



COURTESY PHOTO

**Endicott College students Julian Dufresne of Acton and Megan Alonso of Wilton, Conn. with research buoy Nomad II aboard Capt. Therese Sauvageau's lobster boat, which is stationed in Beverly.**

## Endicott and local boat captain launch research buoy

Endicott College have collaborated with Beverly boat Captain Therese Sauvageau, faculty members and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to launch a drifter buoy that will monitor currents in the Atlantic Ocean.

The research buoy, dubbed Nomad II, was brought out to sea by Julian Dufresne of Acton and Megan Alonso of Wilton, Conn. aboard Sauvageau's lobster boat, *Sea Anchor*, which is stationed in Beverly. Sauvageau has been working with NOAA and other agencies for the past few years to monitor lobster populations and track temperature trends within the Gulf of Maine in an effort to preserve local marine resources. A GPS tracking device attached to Nomad II transmits precise position data, which will be used to help predict surface currents that carry lobster larvae and spread aquatic dangers, such as toxic algal blooms.

This is the second time Endicott has been involved in this initiative, thanks largely to the efforts and associations of Dr. Mari Butler, assistant professor of environmental sci-

ence, with the assistance of Dr. Matthew Staffier, associate professor of chemistry and environmental science. Nomad I, the first research buoy to be built by Endicott students, was launched in November 2008 and continued to provide data to researchers until February 2009, when its last-known location was west of Georges Bank, heading toward Nova Scotia. So far, Nomad II seems to be a similarly successful endeavor as it documents its crazy ride through the spring currents off the coast of Massachusetts, sending signals every two hours.

The data transmitted by the buoy will be combined with that collected from its predecessor and from research buoys deployed by institutions and organizations throughout New England. The goal is to create refined simulations and models that will be used by scientists, fishermen, conservationists and students to help maintain a healthy marine ecosystem for future generations.

You can track Nomad II's journey at [www.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter/drift\\_endicott](http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/drifter/drift_endicott).