



WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

Congratulations to the 2022 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. This year we had a record number of applications and we will be awarding \$69,750 to 47 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Underwater Archaeology Scholarships (4 awards)

Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarships in Underwater Archaeology

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



Kirsten Hawley (\$2,000 scholarship)

Kirsten is a Ph.D. student at Indiana University (IU) whose research in Prehistoric Caribbean Archaeology focuses on submerged Taíno sites in Eastern Dominican Republic. Her dissertation work will integrate underwater archaeology with trace elemental and isotopic analyses to compare the geochemical makeup of Taíno artifacts in order to

examine prehistoric sourcing and movement of objects as well as post-depositional changes to the artifacts. Kirsten has been a scuba diver since 2012 and is now an Open Water Scuba Instructor who teaches in IU's Academic Diving Program. She hopes to continue to develop her abilities to use scuba as a tool for scientific research to examine questions of the past.



Amy Socha (\$1,000 scholarship)

Amy is a Master's student at Florida State University (FSU) researching paleoenvironments and submerged archaeological site formation. She began diving as part of her Master's program through FSU's Advanced Science Diving Program, and is currently working towards her cavern diver certification and qualification as a scientific diver. Her Master's Thesis research will

focus on a submerged site in Florida, where she will analyze sediment cores and the underwater context of the site to study its formation. She intends to make underwater archaeology a career and hopes to eventually do submerged geoarchaeological research around the world.



Stephanie Sterling (\$1,000 scholarship)

Stephanie is a graduate student in the Maritime Studies Program at East Carolina University. She is AAUS certified and a PADI Divemaster. Her thesis attempts to delineate geographic and cognitive boundaries of freedom of enslaved Africans within the tidal rice plantation waterscape of Brunswick County, North Carolina. Taking a community-centric

approach, she established outreach and engagement as fundamental elements to her research designs. Stephanie is interested in remote sensing and photogrammetric methods, Black geographies, incident command resource advising, strategies for imminently threatened coastal communities, and management of submerged and previously inundated sites affected by dam operation, construction, and decommissioning.

Cecelia Connelly Memorial Undergraduate Scholarships in Underwater Archaeology

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



Sarah Muckerheide (\$750 scholarship)

Sarah is a junior at Indiana University, majoring in Underwater Archaeology and Anthropology, minoring in Biology and Spanish, with a certificate in Underwater Resource Management. She was scuba certified in 2018 and is currently pursuing Divemaster certification. She has been a research assistant for the Center for Underwater Science for

three years, attending underwater archaeological field projects in the Florida Keys and in Lake Michigan (Indiana) and is now a Scientific Diver. She is excited to use this scholarship to participate in a field project in the Dominican Republic, where she will do research for her Individualized Major final project.

Coral and Seagrass Rehabilitation Fellowships (4 awards)

Susan L. Williams Memorial Fellowship in Coral Rehabilitation

Sponsored by: the family & friends of WDHOF Member Susan L. Williams



Jenna Dilworth (\$2,500 fellowship)

Jenna received her M.S. in Marine Biology and Ecology from the University of Miami in 2020, where her thesis focused on the acclimatization of Hawaiian reef-building corals to thermal stress. Now a Ph.D. student in the Cnidarian Evolutionary Ecology lab at the University of Southern California, she is interested in understanding how thermal stress tolerance changes after outplanting in *Acropora cervicornis*, a branching coral commonly used for reef restoration in the Florida Keys.



Sarani Chaturika Ranaweera (\$2,500 fellowship)

Sarani graduated from the University of Colombo Sri Lanka with a B.A. in Mass Media in 2020, and is currently working on an LLB at the University of London under their international programs. A trained facilitator for Peace and Youth Empowerment, she has been working with many organizations in Sri Lankan coastal areas and involved in projects such as: awareness workshops for schools, beach and reef cleanups, tree planting campaigns, and reef restoration. She works closely with small-scale fishing communities for transformative education and traditional knowledge transferring to younger generations on preserving marine ecosystems. This multi-step program will include mapping the seafloor for species identification and documentation, and then disseminating the information among local people, schools, government regulatory authorities and the boat community.

Susan L. Williams Memorial Fellowship in Seagrass Rehabilitation

Sponsored by: the family & friends of WDHOF Member Susan L. Williams



Anjali Boyd (\$2,500 fellowship)

Anjali Boyd is a Duke University, North Carolina, Ph.D. Student and Dean's Graduate Fellow in the Nicholas School of the Environment. She received her B.S. in Marine Science from Eckerd College as a NOAA Hollings Scholar. Her research examines how species interactions (both intra- and inter-) and physical forces interact to regulate the recovery of foundation species (i.e. seagrass) to environmental stressors. Anjali aspires to develop novel ecosystem-based restoration and management practices to restore foundation species worldwide.



Marija Oštarić (\$2,500 fellowship)

Marija is a student of the Master's program, Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems, at the University of Zadar in Croatia. She is a rescue diver with nitrox specialization and has over 350 scientific and ecology dives. She has been an active member/volunteer in a local NGO, "Marine Explorers Society – 20,000 Leagues," since 2019.

Most of her efforts so far have been dedicated to marine conservation with an emphasis on protection and rehabilitation of the endemic, slow-growing, and long-living seagrass species of the Mediterranean Sea, *Posidonia oceanica*.

Sea Turtle Conservation Grant (1 award)

J. Berman Memorial Grant for Sea Turtle Conservation

Sponsored by: the J. Berman Memorial Fund



Ange Amon (\$2,000 grant)

Ange Amon, Founder and Director of Lissenung Island Turtle Conservation (LITC) in Papua New Guinea, works with local communities to preserve critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtles. The team protects eggs from poachers by relocating them to Lissenung Island, where they are incubated in a safe environment. Once hatched, the hatchlings are released into the ocean. LITC also runs a small turtle care center where injured or underdeveloped hatchlings as well as injured juvenile or adult sea turtles are looked after before being released. LITC plans to extend their educational program about sea turtles and the marine environment in schools, including regular beach clean-ups.

Physiology Research Fellowships (2 awards)

Laurel Clark Sea to Space Fellowship

Sponsored by: Jon Clark, in memory of his wife, WDHOF Member Laurel Clark



Jessica Kendall-Bar (\$5,000 fellowship)

Jessica Kendall-Bar is a Ph.D. candidate studying Marine Mammal Physiology and Neuroscience in the Costa and Williams labs at UC Santa Cruz. After studying Marine Science and Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley, she began her dissertation research which explores new techniques for monitoring sleep in wild marine mammals. A scientist by training, Jessica's research has spanned a wide range of topics including oceanic geochemistry, octopus behavior, marine arthropod mating behavior, moray eel behavior, human sleep deprivation, and marine mammal neuroscience. However, Jessica believes that scientific progress is futile unless communicated successfully. Jessica's illustrations, photography, animations, photography, and cinematography aim to accurately portray science and its role in preserving the underwater ecosystem.



Isabel Silva Romero (\$5,000 fellowship)

Isabel is currently a first-year graduate student at UNC Chapel Hill. Originally from Salinas, Ecuador, she completed her B.S. at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito. She was scuba certified in 2014 after her parents encouraged her to enroll in the course. Fast forward, she has dived across the tropics including Australia's Great Barrier Reef and Indonesia, and in 2021 she completed her Divemaster training. She studies how variable biotic and abiotic conditions shape trophic interactions in marine subtidal communities in the Galapagos. Through research, Isabel seeks to contribute to policymaking decisions to release conservation strategies built upon complex knowledge of the archipelago's ecosystems.

Graduate Conservation Scholarships (6 awards)

Max Benjamin Memorial Graduate Conservation Scholarship

Sponsored by: WDHOFF Member Cecilie Benjamin, in memory of her husband, Max Benjamin



Sara Marriott (\$2,000 scholarship)

Sara is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Southern Mississippi researching small-scale fisheries in the Philippines. Specifically, her work investigates the connections between social and ecological systems in community-based fishing. Her research is focused on using interdisciplinary approaches to work closely with stakeholders to build sustainable fisheries that support both ecosystems.

Captain Wayne Hasson Memorial Applied Marine Conservation Graduate Research Scholarship

Sponsored by: the Sea of Change Foundation (WDHOFF Member Anne Hasson) in memory of Capt Wayne Hasson



Ashley Dawdy (\$2,000 scholarship)

Ashley is a Master's student at Florida State University and a member of Dr. Dean Grubbs' research group at the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory. She is an AAUS Scientific Diver and PADI Divemaster. Her thesis investigates the movement ecology of elasmobranchs of conservation concern. In Apalachicola Bay, she studies cownose ray (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) movement behavior to assess interaction potential of rays with commercial bivalves. She studies the movement behavior of smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) in the Florida Keys, aiming to identify potential species mating areas. Following graduate school, Ashley hopes to continue elasmobranch research within an aquarium research program.

Rachel Morrison Memorial Graduate Conservation Scholarship

Sponsored by: John and Jeanne Morrison, in memory of their daughter Rachel



Allie Blanchette (\$2,000 scholarship)

Allie is a Ph.D. student at Florida State University, interested in coral adaptation to global change. She is an AAUS Scientific Diver and is conducting her dissertation research in Bonaire (Dutch Caribbean) on genotypic variation in the survival and reproduction of endangered staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*). She aims to contribute to marine conservation throughout her career and is collaborating with coral restoration practitioners for her research. She also has a special place in her heart for farmer damselfish after conducting her undergraduate research at UCLA on the ecological roles of damselfish on coral reefs in Moorea.

Marine Conservation Graduate Scholarship

Sponsored by: WDHOFF Member Meg Donat



Natasha Hynes (\$2,000 scholarship)

Natasha is an M.Sc. student at Canada's University of New Brunswick Saint John Campus and has a B.Sc. in Marine Biology from Dalhousie University. Her Master's project will focus on testing and optimizing a glider-mounted shadowgraph camera system for sampling zooplankton. The study of zooplankton quality and distribution has important conservation implications for their predators, as changes in the prey field can drive changes in the populations of their predators. Her project aims to provide the foundation for the use of the shadowgraph camera on underwater gliders operating in Eastern Canada.

Marine Conservation Graduate Scholarship

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Steffanie Munguía (\$2,000 scholarship)

For this native of Puerto Rico, the ocean and coasts have been an ever-present force in Steffanie's life. The unique ecosystems that are created where land and sea meet captivated her imagination as a child exploring tropical mudflats. Today, they are the focus of her doctoral research in coastal wetland policy and management in the Caribbean. Her work is rooted in her desire to understand the competing drivers of coastal resource dependence and overexploitation in the Caribbean. This scholarship will support Steffanie's research on community decision-making in Panama and Jamaica with respect to coastal wetlands of international importance.

Marine Conservation Graduate Scholarship

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Jordan Sims (\$2,000 scholarship)

Jordan is a Ph.D. student in Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University in Virginia, working in the Salerno Lab of Integrative Microbial Ecology. Her research centers on investigating the microbial drivers of coral settlement and disease on the reefs of Roatán, Honduras, with a particular interest in how our understanding of these microbial processes may be able to improve coral restoration practices. Jordan will use her scholarship to assess the composition and spatial structure of benthic bacterial communities during coral spawning and relate that information to observed patterns of coral settlement.

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

Undergraduate Marine Research Scholarships & Internship (3 awards)

Sherry Reed Memorial Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship

Sponsored by: family and friends in memory of WDHOF Member Sherry Reed



Prisca Lim (\$1,500)

Prisca is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science with minors in Chemistry and Marine Sciences at UNC Chapel Hill. She is passionate about understanding the marine environment, particularly the role of primary producers and the factors that affect their composition. As anthropogenic activities continue

to alter environmental conditions such as temperature and pH, she aims to understand how phytoplankton populations are responding to these changes. Her current research investigates the role of different artificial reef materials on epiphyte composition and the presence of a toxic dinoflagellate, *Gambierdiscus*. She hopes this research can help guide future conservation efforts.

Blue World/Oceanic Research Group Undergraduate Marine Conservation Scholarship

Sponsored by: the Oceanic Research Group, Inc. (WDHOF Member Christine Bird)



Hannah-Marie Lamle (\$1,000)

Hannah-Marie is a senior at Indiana University studying Environmental Science with a concentration in Marine Conservation. She will be going to graduate school for a Master's degree in Marine Biology in the fall of 2022 where she hopes to conduct research relating to coral reef resilience in the wake of climate change. Her current research

consists of monitoring colonies of endangered *Dendrogyra cylindrus* (Pillar Coral) in the Guadalupe Underwater Archaeological Preserve, located off the coast of the Dominican Republic.

Undergraduate Marine Research Internship in Marine Biology

Sponsored by: WDHOF Members Drs. Sue Morra Shoemaker and Kathleen Dudzinski



Emily Stone (\$1,000 internship)

Emily is currently a junior at Maine Maritime Academy enrolled in a double major studying Marine Biology and Small Vessel Operations. Her passion for learning about the environment led her to the world of scuba diving. She is now a scientific diver who hopes to continue her studies under water. This summer, she will be traveling to Anacortes, Washington, to assist with research on seven

different native marine species, including two species of octopus and five echinoderm species.

TRAINING GRANTS

Basic Dive Training Grants (14 awards)

Zale and Saxon Memorial Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: the family and friends of WDHOF Member Evelyn Dudas



Molly Elkins (\$1,000 grant)

Molly is natural leader who is always up for an adventure and is devoted to caring for animals. While snorkeling in Florida, she was surprised to see manatees. She began learning about and sharing with others their struggles to coexist with humans. Experiencing manatees in the wild inspired her to care for and protect marine life. From an early

age, Molly has dreamed of becoming a veterinarian and she is now exploring aquatic veterinary options. Being able to dive will allow her to better feed her curiosity and education in marine life while exploring different career paths.



James Kuhlman (\$1,000 grant)

James is a ninth grader at PATHS (Professional and Technical High School) in Kissimmee, Florida. He is dual enrolled with Valencia College and has plans to start lab assistant certification at Osceola Technical College in two years. He is involved in an organization for teenagers called SCUBAnauts, which teaches useful dive skills like dive safety and

works to keep our oceans clean and healthy. James has always dreamed of being an animal trainer at SeaWorld, but he needs to be scuba certified, which this dive training grant will allow him to do.

Ella Jean Morgan Memorial Dive Training Grant for Young Women

Sponsored by: Frank Boulanger, in memory of his wife, WDHOF Member Ella Jean Morgan



Ruby Arredondo (\$1,000 grant)

Ruby is a sophomore at Villanova Preparatory School in California and fosters an unrelenting curiosity for human society, the natural world, and marine sciences. As an aspiring, ambitious student who strives to lead positive change, Ruby expects to use her training grant to battle ocean pollution in local beaches by introducing the beauty and

vulnerability of marine life, launching new findings to her community, and to confidently understand and publicize her research conclusions. She awaits participating in professional labs and influential internships in the future by utilizing her newfound diving skills.

Basic Dive Training Grant in memory of WDHOF Co-founder Zig Zigah and WDHOF Member JoAnn Zigah

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Jemma Pigott (\$1,000 grant)

Jemma is an Australian ocean-lover and storyteller. She has Law and Communications degrees from the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), and screened her self-funded documentary, *Connected by Sea*, in Hawaii in 2015. She is a scholar of seven-time world surfing champion Layne Beachley's former foundation and funds her films through freelance writing, part-time employment at an iconic Australian charity, and disability support work. She is currently documenting the journey of her friend (2021 WDHOF grant recipient Lucelle Hudson) whose cerebral palsy hasn't deterred her dive dreams. Thanks to WDHOF, Jemma now looks forward to diving AND documenting with Lucelle!

Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: WDHOF members to honor WDHOF Co-founder Carol Rose



Hailey Arango (\$1,000 grant)

Hailey is a graduate student within the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology at New York's Columbia University. Her academic interests lie in the disciplines of Marine Biology, Behavioral Ecology, and Ethology. Hailey's research thesis aims to assess the effects of macro and microplastic ingestion on Cheloniidae (sea turtle) populations throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago. Hailey plans to conduct extensive fieldwork over the summer of 2022 to acquire, analyze, and quantify data to implement robust conservation strategies that will enable an overall increase in Cheloniidae survivorship rates while simultaneously promoting the preservation of surrounding vulnerable marine biota.

Ocean Wishes Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: Ocean Wishes (WDHOF Member Margo Peyton)



Fathima Shamla, Simra Riyaz, Nilukshi Fernando, Deepamala Jegajeevanraj (\$1,000 grant)

Fathima (Team Lead) with her teammates Simra, Deepa and Nilukshi are from Sri Lanka, with a diversified background and special interest to work for Ocean Conservation and Climate Change. They work on coral restoration projects and are involved in community awareness programs on marine debris through their youth-led organization Earth Lanka Youth Network. They have centered their connection to ocean conservation in all their work. This team has successfully organized community-related initiatives and engaged stakeholders on climate issues caused through ocean acidification. It has always been their dream to learn how to dive to expand their expertise into the ocean conservation sector, and this opportunity to become certified will advance their careers in ecosystem restoration in Sri Lanka. This training grant will allow their dream to become a reality while also enhancing the breadth and impact on their careers.

Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Bhagya Jayasundara, Hansini Silva, Pathumini Jayamanne, Sajani Jeewanthi (\$1,000 grant)

With Bhagya as Team Leader, this team of undergraduate students attending Ocean University of Sri Lanka for a B.Sc. in the Coastal and Marine Resources Management degree program are concentrating on areas relating to marine wildlife, fisheries, marine biology, ocean observation, oceanography and marine archaeology. They are currently working as volunteers on the shark research project of Earth Lanka Youth Network, are doing research on microplastic around the Sri Lankan coastal belt, and are active in the Young Zoologist's Association of Sri Lanka. They participated in the Race to the Ocean, the beach cleanup program organized by UNLEASH. After graduating, their aspiration is to research marine and environmental resources, identify their threats, find solutions and educate the future world as lecturers.

Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: WDHOF Member Bonnie Toth Advertising and Design and WDHOF Member Shirley Pomponi



Kate Lawrence (\$1,000 grant)

Kate is a third-year archaeology undergraduate at Flinders University in Adelaide, South Australia. She intends to use her dive training to research and explore submerged archaeological sites both in Australia and internationally, and is particularly interested in Indigenous Australian Pleistocene sites that were submerged at the end of the last Ice Age. Kate is passionate about uncovering the lives of people from the distant past and hopes that this training will help her bring fascinating discoveries to light.

Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: WDHOF Member Patti Gross



Sumedha Korgaonkar (\$1,000 grant)

Sumedha Korgaonkar received her Master's in Zoology, Oceanography and Zoology Endocrinology from Mumbai University and cleared the National Eligibility Test. Being a college professor of a post-graduate course in Biodiversity, she got involved in marine research projects. Having an inclination towards marine wildlife biology, she left her job to pursue her Ph.D. as an external scholar from the prestigious Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun. She has been awarded several international and national sea turtle grants for her research on olive ridley sea turtle behaviour and conservation. She wants to broaden her field with in-water marine research.

Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: WDHOFF Member Patti Gross



Sofia Sadogurska (\$1,000 grant)

Sofia holds a Ph.D. degree and works as a marine biologist at M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany, NAS of Ukraine. She studies the taxonomy of marine brown algae and develops strategies for marine habitats conservation in the Black Sea. Besides working in academia, Sofia works for the environmental NGO Ecoation with the issue of Climate Change policy, she advocates for Blue Growth as the Black Sea

Young Ambassador, and she is a volunteer for NGO “Ukrainian Nature Conservation Group” as an expert on marine habitats. Learning to scuba dive will advance her research and will help to raise awareness about the Black Sea’s uniqueness using underwater photography.

Basic Dive Training Grant (3 Awards)

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Gabriella Nemani (\$1,000 grant)

Gabby is a Papua New Guinean who holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. She works with the Sea Women of Melanesia Inc. (spearheaded by Coral Sea Foundation), a newly established local NGO that empowers women to take an active role in driving marine conservation in Papua New Guinea. She loves spreading awareness about marine life and working

with local island communities to set up Locally Managed Marine Areas. Learning to scuba dive will fulfil her lifelong goal of further exploring the ocean world and enable her to effectively carry out marine surveys and projects where dive skills are required.



Christina Rowe (\$1,000 grant)

Christina is currently a high school junior at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland. She is passionate about marine science and eager to get her diving certification. She hopes to use her future diving skills to not only participate in comprehensive research ventures, but also explore different underwater ecosystems. For her, diving would be a

way to relax, enjoy experiencing being under water, and learn new things about our big blue planet. Christina’s dream is to get her Ph.D. in Marine Chemistry, eventually become a senior marine pharmacology research scientist, and hopefully uncover one of the ocean’s infinite secrets.



Marijune Tiamzon (\$1,000 grant)

Marijune is a third-year undergraduate student at the University of New Brunswick in Canada. She aspires to be a marine scientist focusing on conservation, behavioral ecology, and aquaculture. Born in the Philippines, she had a career as a nurse, but felt a deep calling to pursue a career in marine biology. In 2021, she began working as a research assistant on

intertidal molecular ecology projects. With this scholarship, Marijune is hoping to acquire diving skills to understand the behavior of marine species and explore the world’s oceans.

Women’s Scuba Association Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: Women’s Scuba Association
(WDHOFF Co-Founder & Member Jennifer King)



Christopher Rojas (\$1,000 grant)

Christopher is a native Californian and a fourth-year student at UC Davis, majoring in International Relations. He hopes to further his career in scuba diving by conducting research on how climate change affects the oceans as well as wildlife. Upon graduation, he will commission in the United States Army as a 2nd Lieutenant. Christopher is excited to begin his scuba

training and hopes to inspire young, low-income students to pursue their goals in scuba diving as he believes it is vital for such students to not let their financial background get in the way of their aspirations.

Advanced Dive Training Grants (10 awards)

Instructor Advanced Education Training Grant

Sponsored by: WDHOFF Member Jeanne Bear Sleeper



Heidi Wilken (\$2,000 grant)

In the 18 years since Heidi became an instructor, she has trained thousands of divers in Washington, Mexico, and Australia, and has learned many techniques and strategies of how to teach dive classes that result in capable divers who are ready to be champions for the underwater world. She currently serves as a Diving Safety Officer at an aquarium. She

developed “try SCUBA” pool experiences for local community pools, and she teaches beginner classes at a low cost in order to try to expand access in some of these areas that have been historically under-served by water activities. This grant will enable her to continue instructor training to the level of NAUI Instructor Trainer. She plans to pay it forward by offering instructor training at significantly lower costs of tuition for candidates who would be amazing instructors but do not have the resources to pay the usual tuition.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Professional

Sponsored by: Blue Green Expeditions (WDHOFF Member Faith Ortins)



Madhuli Karmalkar (\$1,000 grant)

Madhuli completed her Master’s degree in Marine and Antarctic Sciences from the University of Tasmania in 2021. Having been a competitive swimmer and also owing to her passion for marine research, diving came organically to her. She aspires to become a dive professional and apply her skills in research for her Ph.D. She hopes to help spread awareness regarding

marine conservation, to sensitize people to the beautiful world of diving, and to be an effective proponent of conservation and awareness efforts through sound scientific approaches.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Professional

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Charlamain Caycedo (\$1,000 grant)

Charlamain is a proud U.S. Navy veteran, retired respiratory therapist, and wetlands/ocean conservationist. She completed her Open Water certification in October 2020 with WAVES project, a nonprofit that uses the therapeutic values of scuba to help veterans with service-connected injuries recover. In 2021 Charlamain volunteered for cleanup projects with Force Blue in Tampa and Fort Lauderdale and a weeklong project at Biscayne National Park partnering with the National Park Service's Submerged Resource Center. Charlamain completed her Divemaster Certification in February 2022 and intends to complete DAN 02 Instructor training to help give back, inspire, and instruct her fellow veterans.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Professional

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Juntong Hu (\$1,000 grant)

Juntong grew up in a Chinese fishing town, and she was obsessed with the ocean since childhood, which eventually led her to be a marine biologist. She completed her B.S in Marine Science and M.Phil. in Biology in China. She has spent the last three years studying the effects of climate change on hard corals and the unique coral-algae endosymbiosis relationship. She will continue her study in Australia on coral reef ecology and conservation later this year. Juntong will use this grant to help apply her research skills to solving real-world problems, especially coral bleaching.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Professional

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Hailey Shchepanik (\$1,000 grant)

Hailey is currently a Master's of Marine Science student at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, where she studies marine invasive species. Since becoming certified, nearly every dive she has done has been for scientific research, collecting biological data in temperate and tropical environments. She hopes to bridge the gap between recreational diving and scientific research by sparking ocean curiosity in students and encouraging divers of all levels to lead citizen science projects. Hailey plans to use this grant to pursue Divemaster training, which will support her in reaching a wider audience through underwater education and dive leadership.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by: WDHO Member Bonnie Toth Advertising & Design



Raven Ritman (\$1,000 grant)

Raven is a Bachelor of Behavioural Neuroscience student at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Growing up in rural Newfoundland (NL), Raven has always been passionate about the ocean. This has led her to work in the aquaculture industry, with the Canadian Coast Guard, and currently as a guide with Ocean Quest Dive Adventures. Raven sits on the council for Student Dive NL and looks forward to furthering her sea experience under water by advancing her diving skillset and ability to encourage new divers in her community. Additionally, Raven will use her advanced training to explore the Bell Island shipwrecks and help to share NL history with tourists from around the world.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Rosa María Lorena Cañedo Apolaya (\$1,000 grant)

Born in Peru, Rosa María is a marine biologist who graduated from the International Master of Science in Marine Biological Resources (IMBRSea) program, coordinated by Ghent University in Belgium. Her first dive was during the last year of her undergraduate studies in 2016, and from then, after starting to deeply connect with the underwater world, she has committed to generate more information that enables people to understand how these amazing life forms interact and thrive in the ocean. Rosa Maria plans to improve her diving skills to carry out more complex underwater scientific activities, continue studying subtidal ecosystems and produce underwater visual material to share her love for the ocean.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Nina Hiukkanen (\$1,000 grant)

A native of Helsinki, Finland, Nina spent her childhood in the archipelago and fell in love with the ocean at an early age. She has traveled solo around the world and started diving education in 2016. She is now a marketing professional, passionate about sustainability issues. She collaborates with a global sustainability network called Business of Purpose and believes that we can influence people's opinions with marketing communications, changing their behavior to protect the oceans. Nina will use this grant to advance her diving skills to help the environment and marine species in the Arctic.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Ami Vice (\$1,000 grant)

Born and raised on the Pacific island of Guam, Ami grew up surrounded by water. Her favorite things to do involve spending time in the ocean with her friends and family, paddling, snorkeling, and diving. She has recently started working with the Micronesia Conservation Coalition to survey the island's local manta ray populations and will apply her dive skills to help this cause. With this grant, Ami aims to expand her dive training beyond Open Water certification and become Advanced Open Water Certified and Rescue Diver Certified—both useful to have, not only for her own safety, but also for those around her.

Advanced Dive Training Grant - Technical

Sponsored by: the Women Divers Hall of Fame



Alyssa Pietraszek (\$1,000 grant)

Alyssa is a Ph.D. candidate in Marine Geosciences at the Leon H. Charney School of Marine Sciences, University of Haifa in Israel, researching sea-level rise and coastline changes in the Mediterranean Sea. Her research focuses on the identification of ancient sea-level indicators currently submerged offshore. Currently an SDI Master Diver and AAUS Scientific Diver (University of Rhode Island), Alyssa will use the grant to enter into technical diving, which will allow her to explore deeper and older coastlines.

Specialty Dive Training Grants (3 awards)

Amelia Behrens-Furniss Memorial Hardhat Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by: the family & friends of WDHOF Member Amelia Behrens-Furniss



Audrey (Felicity) Crook (\$1,000 grant)

Felicity's first certification was PADI Junior Open Water (2012), and she has been scuba and free diving ever since. She never dreamed about a career in diving until she attended a career day where she heard about commercial diving. Then in 2021, while earning her Divemaster certification, she discovered that most of her instructors were also commercial divers. Today, Felicity is working towards her Unrestricted Surface Supplied Diver, Dive Medical Technician and Kirby Morgan/DESCO Full Technician certifications at the Commercial Diving Institute of Canada, in Kelowna, British Columbia. Plans for the future include public safety diving, conservation and/or civil diving operations.

Diver Medical Education Grant

Sponsored by: The Diver Medic (WDHOF Member Chantelle Newman)



Ruiqi Li (\$500 grant)

Ruiqi graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Marine Biology from Xiamen University, China. He is now pursuing his Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado Boulder. His research uses a combination of bioinformatics, field experiments, and biological morphometrics to study photosymbiotic bivalves (e.g., giant clams, heart cockles). His research projects have taken him to many amazing places to scuba dive. Since most of his field work is on isolated islands, Ruiqi plans to take the Diving Emergency Medical Responder Course to further his education in dive medicine, as well as to promote dive safety in academia.

Hugh Fletcher Memorial Disabled Diver Training Grant

Sponsored by: the friends of Hugh Fletcher (training) & the Women Divers Hall of Fame (equipment)



Tracy Wilson (\$1,000 grant)

Tracy holds a Ph.D. in the neurobiology of pain and is an avid scuba diver. Combining her love of water and her passion for research, Tracy has developed some novel hypotheses regarding the relationship between scuba diving and the body's ability to heal from inflammation. Having recently completed her Divemaster certification, Tracy believes that people with disabilities benefit significantly from greater opportunities to explore the underwater world and enjoy scuba diving. Tracy is a Divers Alert Network Instructor, an executive member of the Saskatchewan Underwater Council, co-founder of Canada's Saskatchewan Underwater Explorers, and is a rescue diver with the Saskatchewan Amphibious Response Support Unit.

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