to complete and is free to DAN members. To get started, go to [www.DiversAlertNetwork.org](http://www.DiversAlertNetwork.org) and click on the "Online Seminars" link.



Sandy Sondrol



Director Sharon Kegeles and senior Megan Arnold.