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# BENEATH THE SEA®

## SCHOLARSHIP HONOR SOCIETY



In its quest to promote environmental conservation and the protection of marine wildlife, **Beneath The Sea®**, Inc. created the Sea of Tomorrow Society Scholarship Program. These scholarships are offered annually to encourage youth through young adults to expand their knowledge and research hours in a variety of fields, including marine conservation, marine biology, underwater photography, underwater archaeology and many more. Some scholarships focus on specific areas of studies, while others provide the applicants with the opportunity to identify the areas they wish to study.

For scholarships used for education programs, funds will be provided directly to the training facility upon receipt of an invoice from that facility. For research projects requiring specific equipment and materials, funds will be provided upon receipt of a paid invoice from the supplier.

Training Grants provide funding for diving and related underwater training. Some grant sponsors require that the recipient take the training at a specified facility. Other grants allow the recipient to take the training at a recognized/authorized facility in the United States. Funds will be paid to the selected facility upon receipt of an invoice from that facility.

### IMPORTANT

- Applications and two letters of recommendation must be submitted by the deadline date. Late submissions will not be eligible.
- You may only apply for one scholarship or training grant.
- Each scholarship or grant has an age range, and applicant must be within that age range at time of application submission.

This **Honor Society** highlights current and past recipients who can serve as examples to future scholarship applicants. Each autumn, the new scholarship offerings are posted on [www.BeneathTheSea.org](http://www.BeneathTheSea.org).

### RECIPIENTS INDEX

- Within each year, Control/click on a recipient's name in the index to navigate to their bio and photo.
- Names in **red** indicate the recipient's bio and photo are not currently available.

# 2019



Sandy Shaw, BTS Scholarship Director, introducing the attending scholarship recipients at the annual awards dinner.



Taylor Fuchs, BTS Ambassador of Youth, presents certificate to James Ye, 2019 Discovery Scholarship recipient.



Gisele Romayne Easton, 2019 Jim Leffard Memorial Scholarship recipient, being presented one of Jim's photos.



Janine E. Rajauski, 2019 Advanced Scuba Diving Certification Training Grant recipient.



Jeffrey W. Farnsworth, recipient of 2019 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Training Grant.



Maggie MacMahon, 2019 Sea of Tomorrow Honorable Mention recipient.



Congratulations to all 2019 Scholarship

- [Elizabeth St. Germaine – Advanced Open Water Certification Training Grant sponsored by SECONN Skin Divers](#)
- [Janine E. Rajauski – Advanced Scuba Diving Certification Training Grant sponsored by PADI and Oceanic Worldwide](#)
- [Kirsten Ortega – Art of Underwater Photography Training Grant sponsored by Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants](#)
- [Jessie Lin – Blue Water Divers OW Scuba Certification Training Grant sponsored by Blue Water Divers, Rochelle Park, NJ](#)
- [James Ye – Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [Trent Tougas – Discovery Scholarship Honorable Mention](#)
- [Sarah Trabue – Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Gisele Romaine Easton – Jim Leffard Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Jeffrey W. Farnsworth – Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Training Grant sponsored by Life Support Technologies](#)
- [Garrett Lanier – Maritime Career Scholarship](#)
- [Summer Stevenson – Ocean Pals Junior Dive Training Grant sponsored by BTS Ocean Pals](#)
- [Tzipporah Kapilevich – Open Water Certification Training Grant sponsored by SECONN Skin Divers](#)
- [Katherine Roberts – Open Water Certification Training Grant sponsored by SECONN Skin Divers](#)
- [Cameron J. Silber – Recreational/Public Safety Diver Medic Technician Training Grant](#)
- [Marina Hernandez – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Maggie MacMahon – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship Honorable Mention](#)
- [Emma Barton – Sid Aconsky “Measure Twice, Cut Once” Scholarship sponsored by The Bottom Dwellers](#)
- [Molly Alvino – Underwater Imaging Digital Shootout Training Grant sponsored by Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo](#)

# 2018



David Burroughs presents The Oceanic Dive Computer to Shalimar Moreno, recipient of 2018 Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship, sponsored by PADI/Oceanic Worldwide.



Benny Santiago, recipient of 2018 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship, with Taylor Fuchs.



- [Shalimar G. Moreno – 2018 Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship \(sponsored by PADI/Oceanic Worldwide\)](#)
- [Ailey Sheehan – 2018 Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship \(sponsored by Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants\)](#)
- [Krista Chempiel – 2018 Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [Jessica \(Jessie\) Jackson – 2018 Discovery Scholarship Honorable Mention](#)
- [Ana Brown – 2018 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Alexander J. Gonzalez – 2018 Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [Cynthia D. Reardon – 2018 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship \(sponsored by Life Support Technologies\)](#)
- [Trevor Webb – 2018 Maritime Career Scholarship](#)
- [Sophia Riesen – Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Nicholas Grippo – 2018 Recreational/Public Safety/Diver Medic Technician Scholarship \(sponsored by The Diver Medic/Chantelle Newman\)](#)
- [Benny X. Bonet Santiago – 2018 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Fotini-Joanne Pezas – Open Water Certification Scholarship \(sponsored by Dare2Dream Foundation\)](#)
- [Joseph Salcedo – Open Water Certification Scholarship \(sponsored by Southeast Divers SECONN\)](#)
- [Paige Vetrano – Open Water Certification Scholarship \(sponsored by Southeast Divers SECONN\)](#)
- [Christina Spinazola – Open Water Certification Scholarship \(sponsored by Peter Venoutsos\)](#)
- [Carolyn Burch – Sid Aconsky Measure Twice, Cut Once Scholarship \(sponsored by The Bottom Dwellers & Friends of Sid Aconsky\)](#)

# 2017



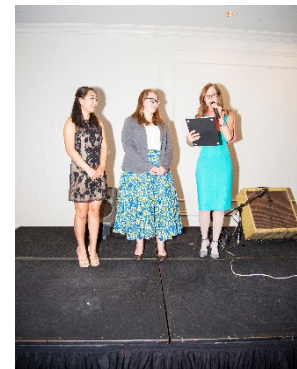
**2017** Scholarship recipients with JoAnn Zigahn, Beneath The Sea President.



Kate Rose, **2017** Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship recipient with Maria Hults, scholarship sponsor.



Meghan McGregor, **2017** Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship, with Glenn Butler, Life Support Technologies sponsor representative.



Kylie Hasegawa and Charis Peterson, **2017** Sid Aconsky Scholarship recipients, with Ilene Silver, representative of the sponsor, Bottom Dwellers.



Meaghan Rondeau, **2017** Open Water Scholarship, sponsored by SECONN Divers, with SUNY Maritime Honor Guard.

- [Sophie Allen – WDHOFF Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Mackenzie Blanusca - 2017 Open Water Certification Scholarship \(Courtesy of Southeast Connecticut Skin Divers \(SECONN\)\)](#)
- [Kylie Hasegawa - 2017 Sid Aconsky “Measure Twice, Cut Once” Scholarship – Honorable Mention \(Courtesy of The Bottom Dwellers/Friends of Sid Aconsky\)](#)
- [Henry Hua- - 2017 Discovery Scholarship – Honorable Mention](#)
- [Megan Kelley - 2017 Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship \(Courtesy of Life Support Technologies\)](#)
- [Jessica Lukasik - 2017 Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship \(Courtesy of PADI and Oceanic Worldwide\)](#)
- [Mark Mastroianni - 2017 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Meghan McGregor: 2017 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship \(Courtesy of Life Support Technologies\)](#)
- [Braden McPhillips - 2017 Discovery Scholarship – First Place](#)
- [Dominique Mellone - 2017 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarships](#)
- [Charis Peterson: 2017 Sid Aconsky “Measure Twice, Cut Once” Scholarship – First Place \(Courtesy of Bottom Dwellers & Friends of Sid\)](#)
- [Meaghan Rondeau: 2017 Open Water Certification Scholarship \(Courtesy of Southeast Connecticut Skin Divers \(SECONN\)\)](#)
- [Kate Rose - 2017 Art of Underwater Photography Introduction \(Courtesy of Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants\)](#)

# 2016



Ashley Allen, **2016** recipient of the PADI/Oceanic Worldwide Advanced Scuba Certification scholarship, receives a new Buoyancy Compensator, from Dave Burroughs, Oceanic representative.



April Dawn Lamb, **2016** Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship recipient with Scholarship Senior Director, Rosemary Kurtti and Scholarship Judge, Theresa Sheil.



Bernie Chowdhury, Life Support Technologies, with Sandra Shaw, **2016** recipient of the Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine scholarship.

- [Ashley Allan: Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship \(courtesy of PADI & Oceanic Worldwide\)](#)
- [Alexandra Davidge – Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship \(courtesy of Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants\)](#)
- [Janis Iourovitski – WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Cole Kolasa – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [April Dawn Lamb – Don Reynolds Scholarship](#)
- [Sandra Shaw – Life Support Technologies - Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship](#)
- [Blake Stoner-Osborne – Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [Marsha Wright – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)

## 2015



Cailey Treyz, **2015** Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship recipient with the SUNY Maritime Honor Guard.



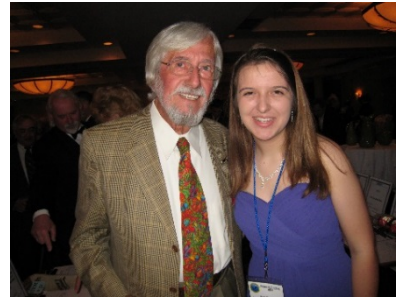
Luke Karavan, **2015** Discovery Scholarship, being congratulated by Jean-Michel Cousteau.

- [Jessica Avalon Bullington – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [John H.R. Burns – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [Luke Karavan – Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [Jonathan Y. Lee – Life Support Technologies - Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship](#)
- [Jaclyn Muniz – Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Cailey Treyz – Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship](#)
- [Brooke Welch – WDHO/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)

# 2014



Carly Keane, **2014** Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship recipient, with Briana Darcy, BTS Ambassador of Youth.



Jean Michel Cousteau with Anna Bryant, **2014** Ocean Pals Grant recipient.



Zachary Howard, **2014** Discovery Scholarship recipient with Briana Darcy, BTS Ambassador of Youth.



Liv Dillon, **2014** Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship with Rosemary Kurtti, Scholarships Senior Director.

- [Anna Bryant – WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Zachary Howard – Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [David Jones – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Carly Keane – Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Gina McGuire – WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Miranda Steffler – Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship](#)
- [Christy Stoller – Life Support Technologies -Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship](#)
- [Seth Theuerkauf – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)

## 2013



Stan Waterman with Taylor Fuchs, 2013 Ocean Pals Grant recipient.



Thank You Card from ROVs for Museum Teens, recipients of the 2013 Deep Ventures Collaborative Scholarship in Underwater Robotics.

- [Liv Dillon – Life Support Technologies - Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship](#)
- [Jacqueline Failla- Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [Taylor Fuchs – WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Hillary Kenyon – Scubapro/PADI “I Am Waterman” Competition](#)
- [Remy Okazaki – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [ROVs For Museum Teens – Deep Ventures Collaborative Scholarship in Underwater Robotics](#)
- [Valentina Ratcliffe Ruiz – Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship](#)
- [Lauren Eve Simonitis – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Mariah Eryn Vane – Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship](#)

## 2012

- [Lizbeth Abrego – WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Lara Lewis – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [Louis M. Penrod – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Aqeel Rasheed – Howard & Michele Hall “Artist-In-Residence” Underwater Video Grant](#)
- [Casey Vece – Art of Underwater Photography](#)
- [Zachary William Zarillo – Discovery Scholarship](#)

## 2011

- [Briana Darcy – WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Matthew Vestal Edwards – Marine Careers Scholarship](#)
- [Seth Theuerkauf – Discovery Scholarship](#)
- [Reny Blue Tyson – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [Alex Daniel Zimmer – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)

## 2010

- [Jennifer Ladner – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Daniel Maher – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [Christina Zarrilli – WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)

## 2009

- [Jamie Brisbin – Jordan Vidars Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Mary Cascione – WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Jarrod Epstein – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)

## 2008

- [Matthew D. Aschaffenburg – Elizabeth K. Tunnel Memorial Fellowship](#)
- [Nicole Bray – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Ryan Hunter – Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship](#)
- [Katherine Levasseur – WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)

## 2007

- [Cape Henlopen High School – Elizabeth K. Tunnel Memorial Fellowship](#)
- [Delaware Military Academy – Elizabeth K. Tunnel Memorial Fellowship](#)
- [Sharon L. Progar – WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant](#)
- [Amy Reiedenback – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)

## 2006

- [Taylor Bodine – WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Diving Grant](#)
- [Amanda Wilde Gallerani – Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship](#)
- [Daniel Maher – The Scuba Sports Club Scholarship](#)
- [Julianne Parolisi – Carolyn Gagnon Memorial Scholarship](#)
- [Kayti Tigaini – Elizabeth K. Tunnel Memorial Fellowship](#)

# BIOS AND PHOTOS

## 2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### **Elizabeth St. Germaine**

#### **Advanced Open Water Certification Training Grant**

Sponsored by **SECONN Skin Divers**

Elizabeth is a veterinary student at Western University of Health Sciences in California. In her spare time she enjoys volunteering at a local aquarium and hopes to pursue a career in aquatic veterinary medicine. She looks forward to summers back home on the east coast, and advancing her skills in scuba diving.



### **Janine E. Rajauski**

#### **Advanced Scuba Diving Certification Training Grant**

Sponsored by **PADI and Oceanic Worldwide**

Janine completed her last semester at Thomas Jefferson University for Occupational Therapy while working at Scubadelphia on the weekends. She is a passionate diver, artist, solo female traveler and all-around ocean lover. Janine plans on bringing her Occupational Therapy expertise to the SCUBA world to empower everyone to dive.

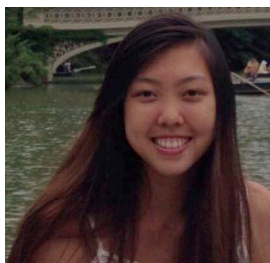


### **Kirsten Ortega**

#### **Art of Underwater Photography Training Grant**

Sponsored by **Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants**

Kirsten is a Veterinary Technology student that works at a small aquarium in Redondo Beach, Ca. She earned her Open Water Certification with the help of her job, and fell more in love with marine life on her first ocean dive. The aquarium is working to get permits to release the endangered Black Sea Bass. When that day comes, Kirsten wants to be in the water to take great photos as they enter their natural habitat!

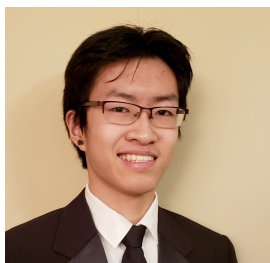


### **Jessie Lin**

#### **Blue Water Divers OW Scuba Certification Training Grant**

Sponsored by **Blue Water Divers, Rochelle Park, NJ**

Jessie studies Environmental Science at Stony Brook University. She has always enjoyed swimming, and believes that scuba diving will be another new and memorable pastime. She is very passionate about ocean conservation and marine biology and hopes to continue pursuing her career in marine sciences. With the help of Beneath The Sea, she can continue exploring the hidden wonders of our oceans through scuba diving



### **James Ye**

#### **Discovery Scholarship**

James attends Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va. As a member of Boy Scout Troop 55 and Sea Scout Ship 1942, he has a passion for outdoor adventure and environmental stewardship. In 2017, he earned his open water SCUBA certification and participated in both Florida scuba diving and Bahamas sailing high adventures. In the summer of 2018, he cycled across America from Seattle to Washington DC for 66 days and 4000 miles, and he received Congressional recognition and news media coverages for promoting healthy living and outdoor adventure. He has volunteered more than 550 hours for his local community and has received four "President's Volunteer Service Award" gold medals. He plans to study at the Naval Academy and prepare for a career in environmental protection and maritime law.



**Trent Tougas**  
**Discovery Scholarship Honorable Mention**

Trent has been working hard for our world's oceans. He is a Wyland Youth Ambassador for the Planet and a Comedian for Conservation. Working with various groups, his work includes shark tagging, mangrove restoration, and beach cleanups. He has earned awards and recognition for his work including being featured in Time (For Kids) Magazine as a Youth Hero for the Planet. Trent would like to be an explorer when he grows up and hopes to discover new species



**Sarah Trabue**  
**Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship**

Sarah grew up in Louisville, Kentucky where she developed her love for animals and the natural world. After High School, she studied at the University of Louisville and earned her Bachelor degrees in Biology and Anthropology. She then relocated to New York to continue her education and become more engaged with marine conservation efforts



**Gisele Romaine Easton**  
**Jim Leffard Memorial Scholarship**

Gisèle attends the Baltimore School for the Arts. While her passion for conservation of the world's oceans have followed her through her work at the National Aquarium and her role of Co-Director of the Youth Ocean Conservation Summit, her drive for acting is pushing her continuously. She aspires to go to an acting conservatory, while living her life with a conservation mindset.



**Jeffrey W. Farnsworth**  
**Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Training Grant**

**Sponsored by Life Support Technologies**

From La Grange, Illinois, Jeffrey is a graduate of Northern Michigan University (first exposure to scuba! Burr) with a B.S. in Athletic Training. He is an instructor at the Graham Clinical Performance Center, teaching medical students intubation and IV skills. He's also a Firefighter/Paramedic in Chicago's western suburbs.



**Garrett Lanier**  
**Maritime Career Scholarship**

Garrett's immediate goal is to complete his Associate's degree in Marine Engineering, Management and Seamanship, and earning his 100 Ton USCG Captain Industry Certification. Following graduation, he would like to follow in his father's footsteps by entering the military, either the United States Navy or Coast Guard where he's interested in becoming a boatswain's mate. He also enjoys participating in civil war reenactments.



**Summer Stevenson**  
**Ocean Pals Junior Dive Training Grant**

**Sponsored by BTS Ocean Pals**

Summer has had the opportunity to live and study around the world. Since moving to Okinawa in 2016, she has swam year-round for the Dolphins Swim Team, won two



## **Tzipporah Kapilevich** **Open Water Certification Training Grant**

Sponsored by [SECONN Skin Divers](#)

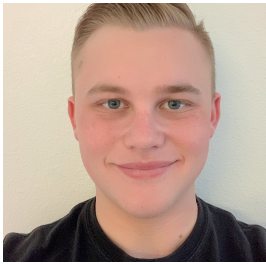
From Providence, RI, Tzipporah has a strong interest in biology, health sciences, ecology, environmental studies, and marine conservation. She's a Lifeguard Instructor/EMT and wants to become PADI Open Water Dive Certified in order to further her interests in marine conservation and to add to her collection of aquatic skills. Her goal is to use her many skills to educate others and to give back to the community.



## **Katherine Roberts** **Open Water Certification Training Grant**

Sponsored by [SECONN Skin Divers](#)

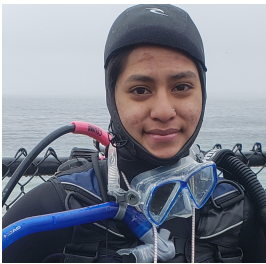
Having been awarded this scholarship, Katherine looks forward to seeing the beautiful ecosystems below the sea. Having a background in the sciences makes her all the more interested in seeing what the ocean has in store for her!



## **Cameron J. Silber** **Recreational/Public Safety Diver Medic Technician Training Grant**

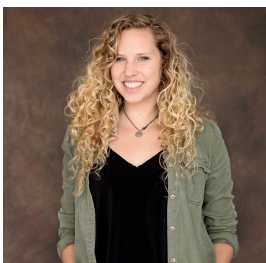
Sponsored by [The Diver Medic/ Sandy Shaw/Grace Landers](#)

To work in emergency and rescue services is a dream of Cameron's. He's volunteered as a police explorer and fire cadet for years, and now volunteers with his university as a SCUBA rescue diver going out with classes of new divers, and as President of his SCUBA Club. He's attended Lifeguard training, and EMT school.



## **Marina Hernandez** **Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship**

Marina is a first generation high school graduate. As a student at California State University, Monterey Bay, she has aspirations to become a profound individual of academia in the underwater scene. Contributing to scientific research and the conservation of natural resources has developed into one of her life-long goals as a woman in STEM.



## **Maggie MacMahon** **Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship Honorable Mention**

From a young age, Maggie knew she had a yearning to learn more about the ocean. She is pursuing Marine Biology and Small Vessel Operations at Maine Maritime Academy to cement this desire. Maggie loves diving, videography, and bridging the gap between science and citizen awareness of ocean issues today



## **Emma Barton**

### **Sid Aconsky “Measure Twice, Cut Once” Scholarship**

**Sponsored by The Bottom Dwellers and friends of Sid Aconsky**

Emma is a Marine Science major at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a passion for ecology and conservation. She is a scientific diver and is excited to combine diving and research during her lab’s fieldwork over the summer. Emma hopes to continue diving, both recreationally and for research in California’s kelp forests.



## **Molly Alvino**

### **Underwater Imaging Digital Shootout Training Grant**

**Sponsored by Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo**

As a resident of Plum Island, Massachusetts, Molly has grown up surrounded by water. At Northeastern University, she is majoring in Marine Biology. She has participated in research at the Sharklab in Bimini, Bahamas and earned her Divemaster certification at the Cape Eleuthera Institute. Still searching for her niche, she’s excited to dive into the world of underwater photography.

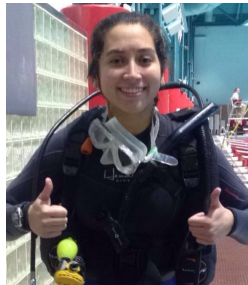
# 2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



## **Shalimar G. Moreno** **Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship**

*Sponsored by PADI/Oceanic Worldwide*

A South Florida native, Shalimar was intrigued at a young age by its diverse ecosystems. She graduated from Florida International University with a BS in Environmental Studies and Marine Biology. She has since followed her passion of protecting our oceans by interning with the Coral Restoration Foundation to restore coral reefs in the Florida Reef Tract. She looks forward to furthering her education by studying management and policy of marine and coastal resources.



## **Ailey Sheehan** **Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship**

*Sponsored by Maria Hults and Riektstins Restaurants*

Ailey Sheehan is a Junior at Rutgers University majoring in Marine Science, and minoring in Fisheries. She would like to pursue underwater photography, and enjoys learning about sea turtles. In addition to studying marine science, Ailey works on the farm at Rutgers and plays volleyball.



## **Krista Chempiel** **Discovery Scholarship**

Krista, a High School Sophomore, has always been fascinated with the ocean and its sea life. Krista was excited to earn her open water SCUBA certification last summer. She is now ready to explore more underwater adventures with SCUBA diving, and possibly a career in Marine Biology. Currently, she is working on her Girl Scout Gold Award project, creating an educational ocean conservation program for children in collaboration with the Rutgers University SCUBA program.



## **Jessica (Jessie) Jackson** **Discovery Scholarship – Honorable Mention**

Jessie is a High School Freshman, who has always been fascinated by the ocean and all the sea life it holds. Her dream is to become a Marine Biologist and an expert diver in various areas. She plans to use this scholarship to obtain her SCUBA certification and purchase equipment.



## **Ana Brown** **Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship**

Ana Brown is currently a High School Senior in the National Aquarium's work study program, Aquarium On Wheels, with the initiative of spreading the message of conservation to youth through theater. Ana has participated in countless restoration and conservation trips, and is



**Alexander J. Gonzalez**  
**Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship**

Alexander is a Florida native who has had a deep appreciation for everything about the marine environment and engineering since a young age. He is soon graduating with a BS, and next pursuing an MS in Ocean Engineering at Florida Atlantic University. Alexander is dedicated to creating a greener future after seeing the impact climate change has on the marine ecosystem. He focuses his research on ocean current turbines, a marine renewable energy source.



**Cynthia D. Reardon**  
**Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship**

**Sponsored by Life Support Technologies**

Cynthia is a certified NJ EMT. She has completed studies at Passaic County Community College earning Associates degrees in Health Science, Psychology, Criminal Justice and is completing her AS in Public Health degree. Cynthia is looking forward to completing her certification in SCUBA and furthering her education in Hyperbaric Medicine.



**Trevor Webb**  
**Maritime Career Scholarship**

Trevor Webb is a cadet at SUNY Maritime College where he is working towards an endorsement as a Third Mate Unlimited Tonnage – Any Oceans, along with a BS in Marine Transportation and a minor in Environmental Science. He became a certified Junior Diver when he was 13 years old. Trevor hopes to combine his passions for stewardship of the marine environment and sailing in a career as an officer aboard a research vessel.



**Sophia Riesen**  
**Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant**

Sophia Riesen is a home-schooled 14-year-old, with salt water in her veins. Sophia is a charter member of the Sarasota Chapter of SCUBAnauts International, a teen diving group that does scientific work in the Florida Keys. She has a passion for educating people about the ocean and how they can help save it, and hopes that one day she can change the way that sharks are viewed.



**Nicholas Grippio**  
**Recreational/Public Safety/Diver Medic Technician Scholarship**

**Sponsored by The Diver Medic/Chantelle Newman**

Nicholas graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy with a BS in Logistics and Intermodal Transportation, and works in the maritime industry as a Second Mate with Masters Mates and Pilots. He volunteers in his community as an EMT with Lincroft First Aid and Rescue Squad and is a PADI certified Divemaster working toward his Assistant Instructor certification.

**2019 Update:** “Nicholas Grippio continues to pursue his hobby of diving, taking underwater



## **Benny X. Bonet Santiago** **Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship**

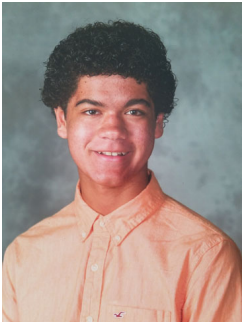
Benny is a Senior at University of Puerto Rico, majoring in Marine Biology. He has worked on conservation and local research, including a coral reef restoration program. His key areas of interest are focused on climate change education and establishing protected marine areas.



## **Fotini-Joanne Pezas** **Open Water Certification Scholarship**

**Sponsored by Dare2Dream Foundation**

Fotini came from Greece in 2016, and has been living in New York since. Her academic goal is to major in math, and as a swimmer for almost 4 years, she wants to focus on and develop her swimming skills.



## **Joseph Salcedo** **Open Water Certification Scholarship**

**Sponsored by Southeast Divers (SECONN)**

Joseph is a Junior attending the Marine Science Magnet High School in Groton, Ct., and is a member of his school's sailing team. He also volunteers with New England Science and Sailing, and his hobbies are photography and film-making, surfing, biking and singing. His future goals are to pursue a degree in film studies and broadcast journalism, and run an ocean-related YouTube Channel.



## **Paige Vetrano** **Open Water Certification Scholarship**

**Sponsored by Southeast Divers (SECONN)**

Paige is a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health. She is currently working as a Certified Nursing Aid, and plans on applying to Physician Assistant School in the upcoming year. She loves to travel in her free time and can't wait to explore the oceans in her future quests around the globe!



## **Christina Spinazola** **Open Water Certification Scholarship**

**Sponsored by Peter Venoutsos**

Christina is an explorer who is always looking for the next adventure. After graduating from UMass Dartmouth with a Bachelor's degree in Biology, Christina thru-hiked the Vermont Long Trail spanning 273 rugged miles of wilderness and mountainous summits. Soon she'll be diving to new depths to experience the under water world thanks to Beneath The Sea scholarships!



## Carolyn Burch Sid Aconsky Measure Twice, Cut Once Scholarship

**Sponsored by The Bottom Dwellers & Friends of Sid Aconsky**

Carolyn Burch is an Environmental Studies major at UC Santa Cruz, focusing on Oceanography and Coastal Resource Management. A 2017 National Science Foundation Research Intern in the Ocean Sciences at Savannah State University, she currently works as an intern for Clean Oceans International. Carolyn hopes to get her AAUS Scientific Diving certification to further her career as a marine scientist.

## 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Sophie Allen

#### 2017 BTS/WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant

Sophie has a true passion for the oceans especially since she lives in Florida. She recently presented at the 2016 AGU Fall meeting and 2016 National Ocean Science Meeting. She is passionate about ocean conservation through videography. Sophie won Best Scientific Message at the 2015 Youth Making Ripples Film Festival and second place at the “Living on the Ocean Planet” Video Contest for her film “Little Hope Spots”. She is currently certified as a Junior Open Water scuba diver and plans to further her diver career with an advanced open water certification so that she can pursue her passion of videography while spreading the message about ocean conservation.



### Mackenzie Blanus

#### 2017 Open Water Certification Scholarship

*courtesy of Southeast Connecticut Skin Divers (SECONN)*

I attend the University of Connecticut (UConn). I love sailing, hiking and, of course, scuba diving. I was a part of the National Honors Society in high school. One day, I hope to be a marine biologist working to save the coral reefs.



### Kylie Hasegawa

#### 2017 Sid Aconsky “Measure Twice, Cut Once” Scholarship – Honorable Mention

#### Courtesy of The Bottom Dwellers/Friends of Sid Aconsky

Kylie Hasegawa graduated from Boston College with a B.S. in Environmental Geoscience and is currently an intern at Reef Environmental Education Foundation.

Kylie enjoys spending time SCUBA diving and has done research on coral reefs, lionfish, and fish diversity while underwater. She hopes to continue with a career in marine science by gaining more knowledge in the marine community and scientific diving experience.



### Henry Hua

#### 2017 Discovery Scholarship – Honorable Mention

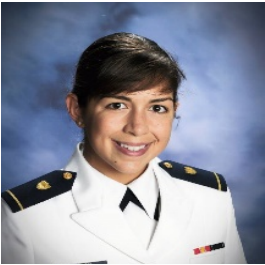
I am a high school student who is very curious and interested in wildlife conservation and protection. My age doesn't affect my interest in marine biology, although in the city, there isn't much supported exposure to marine wildlife. However, my interest increases because of this. I am very appreciative of this opportunity to be exposed to different types of marine careers and other marine related events. I aim to graduate high school with marine biology interests going into college. Beneath The Sea is guiding me in my first steps to a career.



## **Megan Kelley**

### **2017 Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship**

Megan is a PhD student in the Predator Ecology and Conservation Lab at Florida International University. Her research focuses on the role predators play in nutrient cycling and habitat connectivity by studying their consumption, absorption and dispersal of nutrients. Through her research, she hopes to provide a more comprehensive understanding of coral reef nutrient dynamics to increase the effectiveness of conservation measures. She is grateful to have been chosen as a recipient.



## **Jessica Lukasik**

### **2017 Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship**

*Courtesy of PADI and Oceanic Worldwide*

Jessica started diving at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2013. Upon graduation, she received a Fulbright Scholarship to conduct research in Mauritius, where she completed her M.A. in Economics and organized community-managed marine conservation areas. She also completed her Advanced Open Water certification and worked at a local diving center. Jessica is a Coast Guard officer stationed in Seattle where she specializes in fisheries enforcement. She recently completed her Rescue certification and enrolled in a Dive Master Program.



## **Mark Mastroianni**

### **2017 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship**

I began diving at age eleven. Participated in my first shark dive, and earned ten diving certifications including Master Diver by age thirteen. Since then, I've worked with several organizations involved in ocean conservation and preservation. I'm currently pursuing a marine science degree so I can continue with those initiatives, protecting our seas and their inhabitants, which is essential for a healthy planet.



## **Meghan McGregor**

### **2017 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship**

#### **Courtesy of Life Support Technologies**

Meghan McGregor is a paramedic. She studied at SUNY Cobleskill throughout her emergency services career. She is also a volunteer firefighter with Brunswick Fire Company No.1. Meghan is currently looking to further her education and career in healthcare.



## **Braden McPhillips**

### **2017 Discovery Scholarship**

Braden has always been interested in Marine Science and earned his open water SCUBA certification last year. Since beginning to explore the underwater world, he has become more interested in underwater archeology and would like to explore this as a career path. Braden is a member of Love a Sea Turtle (L.A.S.T) and will be serving as a junior coordinator for the "Paint the Drain" project in his hometown of Greenville, North Carolina.



## Dominique Mellone

### 2017 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship

I am a high school student in Texas. I have a passion for science and have won over 30 awards in science fairs including being an Intel ISEF Finalist in 2015. I play cello in the top orchestra at my school and am the captain of an FTC Robotics team. In the fall, I will be attending the University of New England in Maine to study Marine Biology,

**2018 Update:** Since receiving this scholarship, I have completed my first year of college at the University of New England, where I am majoring in Marine Biology. I have earned a research position in the marine mammal lab at my university, and this spring I took my first dive trip to the Caymans.



## Charis Peterson

### 2017 Sid Aconsky "Measure Twice, Cut Once" Scholarship - First Place

#### Courtesy of Bottom Dwellers/Friends of Sid Aconsky

Charis has always loved the water, but found her calling when she started diving. A junior at the College of Coastal Georgia, majoring in Biology and Coastal Ecology, she is a Dive Master and has secured employment as a professional diver this summer. Charis plans to continue honing her five skills by training towards her instructor and Scientific Diver qualifications. She is working towards a PhD in marine science so she can earn the privilege of joining those whose careers have been such an inspiration to her by expanding our knowledge of the sea.



## Meaghan Rondeau

### 2017 Open Water Certification Scholarship

*Courtesy of Southeast Connecticut Skin Divers (SECONN)*

I am a marine biology student who is fascinated by the ocean and its inhabitants. While on land, I spend my time working with animals through zoos and rehabilitation centers, but hope to expand to the underwater world soon. Once I finish college, I plan to continue to veterinary school to eventually work as a marine wildlife rehabilitator.

**2018 Update:** Since receiving my Beneath the Sea Scholarship, I finally became SCUBA certified! Yay! I've also started at a new university, have begun doing undergraduate research, and will be spending my senior year studying ecology and evolution in Madagascar and Kenya! I'm looking forward to all the adventures to come.



## Kate Rose

### 2017 Art of Underwater Photography Introduction Courtesy of Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants

My love for the ocean stems from my early introduction to scuba diving at age 10. This simple joy has evolved into a passion to save the planet and its oceans. I believe that the best way to do this is through research and an education for the public that depicts the environment not as a resource, but something worth respecting. My goal upon graduation is to attend grad school to obtain a PhD and become a professor at a research focused university.

**2018 Update:** In the past year I have continued my research on habitat restoration in the Florida Keys. I've collecting samples, processed them in the lab and presented the results of my analysis at the Benthic Ecology Meeting. This summer I will be researching water quality and sustenance aquaculture in the Vaca Forest Region of Belize.

## 2016 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Ashley Allan

#### 2016 Advanced Scuba Certification Scholarship

Courtesy of PADI and Oceanic Worldwide

Ashley grew up in Binghamton, NY and moved to Philadelphia in 2011. She received her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education at Drexel University in 2015. Ashley teaches second grade in a low-socioeconomic part of Philadelphia. At this school, Ashley uses the skills that she learned from being a dive master, such as always being calm, compassionate and prepared, to help her to excel and meet the needs of her diverse students. Ashley has been diving with Scubadelphia under the instruction of David Barnes for 3 years. She holds PADI certifications for Dive master, ice diver, full-face-mask diver, dry suit diver and her favorite — Zombie Apocalypse Diver.



### Alexandra Davidge

#### 2016 Art of Underwater Photography

Courtesy of Maria Hults & Riekstins Restaurants

My two major passions in life are photography and scuba diving. I combined those two passions in a solo exhibition of 25 photographs with the theme of our responsibility to the environment. My Dive master training increased my respect for the ocean, which further strengthened my resolve to protect it. I wish to combine my two biggest passions to protect our oceans and bring awareness to the damage our actions are having on the

ocean.



### Janis Iourovitski

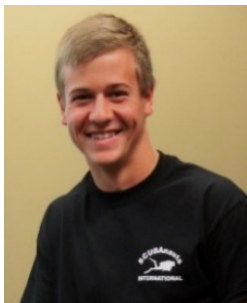
#### 2016 BTS/WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant

As a high school student aspiring to receive a degree in ocean engineering and marine conservation, I founded the Ocean Education club to educate younger generations on the importance of the ocean and how to have a positive influence on the environment. I use photography to show the extent of the damage on the marine ecosystems and to portray the beauty of the marine environment in hopes of inspiring people to protect it.

### Cole Kolasa

#### 2016 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship

At the 2015 AAUS Symposium, Cole received a student presentation award for his paper summarizing five years of coral research. As a SCUBAnauts International (SNI) team leader, he participated in projects at Mote Marine Laboratory's underwater nursery and in SNI's dive with Combat Wounded Veterans. He represented SNI on a youth ocean leaders panel, facilitated by Dr. Sylvia Earle and the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Cole plans to study Marine Biology or Environmental Engineering.



**2017 Update:** Cole has been doing volunteer work in the Florida Keys and visiting Washington D.C. to discuss ocean issues with politicians and scientists. This summer his goal is to do something much bigger, something that can make a difference. He has embarked on a kayak trip along the west coast of Florida to draw attention to the gulf and raise money for artificial reefs in his hometown in Hernando County Florida. Artificial reefs provide a habitat for marine organisms and they also enhance fisheries. This artificial reef will not only draw in fishers, but draw them away from the natural reefs of the area which need to be protected and preserved. His goal is to raise \$10,000 in donations to support this cause. Cole

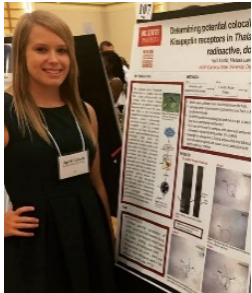
has now completed 700 miles (as of June 19) of this trip so far. 105 miles to go. To learn more about this and other activities that Cole has been involved in, check out the following links

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BUj9-pDADns/>

<http://blog.oceanconservancy.org/2017/04/11/growing-up-on-the-gulf/>

<https://www.facebook.com/coleskayaktour/>

<http://coleskayaktour.blogspot.com/2017/05/a-little-help-from-smiths.html?m=1>



## April Dawn Lamb

### 2016 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship

I am an undergraduate student studying Zoology with minors in Applied Ecology and Biotechnology. My interest is in the structural ecology of marine communities in relation to a changing environment due to anthropogenic factors and intend to pursue a doctoral graduate degree in ecology and evolutionary biology. I believe that exploring the changes associated with these symbioses is crucial to understand the full extent to which humans are impacting the ocean's organisms

## Sandra Shaw

### 2016 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship

**Courtesy of Life Support Technologies**



Sandy has degrees in Health Sciences, Exercise Physiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, and is a PADI Master Instructor, an instructor for Divers Alert Network and Handicapped Scuba Association. She is an Officer for the Hoboken Community Emergency Response Team and an EMT on the Hoboken Volunteer Ambulance Corps. "I am looking forward to becoming part of the Hyperbaric Medicine Program. This will bring all of my training together connecting my health and medical background with my dive career".

**2017 Update:** Sandra now run operations for the Diver Medic in the U.S. and Caribbean. Sandra has started mentoring and teaching open water diving to the 2017 recipient of the Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship (sponsored by Life Support Technologies). Sandra also involved other BTS scholarship recipients to help train paralyzed persons in diving. Sandra is a Beneath the Sea Marine Careers Volunteer..

## Blake Stoner-Osborne

### 2016 Discovery Scholarship



For as long as I can remember I have always had an unwavering passion for anything and everything having to do with the water. Some of my fondest memories come from fishing shore-cast derbies and diving tropical waters – all of which have only added to my interest in pursuing a career in marine conservation. Currently a sophomore in college, I am majoring in Marine Vertebrate Biology and minoring in Spanish. I hope to be able to help better educate the public on important conservation issues and strive to widen my understanding and perspective on this exquisite planet in which we live.

## Marsha Wright 2016

### Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship



Marsha, a PhD student in the Earth and Biological Sciences, whose love of the ocean and its inhabitants has driven her passion for conservation science. Her internship with the sea turtle research organization, ProTECTORInc in Roatan, Honduras, resulted in her focus on sea turtle conservation, specifically characterizing sea turtle movements and distinguishing associated habitats that control their movements within the Caribbean.

**2018 Update:** As a third year PhD student, Marsha continues to study the critically endangered hawksbill sea turtle. Thanks to the Jordan Viders Spirit of the Sea Scholarship, she has spent two field seasons studying the movement patterns of juvenile hawksbills and is preparing for a third field season in Roatán, Honduras.

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Jessica Avalon Bullington 2015 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship

First, I am honored to be receiving the Sea of Tomorrow scholarship and representing Beneath the Sea. I am an aspiring marine ecologist and biological oceanographer studying at the University of California Santa Barbara. I have a published article in the anthology *Starting Lines* and am recognized as a Bentson Scholar for my interest aquatic science. My interests span from exploring ecological interactions to tracking biogeochemical processes. Research in marine science is what drives me, especially when I can get in the water. I will use this scholarship to fund an AAUS Scientific Dive course that I am taking

this spring. Ultimately, I hope to earn a PhD and encourage conservation of the oceans through research, outreach, and professorship.

**2017 Update:** After a senior year of diving with Reef Check CA and sailing on the UCSB team, I have decided to attend the University of Hawaii at Manoa in the fall of 2018. I will be working toward a PhD in microbial oceanography, using microbes to help save corals.



### John H.R. Burns 2015 Jordan Viders Spirit of the Sea Scholarship

Growing up near the ocean instilled in me a desire to protect and conserve coastal environments. I have spent the last several years researching drivers of coral diseases to promote healthy coral ecosystems in the face of global stressors such as climate change. I have recently been developing novel techniques for quantifying three-dimensional characteristics of coral reefs. I believe this research will improve our

capability to assess the impacts of stressors on coral reef structure and overall ecosystem functionality. My goal is to conduct research that expands our knowledge and ability to sustain coastal resources for future generations.

**2018 Update:** I was recently offered and accepted a tenure-track faculty position at University of Hawaii at Hilo. I will be working as a professor of Marine Science and Data Science starting in the Fall 2018 semester.

**2019 Update:** John is working as an Assistant Professor of Marine Science and Data Science at University of Hawaii at Hilo. Visit John's website with bio-information and photos at <https://www.johnhrburns.com>.



### Luke Karavan 2015 Discovery Scholarship

Luke Karavan is a resident of Linwood, New Jersey and attends St. Vincent DePaul Regional School in Mays Landing. Luke has participated in SeaPerch marine robotics teams, capturing awards at the Greater Philadelphia SeaPerch Challenge. Most recently, Luke was awarded first place overall at the 2015 St. Vincent De Paul Regional School Science Fair. Luke plays cello, is an altar boy at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church and enjoys spending time on the beach in Longport in the summer. In the future, Luke plans to obtain SCUBA certification and hopes to pursue a career in Marine Biology.



### Jonathan Y. Lee 2015 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship Courtesy of Life Support Technologies

Jonathan Lee was born and raised in Bucks County, PA. He received a B.S. degree in Brain and Cognitive Sciences at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA in 2005 and received a M.D. and Masters in Public Health at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, NY in 2010. Postdoctoral training includes an internship and residency in General Surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and he is currently entering his last year of residency in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He has also pursued his interest in global health, partaking in surgical missions in Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Tanzania. For the past few years, Lee's interest in Hyperbaric Medicine has grown with his experience in reconstructive trauma surgery at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY. With the help of the Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Scholarship, he could complete further training to incorporate Hyperbaric Medicine into his future practice.



## Jaclyn Muniz

### 2015 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship

Jaclyn Muniz is 18 years old and currently a senior at William J. Brennan High School in San Antonio, Texas where she will graduate distinguished this June. She has been admitted into Texas A&M University at Galveston for she will study Marine Biology and Minor in Diving and Mechanics. She is the founder of her High School's first coastal conservation organization, *Tidy up The Tides*. She is also the Aquatic Technician for SeaWorld San Antonio and its water park Aquatica.

## Cailey Treyz

### 2015 Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship

**Courtesy of Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants**



For as long as I can remember I have always had an unwavering passion for anything and everything having to do with the water. Some of my fondest memories come from fishing shore-cast derbies and diving tropical waters – all of which have only added to my interest in pursuing a career in marine conservation. Currently a sophomore at Stony Brook University I am majoring in Marine Vertebrate Biology and minoring in Spanish. I hope to be able to help better educate the public on important conservation

issues and strive to widen my understanding and perspective on this exquisite planet in which we live.

## Brooke Welch

### 2015 WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant



Brooke Welch is a 16-year-old, homeschooled student living in Sarasota, FL. Beginning at a very young age, she was fascinated with marine life, especially rays. Brooke organized her first environmental cleanup while living in the rain forest in Ecuador. After moving to Sarasota in 2011, Brooke volunteered extensively with marine education programs at Mote Marine Laboratory and Save Our Seabirds, a seabird rehabilitation facility. Last year, Brooke founded Sarasota Ocean Preservers, a program for youth that combines beach and ocean cleanups with an emphasis on

marine life education. Through photo, video, and written communication, her marine advocacy website helps further marine conservation efforts. Brooke is grateful for this opportunity to further her SCUBA training and purchase dive equipment. As she pursues her goal of receiving her PhD in marine science, she plans to continue removing marine debris from the ocean while studying the amazing organisms which inhabit it.

**2016 Update:** Since receiving the WDHOF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant, I have obtained several PADI certifications including advanced open water, rescue, nitrox, emergency oxygen provider, and digital

underwater photography through Florida Underwater Sports here in Sarasota, FL. I was also able to purchase my own dive equipment thanks to help from the grant. Having my own equipment has allowed me to participate in marine debris cleanups. This opportunity has inspired me to pursue becoming a dive master/instructor.

# 2014 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



## Anna Bryant

### 2014 WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant

At an early age, Anna declared she wanted to be a Marine Biologist, specifically working with dolphins. Anna has enjoyed many experiences at the Dolphin Research Center, including Trainer for the Day and Basic Dolphin Lab. She could fulfill a dream by being certified as an Advanced Open Water Scuba Diver. Anna aspires to earn Rescue Diver and Dive master certifications. She volunteers at MBT Divers and as an Adaptive Buddy with Achilles Divers, a non-profit organization helping those with limited mobility experience the freedom and

excitement of scuba diving.



## Zachary Howard

### 2014 Discovery Scholarship

Zach knew he wanted to pursue a career in marine biology from an early age. By age 13, Zach was a certified diver and experienced saltwater aquarist, propagating his own corals. Sharing his love for the ocean, Zach volunteers at The Florida Aquarium working as a youth educator. His goal is to become a marine biologist, studying fish populations. This Scholarship will be utilized as tuition for Duke University's Field Studies Course, "Marine Biology in the Gulf of Mexico" in July.

This 2-week course for gifted high school students at New College of Florida, will submerge Zach in the study of fish, marine mammals and allow him to participate in an active research study.

**2014/2015 Update:** Zach applied his scholarship funds towards the Duke University (Talent Identification Program) Summer School Program. His course was "Marine Biology in the Gulf of Mexico." The course included lectures such as "Acidification of the Ocean" and did experiments in the very well-equipped lab located on campus. Zach reports: *I believe the most important thing I learned was the amount of work that I need to do to follow my dream. This mini-course opened my eyes to how much dedication and effort I would have to put into my education to achieve my goals. Now more than ever, I do know I want to pursue a career in the marine sciences...My sincerest thanks to the [scholarship] committee for the wonderful opportunity...Without your support, I would not have been able to experience [this course].*



## David Jones

### 2014 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship

David Delane Jones is a rising junior at Old Dominion University and is pursuing a degree in marine biology. David has been a certified scuba diver since the age of 12, and obtained his Master Diver certification at the age of 16. He is a member of REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation), and has conducted several fish surveys with REEF while diving. He has also transplanted coral with the Coral Restoration Foundation in the Florida Keys. He is currently an active member of his school's Marine Biology Student Association, as well as various academic honor societies.

**2018 Update:** After graduating Old Dominion University with a B.S. in Biology in 2016, David interned as a biological technician at the Amistad National Recreation Area (Del Rio, TX). There he helped implement an

aquatic invasive species prevention program. He is currently a Master's student at the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Lab where he studies Caribbean parrotfish life history.



## Carly Keane

### 2014 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship

Since a very young age, I have shared an enthused interest in the ocean. As I have gotten older, I have decided to turn this interest into a career path. After graduation, I will become a full time student at SUNY Maritime College where I will be majoring in marine environmental science while minoring in marine biology. I will also be entering the regiment program in order to gain proper coast guard licensing. I hope to eventually become a marine biologist and study the ocean and marine animals that have interested and excited me all my life.



## Gina McGuire

### 2014 WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Training Grant

I'm Gina McGuire! I'm from the Big Island of Hawaii and am a freshman at Stanford University. I grew up surrounded by the ocean. The beauty and power of the sea inspires me to pursue a career in international marine conservation, to share my love for the ocean with the world to create a global community of preservation. I am planning to major in international relations and co-term with a master's in Stanford's anthropology ecology track. I love volunteering with the NOAA Marine Debris Program and National Marine Sanctuaries. I am so excited to start my open water dive certification!

**2018 Update:** After Beneath the Sea helped me to get my open water dive certificate I pursued my Advanced Open Water and Rescue Diver certifications. I graduated from Stanford University and am working towards my master's degree in Conservation Biology at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and dive master certification. Thank you so very much for supporting me with your scholarship, it really made a difference in my life and I am always grateful for the help into the world of diving.



## Miranda Steffler

### 2014 Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship

*Courtesy of Maria Hults and Riekstins Restaurants*

I graduated from the University of Michigan in 2013 with a B.S. in Environmental Science and B.A. in Art & Design. Currently, I am interning at the Smithsonian Marine Station and taking advantage of every opportunity to learn and develop new skills. I plan to attend graduate school to further my education in marine conservation and economics. Besides drawing and photography, my other interests include exploring the outdoors, traveling, and gardening. My hope is to use this scholarship and my passion of science and art as tools to communicate the importance of our oceans and conservation overall.

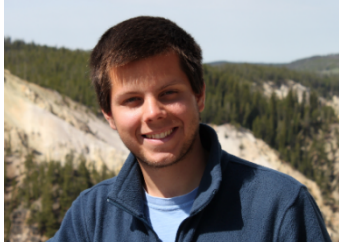


## Christy Stoller, M.D.

### 2014 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship *Courtesy of Life Support Technologies*

I grew up in the small farming town of Gridley, IL. I attended Illinois State University for undergraduate education. After graduation, I moved to Mexico for medical school at the Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara. Upon completion, I moved to New York to complete a year of US clinicals as part of the Pre-Internship Program at New York Medical College. Currently, I am working as a volunteer Research Fellow at

Westchester Medical Center in the Department of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care until I start my General Surgery Residency.



## Seth Theuerkauf

### 2014 Jordan Viders Spirit of the Sea Scholarship

Seth is a graduate student in the Marine Conservation Ecology lab at NC State University. His research focuses on the integration of novel geospatial techniques (including the design of habitat suitability models) to inform oyster restoration activities in Pamlico Sound. Upon completion of his graduate education, he plans to take part in the field of Chesapeake Bay oyster restoration through conducting

scientific research with either an academic institution or a non-profit group. He is grateful to have been selected as the 2014 BTS “Jordan Viders Spirit of the Sea” Scholarship recipient.

**2016 Update:** "Seth is a PhD Candidate in the Marine Conservation Ecology lab at NC State University. His research focuses on the development of novel geospatial techniques to inform the conservation and restoration of imperiled coastal habitats. He works with non-profit groups and government agencies to integrate these tools into their conservation planning efforts.

**2017 Update:** "Seth is a PhD Candidate in the Marine Conservation Ecology lab at NC State University. His research focuses on the development of novel geospatial techniques to inform the conservation and restoration of imperiled coastal habitats. He works with non-profit groups and government agencies to integrate these tools into their conservation planning efforts. More information about his research and career goals can be found at: [www4.ncsu.edu/~sjtheuer](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~sjtheuer)."

## 2013 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Liv Dillon

#### 2013 Jorge Beale Hyperbaric Medicine Scholarship Courtesy of Life Support Technologies

Liv Dillon is the lead diving instructor at New York Harbor School, a public high school in New York City, located on Governors Island. At the New York Harbor School, students enroll in classes called Career and Technical Education (CTE), designed for a chance at a maritime career. "As the lead diving instructor at New York Harbor School, I teach a three-year diving program to about 48 high school students culminating in scientific diving which is used to do research on oyster restoration strategies in the New York Harbor." Her divers also work on projects with the National Parks Service and the Department of Environmental Protection. Her students volunteered to share their research techniques with students from other schools by developing a workshop for the Beneath The Sea Marine Careers Program. Students teaching students! What a success story! And, now, with her Hyperbaric Medicine training, she will bring another level of experience to share with her students.



### Taylor Fuchs

#### 2013 WDHOFF/Ocean Pals Junior Diving Training Grant

Taylor's goal, "Attending college for marine biology. I have wanted to work with the ocean for as long as I can remember. If I were to win this scholarship, I would be able to use what I learn during the diving course in the future...to explore the underwater world beneath the sea's surface...It is a world I love."

Taylor is a very active volunteer who is a youth peer leader, volunteering her time to help others learn and participate in science. She has volunteered at the Cape May Whale Watch and Research Center as a mate on a whale watching boat, helping those going on the cruise learn about local marine invertebrates, and has begun training as an Associate Naturalist. On Earth Day, she volunteers with the Friends of Cape May National Wildlife Refuge. All of this and more, while being inducted into the National Junior Honors Society and receiving the American Legion Award.

*"Diving into the ocean seems like a magical moment. Diving will aid me in the viewing of the magnificent and colorful world of our world's oceans!"* she wrote in her scholarship application.

**2014/2015 Update:** Within months of receiving this scholarship, Taylor became a certified scuba diver, received her advanced open water certification and decided her favorite dive was the night dive. "I loved how you could see nothing and then you see the glow of another diver's light or glow stick...it was awesome". She has moved on to her junior year in high school and is on her way to achieving her goals! Taylor is now also a Beneath The Sea volunteer assisting with the Marine Careers Program and the Scholarship Program!

**2016/2017 Update:** Taylor is currently attending Stockton University in Galloway, New Jersey. She is majoring in marine biology and minoring in geology, and continues to be a Beneath The Sea volunteer. She is working for her local dive shop to gain more experience in diving. She is also working towards her DiveMaster certification. Taylor says, "I have a long way to go still, but I am looking forward to a career in Diving." Taylor continues to be a member of the Beneath The Sea Marine Careers and Scholarship teams.

**2018 Update:** Since receiving the Ocean Pals Dive Training Grant I have furthered my diving experience, and I am currently working towards my Divemaster certification. I have stayed connected with BTS; this year I was made their Ambassador of Youth. I am looking forward to my new position in the BTS family.



## Hillary Kenyon

### 2013 Scubapro/PADI “I Am Waterman” Competition

Courtesy of Scubapro and PADI

Hillary’s interest in the ocean started at the Schooner camp in New Haven Harbor. This was followed her high school marine biology study in Bermuda and her first time snorkeling on a reef. *“Such a life changing experience! I’m not quite sure where the extreme fascination of sharks came in, but through high school I tried my best to dispel shark attack myths and to expose the severity of the global fin trade and problems with overfishing in general.”*

After becoming SCUBA certified, Hillary did an exchange program in Townsville, QLD, Australia at James Cook University where she focused on oceanography and marine sciences. She and a friend worked as hostesses on the Great Barrier Reef tour boats in exchange for diving and a place to sleep, sometimes diving up to four times a day for five days at a time!

Recently, she has been involved with a few internships and jobs related to conservation and marine sciences, including the Schooner camp, the Mystic Aquarium and the CT Sea Grant. *“I got really into aquaculture and am still doing an oyster research program with the CT Bureau of Aquaculture.”* She became the SCUBA club President and became involved with the UCONN Avery Point campus AAUS Scientific Diver training program! *“Best decision of my life.”*

*“I really want to get my Divemaster certification and start getting into a bit of technical dive training as well. I’m hoping that the Waterman scholarship can help with this! Ultimately, I want to work as a Dive Instructor for a bit and use my passion to help inspire others to love the ocean as well. In terms of using my degree in Environmental Science, I’m interested in sustainable fisheries and coastal resource management. I’m also really interested in finding ways to make aquaculture more environmentally friendly. And something I want to see in my lifetime...schooling hammerhead sharks!!!! That’s been my dream for so long. Thank you Stan Waterman, your work and fervor have helped inspire my passionate energy and love for the ocean. And thank you SCUBAPRO for this tremendous opportunity to help make my dreams a reality!”* Extracted from:

<http://www.scubapro.com/en-GB/FRA/waterman-winner.aspx>

**2014 Update:** Thanks to the PADI portion of the Waterman award, I have been able to start my Divemaster training with Seaview SCUBA Dive Center in Quaker Hill, CT. The owners/instructors have been wonderful teachers and I am excited to finish up my training in the spring! I’ve also started blogging about marine conservation issues at <http://hillarybythesea.blogspot.com/>. I wish to use my blog as an awareness and education tool to bridge the gap between science and public knowledge.

**2016 Update:** “I currently work as an Environmental and Water Resources Scientist for Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC in CT. We continue to be heavily involved in underwater aquatic invasive species mapping, and we study the efficacy of various strategies of aquatic plant management, nutrient abatement, and habitat remediation.” Hillary is also a Beneath the Sea volunteer assisting with the Marine Careers Program.



## Remy Okazaki

### 2013 Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship

This scholarship is in memory of Jordan Vidars. Remy took the time to learn about Jordan and his accomplishments. Remy told us, *“If I were to receive this scholarship the funds would be used in a way that would hopefully honor Jordan’s spirit of*

*entrepreneurship and quite literally fulfill the scholarship's goal of 'using electronics to illuminate and expand our underwater knowledge.'*"

Remy is studying the effects of ocean acidification on corals at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, in Panama. He is currently setting up an ocean acidification laboratory as a post-doctoral fellow at the Institute's field station. He will use the scholarship funds to build reef lights for the laboratory. Remy explains, "*Because the lighting needs would likely change depending on which species were studied and what questions the scientist is asking, the lights cannot be purchased off the shelf from an aquarium store. ...Instead they need to be built so that parts, configurations and light regimes can be adjusted as necessary. They also need to be powerful enough to support photosynthesis by a wide array of species.*"

Remy leaves us with a final thought, "*I can only aspire to achieve the prowess Jordan exhibited with computers. This project will enable me to learn the necessary programming language to build other devices for scientific study.*"

**2014 Update:** Remy reports that he: "*finished his post-doc at Smithsonian, got the lights up and running. After seeing the working prototype built with your help, the Smithsonian has bought the parts to build several more. Thank you again for your help!*"



## **ROVs for Museum Teens in Santa Clara 2013 "Deep Ventures" A Collaborative Scholarship in Underwater Robotics**

**Courtesy of J. F. White Contracting Company**

This year, for the first time, we offered a group collaboration scholarship. Twenty Santa Barbara, California high school students, guided by youth leaders, built four ROVs! The "ROVs for Museum Teens" project is part of the "Quasars to Sea Stars" science education program at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and Ty Warner Sea Center.

This underwater exploration project got the teens involved with marine technology by supplying them with the tools and supplies to build underwater remotely operated vehicles. The ROVs were constructed by teams, allowing for competition, collaboration, idea sharing, and leadership. They also learned about the history of underwater exploration, and about the use of manned submersibles and ROVs. The positives and negatives of both were discussed as the teens explored how research needs influence design during a visit from Jim Clark, representative of the scholarship funder, J.F. White Contracting Co.

The teens also brought their ROVs on a 3-day trip to the Santa Barbara Channel Islands and used them to explore the waters and wildlife off the island's coasts. They will continue to use them with 4-12-year-old students as a part of the Museum's summer camps. They will explore the waters below the pier at the Ty Warner Sea Center.



## **Lauren Eve Simonitis 2013 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship**

Lauren's parents are scuba divers, and she and her brother learned the sport at an early age. Scuba diving has heightened her interest in the underwater world and pushed her to commit countless hours to the study of the ocean and its organisms. She is especially interested in research that integrates marine biology with the medical field. "*For example,*" she explains, "*the possibility of finding cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's through jellyfish research intrigues me.*"

A member of the Marine and Atmospheric Science Honor Society and the National Honor Society, Lauren has also been an undergraduate researcher, and has proudly has received other scholarships and awards.

Finally, Lauren expresses her vision: *“There are many unexplored opportunities to make significant advances in the medical field with the help of marine research. I see so many unexplored doorways to advancing our quality of healthcare and the state of our oceans, that the prospects of a career in this field is a dream come true.”*

**2014 Update:** Lauren is studying seal physiology at the University of Alaska with Dr. Jennifer Burns and has been doing neurological research at The Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science on Aplysia California since summer '12. She is also the Vice President of the Marine Mammal Stranding Team at the University of Miami and on the Executive Board for University of Miami's Ocean Awareness Week which aims to raise awareness in the community (on both a university and city-wide level) about our impact and dependency on the ocean. We also raise money for Blue Ocean Institute.

**2017 Update:** I am currently getting my Ph. D. in Marine Biology at Texas A&M University at Galveston. I am working in the Ecomorphology and Comparative Physiology lab under Dr. Christopher Marshall. I am interested in aquatic sensory biology and for my dissertation, I am looking at shark olfaction (i.e. how sharks “smell” different chemicals in the water). I am forever thankful for the support I received from Beneath The Sea that helped me along to where I am now.



## Mariah Eryn Vane

### 2013 Don Reynolds Memorial Scholarship

Mariah gives us a sense of how her interests first developed: *“Growing up, I spent much of my time outdoors exploring the waters and wilderness of the Pacific Northwest. My adventures instilled in me a fascination, passion and deep respect for the environment...and I am intrigued with the environment and the ways in which people interact with it.”*

Mariah was first introduced to scientific field work as part of a University seminar trip on biodiversity in the Andes of Peru. This exposure sparked her interest in biological fieldwork.

During an internship, she began to learn about the incredible life histories and conservation issues facing marine birds, as well as the organization and management of a successful non-profit citizen science project. And a summer course on the conservation and ecology of marine birds and mammals at Friday Harbor Laboratories (FHL) in the San Juan Islands helped her decide – her true passion lay with the sea. During that summer, she studied the behavioral impacts of boat traffic on hauled-out harbor seals.” *My experience at FHL was one of the most fun and engaging educational experiences I have ever had, but it left me wondering what observing marine life from below the surface might be like.”*

And, as to the future, Mariah says, *“Beyond research, I wish to share what I learn with others through outreach and education”.*

**2014 Update:** After graduation from the University of Washington, Mariah is now completing a research internship with Whale and Dolphin Conservation and this winter will be heading down to Mote Marine Laboratories for an internship with the Sarasota Dolphin Research Program! *“I earned my open water diver certification this summer! Diving has been awesome!!! I can't tell you how grateful I am to have received this scholarship! I am so excited to further develop this skill and to use it as a tool for marine conservation!”*

**2018 Update:** I am currently serving as an AmeriCorps Environmental Educator at the Port Townsend Marine Science Center (PTMSC) in Washington. I coordinate the area's Marine Mammal Stranding Network, help run our aquarium and natural history exhibits, and teach marine science to K-12 students and adults.

## 2012 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### Lizbeth Abrego

#### 2012 Ocean Pals Junior Dive Training Grant

Lizbeth says, "I have a passion for the marine life...when it comes to animals in danger of extinction, it really bothers me...what if the human race was about to be extinct...what would we do to save ourselves...why can't we do the same for marine life?" Lizbeth loves adventure and travel. Her interest in marine life led her to enrolling in the Professional Diving Program at her school. In this program, she participates in the study of oysters, bay scallops and eelgrass in Jamaica Bay as part of a project with the National Parks Service. Her interests also expand into martial arts and

maintaining excellent academic standards in the Chemistry and Algebra honors classes. She has also been an active participant in delivering the New York Harbor High School workshop for students from other schools at the Beneath The Sea Marine Careers Program.

**2014 Update:** "I am now a college student with a major on maritime technology and hope to get my boat license soon. I joined Bronx Scuba and hope to continue my diving adventures with them. With my new wetsuit, I did a beach cleanup in the Bronx. It was the longest dive I've done so far – one hour. I was partnered with my instructor, Joe, from the Harbor School". Lizbeth tells us, "*Coral reefs have an amazing variety of marine life, from teeming multitudes of brightly colored fish to giant clams wedged into rocks. I find scuba diving as a world of my own. I can do things I can't do on land and see things I wouldn't see on land.*"

**2016 Update:** Lizbeth was a Beneath The Sea volunteer for the Marine Careers Program.



### Lara Lewis

#### 2012 Jordan Vidars Spirit of the Sea Scholarship

Lara's curiosity and passion for marine science and neurobiology is the driving factor in her academic and personal life. She is interested in developing a new method for analyzing the nervous systems of marine animals. Lara explains, "*In my research, I aim to compare changes in gene expression amongst the same nervous system in three separate species; the Cancer Borealis crab, the Panulirus interruptus spiny lobster, and the Homarus americanus clawed lobster.*" This information will provide

important insight into the overall activity and structure of nervous systems. It is also her priority to be involved in effective outreach programs to bolster scientific literacy, career awareness, and self-confidence in girls from underserved communities. Lara also volunteers in a weekly after-school program for Girls teaching basic scientific concepts. "*I feel tremendous fulfillment and pride from being able to support these potential young scientists*", reports Lara. While Lara spends much time on her research projects at the Northeastern Marine Science Laboratory, she is also involved in extracurricular activities, including the graduate student senate and marine technology society.



### Louis M. Penrod

#### 2012 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship

Louis has a wide variety of interests including – Men's Choir, Councilor in Training at the Boys Scouts of America Camp Shenandoah, fundraising for local trained police dogs and assisting at Fun Days for elementary schools. All of this, while maintaining honor society status at school. But, it was the three-week Marine Biology Summer camp that confirmed his lifelong interest in the marine world was what he really wanted to do. While at Camp

Shenandoah, he learned to scuba dive, cementing the idea that diving was going to be a helpful skill for his career choice. And after spending three weeks on a live-aboard catamaran learning to sail, scuba diving and studying marine biology, he reports that *"I took away a heightened knowledge of the oceans, two natural science college credits from Lesley University, and more certainty that this is something I really wanted to do!"*

Louis was accepted at Florida Institute of Technology for their Marine Biology program where he plans to do their five-year fast track masters' degree program. Louis tells us: *"After college, I hope to go into private research, going out on long trips all over the world, studying marine life and learning how to protect it."*

**2014 Update:** Louis is currently a sophomore at Florida Institute of Technology double majoring in Marine Biology and Aquaculture. He wants to look at how aquaculture can reduce the impact on the marine environment that commercial fisheries cause. Louis holds membership in the FIT Marine Biology Society and the Sigma Psi chapter of Tri Beta Biological Honor Society. Also, he is currently a PADI Divemaster and is working on his Assistant Instructor certification.



## Casey Vece

### 2012 Art of Underwater Photography Scholarship

*Courtesy of Maria Hults and Riekstins Reikstins Restaurants*

Casey's first love was playing ice hockey. When his outstanding hockey career ended abruptly with a major injury, Casey began looking for another love. Casey tells us, *"That was when I entered the photography program and spent most of my time in the dark room learning photography from the bottom up."* He spent several summers working for Independence Pass Productions, assisting in all-digital studio and on location activities. His photography has been all above the water. Last year, Casey became a certified diver and will now begin his photographic journey underwater. A key goal for Casey is to have one of his pictures on the cover of National Geographic's magazine. *"My ultimate true happiness to know that around the world, people will be seeing my work and in awe, just as I was when I was a little child waiting and opening the mailbox once a month just to see the colorful pictures within that yellow cover."*

**2014 Update:** Casey, now a graduate of Rutgers University, has his own business, Casey Vece Photography ([www.caseyvece.com](http://www.caseyvece.com)) and does portraits, pets, high end events, outdoor/wildlife, etc.



## Zachary William Zarillo

### 2012 Discovery Scholarship

Zachary discovered his love of nature when his little league career was cut short because he would rather be observing the ants build their mounds than watching the pitcher on his! Learning scuba diving intensified his interest in nature. After scuba diving trips, Zachary says, *"I have witnessed what pollution has done to our most precious resources. This is what has inspired me to pursue studies in the marine sciences."* Zachary's philosophy is that understanding the ocean and the life within is necessary for not only helping the creatures that live there, but for the survival of mankind, as the oceans are the circulatory system of the earth. Its waters supply us not only with food, fuel, and water, but also over 70% of our oxygen. When the ocean dies, the planet will die.

He is also founder and president of Crew 3000, a conservation scuba group, which participates in projects, such as cleaning seaweed and other growth off floating lines and small floats that mark and protect the sea grass beds that feed sea turtles in Lac Lagoon in Bonaire.

**2014 Update:** Since receiving this scholarship Zachary has graduated from Watertown High School and is now a freshman at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, Connecticut, where he is majoring in Biology. He continues his ocean conservation efforts with his Crew and has been to Mexico several times over

the last few years to start and maintain a coral farm in the Riviera Maya. He has also been to Grand Cayman for fish identification and REEF surveys.

## 2011 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



### **Briana Darcy** **2011 Ocean Pals Junior Dive Training Grant**

At an early age, Briana participated in a variety of scuba programs, including the PADI Seals, PADI Junior Open Water and Advanced Certifications, which resulted in her Jr. Master Scuba Diver rating. Briana tells us, *"I love to teach my friends about shark conservation and about saving the world's oceans. My favorite sharks are the Great Hammerhead Shark and the Blue Shark!"*

After high school, Briana hopes to go to the Naval Academy and one day become a Captain of a cutter, pilot a rescue helicopter or a rescue diver. *"Getting into the Coast Guard will help me serve and protect my country."*

Briana also belongs to the National Junior Honor Society, and is an honor roll student. She received the State of New York Office of the Comptroller award for academic excellence and civic commitment and other awards. She is an active volunteer of the Beneath the Sea's Marine Careers Program. She is thankful for the support from many marine industry organizations who encourage her to continue in her quest towards ocean conservation. Briana is also thankful for, *"My little mermaids, my sisters, Skylar and Rayne, my mom for always being there for me, and my dad for being my biggest inspiration and my dive buddy."*

**2014 Update:** Briana is now a senior in high school, interested in going into the Navy and going to the Naval Academy. She is in National Honor Society.



### **Seth Theuerkauf** **2011 Discovery Scholarship**

*"During my high school years, I attended the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science (CBGS)... My interest in the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem was sparked through a combination of classroom studies, field studies, and volunteer experiences...I*

*began work as a summer aide in the Marine Conservation Biology laboratory at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS)...I worked alongside marine conservation biologists working to restore the Bay's ecologically-critical species."*

As a summer intern and later as a research assistant at VIMS, Seth began work on an alternative reef material study for his senior research study at CBGS. His research utilized a new form of three-dimensional reef material known as the "oyster castle". He presented his research at the Virginia Junior Academy of Science earning many awards. *"Every so often, I will stop by the creek to observe the state of the reef...which continues to grow and flourish...is a reminder of the potential for the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem to recover and thrive if given proper conditions. If I continue to work diligently in my studies and research, I can help make restoration of the native oyster in the Chesapeake Bay a reality."*

**2014 Update:** Seth graduated summa cum laude from the College of William and Mary in May 2013 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Environmental Science. In the fall, he will begin graduate studies towards a Master of Science degree in Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at North Carolina State University.

**2016 Update:** "Seth is a PhD Candidate in the Marine Conservation Ecology lab at NC State University. His research focuses on the development of novel geospatial techniques to inform the conservation and

restoration of imperiled coastal habitats. He works with non-profit groups and government agencies to integrate these tools into their conservation planning efforts. More information about his research and career goals can be found at: [www4.ncsu.edu/~sjtheuer](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~sjtheuer)."

**2017 Seth Theurkauf update:** "Seth is a PhD Candidate in the Marine Conservation Ecology lab at NC State University. His research focuses on the development of novel geospatial techniques to inform the conservation and restoration of imperiled coastal habitats. He works with non-profit groups and government agencies to integrate these tools into their conservation planning efforts. More information about his research and career goals can be found at: [www4.ncsu.edu/~sjtheuer](http://www4.ncsu.edu/~sjtheuer)."



## **Reny Blue Tyson** **2011 Jordan Viders Spirit of the Sea Scholarship**

*"As a marine mammal behavioral ecologist, I rely on technological innovations, such as the development of sonar systems and biologging tools to help me observe marine systems and the animals in them so that I can interpret their behavior and function. I believe that marine scientists, engineers, and computer programmers must build strong relationships with each other to illuminate our understanding of the oceans."*

As part of her PhD program at Duke University, Reny conducted a suite of integrated ecosystem/prey mapping observations in conjunction with wildlife telemetry work for her dissertation that links marine conservation with upper trophic level predators. A key example of her study included examining the foraging ecology of the poorly understood yet ecologically integral recovering krill predator, the humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the Western Antarctic Peninsula. *"To examine the foraging behavior of these animals effectively I must be able to observe the whale's (and their prey's) behavior underwater. Advances in tagging technology and traditional fisheries acoustics have enabled me to do just that."*

At the completion of her PhD, Reny plans to start a career in academia and continue to conduct research that blends technology with marine ecology.

**2014 Update:** "I am a doctoral candidate in Marine Science and Conservation in the Nicholas School of Environment at Duke University. Currently I am using biologging tools and quantitative techniques to research the fine-scale foraging behavior of humpback whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) in the Western Antarctic Peninsula for my PhD dissertation."



## **Alex Daniel Zimme** **2011 Sea of Tomorrow Scholarship**

As a senior, Alex enrolled in Bridgeport Aquaculture College Alliance, an enhanced study of diversified sciences focusing on environment and aquatics. Alex explains, *"This program has provided me with invaluable educational experiences in addition to skills to work with science and technology utilized in the maritime industry and in the aquatic research community."*

He conducted an independent research project on how ocean acidification is affecting the exoskeletons of mollusks and or/crustaceans in Long Island Sound. Alex says, *"I hope to share my research and educate others about the carbon dioxide pollution which is changing our ocean's chemistry causing the pH level to fall and acidity to rise."* Alex was invited to present his research project on ocean acidification at the Milford Aquaculture Seminar sponsored by NOAA.

Alex joined the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, where he was challenged in a different way with military drill, physical fitness and specialized training. His training included mapping shipwrecks in the Great Lakes under the guidance of a NOAA archaeologist, ship handling and navigational skills operating the 81-foot Pride of

Michigan research vessel. This experience led to his underwater archaeology certification by the Nautical Archaeology Society.

Alex is a member of the National Honor Society, and a black belt in Tang Soo Do Martial Arts. He has received numerous awards from the US Naval Sea Cadet Crop and Sea Scouts.

**2014 Update:** *"In the past year, I was fortunate to be able to participate in an educational trip to Israel through the Birthright Program. It was truly an amazing experience exploring Israel's sites, culture, history and diverse people. I recently participated in Project Aware Reef Clean Up involving an eco-community of volunteer scuba divers."* And, he was awarded the Marine Technology Society Undergraduate Scholarship for the 2013-14 school year.

As a former Beneath the Sea's Sea of Tomorrow Award recipient and a junior at Florida Atlantic University's recognized Ocean and Mechanical Engineering program, I continue to seek opportunities to further my knowledge and gain special skills outside the classroom. I am currently participating in a research project at Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center optimizing a turbine's blade rotor design that will extract kinetic energy from geostrophic ocean currents and generate electricity. I look forward to future engineering challenges and participating in cutting edge research and development of ocean systems and technologies.

**END OF BIOS AND PHOTOS**