



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

Congratulations to the 2019 Scholarship/Training Grant Winners

The Women Divers Hall of Fame™ (WDHOF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and raising awareness of the contributions of outstanding women divers. WDHOF provides educational, financial, career and mentorship opportunities to the diving community throughout the world. Each year, WDHOF awards scholarships and training grants that provide financial and educational support to individuals of all ages, particularly those who are preparing for professional careers that involve diving.

The Women Divers Hall of Fame scholarships and training grants are awarded yearly in the spring at Beneath the Sea in Secaucus, New Jersey. The program began in 2002 with three scholarships being awarded to four individuals. This year we had a record number of applications and we will be awarding more than \$75,000 to 59 individuals who are passionate about our water planet and looking to grow in their knowledge and skills.

A special thank you goes out to Shirley Pomponi, our Scholarship Chair, and her committee members for all of their hard work and many, many hours spent on our program.

Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology (\$2000)

Sponsored by the Connelly Family, in memory of WDHOF Member Cecelia Connelly



Analise Hollingshead

After working at two archaeological sites along a beach and river, Analise wanted to learn how archaeology can be done under water. She dove right in, now pursuing an M.S. in Anthropology at Florida State University after completing her B.A. at Texas A&M University. Her research interests are focused on when, how, and what the lives of the first Americans were like entering North America

thousands of years ago, examining once-dry sites that now lie under water. She hopes to continue this research through earning her Ph.D., and one day become a professor contributing to establishing submerged prehistory as a permanent subfield of archaeology.

Cecelia Connelly Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology (\$750)

Sponsored by the Connelly Family, in memory of WDHOF Member Cecelia Connelly



Sarah Gilmer

Sarah is an undergraduate working on B.A. degrees in Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Missouri. She currently works as a lab technician in the Archaeometry Lab at the university's research reactor. Sarah has excavated at Gabii outside of Rome, and plans on excavating at Kefalonia, Greece, during summer 2019. She has been scuba certified since 2013 and has recently been working on further

dive certifications. Sarah is looking forward to using this scholarship to attend an underwater archaeology field school in Spain.

Graduate Scholarships in Marine Conservation (12 - \$2000 each)

Sponsored by Aggressor Liveaboards (WDHOF Member Anne Hasson)



Emily Anderson

Emily is a Ph.D. student in the Ecological Sciences Program at Old Dominion University. She is interested in how fish and invertebrate larvae use underwater soundscapes to locate suitable settlement habitats and how soundscape ecology can be applied to improve marine restoration techniques. In the future, she plans to continue applying her research to marine conservation efforts by working for a federal

agency or a conservation-based, non-governmental organization.

Sponsored by Sea of Change Foundation (WDHOF Member Anne Hasson)



Billie Beckley

Billie is a Master's student at the Coastal and Marine Institute of San Diego State University. She is broadly interested in kelp forest ecology and how environmental changes and anthropogenic impacts affect coastal marine ecosystems. Her thesis research focuses on how disturbance affects macroalgal community composition. She is conducting experimental field research in order to determine

the mechanisms by which kelp species compete with one another in *Macrocystis pyrifera*-dominated, kelp forest ecosystems. In the future, she hopes to continue working on conservation-focused research projects that help create and influence environmental policies and support marine conservation plans.

WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME MISSION

The Women Divers Hall of Fame's two-part mission includes:

- Recognizing women divers who have made outstanding contributions to the exploration, understanding, safety and enjoyment of our underwater world and
- Supporting the underwater world and its associated careers by promoting opportunities for women and men in diving through scholarships, internships and mentorship opportunities and a worldwide network of industry contacts.

To learn more about the Women Divers Hall of Fame, visit www.wdhof.org

Graduate Scholarships in Marine Conservation continued.

Sponsored by WDHOFF Member Meg Donat

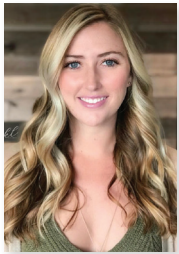


Hannah Aichelman

Hannah is a Ph.D. student in the Davies lab at Boston University. She previously studied thermal performance of the northern star coral as a Virginia Sea Grant fellow during her Master's at Old Dominion University, and is now exploring new scientific questions with the same coral during her Ph.D. As a WDHOFF scholar, Hannah will be dipping below the surface again to study the relationship

between the coral host and its algal symbiont in response to temperature stress. Hannah's research will help improve our understanding of this important and intimate relationship, and how these organisms may fare under contemporary climate change.

Sponsored by John Morrison, in memory of his daughter Rachel Morrison



Morgan Farrell

Morgan is a Master's student at San Francisco State University and is partnering with the California Academy of Sciences to study human impacts on coral microbial communities in the Dominican Republic. She received her AAUS Scientific Diver, Rescue Diver, and Advanced Diver certifications at the University of Florida, where she studied coral physiology in Moorea, Tahiti. The scholarship

will support her field work to study the ability of coral microbial communities to adapt to direct human impacts (i.e., nutrient run-off, tourism presence). Her research will help characterize the role microbial communities play in coral resilience, which can inform future conservation plans.

Sponsored by the J. Berman Memorial Fund



Erin Spencer

Erin Spencer is a marine ecologist and National Geographic Explorer who studies sustainable fisheries management. Her current work involves using DNA barcoding to assess the rate of red snapper mislabeling in the southeastern United States, a practice that poses economic, environmental, and human health risks. Erin also studies innovative responses to invasive species management, particularly lionfish. In 2014, Erin launched the Invasive Species Initiative, a website that uses digital storytelling to share grassroots approaches to invasive species management. Erin is a graduate student at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill.

Sponsored by Blue World/Oceanic Research Group, Inc. (WDHOFF Member Christine Bird)



Laura McDonnell

Laura McDonnell is a Ph.D. student at the University of Miami's Abess Center for Ecosystem Science and Policy. Her project will study environmental and anthropogenic stressors' effects on shark movement and physiology. She has nine years of research experience in fish biology, implementing both lab and field methods to address questions concerning effects of climate change stressors on fish behavior and physiological performance. She has previously led and carried out research in Canada, the Caribbean, Uganda, and Fiji.

Sponsored by the family and friends of WDHOFF Member Susan L. Williams (2 scholarships)



Sarah Driscoll

Sarah is a Ph.D. candidate at Antioch University in Keene, NH, and is studying the influence of spatial patterning of seagrass meadows and mangroves on mobile marine vertebrates. Her study sites are located in Bimini, Bahamas, where she is working with staff from the Bimini Biological Field Station. Sarah has also worked as a scientific diver for the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA, for 15 years. She is a mother of three young children (ages 5, 3, and 1) and step-daughter (17) and plans to teach them all how to scuba dive someday.



Renee Setter

Renee is a PADI Divemaster, AAUS Scientific Diver, and M.A. candidate in the Geography and Environment department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She is interested in identifying ideal sites for coral restoration in future climate scenarios for the successful establishment of coral transplants in the Pacific region. In the future, she hopes to continue working in environmental management and conservation of coral reef ecosystems.

Sponsored by the Women Divers Hall of Fame (4 scholarships)



Nicola G. Kriefall

Nicola studied biology and ecology as an undergraduate, working with fish, crabs, snails, and squid. After graduating, she worked with New York's Department of Conservation, gathering data on fish populations statewide. Now she's excited to combine molecular research with conservation as a Ph.D. student at Boston University. She uses genomic analyses to understand how corals in the Florida

Keys are responding to environmental change and to predict how these populations will fare in the future. Nicola will pursue similar genomics and conservation investigations in her career as an academic researcher in the future, ideally on a tropical island.



Jamie McDevitt-Irwin

Jamie is a Ph.D. student in Biology at Stanford University, and is currently an NSERC PGS-D fellow and an AAUS certified diver. Her Ph.D. research evaluates how trophic interactions on coral reefs, ranging from large sharks down to small fishes, influence the benthic community. To do this, she is working in both the Chagos Archipelago (high fish and shark biomass) and the Maldives Archipelago (low fish and shark biomass) utilizing scuba monitoring surveys and in-situ experiments. She aims to continue conducting research after the completion of her Ph.D., addressing a variety of community ecology questions on marine ecosystems.

Graduate Scholarships in Marine Conservation continued.



Tess Moriarty

Conservation and the ocean are two things Tess has always felt passionate about, and this, coupled with her love of diving, led her to pursue a career in the field of marine conservation. Graduating from the University of Tasmania with a degree in Marine Science in 2012, she has since spent her time in different environments, working as a dive professional, marine conservation manager,

and volunteering as a marine biologist with projects in sea turtle conservation, community outreach, and reef restoration. Tess is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Newcastle, studying the relationship between coral diseases and their microbiome.



Caroline Rodriguez

Caroline is working on her Master's in Marine Science at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and is interested in marine organisms' physiological response to climate change stressors. In particular, she focuses on the molecular mechanisms that corals use to adjust to changing ocean temperatures. For her research, she will be sampling corals in the Galapagos that have survived a bleaching event, in

order to better understand coral temperature tolerance. In the future, she plans to use her education to work at the forefront of marine conservation and environmental justice for populations disproportionately harmed by climate change.

Undergraduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation (4 - \$1000 each)

Sponsored by WDHOFF Member Sherry Reed



Maya Emilia Greenhill

Maya is a junior at Brown University, studying Ecology and Evolutionary Biology with a focus on marine community ecology. Her current research examines the ecological function of reef fish and community responses to extreme climate events such as El Niño in the Galápagos Marine Reserve. She is also dedicated to increasing the accessibility of research careers, and works closely with programs

in the Caribbean teaching marine science to young women. Maya intends to continue her education, teaching, and research with a Ph.D. in marine ecology.

Sponsored by Blue World/Oceanic Research Group, Inc. (WDHOFF Member Christine Bird)



Reanna Jeanes

Reanna is a senior Biological Sciences major at Clemson University. Though only recently certified to dive, she has always fostered a love for the ocean ecosystem and enjoys diving with her undergraduate research team to monitor coral transplants and fish diversity on reefs in the Florida Keys. Upon graduation, she intends to attend graduate school to study shark ecology and understand their

effects on ecosystems as integral apex predators. She looks forward to a future career in shark conservation and exploring the world's magnificent oceans.

Sponsored by Blue Green Expeditions (WDHOFF Member Faith Ortins)



Marisa Agarwal

Marisa is a sophomore Marine Biology concentrator studying at Brown University. Hailing from northern California, she has always loved the ocean and is excited to get the chance to study community dynamics in the Galapagos Islands during the summer of 2019. She has been scuba certified for three years, and cannot wait to get more dives under her belt! In the future, Marisa hopes to go to

graduate school to study marine community ecology in order to further understand and protect our world's precious underwater ecosystems.

Sponsored by Women Divers Hall of Fame



Sin Ki Debbie Leung

Debbie is a sophomore at Columbia University pursuing an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Environmental Biology. She first became a certified diver at the age of 17 when she got involved with coral watch and reef check surveys in Hoi Ha Wan Marine Park in Hong Kong. Since then, she has been diving for three years, earning her Advanced Open Water and

Rescue Diver certifications. She plans to study abroad in her junior year at Shoals Marine Laboratory to learn more about marine biology and conduct underwater research. She aspires to become an influential marine biologist and hopes to become a Dive Master to spearhead ocean conservation efforts.

Undergraduate Marine Research Internship (\$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOFF Members

Drs. Sue Morra and Kathleen Dudzinski



Maggie MacMahon

Maggie was raised in land-locked Idaho, but has always had a deep passion and calling for biology under the sea. She is currently a junior at Maine Maritime Academy studying marine biology and small vessel operations. She plans to use her degree to better understand the physiological responses organisms develop in reaction to climate change and ocean warming, to increase human awareness

in ocean ecosystems. She is passionate about diving, videography, and bridging the gap between science and local communities, and hopes to creatively spread awareness and change to the world.

WDHOFF Scholarship in Underwater Education (\$2000)

Sponsored by Women Divers Hall of Fame



Annelies Andringa-Davis

Annelies earned a double M.Sc. in Biology and Education in 2005 and 2006 at Wageningen and Utrecht University, respectively. Starting as a high school Biology teacher, she quickly changed to a job in Environmental Education. She has been working on various successful education projects in The Netherlands, in the rainforest in Bolivia, and the last 4.5 years in coastal communities in the Philippines.

To be able to connect children with their own (marine) environment is the drive behind her work.

Ella Jean Morgan Memorial Dive Training Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOFF Member Erin O'Neill and Frank Boulanger



Andrea Musuy Méndez García

Andrea was born in La Paz, BCS. She is currently studying Marine Biology at the Autonomous University of Baja California Sur (UABCS). For Andrea, diving is not only important for her career, but also for her community. The community where she lives, El Manglito, is a small village located in the Bay of La Paz. Her father, like many others in El Manglito, is a fisherman by profession. The vast

majority of the income and livelihood is supported by marine resources, and Andrea believes that it's important that the community learns to protect it.

WDHOFF Basic Dive Training Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by Women Divers Hall of Fame



Katherine Haile

Katherine is a senior at Northwestern University, studying Earth and Planetary Sciences. Through working with one of her professors in the field of hydrology in the Yucatan Peninsula, she became exposed to cave divers, and saw what scientific divers are able to accomplish and discover. This experience sparked her interest in learning to dive in open water and eventually through caves in order to continue

exploring certain areas in the field of hydrology.

Kids Sea Camp Basic Dive Training Grant (3 - \$500)

Sponsored by Kids Sea Camp (WDHOFF Member Margo Peyton)



Ruth Araceli Méndez Márquez

When Ruth was a young girl, her great-grandfather and grandfather used to take her fishing for scallops. She remembers one day when it was too cold to dive, telling her grandparents that when she became a diver, she would dive for them so they wouldn't have to suffer in the cold. Ruth works for OPRE (Organización de Pescadores Rescatando La

Ensenada), and she wants to participate in fishery evaluations and underwater cleanings. She and five other women are a part of the Board of Directors of OPRE, which co-manages the Estero San Martín wetlands located in La Paz, BCS, Mexico. Ruth has taken courses in wetsuit repair, currently helps the fishermen in her community repair their wetsuits, and will be teaching a wetsuit repair workshop in other fishing communities so that other fishermen will be able to repair the wetsuits that are essential for their livelihood.



Montana McLeod

Montana graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a degree in Environmental Studies with an outside concentration in Marine Ecosystems. She grew up near the California coast, and her time studying in Santa Barbara solidified her connection with the marine environment. Montana is currently working as a Scientific Aide for a marine project in Southern

California and is hoping to obtain her open-water certification before she begins her graduate education studying subtidal marine ecology.



Lorelei Mathilda Short Pfleger

Lorelei recently turned 10 and is a fourth grade student. She took a scuba bubbles introduction class during the summer of 2018 and is eager to continue her scuba certification. She is very active in Girl Scouts, and recently hosted a scuba demonstration for the scouts where each girl was given the opportunity to try on equipment and learn about scuba. In addition

to Girl Scouts, Lorelei is an avid equestrian who rides and competes at dressage. Lorelei loves nature, animals, and the outdoors. She hopes that becoming scuba certified will begin her path of marine activities and open a world of ocean exploration that she would like to pursue.

Ocean Pals Junior Dive Training Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by Ocean Pals (WDHOFF Member JoAnn Zigahn)



Summer Stevenson

Summer is a fourteen-year-old freshman attending Kubasaki High School in Okinawa, Japan. As the daughter of a U.S. Marine and an elementary/science teacher, she has had the opportunity to live, travel, and study around the world. One constant drive is her passion for science and life in the water. Since moving to Okinawa in 2016, she has swum year-round for the Dolphins Swim

Team, won two consecutive district level science fairs for her work with magnets, attended STEMinar at Tsukuba University in Tokyo, and completed her Junior Open Water Diver Certification. With this grant, she plans to earn her Advanced Open Water Diver Certification, so that she may pursue a career in marine engineering.

PADI Young Explorer Dive Training Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors)



Erin Schneider

Erin started diving at age 14 and has logged nearly 100 dives in the last three years. She attends Temecula Valley High School where she founded the Scuba and Ocean Conservation Club and served as its President for the last three years. Erin is also a founding member of the TVHS BioSustainability Club, which was added to her high school's curriculum in 2018-2019. She works at her local dive

shop, is immersed in the local dive community, and continues to learn. Erin aspires to study marine science in college and become a Dive Master and scuba instructor.

Miss Scuba Dive Training Grant (\$500)

Sponsored by WDHOFF Member Szilvia Gogh



Emma Elizabeth Márquez

When Emma was young, she lived with her great-grandparents, Guillermo and Librada; her great-grandfather used to take her fishing along the shore and they would cook what they caught. When she was seven, he taught her to throw a cast net, to fish with a handline, and how to use a gillnet to harvest shrimp. He took her fishing in the Bay of La Paz in the middle of the night to catch shrimp, or along the coastline fishing for clams. When they got home, her great-grandmother would greet them with food and coffee, something she remembers with great fondness. Her entire family is dedicated to fishing, from her great-grandparents, to her father, brothers, and cousins. She wants to continue the tradition, become a diver, and learn more about the sea.

*Sponsored by the family and friends of
WDHOF Member Susan L. Williams*



Martha Magdalena Garcia Juarez

Martha was born in La Paz, BCS, Mexico. As part of the El Manglito fishing community, she became involved in fishing and married a fisherman. She belongs to an organization called OPRE (Organización de Pescadores Rescatando La Ensenada), where she, along with 13 other women, conducts surveillance tours by land and sea. She wants to learn to dive so she can participate more actively in fishery restoration

activities, such as monitoring the health of the ecosystem in order to understand what other problems affect their fishery.

Women's Scuba Association Dive Training Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Jennifer King



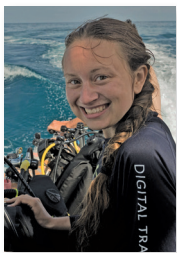
Lance Yearick

Lance is 16 years old and currently enrolled as a sophomore in Lake Havasu High School in Arizona. He has been a part of the scouting program—Boy Scouts and Sea Scouts—for over 10 years. He is a Life Scout and is currently working on his Eagle Project. He is also the Boatswain's mate of his Sea Scout Ship and previous Senior Patrol Leader for his Troop. His scholastic goal is to attend the Air Force Academy

in Colorado after his graduation in 2021. His diving goal is to become a master diver. This scholarship will allow him to attain his advanced diver status and buy additional dive gear.

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Recreational (5 - \$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Bonnie Toth



Kat Leigh

Kat has held positions in fisheries management, EHR project implementation, administrative marketing, and scientific visioning with Cornell University, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, and Epic Software Systems. Her love of marine ecology and economics transcends traditional academic and social boundaries, merging into the International Development and Data Management fields. She is

dedicated to promoting comprehensive sustainability, and alleviating marine resource inequalities. By focusing on incentive structures within government, business, institutions, research, and the public, Kat aims to facilitate equity, accessibility, practicality, and resiliency within Indonesia's small-scale fisheries. Kat, an avid runner and skier, likes to stay active, get outdoors, and explore new places.

Sponsored by WDHOF (4 grants)



Mahsa Alidoostsalimi

Mahsa earned her Ph.D. in Marine Biology, is a PADI open water diver, and is the first female researcher working on coral disease in her region. She was a visiting student at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (Hawaii), learning how to study and investigate coral disease, and then applied this experience in the Persian Gulf. She seeks other opportunities outside of her country to get even more

field experience. This grant gives her the opportunity to learn advanced diving skills.



Autumn Chong

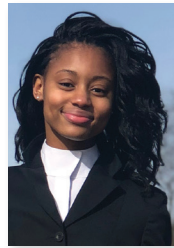
Uakoko (Autumn) is from Waimea, Hawai'i. She is working towards a B.S. degree in Marine Science and a B.A. degree in Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. She is currently a certified scientific diver, and she plans to further her scuba training through UHH's Quantitative Underwater Ecological Surveying Techniques (QUEST) Program. After UHH, she plans to return and work with her community in Waip'o. Mahalo nui to the WDHOF grant program for financially supporting her goals.



Fawn D. Liebengood

Fawn Liebengood is a marine conservation activist born in Portland, Oregon. She moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, to continue a career in psychology, but after seeing marine debris' impact in Hawaii, she chose to pursue a career in marine debris removal and prevention. Fawn earned her MBA in Nonprofit Management, Entrepreneurship Certificate, and an award for Outstanding Community Service. She

cofounded the environmental nonprofit organization, 808 Cleanups. She was recently accepted into the Marine Biodiversity & Conservation program at Scripps Institution of Oceanography where she will be studying all aspects of marine plastic pollution.



Megyn E. McCoy

Megyn is a 14-year-old freshman at Caroline High School in Virginia. An aspiring marine biologist, she became a certified scuba diver in 2016. She is a Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Applied Mathematics Academy Ambassador, attends annual Marine Quest camps at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, and was a junior camp counselor for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Megyn has been a member of the Interscholastic Equestrian Association since 2014, and regularly competes as a Hunt Seat rider with a local team.

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Professional (5 - \$1000)

*Sponsored by Valerie's Foundation, Inc., in memory of
WDHOF Member Valerie de la Valdene)*



Heather Glon

Heather is a Ph.D. student in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology at the Ohio State University, where her research is focused on sea anemones. She has been diving for over 10 years, and is thrilled to now be able to use her diving skills for her own field work, collecting anemones throughout the cold northern Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. As she earns her divemaster certification, she is looking forward to sharing her passion for diving with new divers, and plans on developing citizen science outreach events for divers, centered on marine biodiversity.

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Professional continued.

Sponsored by WDHOFF (4 grants)



Bex Band

Bex is an adventure blogger (www.theordinaryadventurer.com) who founded the eco-adventure community, Love Her Wild, in 2016. Her aim is to inspire more women to get outdoors, adventuring and connecting with the natural world. She has since gone on to organize dozens of all-female expeditions and initiatives all over the world. Bex has a real love for ocean conservation. Her goal for the

future is to use the network and following she has built to inspire positive action that helps protect our oceans.



Hannah Cranford

Hannah discovered her love for diving while serving in the U.S. Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic. With this grant, she plans to pursue Divemaster training near her home in Orlando, Florida. She spends her weekends diving around the state and volunteering with her Brownie Girl Scout Troop. Hannah is a Lifetime Member of Girl Scouts and plans to use her training to pass her love of the sea on to

other young women by developing a scuba diving troop program for her local Girl Scout Council. Hannah believes that diving is an exceptional opportunity for girls to experience adventure, develop leadership skills, and champion ocean conservation ideals.



Emily Nadia Drappeau

Emily is currently a senior at Hall-Dale High School. She has been a diver since her freshman year, completing her open water, advanced, and rescue certifications. With these certifications, she has worked every year at OceansWide summer science camp to help educate young marine enthusiasts in the issues facing our oceans. She previously received the WDHOFF PADI dive training grant that helped

her achieve her rescue certification. She is excited to use this WDHOFF dive training grant to receive her divemaster certification. As a senior, she is eager to begin her undergraduate marine science studies, with a lot of diving in the foreseeable future.



Tori Galloway

Tori is an undergraduate at Indiana University, currently pursuing degrees in Anthropology, Underwater Archaeology, and Underwater Resource Management. She has attended several archaeological field projects and plans to begin a graduate degree in Maritime Archaeology in Fall 2019. Tori is a NOAA Volunteer Diver and served as an intern with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Maritime Heritage Program. She is a previous recipient of the Cecelia Connelly Memorial Scholarship for Undergraduates in Underwater Archaeology, an Associate of the Women Divers Hall of Fame, and a current Divemaster Candidate.

Advanced Dive Training Grants – Technical (3 - \$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOFF



Jeanne Bloomberg

Jeanne was scuba certified in 2013 and was soon after certified as an AAUS Scientific Diver at Northeastern University. She is currently a Master's degree student at Louisiana State University, where she studies coral reproduction and population connectivity, specifically on mesophotic reefs deeper than 30 m. There is currently very limited knowledge of reproduction on deep reefs, in part, because they are located beyond standard, recreational diving limits. Jeanne will use this grant for advanced, technical dive training and equipment, which she will use to enhance our understanding of mesophotic reefs.



Brandi Mueller

Brandi learned how to dive when she was 15 and went to college to study marine biology. After graduating, she became a scuba instructor and worked on liveaboards before returning to graduate school to complete an M.S. degree at the University of Hawaii. She obtained her Merchant Mariners Captains license in 2008 and has continued to work as a scuba instructor and/or boat captain. Over

time, she became interested in underwater photography and freelance writing, hoping to share the underwater world and ocean conservation with the general public. She recently published a book called *The Airplane Graveyard*. She will use her WDHOFF grant to continue technical training so she can reach new places under water, including deep wrecks, to photograph and tell their stories to a wider audience.



Tiffany Sih

Tiffany has just completed a Ph.D. in Marine Biology, studying the ecology of deep-reef fishes of the Great Barrier Reef, Australia. Originally from California, Tiffany has worked as an educator, dive instructor, and researcher in Alaska, Hawaii, and most recently, Australia. Her research takes her to shallow-water coral reefs and deep-sea environments, as she unravels some of the mysteries in lesser-known marine

ecosystems. She will be using the WDHOFF Advanced Dive Training Grant to become accredited as a Scientific Diver to work in remote locations.

PADI 4 Change Scuba Leadership Grant in Ocean Conservation (\$2500)

Sponsored by PADI



Nadia T. Rubio-Cisneros

Nadia is working on generating interdisciplinary science to preserve island environments. She obtained her doctorate at Scripps Institution of Oceanography where she is currently a fellow for coastal ecosystem services at the Center for Marine Biodiversity and Conservation. Her current projects are on Holbox and Cozumel Islands in the Mexican Caribbean where she is studying coastal exploitation. Through the PADI 4

Change – Ocean Conservation grant, Nadia will be gaining scuba training to help her advance her underwater research in the Caribbean. This grant will also support her goal of disseminating scientific findings to broad audiences by generating awareness towards the conservation of islands.

PADI 4 Change Scuba Leadership Grant in Healing and Wellness (\$2500)

Sponsored by PADI



Nataalka MacKay

Nataalka is a paramedic, military spouse, a PADI Instructor since 2011, and HSA Instructor since 2018. She is founder of the non-profit organization Under the Surface Scuba dedicated to empowering Canadian Military Veterans, RCMP, police, fire and paramedics who sustained mental and physical injuries on their road to recovery, through the therapeutic qualities of scuba diving. Believing that under water we are all

equal, Nataalka is excited to share her love of the ocean and scuba diving with many Canadians through her program.

Instructor Advanced Education Training Grants (2 - \$2000)

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Jeanne Bear Sleeper



Laura Seese

Laura has a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology, Sixth-Year Degree in Educational Administration, and Master's degree in School Psychology. During weekdays, she works with children with learning needs; on weekends, she is a Staff Instructor at Enfield Scuba in Connecticut. She was certified in 2005 and enjoys travel, underwater photography, and diving for Megalodon shark teeth. This grant will be used for advanced training in Adaptive Scuba and Drysuit

Diving (to help support more students in the chilly New England water where she teaches classes).

Co-sponsored by WDHOF and by WDHOF Member Jeanne Bear Sleeper



Brittany Haurly

Brittany has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from Hawaii Pacific University. Her dive career spans over a decade and includes instructing at Boy Scouts' Sea Base high adventure program, managing Dive World Austin, and volunteering her time with the first Girl Scout Scuba Troop in the U.S. When talking to Brittany, one quickly discovers her passion for diving as a lifestyle and career, and

her dedication to the next generation of divers. She aims to create a better world for her daughter, Lorelai, and to inspire others to do the same. Follow her journey on Instagram: @brittanyhaurly

Amelia Behrens-Furniss Memorial Hardhat Dive Training Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by family and friends of WDHOF Member Amelia Behrens-Furniss



Megan Cardell

Megan is currently enrolled in The Ocean Corporation, working towards becoming a commercial diver. She is a Michigan native who loves the water and grew up on the Great Lakes. Megan has always dreamed of finding a career that lets her work outdoors, and, after one scuba dive, she knew that commercial diving was for her. She hopes to find a job after graduation that will allow her to use her new

diving skills to help protect and preserve the environment.

Morgan/O'Neill Underwater Photography Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Erin O'Neill and Frank Boulanger, in memory of WDHOF Member Ella Jean Morgan



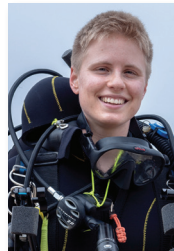
Katie Sowul

Katie is a scientific diver for UC Davis and California's Department of Fish and Wildlife. She studies the health of kelp forests and invertebrate populations from northern California down to the Baja Peninsula. Specifically, Katie works to rebuild abalone populations affected by climate change and human influence. Katie is the primary photographer for her dive team and is committed to using her photography

to connect lawmakers and the public with marine wildlife they would never personally encounter. She dedicates this award to the memory of Athena Maguire, underwater photographer and recipient of two WDHOF scholarships.

WDHOF Underwater Photography Grant (\$1000)

Sponsored by WDHOF



Kate Vylet

Kate is an underwater photographer, videographer, and scientific diving technician based in Monterey Bay, California. She earned her B.S. in Ecology and Evolution and B.A. in Art (Photography) along with her AAUS Scientific Diver and NAUI Divemaster certifications from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Kate developed a passion for the marine world while learning to scuba dive in Monterey,

and now dives incessantly to capture and study the vibrant life hidden below California's green waves. Her ambition is to develop professionally in photography and videography in order to visually and scientifically communicate the wonder of our underwater world.

Recreational/Public Safety Diver Medical Education Grant – UK and Europe (valued at \$1000)

Sponsored by The Diver Medic and DAN Europe (WDHOF Member Chantelle Newman)



Aurelia Reichardt

Aurelia is a marine biologist and scientific diver. Combining these two passions, she participated in various scientific expeditions to isolated places such as the fjords of Chilean Patagonia. Aurelia has spent the last year living at Rothera Research Station, Antarctica, working as Marine Biologist for the British Antarctic Survey. Diving in Antarctic waters year round has highlighted to her the importance of emergency

plans and appropriate training. This grant will help her achieve her goal of delivering safe diving operations in remote parts of the world.

If you are interested in further information about the scholarship programs or would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit our website at:

www.wdhof.org

Recreational/Public Safety Diver Medical Education Grant - USA (3 – valued at \$1000)

Sponsored by The Diver Medic

(WDHOF Member Chantelle Newman)



Jasmine Y. Gale

Jasmine began diving at 14 years old, and she quickly advanced to earning a Master Diver certification and what became a longstanding commitment to diving, ocean conservation, and advocacy. She graduated from University of Southern California in 2015 with a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a B.A. in Spanish. She is now immersed in healthcare as a second-year medical student at Tufts

University School of Medicine. She hopes to pursue emergency medicine, and eventually undersea and hyperbaric medicine. She is excited for the prospect of this multidisciplinary field so that she can ultimately contribute to human health directly through medicine and indirectly through environmental stewardship.



Nicole Lin

Nicole is a medical and public health student who has tremendous love for the ocean. During her free time, you can find her diving, surfing, shark tagging, and editing photographs and videos of her adventures at sea. She is a PADI Scuba & Free Dive Master and is excited to learn more about dive medicine.



Emmi Sturckow

Emmi was raised on a small cattle ranch in Texas. She loved caring for animals from an early age, was involved in youth rodeo from when she was five and then up through high school rodeo. She played basketball on numerous youth league teams as well as in high school. She started diving at age 11 and has worked her way up through Advanced Open Water

and Rescue Diver. She is interested in becoming a PADI Dive Master and is looking forward to the Diver Medic training very much.

Lifeguard Systems – Public Safety Diving Scholarship (2 – valued at \$1000)

Sponsored by Lifeguard Systems Inc.

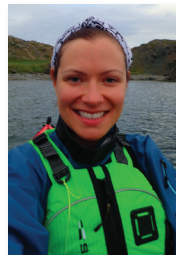
(WDHOF Member Andrea Zaferes)



Stephanie Hackston

Stephanie graduated from the University of Ottawa with an Honors Specialization in Psychology. She began her diving career in June of 2018, quickly fell in love with diving, and she completed her Divemaster in November 2018. After working as a Wildland Firefighter for two years in northern Ontario, she is moving on to work in a Structural Fire Department in western Canada. She is eager to continue her rescue

diver training and bring that knowledge to her new fire department.



Caitlyn A. Kulakowski

Katy has been working as a paramedic in the greater Boston area for the past eight years. She began her diving career only recently, though she progressed through her rescue diver rating within one year while also working towards her rotorcraft private pilot's license. She has been eager to expand her training and merge her two passions, emergency response and scuba diving. Eventually, she would like to have a

professional role in the dive industry and join a local dive rescue team.

Hugh Fletcher Memorial Training Grant to Assist the Disabled to Dive (\$1000)

Sponsored by friends of Hugh Fletcher

(WDHOF Member Kathy Weydig)



Tannia Delapaz

Tannia was born and raised in southern California. She was a paramedic before suffering a spinal cord injury in 2014 which left her with permanent left-side paralysis. In 2018 she participated in a Discover Scuba class where she fell in love with the freedom she felt being under the water. She is now pursuing her goal of getting her open water certification. She cannot wait to start exploring the beautiful ocean.

Valerie de la Valdene Memorial Grant for Disabled Diver Training (\$1000)

Sponsored by Valerie's Foundation, Inc., in memory of

WDHOF Member Valerie de la Valdene



Maureen Hayden

Maureen is legally blind and has Retinopathy of Prematurity. She is blind in her right eye and has poor vision in her left eye. She is a graduate student in the Ph.D. Marine Biology Interdisciplinary Program at Texas A&M University. Adaptations Maureen uses for scuba diving include a computer with a 1-inch display and backlight as well as tactile underwater hand signals, similar to the communication style of Helen

Keller. With the help of the grant, she hopes to further her diver education and plans to learn advanced diving and enhanced air diving.

Sister Fund Dive Training Grant for Disabled Diver Training (\$1000)

Sponsored by Sister Fund



Eileen Wallace

Eileen became interested in scuba while teaching swimming at a local dive shop. She took her love of diving from Open Water to Dive Master, enjoying the best of diving off the NJ coast and in the Caribbean. Her education and career led her on a path to being a Certified Athletic Trainer, Physical Therapy Assistant, and teacher. Finding Handicapped SCUBA Association NJ was the key to combining her vocation

with her avocation. She now volunteers with clients and students using diving as rehabilitation and working to promote access to certification for all abilities.