

UM hosts 'Ocean Kids Day' for disadvantaged youth



University of Miami student educators Chris Jehle and Marisa Moon teach students from Dunbar, Holmes, Miami Gardens and Earlington Heights elementary schools about plankton and microscopic marine organisms.

BY MARIE GUMA-DIAZ

The Future Interests in Nature and the Sea (FINSEA) Foundation, University of Miami (UM) Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, and the UM undergraduate conservation and marine science organizations: Honor Society Rho Rho Rho and the Marine Mammal Stranding Team recently conducted the second annual "Ocean Kids Day" at the UM Coral Gables campus.

The event hosted 100 elementary school-children from low performing, high-needs elementary schools, for a day of marine science adventures. The experience aimed to

both educate and inspire children about the ocean, and to generate environmental awareness and stewardship in the community.

Children from Dunbar, Holmes, Miami Gardens, and Earlington Heights elementary schools attended the fun-filled day and participated in various conservation and ocean-related activities, including a microscope station where they observed plankton samples and larval fish, and a touch tank station where the children handled sea stars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers and many other marine creatures.

For more information on FINSEA and how to donate to future outreach programs, visit online at <www.finsea.org>.