



OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER
SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY®

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OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER
SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY®

45th Annual Awards Program
April 13, 2019 – New York Yacht Club – New York





© YANN HERRERA FUCHS

Welcome



It is my honor to welcome you to New York City and to the 45th anniversary celebration of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society®.

It is a great pleasure for me as president of the Society to bring the “family” together each year to renew friendships, celebrate all of our interns and Rolex Scholars, and acknowledge the efforts of our volunteers. Once again, we celebrate a long history of extraordinary scholarship, volunteer service, organizational partnership, and corporate sponsorship, especially an amazing, uninterrupted partnership with Rolex, our founding corporate sponsor.

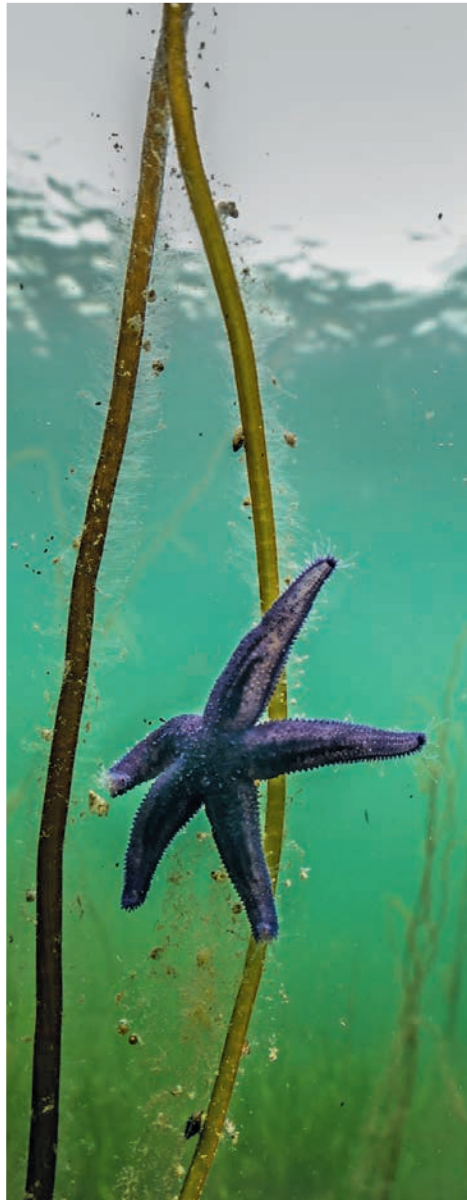
We bring three new Rolex Scholars and five new interns into our family resulting in an accumulative total of 103 Rolex Scholars and 107 interns since the inception of the Society, and all of this has been accomplished by our all-volunteer organization. Forty-five years of volunteers have been selfless 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 “life and history” has been the Rolex family which has been our “partner in education” during every one of our 45 years of educational outreach and scholarship.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the directors and officers of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® to thank 45 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®



© ÉRIC JORDÀ MOLINA



PARTNERS IN EDUCATION
SINCE 1974



OUR WORLD-UNDERWATER SCHOLARSHIP SOCIETY®

45TH Annual Awards Program

WELCOME

Elvin W. D. Leech, MBE, Chairman

2018 ROLEX SCHOLARS YEAR IN REVIEW & FLAG RETURN

Drift-diving the Currents of Conservation

Yann Herrera Fuchs

2018 North American Rolex Scholar

Sonder: Giving Voice to the Oceans

Éric Jordà Molina

2018 European Rolex Scholar

Challenging Changes

Olivia J. Johnson

2018 Australasian Rolex Scholar

DINNER

Dr. David Wilkinson

2019 DAN Rolex Diver of the Year

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 ROLEX SCHOLARSHIPS

Neha Acharya-Patel 2019 North American Rolex Scholar

Kim S. Hildebrandt 2019 European Rolex Scholar

Joanna N. Smart 2019 Australasian Rolex Scholar

History

From its roots in the Midwestern United States 45 years ago, the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society® has grown into a global organization. 103 Rolex Scholars — in North America, Europe, and Australasia — along with 107 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.

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

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.

103 ROLEX SCHOLARS, 107 INTERNS,
AND SO MANY VOLUNTEERS
AROUND THE WORLD HAVE
ALL CREATED A SIGNIFICANT
LEGACY FOR OUR ORGANIZATION
AND OUR FUTURE.

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.



© DYLAN SILVER

2018

NORTH AMERICAN ROLEX SCHOLAR YANN HERRERA FUCHS

COLLABORATED WITH

- > 15 Academic institutions:
Indiana University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Scripps, Shannon Point Marine Center, Stanford Hopkins Marine Station, Universidad del Atlántico, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, UC Davis Bodega Marine Lab, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Universidad del Mar, Universidad Nacional de la Patagonia San Juan Bosco, Universidade Federal Santa Catarina, Universidade de Sao Paulo, University of Southern California, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
- > 15 NGO's:
Comunidad y Biodiversidad, Conservation International, Conservation X Labs, CORALIUM, Cozumel Coral Reef Restoration Project, International Ocean Institute, MexCAL, National Geographic, Oceana, Ocean Exploration Trust, Sigalt, Pew Charitable Trusts, Pelagios Kakunjá, Projectosub, Te Mau o Te Vaikava o Rapa Nui
- > 10 Enterprises/companies:
Backscatter, Cortez Expeditions, Divers Alert Network, Global Underwater Explorers, Mexico Liveboards, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Nuytco, Subgravity, Vancouver Aquarium, Virtual Wonders, Silent Diving
- > 4 Government agencies:
California Fish and Game, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries, NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Lab, Smithsonian Institution
- > 1 Fishing community:
Pescadores de Bahía Kino
- > 1 Indigenous tribe:
Swinomish

LIDAR SCANNING TO DIGITIZE THE WONDER OF CHICHÉN ITZÁ THROUGH PHOTOGRAMMETRY.
© CHRIS MILLBERN

YEAR IN REVIEW

- > More than 200 dives
- > More than 50 free-dives
- > More than 50 cave dives
- > 15 Hours on a rebreather
- > 10 Decompression dives
- > 5 Cenotes
- > 2 Quarries
- > 11 Countries:
Argentina, Brazil, Bahamas, Canada, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Mexico, United States
- > 14 Islands:
Abaco, Channel Islands (Santa Cruz, Catalina), Dominican Republic, Rapa Nui, Espíritu Santo, Grand Cayman, Roatán, Revillagigedo (Socorro, Roca Partida, San Benedicto), San Pedro Nolasco, Alcatrazes, Vancouver Island (Salt Spring, Nigel), Todos Santos
- > 20 Nights at sea
- > Temperature range 5°C - 31°C
- > Over 40m depth



© YANN HERRERA FUCHS

OVER/UNDER PHOTO TAKEN AT THE DIGITAL SHOOTOUT UNDERWATER IMAGING WORKSHOP IN ROATAN

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- > Freediving records: 28m constant weight, 27m free immersion, 50m dynamic and 4:30 minute breath-hold static
- > Digital Shootout Photography Competition:
1st place Macro Traditional, 3rd place Wide Angle Traditional
- > 3D photogrammetry: Scanning of World Heritage Chichén Itzá with Virtual Wonders, Coral Reef 3D modelling at Universidad del Mar (project accepted in Mexican Society for Coral Reefs (SOMAC) conference), mapping of unexplored Seal Cove Cave with Ocean Exploration Trust
- > Archaeological and scientific expeditions to the Channel Islands and Revillagigedo Archipelago
- > Worked in world-class MPA's on policy and ocean governance



© CHRIS ADAIR

WORKING ON DEPTH PERFORMANCE DURING BREATH-HOLD TRAINING.



© DIEGO BRAVO GÓMEZ

2018

EUROPEAN ROLEX SCHOLAR

ÈRIC JORDÀ MOLINA

EXPERIENCES

- > PADI Divemaster course
- > Underwater photography workshop with Alex Mustard and Saeed Rashid
- > Reef Check Eco Diver course and surveying of coral reefs in Egypt
- > GUE Fundamentals training with John Kendall
- > Documentation Techniques for Scientific Divers course (with introduction to photogrammetry among others)
- > Coral gardening project in the Philippines
- > HSE Commercial Diver Part IV certificate
- > TDI Advanced Nitrox and Helitrox Certificate with Mark Powell
- > RAID Sidemount course with Garry Dallas
- > Research assistant and diver studying symbiotic microorganisms of Antarctic marine sponges
- > Experienced the underwater world of Tierra del Fuego in Ushuaia, southernmost city of the world
- > Research assistant and diver studying the trophic pathways of benthic communities associated with different Antarctic biogenic substrates
- > Filming hatching wolffish and diving in hydrothermal vents in Icelandic waters with Erlendur Bogason
- > Scientific diving course in Alaska with Brenda Konar
- > Liveaboard to the Galapagos Archipelago

YEAR IN REVIEW

- > More than 230 dives
- > Travelled to 12 countries/territories: UK, Egypt, Sweden, Norway, Indonesia, Philippines, Chile, Argentina, Antarctica (South Shetland Islands and Peninsula), Iceland, US (Alaska and New York), Ecuador
- > 6 continents
- > More than 30 flights



© ALEX MUSTARD

MY FIRST STEPS IN UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY TOGETHER WITH ALEX MUSTARD IN THE RED SEA



© ÈRIC JORDÀ MOLINA

DIVING IN FREEZING ANTARCTIC WATERS TO SAMPLE BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES



© ÈRIC JORDÀ MOLINA

LEARNING CORAL GARDENING TECHNIQUES AT AMUN INI BEACH RESORT AND SPA, IN THE PHILIPPINES



© ÈRIC JORDÀ MOLINA

A BEAUTIFUL NUDIBRANCH FROM THE WATERS OF MANADO, INDONESIA



© ÈRIC JORDÀ MOLINA

A HERD OF CHINSTRAP PENGUINS SWIMMING GRACEFULLY IN ANTARCTIC WATERS

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- > Introduced to technical diving using twinset and sidemount configurations
- > Developed artistic and technical competence in underwater photography and filming
- > Gained scientific diving skills and experience (documentation and sampling/surveying mainly for benthic studies)
- > Attended world-renowned festivals and conferences in natural history film-making and exploration
- > Certified as a professional diver to work underwater
- > Spent 39 days diving in Antarctica conducting marine research in waters between -2 and 3 °C
- > Crossed the Drake passage twice
- > Dived with humpback whales and penguins and had close encounters with leopard seals
- > Embraced the opportunity to learn in 1 year what would have taken 5 years or more to learn and experience



© ABBIE SMITH

2018

AUSTRALASIAN ROLEX SCHOLAR

OLIVIA J. JOHNSON

EXPERIENCES

- > Research Scientist for the Australian Antarctic Program on the largest ever Blue Whale and Antarctic Krill Scientific voyage in history, the ENRICH Voyage
- > Contributed to novel research on Manta Rays in the Philippines in a tourist hotspot
- > Developed underwater photography and videography skills with award winning photographers and cinematographers including those associated with National Geographic and the BBC
- > Learned about shark research for 8 different species including Great White Sharks and Bull Sharks
- > Diving expedition through the South Pacific from Fiji across to French Polynesia
- > Assisted in the filming and story collection of the National Geographic supported Great Southern Reef Project with the Ocean Imaging team
- > Contributed to Marine Biology curriculum for Primary and Secondary education in Papua New Guinea
- > Hyperbaric Chamber medicine training
- > Aquarium diving and education outreach research at Monterey Bay Aquarium and Oregon Coast Aquarium
- > Scientific diving and research in cold water with the University of Alaska Southeast

YEAR IN REVIEW

- > More than 30 experiences
- > More than 240 dives
- > More than 200 hours compressed, or the equivalent of 8 consecutive days underwater
- > 71 Flights
- > 84 days on ships
- > 4 continents
- > 15 countries:
visiting places including Fiji, Wallis, Futuna, Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Tonga, South Australia, Coral Bay, Bali, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, USA (San Diego, Las Vegas, Catalina Island, Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, San Francisco, Oregon, and Alaska), New Zealand and Antarctica
- > Over 150,000 miles travelled
- > Temperature range -10°C to 40°C
- > Bearing range of 66°42.4' S, 147°42.0 E to 58°30.19' N, 134°41.97 W

Diving Training

- > PADI Scuba Instructor
- > Emergency First Response Instructor
- > PADI Instructor Development Course
- > Molchanov Wave 2 Freediver
- > PADI Drysuit Diver
- > Reef Life Survey Diver



© ALEX KYDD

OLIVIA PHOTOGRAPHING A TURTLE IN NINGALOO REEF, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- > Graduated with first-class honours in Marine & Antarctic Science
- > Dived to 35m on a single breath
- > Became a PADI Scuba Instructor
- > 15 magazine/blog publications for 4 organisations
- > Helped to get the Great Southern Reef nominated as a Mission Blue Hopespot
- > Diving the kelp forests of the Channel Islands National Parks and in a freshwater cave system (the first time for me!)
- > Swimming with Humpback Whales in Tonga and Coral Bay
- > Participating in marine conservation efforts in remote parts of the Philippines
- > Met a marine biology icon, Dr Sylvia Earle



MUM AND CALF HUMPBACK WHALES IN VAVAU, TONGA © OLIVIA JOHNSON



MACROCYSTIS PYRIFERA IN BLACKMANS BAY, TASMANIA © OLIVIA JOHNSON



"THE PROTECTION OF OUR AQUATIC RESOURCES VARIES FROM CONTEXT TO CULTURE; THERE IS NO SINGLE RECIPE FOR GOOD CONSERVATION MEASURES. RATHER, ONE MUST ENDORSE THE MANY FACETS OF CONSERVATION AND BE OPEN TO MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES."



"THE MOMENT YOUR HEAD PLUNGES UNDER THE FREEZING ANTARCTIC WATERS YOU THINK TO YOURSELF HOW FOOLISH YOU WERE AND HOW IRONIC IT WAS TO THINK ABOUT THIS REGION ON EARTH AS A WHITE ICY DESERT! ITS AMAZING COLOURFUL SUBMARINE BIODIVERSITY HAS INSPIRED ME WITH A PASSION TO EXPLORE AND DISCOVER MORE ABOUT THE POLAR ECOSYSTEMS AND STUDY THE CHANGES THAT THEY MAY SUFFER IN THE FUTURE."



"DECIDING TO DIVE WITH GREAT WHITE SHARKS WAS ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES I HAVE EVER CHOSEN TO DO, BUT QUITE POSSIBLY THE MOST REWARDING"





2019

DAN ROLEX
DIVER OF THE YEAR
DR. DAVID WILKINSON

Dr. David Wilkinson is an anesthesiologist and the director of hyperbaric medicine at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in Adelaide, South Australia. He is also a clinical lecturer at the University of Adelaide.

David graduated from Flinders University in 1986 with degrees in medicine and surgery and subsequently underwent training in family medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and anesthesiology. One day while working in the intensive care unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, David was checking on a patient who was receiving treatment in a hyperbaric chamber. As soon as he saw the chamber he was fascinated by it. There was an element of frontier medicine in the use of hyperbaric oxygen that piqued his interest and inspired him to specialize in diving and hyperbaric medicine. He earned his diploma and certificate in the specialty and was admitted as a Fellow of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine (FUHM) in 2013.

Physicians in the hyperbaric medicine unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (and in recent years, other Australian hospitals) operate Australia's Diving Emergency Service (DES) hotline. The DES hotline is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide medical guidance to injured divers in need.

The hotline's toll-free number is fully funded by DAN World, and the doctors who take these calls are unpaid volunteers. More than 20 years ago David took over as coordinator of the DES hotline and has fielded the majority of the calls that have come in since then. Currently the hotline receives about 400 calls each year.

David sits on the boards of directors of DAN Asia-Pacific and the Australasian Diving Safety Foundation/DAN Asia-Pacific Foundation, organizations dedicated to advancing diving safety throughout the Asia-Pacific region. His commitment to hyperbaric medicine and his volunteer work with the DES hotline have helped countless divers get the care or practical medical guidance they needed when they needed it most.

An avid diver and cyclist, David enjoys food and wine and spending time with his wife and two daughters. He is an advanced nitrox diver and is trained in decompression diving. David's passion for helping injured divers led him to a remarkable career in hyperbaric medicine, and his decades of service to divers have been a tremendous boon to the dive community in Australia and worldwide.

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 39 years. The organization's research, medical services and global-response programs support an extensive network capable of reaching divers with vital injury-prevention initiatives, educational programs and lifesaving evacuations. Every day, hundreds of thousands of divers around the world look to DAN as their dive safety organization.



2019

NORTH AMERICAN
ROLEX SCHOLAR
NEHA ACHARYA-PATEL

Growing up in Waterloo, Ontario, Neha, 24, spent much of her summers exploring the lakes and rivers that make up the Great Canadian Shield. Comfortable in the water from a young age, and ever curious about her surroundings, Neha's interest in aquatic environments naturally extended to the sea. In high school she first took the plunge and learnt to dive in a snowy little "dive park" – essentially a pond with a collection of sunken refrigerators and toilets.

She did not dive again until 5 years later when she moved to the west coast to attend the University of British Columbia to study biology with a marine specialization. There, she was exposed to one of the most diverse temperate ecosystems in the world, and there was no going back. Through university she completed her Scientific Diver training, receiving her CAUS certification, and subsequently participated in a marine ecology course at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Center on Vancouver Island. At this station she also did a study examining elasmobranch cardiorespiratory regulation, which inspired her interest in animal and diving physiology, and resulted in her first academic publication. Following her undergraduate degree, Neha worked as a diver and interpreter in a small catch-and-release aquarium, where she realised the value of effective science communication, something she hopes to hone this upcoming year.

Neha also completed her PADI divemaster training, which facilitated her next job as a research assistant

and divemaster at a research center in Malawi, diving in one of the great African lakes, and monitoring the biodiversity of the evolutionarily fascinating cichlid fish. Through this, she gained technical field and project management skills, and experienced first-hand the challenges of running a research program in a developing country with very different cultural expectations. As a second-generation immigrant and avid traveller, she believes that true conservation efforts can be made only when certain cultural nuances are understood and acknowledged.

Following her work in Africa, she began working as a research diver and technician with the Hakai Research Institute, studying rates of change in temperate coastal ecosystems in the context of an anthropomorphically influenced world. Working there has allowed her to further nurture her passion for the marine world and cultivate her diving skills.

Becoming the 2019 Rolex Scholar is a dream come true for Neha. As an aspiring scientist, she hopes the Scholarship will allow her to explore different research avenues, explore advanced diving technology, and bridge communication with the general population in order to inspire change from a wider diversity of people. She aims to take away a well-informed picture of the environmental challenges being faced globally and use this information to make a meaningful contribution to marine conservation.



2019

EUROPEAN
ROLEX SCHOLAR
KIM S. HILDEBRANDT

Kim, 22, is a Veterinary Medicine student with a fascination for aquatic animals, especially marine mammals. A keen sportsperson and hobby photographer with an adventurous mind, she is originally from Hamburg.

Kim has always felt a deep connection to animals and nature. Her interest for the underwater world was sparked by Frank Schätzing's "The Swarm", leaving her wondering what is still to be discovered about marine organisms and humans' impact on them.

To indulge her curiosity, she moved to a coastal town in New Zealand and attended the Mercury Bay Area School to take focused programs on marine sciences and outdoor education. She investigated the impact of construction for new canal systems of the local river estuary on population size and health of a resident fish species, and completed Project Jonah Marine Mammal Medic training, practicing Stranding Responses to Cetaceans.

Kim also discovered her passion for scuba diving. She got certified as a PADI Rescue Diver, having dived around New Zealand's North Island, including wreck dives on the HMNZS Canterbury. It all evoked a long-lasting magnetism for exploring the underwater world and fuelled her wish to contribute to ocean and marine animals' health in the future. More recently, she dived with a marine scientist while completing her Nitrox Level 2 certification, waking her interest for scientific diving.

In 2016, Kim began pursuing her childhood dream in Hannover, Germany: studying veterinary medicine. She attended extracurricular courses in Turtle Anatomy and Clinics, and a marine-biologic and ornithologic excursion on a North Sea holm, exploring veterinary practise, research and conservation work with fish and seabirds.

When Kim finished her Veterinary Preliminary Examination, ranking 5th in her year, she was drawn back to the sea, spending an Erasmus semester in Lisbon. She attended the course "Wildlife and Conservation Medicine" and gained experience in marine mammal pathology by performing a necropsy on a stranded common dolphin, whereby she learned about anatomy, physiology and parasitology.

Along her studies, Kim developed the will to follow the concept "One World, One Health", focussing on relations between anthropogenic actions, environmental changes, and the consequences for wildlife, especially in the marine environment.

Becoming the 2019 European Rolex Scholar is an invaluable opportunity for Kim to explore how to combine her mission for the future with the academic path of a veterinarian, and her love for diving, which she hopes to push to a scientific level. She could imagine getting involved in aquatic animal medicine and research, as well as wildlife and conservation work, but is eager to discover alternative paths through opportunities provided by the Rolex Scholarship of the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society.



2019

AUSTRALASIAN
ROLEX SCHOLAR
JOANNA N. SMART

Joanna, 22, is from the seaside town of Hobart on Australia's southern island, Tasmania. Her early memories of the ocean involve finding sea creatures in rock pools, fishing, and snorkeling through the giant kelp forests that once covered the Tasmanian coastline. Eager to continue exploring, Joanna obtained her Open Water Scuba license at the age of 13.

During her high school years, Joanna's passion for marine life, science and scuba diving continued. She completed her Advanced Open Water, Rescue Diver and Divemaster training. She also undertook an independent research project as part of her Tasmanian Certificate of Education, exploring the impacts of invasive marine pests in Tasmanian waters. Joanna balanced her schooling with a passion for swimming, where she spent several years with the Tasmanian Institute of Sport. She later moved this passion to the ocean and later went on to win the Tasmanian Iron Woman Championship.

Joanna was awarded an academic scholarship at the University of Tasmania in 2015. Joanna graduated in 2018 with a Bachelor of Marine and Antarctic Science majoring in Marine Biology and Marine and Antarctic Ecology, earning a place on the Dean's honour roll. During this time, Joanna undertook scientific diving training with certifications from ADAS

and AAUS and completed her PADI open water scuba Instructor's certification.

Whilst completing her degree, Joanna worked as a deckhand and naturalist for an ecotour company, as a Field Assistant in Palau and as an assistant technical officer for the University of Tasmania. Upon completion of her degree, Joanna commenced work as a Project Officer for a marine environmental consultancy. This work has allowed Joanna to learn about oft-forgotten aspects of effective marine conservation including marine development impacts, aquaculture, and waste water management.

In conjunction with her work as a project officer, Joanna has been completing an honours thesis exploring how seaweed farming can be used to uptake excess aquaculture effluent. This project aims to develop a species selection index which aims to assist researchers and farmers in selecting the most suitable seaweeds for culturing, whilst also minimising environmental impact of the overall operation.

Joanna is honoured to represent Rolex and OWUSS as the 2019 Australasian scholar and is incredibly grateful for this amazing opportunity. Throughout the year, she hopes to explore sustainable solutions to issues facing the marine environment and the empowerment of ocean-dependent communities.

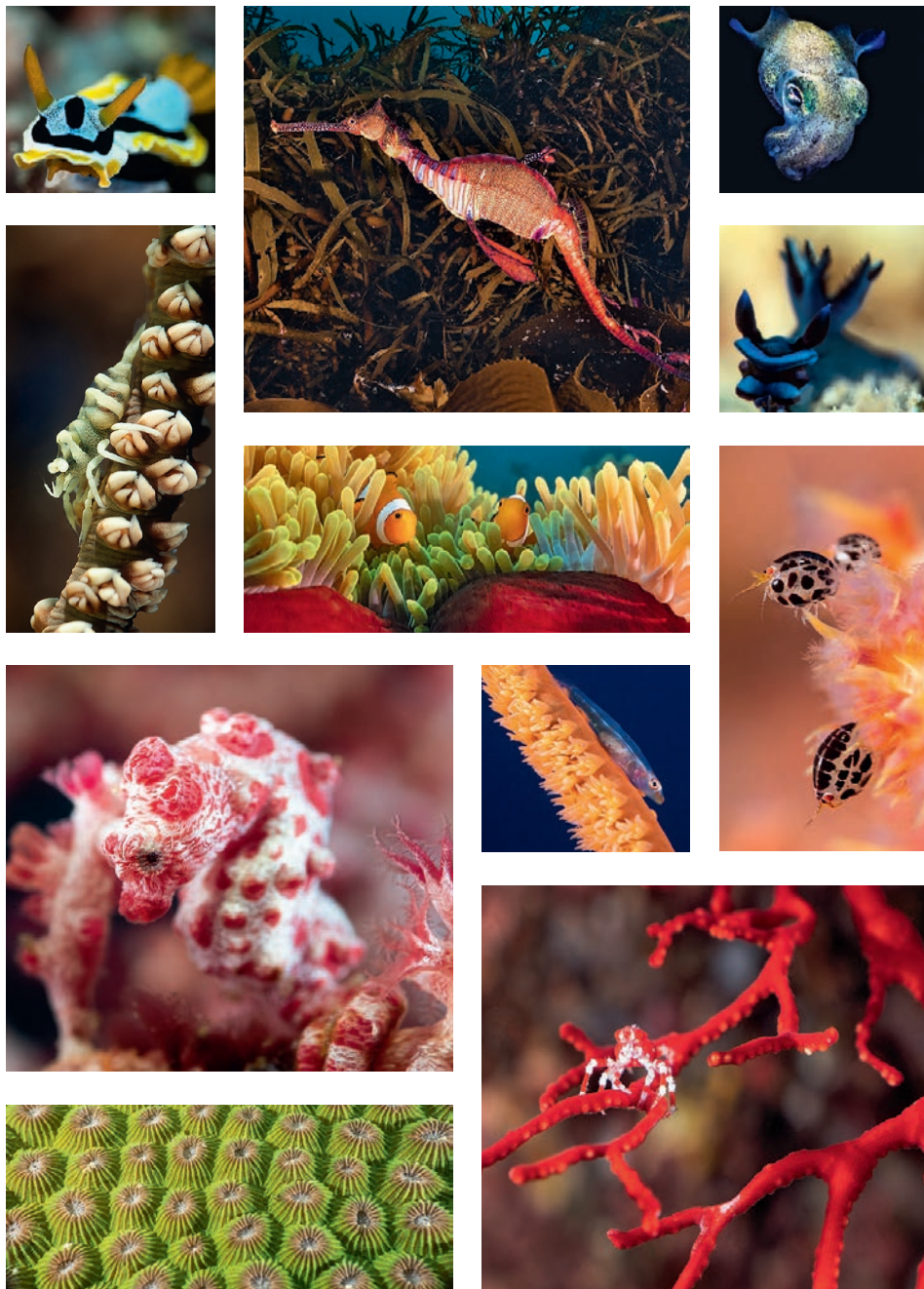


PHOTO COLLAGE © OLIVIA JOHNSON

2019 Internship

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



Elizabeth L. Hasan,
University of
Colorado, Boulder

Liza Hasan, 22, is from Park Ridge, IL. She will be graduating from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in May 2019 with a degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. During her time at the University of Colorado, she has had the opportunity to conduct research on alpine plant ecology, prairie dog spatial dynamics, and greenback cutthroat trout restoration.

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.

Liza has always loved being around water and was first able to explore the underwater world in 2011 when she was certified as an Open Water Diver. Despite going to college in a land-locked state, Liza has found ways to make it back to the ocean. During the Fall 2017 semester, she studied abroad at the CIEE Research Station Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. She took courses in coral reef ecology and marine conservation and had the opportunity to conduct an independent research project on the impact of community structure on the branchial crown area of feather duster worms. While on Bonaire, Liza also earned her Advanced Adventure, Rescue Diver, and AAUS Scientific Diver certifications.

Liza has continued to dive in Colorado as a volunteer diver at the Denver Downtown Aquarium. She is excited and honored to return to research diving this summer as the AAUS Mitchell Scientific Diving Research Intern. She is thrilled about the opportunity to continue expanding her marine research experience and learn from the members of her research team.

2019 Internships

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



Kyra Jean M. Cipolla,
Drew University

Kyra Jean Cipolla, 22, is currently a senior at Drew University in Madison, New Jersey, pursuing a double major in Environmental Science & Sustainability (ESS) and Italian Studies. Upon obtaining her bachelor's degree in May 2019, Kyra is eager to begin research and underwater exploration as the 2019 Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society Dr. Lee H. Somers Scientific Diving Intern with AAUS.

Kyra, from New Jersey, has long been passionate about and holds a great appreciation for extremely biodiverse ecosystems, especially coral reefs. That is why her career goal is to conduct research focused on tropical coral reef ecology. She believes an effective marine scientist is developed not only by studying literature and researching within a lab, but also by literally diving deeper with hands-on approaches to oceanographic research in order to explore the unknown gaps in our knowledge of marine systems. Expanding knowledge of dynamics within coral reef ecology through continuous, worthwhile research is crucial both for humanity and for the large numbers of marine species that rely on reefs.

The overarching theme of her research interests involves the adaptations of organisms within coastal ecosystems, with an emphasis on the resiliency and recovery of coral in response to environmental stressors (particularly ocean acidification and increased sea surface temperature). She considers expanding knowledge and awareness for vulnerable ecosystems vital for conservation and is fortunate to effectively do so with the AAUS Scientific Diver certification through the Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society.

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.

DIVERS ALERT
NETWORK (DAN)
DIVER'S SAFETY
EDUCATION
INTERNSHIP



Abigail S. Dias,
Whitman College

Offered at Divers Alert Network (DAN) headquarters in Durham, North Carolina, the Diver's Safety Education Internship focuses on the need for ongoing education among divers. While not directly involving diving, the internship provides exposure to a non-traditional application of education as a recreational activity. The intern participates in the development, monitoring, and evaluation of programs dedicated to the safety education of the diving public from a nonprofit setting. Internship activities are based on current programs or projects in development at DAN, and may be tailored to accommodate individual intern interests. Projects may include reviewing and revising existing programs, vetting evaluation materials, scripting video content, and assisting in the development of new programs.

Abbey Dias, 21, is currently a junior studying Biology and minoring in Chemistry at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Abbey grew up on the west coast, originally from Redmond, Washington. When she has the chance to come home, Abbey usually spends more time underwater than on land. She is excited to explore the opportunity of combining her passions for medicine and scuba diving through her internship with the Divers Alert Network.

In 2017, Abbey earned her PADI open water scuba certification and since then has worked her way to PADI rescue diver status. As part of Annie Crawley's dive team, she has been involved in community outreach and education to promote awareness of ocean pollution and conservation in the Seattle area. Abbey's passion for the ocean led her to study on the small island of South Caicos, in the Turks and Caicos Islands, during the Fall semester of 2018 where she researched coral health through 3D modeling the local reef. There, she had the opportunity to try her hand at scientific diving and underwater photography. Her research also includes work in Dr. Adam Summers's lab at Friday Harbor Laboratories in the San Juan Islands, WA, studying bone density in deep-sea fishes using micro-CT scanning.

Abbey is grateful for the opportunity to be part of the OWUSS and DAN families, and looks forward to improving dive safety education materials. She hopes to eventually instruct diving and continue her mission of educating the community about health and ocean conservation.

2019 Internships

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RESEARCH INTERNSHIP



Michael R. Langhans,
University of California,
Santa Cruz

Michael Langhans, 23, is from San Mateo, California. He's been in love with the underwater world since his first scuba dive at age 18 and has since logged more than 600 dives in a variety of diverse ecosystems. He recently graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology with honors.

Attending UCSC enabled Michael to get a comprehensive introduction into marine research. He completed his AAUS Scientific Diver certification through the university and used those newly developed skills in various field quarters, allowing him to collect data and conduct research on kelp forest species interactions in Central California and Southeast Alaska. Along with diving for school, Michael has been working as a diving technician, conducting hundreds of dives monitoring marine protected areas and working on large-scale ecological experiments.

As well as scientific diving, Michael has a passion for underwater photography. What started as shaky videos proving to friends that he'd been underwater quickly blossomed into a way to promote the conservation of these beautiful places. He loves to use his photos as a vehicle for teaching scientific information and instilling the same love for the underwater world that he's acquired.

Michael is beyond excited to be the 2019 Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society National Park Service intern. His past dive experiences have made abundantly clear the necessity to protect wild and special places, a vision that is shared by NPS. He is looking forward to working alongside the Park Service to develop skills that work toward pursuing and promoting their shared vision.

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



Benjamin H. Farmer
University of Kentucky

Ben, 22, graduated in May 2018 with a degree in Biology from the University of Kentucky. Ben has been fascinated by the underwater world from a young age and earned his open-water dive certification in 2017. Vacationing to beaches in South Carolina and New Hampshire, he has long found the wetlands and intertidal communities fascinating. Back home in Kentucky, Ben explored everything from lakes to small creeks and cave systems.

Yearning to return to the ocean, Ben pursued a semester of education abroad on the Caribbean island of Bonaire during his junior year. The CIEE Research Station was where Ben gained an intense appreciation for coral reef ecology, scuba diving, and scientific communication. The incredible connection between the staff, students, and local community stoked Ben's interest in ground-level conservation efforts.

Upon returning to the University of Kentucky, Ben pursued an internship with the International Center, where he was able to leverage his unique experience abroad to help prospective students find their own programs. Ben continued to hone his research and presentation skills as well, with projects spanning Marine Protected Area effectiveness in the Indo-Pacific, the biology of karst water systems, and the parental behavior of sparrows.

Accepting the 2019 Our World-Underwater Scholarship Society Dr. Jamie L. King Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) Marine Conservation Internship is an exhilarating next step for Ben -- a chance to become a better communicator and ambassador for the underwater world. Ben believes that ground-level support for environmental initiatives is vital to concerted preservation of delicate marine ecosystems. As an intern with REEF, Ben is in the perfect position to contribute to this initiative.

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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European Young Underwater
Photographer Award
2005 & 2006

BARCHUS, Sarah
Bonnier 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.
Bonnier 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

COFFEY, Charles
Divers Alert Network 2000

CODALBU, Andrew
Sport Diver Magazine 2004

COTTON, James
Divers Alert Network 2010

COX, Schyler
Bonnier 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

GIBEILY, 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

HOWELL, Ruth
Darling Marine Center 2001

HOBAN, Mykle L.
AAUS 2010

JAFFEE, Adam
NURC 2001

JOSEPH, Mariclaire
Divers Alert Network 2012

KITTREL, Casey
Man-In-The-Sea 1997

KOCHERGINA, Anna
European Young Underwater
Photographer Award 2008

KRZYSTAN, Andrea
Divers Alert Network 2006

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

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Divers Alert Network 2005

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European Young Underwater
Photographer Award 2003

McNALLY, Lucy
Sport Diver Magazine 2006

MICHALIK, Courtney
Bonnier Dive Group 2011

MITCHELL, Catherine R.
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Rodale Magazine 2001

MYERS, Robert A.
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REEF 2007

OLENYCH, Noah
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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

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.
Bonnier 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

WALKER, Jenna M.
AAUS 2011

WATT, 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 S.
National Park Service 2017

ZEIGLER, Erin
Divers Alert Network 2007

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ÉRIC JORDÀ MOLINA



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OLIVIA J. JOHNSON



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