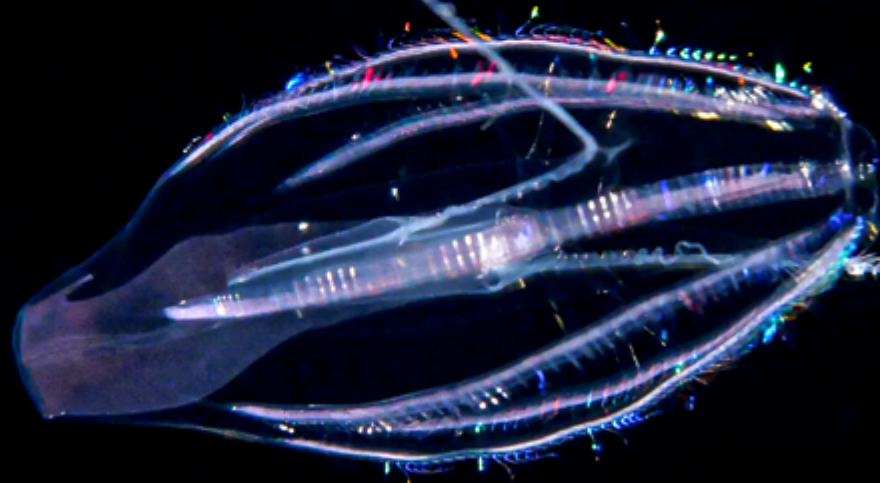


OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY®

47th Annual Awards Program – June 3 - 5, 2021



ROLEX

Welcome



© JOANNA SMART



Welcome to the 47th anniversary celebration of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society®.

It has always been a great pleasure for me as president of the Society to bring the “family” together each year in New York City, so of course it is with great disappointment that for the second year we are unable to do so.

A year ago, as the pandemic was beginning to spread throughout the world, the board of directors made the difficult decision to put all scholarship and internship activities on hold. 2020 was the first time in the Society’s history that we did not put Scholars or Interns in the field.

But there is good news – the Society has new energy and is working with our hosts and sponsors to safely get our incoming 2021 Scholars and Interns started on their journeys.

We bring three new Rolex Scholars and five new interns into our family for a total of 103 Rolex Scholars and 107 interns since the inception of the Society, and all of this has been accomplished by our all-volunteer organization. Forty-seven years of volunteers have been selfless in their efforts serving as directors, officers, committee members, coordinators, and technical advisors all motivated to support the Society’s mission “to promote educational activities associated with the underwater world.”

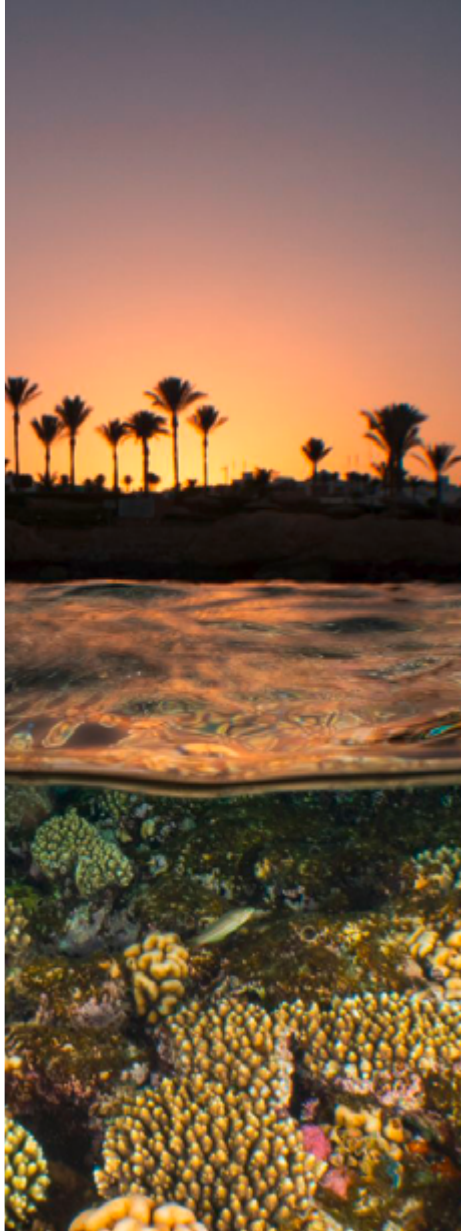
None of this would have been possible without the incredible support by the Society’s many organizational partners and corporate sponsors throughout the years. The one constant in the Society’s evolution has been Rolex which continues to support the Society as part of its Perpetual Planet Initiative.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the directors and officers of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® to thank 47 years’ worth of volunteers, hosts, organizational partners, and corporate sponsors for supporting us and sharing in our dream of a better planet.

Steve Barnett

Steve Barnett, 1990 Rolex Scholar
President

Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society®



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
SINCE 1974



OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY®

47th Annual Awards Program

SCHOLAR SYMPOSIUM – THURSDAY
INTERN SYMPOSIUM – FRIDAY
AWARDS CEREMONY – SATURDAY

2019 ROLEX SCHOLARS YEAR IN REVIEW

Thriving in Uncertainty

Neha Acharya-Patel

2019 North American Rolex Scholar

One Ocean, One Health

Kim S. Hildebrandt

2019 European Rolex Scholar

Hope

Joanna N. Smart

2019 Australasian Rolex Scholar

2021 DAN ROLEX DIVER OF THE YEAR

Richard Moon, M.D.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 ROLEX SCHOLARSHIPS

Jamil H. Wilson 2021 North American Rolex Scholar

Arzucan N. Askin 2021 European Rolex Scholar

Amelia Mannering 2021 Australasian Rolex Scholar

History

From its roots in the Midwestern United States 47 years ago, the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® has grown into a global organization. 106 Rolex Scholars — in North America, Europe, and Australasia — along with 112 interns in North America and Europe have created a significant legacy for our organization. Many of our Rolex Scholars and interns have gone on to distinguished careers in the underwater sciences, marine research, and photography.

It all began in 1969, when Joyce Markstahler and Jim Mackie-Smith formulated the idea of a Middle Coast dive show. They approached Harry Shanks, President-YMCA Metro Council of Chicago, for assistance in developing the Our World-Underwater (OWU) Dive and Travel Exposition. Harry supplemented the initial cadre of volunteers with the officers of the Metro Council and premiered that first OWU show at Chicago's Playboy Hotel in 1971.

The initial idea was that the profits from the show would be donated to the YMCA scuba program in Chicago. Joyce named the new dive show "Our World-Underwater," and LeRoy Winbush designed the logo, which is still in use today. The upper half of the logo features the Great Lakes of the United States, reflecting the primary diving environment of the Society's founders and supporters. The logo is a permanent reminder of the Society's roots.

San Francisco Bay, Joyce spoke with Dr. Joe MacInnis, a Canadian physician and well-known explorer. They discussed a proposal from the OWU Board of Directors to use \$1,500 of the OWU dive show profits to finance research. Dr. MacInnis in turn proposed an alternative idea. He suggested using the money to invest in an individual with an experience-based scholarship that would cultivate the individual in the industry and the underwater world. Then and there, on September 3, 1972, the Our World-Underwater Scholarship was born.

During the next year and a half, Joyce Markstahler and Joe MacInnis worked to develop a list of hosts and experiences that would provide a credible scholarship experience to a young person, so they could be developed as a future steward of the waters of the world. The inaugural Our World-Underwater Scholarship was awarded to Mark Bensen in 1974.

In 1972, Harry Shanks and Joyce Markstahler traveled to San Francisco to attend the "Man in the Sea" dive show. During a cruise on

The first few scholarships were managed by the Scholarship Committee of Our World-Underwater, which was initially chaired by Dr. MacInnis.

In 1978, the Scholarship Committee of Our World-Underwater was incorporated as a separate entity in the State of Illinois as the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® (OWUSS). For many years, the annual meetings for the Scholarship Society were held in Chicago during the OWU show.

In 2000, the directors of OWU sold the rights of the dive show. Since that time, the Scholarship Society is no longer associated with OWU, and in 2005, the Scholarship Society moved its annual meeting to New York City. The Scholarship Society has thrived through the invaluable assistance of its many dedicated volunteers and sponsors, who have worked hard to promote educational activities associated with the underwater world. Rolex Watch USA has been the Society's "partner in education" since 1974. As the Society's Founding Partner, Rolex has worked with the board of directors in the form of advice and counsel since our inception. Additional support comes from throughout the

diving industry in the form of diving and underwater photographic equipment, advanced and specialized dive training, hosting experiences and subsidized travel, and an engraved diver's watch donated by Rolex to each of the scholars.

In 2001, Rolex SA, Geneva, saw the positive impact of the award and agreed to sponsor a European Rolex Scholar, giving the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® international reach and exposure. In 2001, the scholarship of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® was renamed the Rolex Scholarship and all scholars dating back to 1974 became Rolex Scholars.

In 2007, Rolex Australia further expanded the Society's international outreach with the addition of the Australasian Rolex Scholarship. In addition to the Rolex Scholarships, OWUSS currently offers internships in North America. The North American summer internships are offered for a one- to three-month period and are primarily directed at college undergraduates. Internship recipients receive a grant to help fund travel, room and board, and a stipend to cover living expenses.

106 ROLEX SCHOLARS, 112 INTERNS,
AND SO MANY VOLUNTEERS
AROUND THE WORLD HAVE
ALL CREATED A SIGNIFICANT
LEGACY FOR OUR ORGANIZATION
AND OUR FUTURE.



2019

NORTH AMERICAN ROLEX SCHOLAR

NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL



© NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL



© NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL



© NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL

YEAR IN REVIEW

- > Over 180 Dives
- > 137 Hours compressed or 6 days underwater
- > 4 Continents During Scholarship Year (bringing my total up to all 7 continents)
- > 9 Countries (Canada, United States, Mexico, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Antarctica)
- > Ranged from -62.459850, -59.794769 to 69.425517, -105.174554
- > 50 Experiences
- > Temperature Range: -1.5C (Canadian Arctic) – 32C (Florida Keys)
- > Distance Travelled: 137476 Km

EXPERIENCES

- > Learnt about hyperbaric physiology and chamber operation at the USC Wrigley Catalina Island field station
- > Was introduced to underwater archaeology and 3D photogrammetry by the Underwater Science unit of Indiana University
- > Joined the 2019 Atlantis Igemakers trip with a group of extremely accomplished underwater photographers in the Philippines
- > Undertook coral restoration efforts, and MPA monitoring with local communities in Raja Ampat
- > Maintained and updated a remote marine observatory in the Canadian Arctic with Ocean Networks Canada
- > Joined the Arctic Research Foundation for a research expedition studying the biological oceanography of the Kitikmeot Sea
- > Surveyed biodiversity, and specimen collection for the Oceanwise Vancouver Aquarium
- > Worked with local fisheries in Baja California, Mexico to learn about sustainable fishing practices, and autonomous management

- > Contributed to the development of a genetic reference library of cryptic fish in the Gulf of California
- > Accompanied renowned shark scientist on a citizen science expedition to biopsy oceanic mantas at the Revillagigedo Archipelago
- > Worked as cage captain and crew on the Rodney Fox White Shark expedition vessel
- > Visited the Poor Knights Marine Reserve, and tracked a population of false killer whales with the Young Ocean Explorers group
- > Worked with Chilean scientists studying Antarctic sponge holobionts in the South Shetland Islands

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- > Spent World Oceans day at CoralPalooza 2019 outplanting corals at the world's biggest coral restoration effort
- > Became an SDI Scuba Instructor, and PFI Freediver Instructor
- > Freediving Records: 45m PB in Free Immersion and 40m in constant ballast
- > Introduced to technical diving, and became comfortable with decompression diving
- > Dove with orcas, penguins, blue ringed octopus, and over 15 species of sharks
- > Learnt Spanish
- > Developed proficiency and a passion for underwater photography and videography
- > Dove in both polar regions for research purposes
- > Made meaningful relationships with countless individual around the world doing important things to protect the ocean



© NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL



2019

EUROPEAN ROLEX SCHOLAR

KIM S. HILDEBRANDT



NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- > Developed knowledge and practical skills in the medicine, rescue, and rehabilitation of 1 reptile, 1 bird, 1 cetacean, 1 mustelid, and numerous pinniped and shark species from 6 rescue programmes, 6 aquariums, and 5 shark research programmes
- > Assisted the care team and veterinarian in the world's first (beluga) whale sanctuary
- > Data collection and release of >500 pufflings for Iceland's Puffling Patrol
- > Learned from Manta Trust researcher who conducted world's first contactless underwater ultrasound scans of pregnant wild reef manta rays
- > Crossed the Antarctic circle, reached 68° southern latitude and dived in -1°C on an Oceanwide Diving Expedition to the Falklands, South Georgia, and Antarctica
- > Part of dive group who were first to have ever dived on historically famous Point Wild, Elephant Island
- > Became a PADI Scuba Instructor

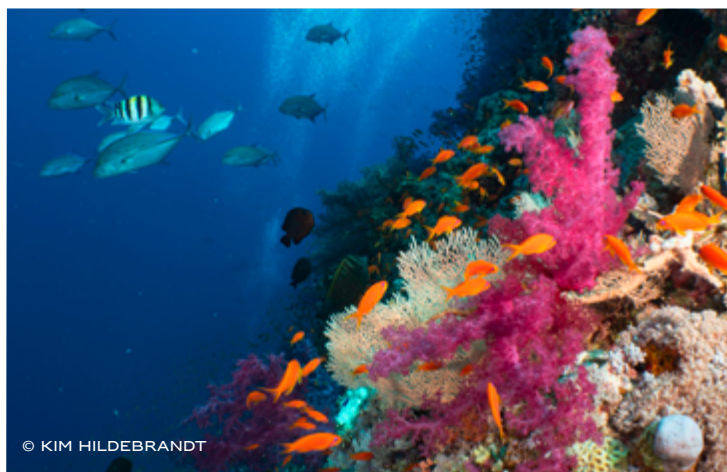


YEAR IN REVIEW

- > >200 dives
- > Continents: travelled to and dived on all 7 continents in 1 year, dived between 2 tectonic plates
- > Countries: 16
USA, Sweden, UK, Portugal, Malta, Egypt, Maldives, Iceland, Canada, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Argentina, Falkland Islands, South Georgia
- > Flights: 60 flights
- > Range in latitudes: 68° 11' S - 63° 26' N
- > Nights at sea: 43
- > Number of wrecks dived:
12 (5 in Malta, 6 in the Red Sea, 1 in Fiji)

CERTIFICATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- > PADI: Divemaster, Open Water Scuba Instructor, Drysuit Diver
- > Global Underwater Explorers:
Fundamentals (John Kendall), Cave Diver 1 (Kelvin Davidson)
- > DAN: Diving First Aid for Professional Divers
- > Underwater Photography Workshops by Alexander Mustard, Paul Duxfield, Phil and Anne Medcalf
- > Gates Underwater Housings STO
- > Editing and colour grading of underwater video



EXPERIENCES

- > The Costa Lab, University of California Santa Cruz:
Participated in translocation field experiment studying the thermoregulation and deep diving physiology of northern elephant seals with tag technology
- The Marine Mammal Center:
Followed clinical procedures and necropsies in the world's largest marine mammal hospital
- > Alaska SeaLife Center:
Monitored pre-transport acclimatization of rescued sea otters
- > Olive Ridley Project Sea Turtle Rescue Center:
Veterinary internship
- > SeaLife Trust Beluga Whale Sanctuary and Puffin Hospital:
Assistance in teaching medical behaviours to belugas; monitored population status of world's largest puffin colony in Iceland

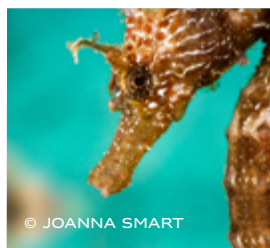




2019

AUSTRALASIAN ROLEX SCHOLAR

JOANNA N. SMART



YEAR IN REVIEW:

- > Over 150 hours underwater
- > More than 15 hours on a rebreather
- > More than 18 hours on twin tanks
- > Dived in more than 8 Oceans and Seas
- > Including the Pacific Ocean, Southern Ocean, Mediterranean Sea, North Sea, Indian Ocean, Coral Sea, Bismarck Sea, North Atlantic Ocean,
- > Over 70 flights
- > 18 Locations
California, New York, Florida, Hawaii, Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, England, Scotland, Italy, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Norway, New Zealand
- > Travelled the equivalent of 4 times around the world and halfway to the moon.

CERTIFICATIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- > GUE Fundamentals technical pass
- > Twin tanks
- > OceanReef Full Face Mask Diver
- > PADI Advanced Rebreather Diver (AP Buddy Inspiration)
- > Coxswain Grade 1
- > 3-D Photogrammetry courses

EXPERIENCES:

- > Collaborated with 27 different hosting sponsors
- > Worked with 3 Major research institutions:
 - University of Western Australia, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, USC Wrigley Institute, Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber
- > Visited 7 diving operators
Beqa Adventure Divers, Lady Elliot Island Eco Resort, Rodney Fox Expeditions, MV Oceania, Dive Centre Bondi, Lust 4 Rust Diving, Dive Tutukaka
- > Worked with 4 businesses
Tritonia Scientific, Ocean Reef, Ocean Rainforest, Blue Latitudes
- > Learnt from 4 underwater communicators
National Geographic, Down Under Aquatic Imaging, Backscatter Photo Video, Shaun Wolfe Photography
- > Supported the work of 6 not for profits
Mahonia Na Dari, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, Blue Latitudes Foundation, Monterey Bay Aquarium, California Science Centre, Major Projects Foundation

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS:

- > Undertook my first (of many) international long-haul flights
- > Went on Assignment with David Doubilet and Jennifer Hayes for National Geographic.
- > Published 2 articles in magazines (Ocean Geographic and Scuba Diver).
- > Produced a YouTube mini-series on women in STEM in conjunction with the Blue Latitudes Foundation.
- > Farmed vegetables in biodomes 10m underwater in Noli, Italy.
- > Became an aquarium exhibit for a day at Monterey Bay Aquarium and California Science Centre.
- > Learnt how to farm seaweeds and provided the first underwater footage of a seaweed farm in the Faroe Islands.
- > Piloted an ROV at 1000m depth with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.
- > Went on my first Liveaboard with MV Oceania in Papua New Guinea.
- > Saw my first Great White Shark with Rodney Fox Expeditions in South Australia.
- > Solved the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland.
- > Flew a drone for the first time.
- > Met countless incredible and inspirational women including her deepness, Dr. Sylvia Earle and diving royalty, Valerie Taylor.
- > Got slapped in the face by a bull sharks' tail in Fiji.
- > Operated a hyperbaric chamber on Catalina Island, California.
- > Joined 99 other young ocean leaders for the Sustainable Ocean Alliance Youth Leadership Summit in Oslo.
- > Contributed to world-class research on the Great Southern Reef in Western Australia.
- > Dived to 30m on a rebreather with Pete Mesley in New Zealand.
- > Went to my first science fair and presented to high school students in San Diego
- > Contributed to cutting edge business development and environmental management of oil rig platforms to artificial reefs in California.

2019 Rolex Scholars

NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL



"NOT MANY PEOPLE GET SUCH A UNIQUE CHANCE OF SELF-DISCOVERY SO EARLY IN LIFE, AND FOR THIS I AM ETERNALLY GRATEFUL. I HAVE EMERGED FROM THE YEAR WITH SO MUCH MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF, AND A GREATER ABILITY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS AND PERSPECTIVES THAN MY OWN."

© MARK STRICKLAND



© BOAZ SAMORAI

KIM S. HILDEBRANDT



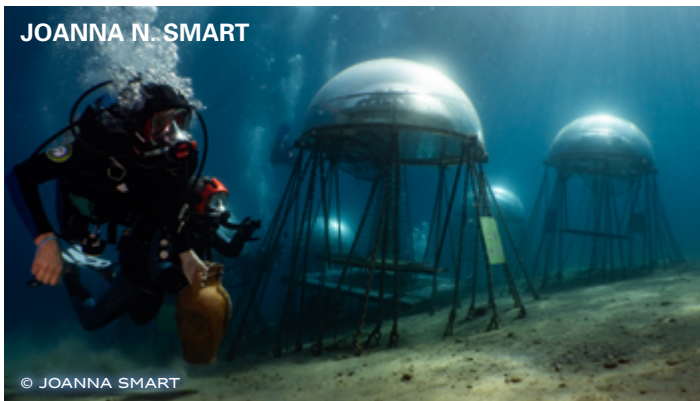
© LENA KAVANDER

"WHAT HAS INSPIRED ME MOST THROUGHOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP YEAR WERE THE DIVERSE LIFE STORIES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE COMMITTED THEIR LIVES TO THE OCEAN. THIS MAKES ME INCREDIBLY CURIOUS WHERE MY OWN PATH WILL LEAD TO. I WILL FOREVER BE THANKFUL TO THE OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY FOR OPENING UP PERSPECTIVES WHICH I WOULD HAVE NOT EVEN DREAMED OF BEFORE."



© ELENA JÄGER

JOANNA N. SMART

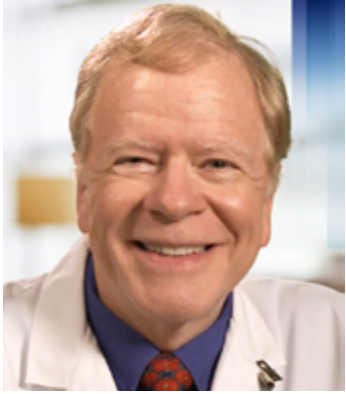


© JOANNA SMART

"NEVER HAS THERE BEEN A TIME IN HISTORY WHERE STORIES OF DESTRUCTION, SPECIES EXTINCTION AND HABITAT LOSS LEAVE US FEELING MORE HELPLESS. THROUGH THE SCHOLARSHIP, I WAS ABLE TO EXPLORE A DIFFERENT FUTURE. ONE WHERE ACTION, CREATIVITY, INGENUITY AND INNOVATION CAN HELP SOLVE SOME OF OUR MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS."



© MARTIN SAYER



2021

DAN ROLEX
DIVER OF THE YEAR
RICHARD MOON, M.D.

Richard Moon, M.D. is a professor of anesthesiology and professor of medicine at Duke University. He is the medical director of the Duke Center for Hyperbaric Medicine and Environmental Physiology and a former medical director of DAN.

Throughout his more than 40-year career in dive medicine and research, Dr. Moon has worked to gain a better understanding of how the human body functions at environmental extremes. His research focuses on gas exchange and cardiorespiratory function in the body while deep underwater or at high altitude.

Moon earned his Doctor of Medicine at McGill University in Montreal and did several internships, residencies and fellowships at the University of Toronto and Duke University. He began working at the Duke hyperbaric center in 1979. Throughout his career Moon has investigated numerous phenomena that affect divers, including immersion pulmonary edema, arterial gas embolism, hypoxia, and decompression sickness. He has also worked to improve the decompression procedures used in altitude diving and has studied the utility of novel breathing gases in decompression.

In addition to being a prolific researcher, Moon teaches and practices medicine. He has won multiple awards for teaching and mentoring medical students. And not

only has he enhanced our understanding of diving and treatment of injured divers, he has provided hyperbaric oxygen therapy and other medical care, advice, and assistance directly to hundreds of divers who were suffering from diving-related injuries.

Moon's support for explorers and adventurers goes beyond treating injured people and establishing safety standards and procedures; he also works with divers and climbers prior to travel to help them determine their fitness for diving or ascending to altitude.

Beyond working with divers and travelers, Moon also directs care for people with various medical conditions who can benefit from hyperbaric oxygen therapy. These conditions include carbon monoxide poisoning, wounds that aren't healing properly, radiation-induced tissue injuries and more.

Moon's work on the effects of submersion and decompression has benefited countless divers over the years. Through his commitment and significant contributions to dive medicine, Moon has made diving safer for all.

"One of our major tasks as senior people in any field is to help the next generation, and I really love doing that," said Moon. "If the Rolex award provides more opportunities to do that I'll be absolutely ecstatic."

About DAN: The world's most recognized and respected dive safety organization, Divers Alert Network (DAN) has remained committed to the health and well-being of divers for 40 years. The organization's research, medical services and global-response programs create an extensive network that supports divers with vital services such as injury prevention, medical training, and lifesaving evacuations. Every year, hundreds of thousands of divers around the world look to DAN as their dive safety organization. Join the DAN community or learn more at DAN.org.



2021

NORTH AMERICAN
ROLEX SCHOLAR
JAMIL H. WILSON

Hailing from Columbus, Ohio, Jamil Wilson often frequented the small creek behind his house as a child and developed a strong fascination with life. As a result, Jamil dreamed of being a scientist and attended college at Cleveland State University.

To support his studies, Jamil balanced being a full-time student while working no fewer than three jobs his entire college career. Jamil began to tutor K-12 kids in predominately Black areas and received the Best Tutor of the Year award during his first year. He also worked at the Greater Cleveland Aquarium, which was the perfect juxtaposition of aquatic biology and teaching, and is where he first discovered the possibility of diving.

While working and going to school, Jamil became a member of several academic groups including The McNair Scholars program, through which he had his first scientific research experience. In 2017, Jamil investigated freshwater mussels in the Ohio Rocky River, with an emphasis on the *Leptodea fragilis* species, in an effort to determine how populations have changed over a period of 15 years. Later he was awarded a National Science Foundation REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) at the University of Puerto Rico. While there, Jamil built a successful experiment detailing the effects of severe hurricanes on the abundance of freshwater meiofauna communities. Enthused by his findings, Jamil began working further with specific meiofauna and wrote a

research proposal outlining the limitations involved in the biochemical elasticity of tardigrades. Jamil was awarded the opportunity to present his research at conferences at multiple universities, including the University of Chicago and Cornell, and was named as one of Princeton's 2018 Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Scholar Finalists.

In December of 2018, Jamil graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Music from Cleveland State University. With his degree in hand and a deep desire to dive and travel, in 2019 Jamil traveled to six U.S cities, seven different countries and earned his rescue diver certification all in less than a year's time. In addition, he became a member of the National Association of Black Scuba Divers. In 2020, despite the pandemic, Jamil obtained a virtual internship at the Smithsonian Marine Station and began working elsewhere as an Aquatic Ecologist studying algae.

Now in 2021, Jamil is proud to be a recipient of the OWUSS Rolex Scholarship and looks forward to expanding his involvement in underwater research, discovering more about ecological activism, and further developing his diving and photography skills. In the future, Jamil hopes to educate the public on sustainable solutions to issues facing the underwater world and wishes to provide guidance for other young diverse students who are interested in the pursuit of science, diving and the restoration of our planet's waters.



2021
 EUROPEAN
 ROLEX SCHOLAR
ARZUCAN N. ASKIN

Arzucan is a human geographer and political ecologist deeply passionate about marine conservation, scientific exploration, and underwater cultural heritage. Born in Berlin as the daughter of Turkish immigrants, she spent all of her childhood summers on the Aegean coast, playing in seagrass meadows and observing archaeologists excavate remnants of ancient shipwrecks.

She gained her first experience in scientific diving and underwater photography at Li Po Chun UWC in Hong Kong where she spent 2 years surveying coral populations in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Reserve. Fascinated by their resilience and after witnessing illegal dynamite fishing during a dive in Malaysia, she realized that issues at sea are the result of decisions made on land and decided to pursue her undergraduate degree in Human Geography at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).

There, she started a university-wide campaign to raise the next generation of social scientists trained to address the issues faced by our global oceans by founding the LSE Marine Social Science Expedition - the first of its kind to bridge the social and natural sciences through sailing. Turning a research vessel into an interdisciplinary think tank for the ocean, she sailed along the coast of Scotland while working on marine plastics, multispecies anthropology, geopolitics and blue economics with her team. In search for new and unconventional approaches to marine conservation in small island developing nations, she spearheaded a research expedition to investigate coastal climate

change resilience in Cuba and unexpectedly returned with a new-found appreciation for the endemic garfish. Her dedication to creative and interdisciplinary fieldwork was recognized with a fellowship from the Royal Geographical Society.

Upon graduating from the LSE, Arzucan became a PADI Divemaster and briefly joined the World Bank's West Africa Coastal Area Program, supporting the development of projects on integrated seascape management and illegal wildlife trafficking. Shifting her focus towards human-wildlife conflict, she is currently completing her MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management at the University of Oxford, where her research addresses the intersection of anthropogenic pressure and non-human charisma of marine predators. She firmly believes in the power of the arts, photojournalism and documentary filmmaking to redefine human relationships with the ocean and seeks to build her skills in these fields underwater.

The OWUSS scholarship is truly a dream come true for her, as it represents a transformative opportunity to learn advanced scientific diving techniques, further her understanding of challenges faced by different marine environments around the world and develop innovative solutions by learning from experts in the field. With the start of United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), she could not imagine a more exhilarating time to become a scholar of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society.



2021
 AUSTRALASIAN
 ROLEX SCHOLAR
AMELIA MANNERING

An upbringing filled with adventure has given Millie the opportunity to explore some of New Zealand's most remote coastal and alpine areas. From a young age, the enchanting marine world captivated her. Millie's fascination began with the discovery of alien-like species in shallow rockpools and the excitement and curiosity to understand the underwater world has only continued to grow.

At 17, Millie enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in Zoology and Marine Science at the University of Otago, New Zealand. As Millie studied and learnt to dive, her desire to protect the marine environment and its inhabitants was ignited. She has investigated the effect of anthropogenic activity on marine ecosystems through bioacoustics research at Leigh Marine Laboratory as well as oceanographic research in Doubtful Sound, Fiordland. Millie also was a volunteer for the Department of Conservation on various conservation projects on predator-free islands surrounding the mainland of New Zealand. In 2018, Millie was selected as a BLAKE Ambassador to sail on board the research schooner, Tara, from Panama to New York as part of an expedition led by the Tara Oceans Foundation. During this voyage, she worked with an international collaboration of scientists to conduct ocean biodiversity research. Greatly disturbed by the extent of plastic pollution she witnessed, her drive to protect our oceans was reinforced.

Millie pursued a Master of Science (Marine Science) degree at the University of Otago with

field work based at the Lizard Island Research Station, Great Barrier Reef. Her research examined the impact of microplastic exposure on predator-prey interactions of coral reef fish. Based on her academic merit and research potential, she was awarded a University of Otago Master's Research Scholarship as well as the John Jillett Prize for the best thesis proposal. Millie also represented New Zealand through her selection as a delegate on the 32nd Ship for World Youth Programme in 2020. Whilst sailing aboard the Nippon Maru from Japan to Mexico, she fostered her leadership capability and gained a global perspective on environmental issues and solutions.

Millie has recently completed her MSc whilst working as a research assistant at the University of Otago. Millie has enjoyed gaining more diving experience whilst also training to obtain her Scientific Diver qualification and preparing research manuscripts for publication. Millie is honoured to be selected as a 2021 OWUSS Rolex scholar. She is eager to begin her journey and especially to upgrade her diving qualifications and develop her competency as a scientific diver. Millie is looking forward to learning more about future strategies for marine conservation and research, including the advancements in technology and the resulting integration into protection plans. She hopes to use her scholarship year to discover how to best contribute towards the conservation and preservation of our incredible underwater world.

2019 Internships



Elizabeth L. Hasan
AAUS Mitchell
Scientific Diving
Research Internship



Kyra Jean M. Cipolla
Dr. Lee H. Somers
AAUS Scientific Diving
Internship



Abigail S. Dias
Divers Alert Network
Diver's Safety
Education Internship



Michael R. Langhans
National Park Service
Research Internship



Benjamin H. Farmer
Dr. Jamie L. King
REEF Marine Conservation
Internship

2021 Internships

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF UNDERWATER SCIENCES (AAUS) MITCHELL SCIENTIFIC DIVING RESEARCH INTERNSHIP



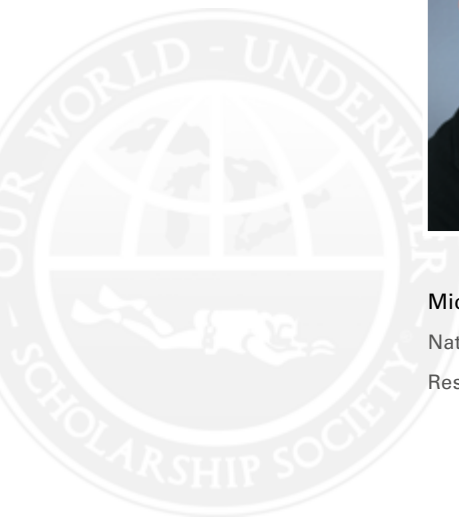
Krista Laforest
University of
North Carolina,
Wilmington

The Mitchell Scientific Diving Research Internship provides undergraduates with experiences to build upon their scientific diving education and to further help prepare them for a future in science, research diving, or scientific diving-related fields. The internship is designed for current undergraduates who are active American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) scientific divers interested in assisting with the day-to-day operations of an AAUS Organizational Member. Opportunities include planning scientific dives, preparing dive equipment, assisting in scientific diver training, participating on research projects, spending time on research boats, diving, interacting with divers, and logging dives. The internship may also include advanced training in program management, offering insights into operational standards, proper dive planning, documentation, and operation and maintenance of equipment and facilities.

Krista Laforest, 23, is from Quincy, MA. Certified in 2014, she attributes her love of diving to her time as the 2017 Boston Sea Rovers' Intern, where she worked with underwater photographers, aquarists, and marine scientists. Through the support of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, she completed her PADI Divemaster course while earning her AAUS Scientific Diver credentials. During her time at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, she interned with the New England Aquarium, researched sea otter foraging ecology in Alaska, and was the SCUBA Club President. She recently published research from her honors thesis examining the ontogenetic shifts in brain size in the Atlantic sharpnose shark.

After graduating with a Bachelor's in Marine Biology and Psychology, Krista combined her passion for diving and marine conservation by interning with the Coral Restoration Foundation in Key Largo. She outplanted hundreds of corals, monitored them to determine survivorship and growth, and treated fragments for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. During the summer, she was responsible for managing coral spawning, comparing data between a restoration site and their in-situ nursery, as well as collecting gamete bundles for cryopreservation.

Krista has continued diving as a volunteer at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. She is honored to return to research diving as the AAUS Mitchell Scientific Diving Research Intern. She is elated about the opportunity to conduct research on the relationship between parrotfish and algae on the reefs of Bonaire and collaborate with members of the McCoy lab at Florida State University.



2021 Internships

**DR. LEE H. SOMERS AMERICAN
ACADEMY OF UNDERWATER SCIENCES
(AAUS) SCIENTIFIC DIVING INTERNSHIP**



Amanda C. Ho
University of
California, Davis

As a child, Amanda Claire Ho, 23, used to take walks around her neighborhood with her dad and a composition notebook, jotting down every life form she saw. After filling it with terrible sketches of fungi, newts, and redwoods, she had unwittingly signed herself up for a lifetime of environmental science.

Amanda grew up by the water in Berkeley, California. Spending most of her time in the ocean, she developed an insatiable fascination with the marine realm and proceeded to earn degrees in Ecology, Conservation, and Biodiversity and Oceanography from the University of California, Davis. Amanda is thrilled to be the 2021 Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society Dr. Lee H. Somers Scientific Diving Intern with AAUS where she will be able pursue her two passions: science and the sea.

As an avid diver, she loves swimming amongst vibrant and diverse coral reefs. Hence, she wants to dedicate her life to researching, restoring, and conserving coral reef systems. Her specific interests are in the microbiomes of corals and how they differ between vulnerable corals and corals that seem to have some resilience to threats like disease and climate change.

Amanda was in Costa Rica working with mangroves and sea turtles briefly in 2020 before the pandemic and is looking forward to returning to research this summer. She is excited to contribute to science and society like many scientists before her by researching, restoring, and conserving our beautiful marine ecosystems through this AAUS internship.

This internship provides experience for a young person interested in a future in science, diving for research, or scientific diving-related fields. Intern applicants can be students from colleges and universities with an interest in science and diving. The program runs from mid-May through August and will include training at one of several AAUS organizational member sites. This training will give the intern the necessary dive qualifications to allow participation on research projects requiring scientific diving and introduce the intern to careers that utilize scientific diving as a tool. Once trained as an AAUS-recognized diver-in-training, interns will participate in underwater fieldwork at one or more locations and research facilities associated with AAUS.

**DR. GLEN H. EGSTROM
DAN DIVER'S HEALTH AND SAFETY
INTERNSHIP**



Benjamin J. Kistler
Indiana University,
Bloomington

Benjamin J. Kistler, 21, is from Fort Wayne, Indiana. He studies Human Biology at Indiana University Bloomington with plans of graduating in the spring of 2022 and matriculating at medical school in the fall of 2022.

Ben grew up in North Carolina and developed a love for the natural world at an early age, exploring the state's mountains and beaches. Despite moving to a landlocked midwestern state, he found a passion for SCUBA diving and obtained Open Water and Advanced Open Water certifications. Around Indiana, he has had the opportunity to dive in lakes, quarries, and mines. He has also had the opportunity to explore shipwrecks and coral reefs in the Atlantic Ocean. At Indiana University, he enjoys hiking and exploring the great outdoors around Bloomington.

With his Physiology professor, Ben has been able to do research on cardiac and urinary point-of-care ultrasound and presented the findings at the Indiana University School of Medicine Education Day in March of 2020. He is excited for the research experience he will gain through the Dr. Glen H. Egstrom DAN Diver's Health and Safety Internship. In the future, he has hopes of becoming a hyperbaric physician and staying involved in the dive community. He also hopes to also educate explorers on the importance of ecological conservation.

Offered at Divers Alert Network (DAN) headquarters in Durham, North Carolina, this internship, with a special focus on the health and safety of divers, will be flexibly tailored to the recipient's interests based upon the available experiences and research being conducted at DAN. The intern will have the opportunity to participate in continuing education courses, gain a deeper understanding of diving physiology and current diving research worldwide, learn to prepare, plan, and conduct scientific experiments, and learn techniques of physiological data acquisition and analysis. The intern will be interacting with divers during field research events, collecting physiological data, and communicating DAN Research endeavors to the diving community at large.

2021 Internships

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP



Sarah D. Von Hoene
University
of Colorado,
Boulder

Sarah D. Von Hoene, 25, graduated in December 2019 with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Her path to a degree was unconventional. Shortly after graduating high school, she served as an AmeriCorps intern, working alongside the National Park Service on conservation-focused projects throughout the American West. She gained a deep admiration for the efforts of the NPS and was motivated to take her curiosity to a new environment — the ocean.

She moved to Koh Tao, Thailand to pursue a lifelong dream of integrating her passion for the ocean with what she hopes to be a lifelong professional career. While completing her scuba certifications and subsequently working as a divemaster, she took two years of undergraduate classes online before moving to Boulder, CO. She then piloted a new coral reef ecology research program and defended an honors thesis on baited remote underwater video systems in coral reef ecosystems at the University of Colorado, Boulder. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Sarah worked with the NPS Submerged Resources Center and collaborators in their efforts to publish a paper regarding the ongoing kelp forest research in Channel Islands National Park. Additionally, she wrote and co-produced a podcast series that explores the field of underwater soundscapes.

Sarah is honored to be the 2021 Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society NPS intern. She sees this as an opportunity to gain scientific diving experience and to help the NPS Submerged Resources Center continue to enhance appreciation, access, understanding, and preservation of the underwater wonders within the national parks.

The National Park Service Research Internship provides a unique opportunity to work with leading archaeologists, underwater photographers, and scientists in the National Park Service and other agencies in the American state and federal governments. Specific work projects will be determined based upon the interests of the intern as well as the needs of associated projects. The internship is based in Denver, Colorado, but it is expected that the intern will travel to projects within the continental United States and potentially overseas as part of this internship. Experiences could involve a specific project in a single park or a larger project in multiple parks.

DR. JAMIE L. KING REEF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION (REEF) MARINE CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP



Mary T. Quinn
Wheaton College

Mary Quinn, 21, is currently enrolled as an undergraduate at Wheaton College in Massachusetts, pursuing degrees in both Biology and Creative Writing. Originally from Fairfield, Connecticut, Mary has grown up on the coast of Long Island Sound and has always loved exploring the ocean. Whether it was kayaking in the Sound, or exploring tide pools and subsequently ruining clothes, Mary had an active outdoor childhood. She has worked with the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance on their Diamondback Terrapin Project as a field intern team leader.

In the early spring of 2020, Mary became certified as both a PADI Open Water Diver and as a PADI Advanced Open Water Diver while studying abroad at the School for Field Studies, Center for Resource Management Studies on South Caicos, Turks and Caicos. In South Caicos, Mary fell in love with fieldwork, living at a remote field station as a part of a team and sustainable living. She enjoys snorkeling, diving, and kayaking in the ocean.

Mary hopes to continue working to give back to the environment, learning, and exploring different marine ecosystems around the world. During the last year, Mary has been working to finish her undergraduate degrees and has been completing independent research on the foraging behavior of yellowtail snapper in South Caicos.

Offered in Key Largo, Florida, the Marine Conservation Internship provides an opportunity to experience working at a nonprofit environmental organization. REEF is a grassroots, nonprofit organization of recreational divers dedicated to protecting and preserving the underwater environment. Outside duties include delivering environmental presentations to local and visiting schools, universities, dive groups, and public forums; working with local marine conservation entities; and conducting marine life surveys during local dives. Office duties include handling memberships, recording marine life survey data, answering e-mail, and interacting with the public.

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S. Ryan Taylor	(NA 1976)	Karen Van Hoesen	(NA 1988)	Vibe Schourup-Kristensen	(EU 2005)	Courtney Anne Rayes	(AU 2014)
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BAIZAROVA, Martina
European Young Underwater
Photographer Award
2005 & 2006

BARCHUS, Sarah
Bonnie Dive Group Media
2013

BASSION, Kirsten
REEF 1997

BEECHAM, Dan
European Young Underwater
Photographer Award 2004

BENNETT, Andrew
Blackbeard's Cruises 2008

BENSON, Bridget
U.S. Navy 2006

BILLUPS, Brianne
National Park Service 2010

BLINICK, Naomi S.
National Park Service 2011

BLOCK, Lena B.
AAUS 2018

BODENSTEIN, Dan
U.S. Navy 2007

BONE, David
Aquarena 2008

BOWIE, Jacqueline
REEF 2005

BROGAN, Kate
Blackbeard's Cruises 2009

BROWN, Shannon D.
National Park Service 2018

BRUNTON, Chase A.
Bonnie Dive Group Media
2017

BURKHEAD-WEINER, Davita
REEF 2003

BURFEIND, Dana
Divers Alert Network 2001

CALVER, Tim
National Geographic Society
Ford Fellow 2002

CALINI, Danielle
REEF 2009

CIPOLLA, Kyra Jean M.
AAUS 2019

CLOS, JENNA M.
AAUS 2011

COFFEY, Charles
Divers Alert Network 2000

CODALBU, Andrew
Sport Diver Magazine 2004

COTTON, James
Divers Alert Network 2010

COX, Schyler
Bonnie Dive Group Media
2014

DIAS, Abigail S.
Divers Alert Network 2019

FARMER, Benjamin H.
REEF 2019

FARRELL, Shane P.
AAUS 2018

FOOTE, Elizabeth
NURC 1998

FUNDAKOWSKI, Garrett J.
National Park Service 2016

GHANI, Aiysha
REEF 2006

GIBELLY, Christopher
U. S. Navy 2008

GRAY, Jeff
NURC 1996

HACK, Nicole
COARE 2014

HAJDUCZEK, Barbara
REEF 2002

HALL, Kara B.
REEF 2015

HARDY, Steve
Divers Alert Network 2004

HARMAN, Leah
Darling Marine Center 2000

HASAN, Elizabeth L.
AAUS 2019

HELLMANN, Emily A.
Divers Alert Network 2018

HENDRICKS, Lisa
Mitigation Water Project
Dubuque IA 1995

HO, AMANDA C.
AAUS 2021

HOBAN, Mykle L.
AAUS 2010

HOWELL, Ruth
Darling Marine Center 2001

JAFFE, Adam
NURC 2001

JOSEPH, Mariclaire
Divers Alert Network 2012

KISTLER, BENJAMIN J.
Divers Alert Network 2021

KITTREL, Casey
Man-In-The-Sea 1997

KOCHERGINA, Anna
European Young Underwater
Photographer Award 2008

KRZYSTAN, Andrea
Divers Alert Network 2006

LAFOREST, Krista V.
AAUS 2021

LANE, Claire E. Kitchin
REEF 2011

LANGHANS, Michael R.
National Park Service 2019

LEVINE, Ari
Darling Marine Center 1998

LEVY, Jessica
REEF 2012

LYONS, Jennie Noll
U.S. Navy 2004
MASON, Julia
National Park Service 2013

MAXWELL, Henry
Divers Alert Network 2005

MAZILLE, Guillaume
European Young Underwater
Photographer Award 2003

McNALLY, Lucy
Sport Diver Magazine 2006

MICHALIK, Courtney
Bonnie Dive Group 2011

MITCHELL, Catherine R.
AAUS 2015

MOBLEY, Kenyon
NURC 1997

MOORE, Rebekah
REEF 1996

MULLANEY, Claire B.
REEF 2017

MULLENS, Abigail Smigel
Rodale Magazine 2001

MYERS, Robert A.
Bonnie Dive Group 2015

MYHR, Molly
REEF 2001

NESS, Jeremiah
Aquarena 2007

NEWCOMER, Katherine A.
AAUS 2014

NIELSON, Alec B.
Bonnie Dive Group Media
2012

NOONAN, Ronnie A.
REEF 2018

NUTTAL, Marissa
REEF 2007

OLENYCH, Noah
Mitigation Water Project 1995

ORR, Andrew

Aquarena 2004

PATRYLAK, Ryan
Divers Alert Network 2009

PAYNE, Katy
Sport Diver Magazine 2005

PECK, Patrick M.
REEF 2016

PIERCY, Robert
HydroOptix 2005

PRUTZMAN, Steve
REEF 2004

PUGSLEY, Andrew
European Young Underwater
Photographer Award 2002

QUINN, Mary T.
REEF 2021

SAWICKI, Erika L.
AAUS 2017

SCHEM, Jessica
REEF 2014

SCHRAMM, Aurora
Aquarena 2010

SHAGREN, Chad
Sport Diver Magazine 2010

SHILLING, Eric
Lake Michigan
Biological Station 2000

SHOELSON, Adam
Divers Alert Network 2008

SIFRIT, Allie D.
AAUS 2016

SKERRY, Brian
National Geographic Society
Ford Fellow 2001

SLAUGHTER, Sally
Darling Marine Center 2003

SMALLEY-NORMAN, Yasmeen
National Park Service 2014

SMITH, Melissa J.
Bonnie Dive Group 2016

SNOW, Ryan
NURC 2000

SPECTOR, Michael H. "Pike"
National Park Service 2015

SPILLMAN, SHANNON
Sport Diver Magazine 2008

SPLAIN, Ellen L.
REEF 2013

STRAW, Jessica
Darling Marine Center 2005

TATE, Stephanie F.
REEF 2008

TEPPER, Joseph
European Young Photographer
Award 2011

THOMPSON, Scott
Divers Alert Network 2002

THOMSON, Annie
AAUS 2012

TYMON, Teresa
AAUS 2013

VATLAND, Sarah
Darling Marine Center 2002

VAN HOENE, SARAH D.
National Park Service 2021

WATTS, Alison
Monterey Bay Aquarium 2012

WHITE, Allison
NURC 1999

WHITE, Timothy D.
National Park Service 2012

WILLIAMS, Kristine
Divers Alert Network 2003

WOLFE, Ronald
Lake Michigan
Biological Station 1995

WOLFE, Shaun A.
National Park Service 2017

ZEIGLER, Erin
Divers Alert Network 2007

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