

Dr. Michelle Kominz will be participating in the Integrated Ocean Drilling Project (IODP) Expedition 317: Canterbury Basin Sea Level on board the U.S. run drill ship, R/V JOIDES Resolution. The expedition runs from November 4, 2009 through January 4, 2010 leaving from Townsville, Australia and departing at Wellington, New Zealand. The scientific crew consists of 33 scientists, including 3 staff scientists, 9 scientists from the U.S, 8 from Japan, two each from New Zealand, Australia Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom and one each from France, Korea and the People's Republic of China. The purpose of the expedition is to gather information from the sedimentary record beneath the continental shelf east of New Zealand's South Island of how sea level varied over the last 35 to 2 million years. This will be compared to work that Dr. Kominz, with colleagues, has been engaged in over the past 12 years off the east coast of the United States. By quantifying the sea level record of the southwest Pacific, the Expedition 317 scientists hope to determine if the record of the central U.S. is that of regional sea level change or if it is, as they hope, a global sea level record. The global sea level record is a fundamental goal of earth scientists because it can help scientists to unravel Earth's climatic and tectonic history. While onboard the ship, and in the following 9 to 21 months, the 29 scientists and 3 staff scientists will help to piece together the timing and character of sedimentation, the environments of sedimentation, and the evolution of ocean currents. After that period, the data will go to Dr. Kominz, who will use it in her geodynamic models to estimate the magnitude of sea level change in the Canterbury Basin. While on board Dr. Kominz will also be engaged in nearly real-time educational outreach program, which she hopes will also be used by students currently enrolled in GEOS 3220: Ocean Systems, and she will use while teaching that course in the future.

Web site for U.S. IODP:

<http://www.iodp-usio.org/default.html>

Web site for IODP:

<http://www.iodp.org/>

Web site for Canterbury Basin Expedition 317

[http://iodp.tamu.edu/scienceops/expeditions/canterbury\\_basin.html](http://iodp.tamu.edu/scienceops/expeditions/canterbury_basin.html)

Web site for R/V JOIDES Resolution educational outreach

<http://joidesresolution.org/>