



Community Updates

Happy New Year!

Welcome to 2023! We look forward to a very active new year. With a busy fleet schedule, the return to in-person meetings, important issues for the UNOLS Committees to address in the coming year, the addition of the Crewing Support Manager & the hiring of Meegan Corcoran to fill this important role, the move of the MATE Internship program to the UNOLS Office, further implementation & continued great progress on RCRV project with the anticipated delivery of R/V TAANI, and so much more – there will be much to work on, track, and report on this year in our community. We are excited to work closely with the committees, the funding agencies, and everyone who is engaged in the oceanographic research work of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet to make it all happen.

Tribute to Bob Houtman



Bob Houtman aboard the R/V Sikuliaq. Photo: Ethan Roth

NSF's Bauke ("Bob") Houtman recently retired after 45+ years of serving as an officer in the U.S. Navy, as the Office of Naval Research Program Manager for Oceanographic Research Facilities, and as Head of the Integrative Programs Section at the National Science Foundation. The UNOLS Community saluted Bob's long dedicated service with a desk clock that included the inscription: "With deep gratitude from the UNOLS Community for your 45+ years of devoted service, exemplary leadership and unwavering support". Fair winds & following seas! We are deeply indebted to Bob for all his great work over such a long career.

MATE Internship Program Update

The long-running [Marine Advanced Technology Education \(MATE\)](#) Internship Program is shifting its "home" from the MATE Center at Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) to the UNOLS Office at the University of Washington School of Oceanography. MPC has sun downed the program upon the retirement of long-time PI Deidre Sullivan who provided superb leadership and management of the MATE Internship program for many years. The MATE At-Sea Technical Internship Program provides opportunities for students to develop their technical, scientific, seamanship, and interpersonal skills with a focus of becoming qualified marine technicians. Maria Osiadacz will continue to run the MATE Intern program as she shifts from MPC to the UNOLS Office. We are excited to have Maria become an important member of the UNOLS Office team and look forward to continuing the highly successful legacy of the program.

OSU MarSSAM Facility Increases Scope to Include Dredging Support



Late Jasper Konter, Trevor Young and Tony D'Aoust home from the Dredge! One of their larger rocks here - big rocks can get stuck in the frame and cause massive effort to get unstuck. Photo: Tony D'Aoust

The Marine Sediment Sampling Group (MarSSAM) at Oregon State University (OSU) have expanded their services to include dredging support. Consolidating equipment and knowledge of dredging operations is intended to provide provide PIs and vessel operators with access to the resources they need to plan and execute successful rock sampling in their research. MarSSAM's services are available at no additional cost to NSF-funded expeditions, as well as on a contract basis for non-NSF PI's. Please reach out to MarSSAM for consultation through their website early in your cruise planning process. <https://marssam.ceoas.oregonstate.edu/>

Committee News

New Committee Members

All of our committees are staffed by volunteers and we are grateful for their contributions of time and experience. We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest committee members:

- Bernard Coakley / Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) / University of Alaska Fairbanks
- Miguel Goni / Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) / Oregon State University
- Dr. Jill McDermott / Deep Submergence Science Committee (DeSSC) / Lehigh University
- Andrea M. Quattrini / Deep Submergence Science Committee (DeSSC) / Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History
- Bruce Applegate / Scripps Institute of Oceanography / Council Chair Elect
- Joan Bernhard / Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute / Council

Thank You to Outgoing Committee Members

Thank you so much to the following individuals for their contributions to the UNOLS community:

- Jeff Welker / Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) / University of Alaska Anchorage
- Ana Aguilar-Islas / Arctic Icebreaker Coordinating Committee (AICC) / University of Alaska Fairbanks

Fleet Highlights

RCRV Update



R/V TAANI under construction in the Gulf Island Shipyard LLC, in Houma Louisiana. Photo: Hannah Rivara

The Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV) construction project, fully funded by the National Science Foundation and managed by Oregon State University, has reached several exciting milestones.

On Monday October 31st, 2022, the aluminum superstructure for the R/V TAANI was lifted with four cranes and set onto the vessel's steel hull at Bollinger Houma Shipyard. This was an exciting milestone for the project because it was one of the last steps in the modular assembly. The aluminum has been welded to the steel via a deta couple, which is an ABS approved transitional joint that is explosively welded to the steel offsite. The result: both metals are stable and do not suffer from metal corrosion. R/V TAANI now looks nearly complete.

On Friday December 2nd, 2022, the main mast was placed on the pilothouse top of R/V TAANI. The main mast is an important structure for any vessel, as it keeps the antennas above the main structure for both sky viewing and to avoid obstructions. The RCRV mast will house a myriad of antennas, three radars, and a full suite of meteorological sensors. This is one of the lightest of the RCRV modules, but it will be one of the biggest masts in the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.

Featured Ship - R/V F.G. WALTON SMITH



Photo: Don Cucchiara

R/V F.G. WALTON SMITH

Year Built: 1999

Place Built: Eastern Shipbuilding Group in Panama City, Florida

Science Berthing: 12

Crew Berthing: 7

Owner: University of Miami / Rosenstiel School

Operator: University of Miami / Rosenstiel School

Class of Vessel: Coastal/Local

The R/V F.G. WALTON SMITH is the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School's primary research vessel. It was named in honor of the Marine School's founder and first Dean of the school.

The WALTON SMITH became part of the UNOLS Academic Research Fleet in 2000. The vessel has conducted research trips as far North as New York and as far South as the US Virgin Islands – St. Thomas.

In 2011 and 2013, the WALTON SMITH won the "Best Grub" awards awarded by the National Science Foundation.

In 2017, it received clearance to conduct oceanographic research in Cuban waters and circumnavigated the island during the month long voyage studying reef sites at depths of 30-150 meters using an ROV.

In 2022, the ship underwent a major engine repowering project. It had new engines installed and all the work was done alongside the Marine School's pier. No shipyard period was required to complete the project.

Crewing Corner



Photo: Meegan Cocoran

Crewing in the U.S. Academic Research Fleet (ARF) has been uncharacteristically difficult since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Some have speculated that the pandemic inspired many mariners of retirement age to stop working at sea, while the number of people actively seeking a USCG Merchant Mariner Credential have decreased. There simply are not enough mariners to fill every position.

Many UNOLS operating institutions have increased outreach by attending career fairs and visiting maritime training centers. The UNOLS Office is assisting these efforts by creating a promotional video to show "a day in the life of a research vessel crew member". This video should be completed by the end of March and will be available on the UNOLS website and shown at career fairs.

The UNOLS Tiger Team is still active and meeting on the second Thursday of every month at 0900 PST. We are working on tapping into the Military to Mariner program for all military branches as well as fostering a scholarship program for those wanting to get into the maritime industry. Representation from each institution is welcome.

If you would like to join the UNOLS Tiger Team or have recruiting and retention ideas please email them to the UNOLS Crewing Support Manager, Meegan Corcoran, at meegan@unols.org.



PDF versions of the Newsletter can be found [here](#). To unsubscribe from UNOLS News, please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the body. Thank you!

Featured Photo



Photo: UNOLS Office

UNOLS Council & FIC members were recently given in-depth tours of the RCRV construction project in Houma, LA thanks to the OSU RCRV Project Field Office team. Pictured are: Paul Walczak, Kristin Beem, Ethan Roth, Dr. Jules Hummon, Dr. Masako Tomimaga and Dr. Joe Montoya.

Upcoming Events

2024 Ship Scheduling Kick-Off Meeting
22-23 Feb 2023
La Jolla, CA

2023 DeSSC Community Meeting
28 Feb 2023
Woods Hole, MA & Virtual

DeSSC New User Program
01-02 Mar 2023
Woods Hole, MA

2023 Spring Council Meeting
04-05 May 2023
Portland, ME

2023 DeSSC Spring Meeting
10-11 May 2023
Woods Hole, MA

2023 Safety Committee Meeting
16 May 2023
Duluth, MN

2023 RVOC Meeting
17-18 May 2023
Duluth, MN

Did you know...

You can find UNOLS related videos, including MFF tutorials, at [YouTube.com/UNOLS](https://www.youtube.com/UNOLS)

UNOLS

UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

From the Editor

Thank you to all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy, links, or images and questions can be submitted by e-mail to media@unols.org.

SPONSORS

