Tuckerton Elementary School, Tuckerton, NJ

April 2, 2009

Dear Rutgers Scientists and Students,

Gook luck on your underwater mission. RU27 is an awesome glider! We can’t wait to watch your journey across the Atlantic Ocaean.

Will you find any hurricanes or big fish? Have a safe trip!

Mrs. Selfridge’s First Grade

Rancho Santa Fe Elementary School, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

March 24, 2009

Dear Spain,

I understand that you are getting the information on this glider. My I ask a few questions? My first question is if the glider made it all the way. If it did, congratulations!! Did you meet any species? I want to be a marine biologist when I grow up, and it will make me feel great to know that I witnessed a finding of a new species. This glider will be a major breakthrough for the United States of America. Please write back.

An eager student,
Michael K

Rancho Santa Fe Elementary School, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

March 24, 2009

In my opinion I think the glider will make it cause our technology is so good that I think it can get there. Some other explore are like turtles, Christopher Columbus, and Juan Cabrillo. It will encounter animals like sperm whales and squid. I have been studying the ocean since first grade. I'm in sixth grade and I'm in a ocean advance class. I think I know pretty good amount about the ocean. I'm hope it will make it and please reply.

Milton Avenue School, Chatham, NJ

March 24, 2009
We are cheering for the glider to make it the whole way. Do robots get scared? We wonder how warm or cold the water will be on such a long journey! Will you be able to take pictures of the sea life along the way? How fast will you be traveling? Will it be dark?
Good luck!

Sunrise Elementary School, Palm Bay, FL

March 25, 2009

Dear Coastal Ocean Observation Lab Of Rutgers University,

We are a fourth grade class of twenty-three members. There are 920 students at Sunrise Elementary School in Palm Bay, Florida. Our school is three years young and we are proud of our technology that we use to learn. Our school is in Brevard County, 23 miles from Cape Canaveral. Our area is known for Space Shuttle launches and the tourist area of Orlando.

We are excited to take part in your energy glider project across the Atlantic. We do think the glider will be successful because your students have tested and tested the glider. We do know that the ocean has many animals and weather conditions to explore.

We do have some questions: If a hurricane comes, will the glider stay on course or become lost? What will happen if the glider encounters a shark? Can someone steal the glider?

Mrs. Majcher's Class
Grade Four, Sunrise Elementary School

Cecil S. Collins School, Barnegat, NJ

March 26, 2009

My name is Jenna and I go to the Cecil S. Collins School. I am 10 years old and I live in Barnegat. I am really excited about this mission. I think the robot is going to make it across the Atlantic Ocean into Europe. I know that Columbus was able to sail from Europe to North America. That is why I think that the robot will be able to do it from North America to Europe. I have never done anything like this before, so this is a learning experience for me! I know that this mission has been tried before and it didn't succeed, but I believe it will this time. If you get this message please write me back. I am very excited and will be waiting to here from you!!!

Love,
Jenna

Brunswick Acres Elementary School, Kendall Park, NJ

March 27, 2009

My name is Nikita and I'm a student at Brunswick Acres Elementary School. My 4th grade teacher, Mrs. Benoff, told our class that you are sending a glider underwater across the Atlantic Ocean. Our class is also going to learn about the ocean. Since we already learned about some sea creatures we now things about the ocean.

I think it is wonderful that a glider is going to teach us more about the ocean and the climate. I do think it will encounter sharks. I wonder why the glider is yellow?

The glider will probably make it because of how it will rock or move around. Are there going to be other gliders going around the other oceans too? Are the gliders shark proof? How does the glider detect information?

I hope your mission is as successful as Christopher Columbus.

Fondly,
Nikita

Arbor Elementary School, Piscataway, NJ

March 27, 2009

To whom it may concern:

We are a 5th grade class in Arbor School, and we (23 students) are very excited to take part in this historical event. As a class, we have a hope that the robot will reach its final destination- Europe. Even though while we discussed it we came up with many concerns that makes us think the robot might not make it. There are too many things that are unknown and we are very curious about. On the other hand we can appreciate the advancement in technology, based on what we have just learned not long ago about the explorers that came from Europe.

We thought about explorers like Magellan and Ponce de Leon, one making it almost around the globe the other making it to the southern part of the United States. Those explorers and this robot have some similarities and differences. They are all being sponsored by someone/ or some organization; as well as traveling across the Atlantic Ocean. The differences are many but some of the most important ones that we came up with are: we are traveling in opposite direction from the explorers, who were coming from Europe to the Americas. Secondly, The explorers traveled in wooden ships with no technology and no maps to guide them. While this metal robot is traveling underwater, it is probably fully equipped with technology and someone is controlling it from land. This all shows how much the times have changed and advanced.

As excited as we are about this mission, we have several concerns. We thought about the damages that animals can cause on the robot along the way, plus maybe encountering animals never seen before. On the website it stated that it was a slow moving robot glider and if it is slow we thought about other problems. For instance, if it is slow won’t the strong currents shift the direction of the glider? Or even the pressure, won’t it push the glider robot further down? Won’t the hurricanes and storms during the summer make it difficult for controlling the robot? Last, but not least if a damage occurs during its travels due to animals or because it hit corals how is it going to get fixed? And what would happen if the damage is small but gets progressively worse with in those 6 months of travel? As you can see we have many concerns.

We will be checking the blog and keeping track of this mission because we are now going to be part of history and it is so very exciting. Good luck to all that are involved in this special mission.

P.S. Hello to the Europeans receiving this Glider robot!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Garcia-Martinez’s Class, Room 38

Homeschool Chem Club, Union, NJ

Sunday, March 29, 2009

Hola! to our friends in Europe from Homeschool Chem Club.

We are a group of 7 home schooled high school students from New Jersey. We meet on alternating weeks for fun Science learning activities and we are very excited to be part of this wonderful ocean adventure.

If you are reading this then our little buddy's journey was successful. How does it look – any shark bites, any residue from algal bloom? – We hope not. We also hope the Coriolis force didn't alter its course.

We were discussing what our Glider might encounter on its journey and we thought of sharks, giant squid, Atlantis, and SpongeBob Square Pants.

We're sure the glider will provide us with some excellent information on water conditions, location of marine animals and plants, and global warming,

Thank you for sharing your time and talent with us to work on this project.

God bless our Planet!

Abbie C., Alex W., Ellen R., Jonathan A., Jonathan C., Luke C., Marcus C., and Chem Club Coordinator Cecilia W.

Wooster School, Danbury, CT

April 3, 2009

Hello-
If you are reading our letter this means that the Rutgers University glider has reached Europe! We know there have been successful journeys with people boating and even swimming across the Atlantic and now

with a robotic glider. Congratulations on your success! After learning so much from your other launches we hoped you would achieve your goal.

Our class had many concerns about the long trip for the glider and the many obstacles it might face in the ocean. We wondered what could happen if it breaks? Do you try to go out to find it? They must be expensive to build.

We were concerned that barnacles might attach and interfere with the satellite transmission. We know that scientists put befouling paint on sea turtle transmitters to avoid this problem. Barnacles could also weigh it down and make it difficult for the glider to surface.

Did the glider encounter lots of harsh weather conditions? We know, like the sea turtles we study in class, changes in currents and bad weather could slow the glider down and send it off course. We hope the glider collected lots of important information on weather, global warming, and the health of our oceans.

We think the glider probably bumped into many different plants and animals on its travels. Maybe even a new species.

We look forward to reading about all the exciting information the glider has collected. Thank you for inviting us to be a part of your program.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lener’s 4th Grade Science Class

Hampton Academy, Hampton, NJ

April 4, 2009

Hello,

We live in Hampton, New Hampshire and our class has been reading about your glider. We have dedicated our time in science class to research it. Our class was amazed that it was going to be the first unmanned robot to travel across the Atlantic Ocean by itself. It will be well worth the wait to get a response from you because the glider is a scientific marvel! We wanted to participate in this scientific endeavor to help make oceanographic history.

We have some questions about this journey. Was the glider prepared for any interactions with sea life? Will you send a different glider if this one doesn't make it to Europe? Is there a set destination where it will take shore? Will there be more gliders like this one to travel across the Ocean? There are so many things that can go wrong, so we wish you luck.

Thank you for letting us be a part of this historic event. We look forward to your
return letter.

Sincerely,
8th Grade Hampton Academy Students
Oliver B, Anna C, Alison O, Zoë P, Sam B, Morgan E, Katie H, Daniella G, Cole O, Courtney C, Marian W, Amanda D, Kelley C, Naethan R, Rayanne R, Nick B, Sam S, Matt I, Chris C, Chris D, Hunter G