The Arabian Gulf is a young sea characterized by extreme environmental conditions, with salinity, turbidity, and sea temperatures that are well outside of the range normally experienced by corals. There is therefore incredible opportunity and interest in using coral reefs in the Gulf as a “natural laboratory” for understanding the potential impacts of future climate change in other regions as well as the capacity for corals to cope with projected temperature increases. In this lecture, Dr. John Burt will provide an overview of the natural history of the Gulf, explore how reef science has developed in the past several decades, and emphasize the need for better integration of science with management at the regional level to enhance sustainability of these unique coral reef ecosystems.

Dr. John Burt is Associate Professor of Biology and head of the Marine Biology Laboratory at New York University Abu Dhabi.

Dr. Burt’s lecture will be followed by brief discussions with two scientists from the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research:

- **Dr. Shaker Al-Hazeem**, Coral Reef Ecologist in the Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Marine Environmental Department
- **Dr. James Bishop**, Senior Research Scientist in the Environment and Life Sciences Program

**Tuesday 29 April, 2014**

6:00 pm

AUK Auditorium

This lecture will be conducted in English