



Community Updates

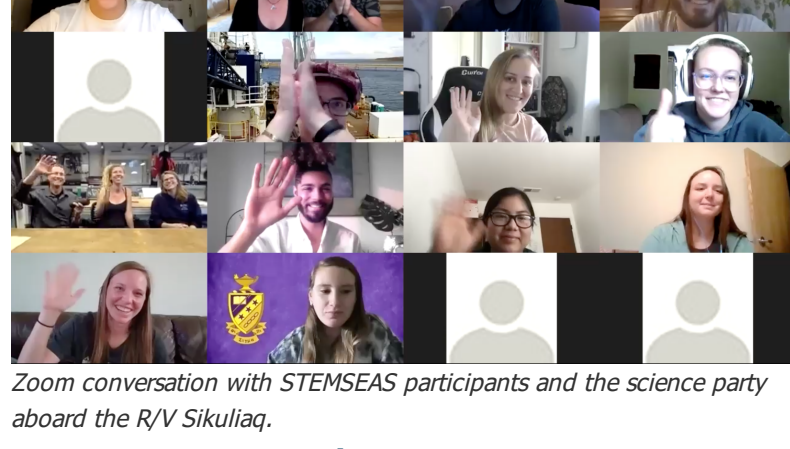


Dennis Nixon Retirement

UNOLS Risk Manager and Legal Advisor, Dennis Nixon, will retire at the end of this December from the University of Rhode Island and UNOLS. Dennis has served the UNOLS community for 34 years having attended his first Research Vessel Operator Committee meeting in 1986. Over that long span Dennis has provided wonderfully informative talks fondly known as "Ship Happens" to the RVOC community annually. Additionally, Dennis has skillfully advised Marine Superintendents, operating institutions, the UNOLS Office, the Federal Agencies, and many others in the UNOLS community on the unique world of admiralty law and how it applies to oceanographic research vessels. There have been plenty of late nights and weekends that Dennis has answered the phone and adroitly guided Marine Superintendents in navigating challenging legal issues with ships operating around the clock across the world's oceans. Dennis has also provided similar support to the International Research Ship Operator community as well. Of particular note is Dennis' expertise in maritime liability and insurance. His depth of knowledge and experience in those areas have been of tremendous benefit to UNOLS vessel operators and the federal agencies making it a lot easier for our community to better understand the complexities of marine insurance and to make smart decisions regarding properly insuring the Academic Research Fleet.

In addition to his role as the UNOLS Risk Manager / Legal Advisor Dennis, has taught many students as a Professor in Marine Affairs and Admiralty Law at URI since 1976, served as the Dean of Academic Affairs for the URI College Environment and Life Sciences, the Associate Dean for Research and Administration for the URI Graduate School of Oceanography, and as the Director of Rhode Island Sea Grant since 2013. Meanwhile, Dennis enthusiastically and skillfully pursued his passion for sailing - competitively racing the waters of Narragansett Bay all these years. He, and his wonderful partner Barbara, are heading off to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands at the beginning of 2021 as Dennis sail's off happily into retirement. He will undoubtedly be missed by our community but we are all extremely happy for him and Barbara. The UNOLS Office is hosting a Happy Hour Virtual Celebration of Dennis' retirement on Thursday, 3 December at 5:00pm EST / 2:00pm PST. Please contact doug@unols.org if you desire to participate in the event.

Fair winds and following seas Dennis!



Zoom conversation with STEMSEAS participants and the science party aboard the R/V Sikuliaq.

STEMSEAS 2020 Update

The STEMSEAS program was all set for a banner year that included sending more than 60 students from diverse background on board UNOLS ships during transits in 2020. Alas, the pandemic had other plans, and we were forced to cancel all those programs in the face of the pause in operations and new COVID protocols not compatible with sending groups of students onboard. Not wanting to lose all possibility of connecting with hundreds of eager STEMSEAS applicants, PIs Jon Lewis (IUP) and Sharon Cooper (LDEO) met with UNOLS staff and presented at a UNOLS virtual meeting in June about their search for virtual opportunities. And it was amazing what happened after that! The community really came together to offer numerous opportunities to connect with PIs and related personnel who were either able to sail or were homebound but deeply connected to the ongoing research. Brandi Murphy and Alice Doyle connected us with others to talk about capabilities for ship-to-shore connections, helping us to realize what sorts of programming for our students was feasible.

The group of students who had been selected for a late April transit on Endeavor participated in a series of webinars with Dr. Joe Montoya (Georgia Tech), who had been lined up to be their lead mentor. Dr. Montoya gave virtual lectures about the ship, the area of ocean they would have traversed, and basic oceanography background. Later on, Kylie Pasternak, a marine tech from URI, gave a great webinar to students about her career journey and job responsibilities.

A number of PIs sailing on the R/V Sikuliaq and the R/V Thompson reached out to STEMSEAS to offer live Zoom connections to their ships during their cruises – an opportunity that dozens of students tuned into. During the Coastal Ocean Dynamics in the Arctic (CODA) cruise on Sikuliaq in September and October, STEMSEAS worked with OnPoint Outreach and PI Jim Thomson (UW) to offer a more intensive "virtual expedition" experience that included three live Zoom ship-to-shore webinars and an active Slack channel for ongoing interactions, photos and video between 30 students and the small science party. Feedback received from this experience was enthusiastic. One student wrote, "Although we did not get to go on the ship, it still felt like a unique experience because we got to talk directly to the scientists who offered such great advice, lessons on how to get there and their life experiences. I really enjoyed to hear about the experiences of more experienced folks like Jim and younger folks like Lucia, Emily and Alex on the panel."

While we all wait impatiently for the seas to open up once again for these impactful student experiences, virtual opportunities are providing a taste of the world of ocean research and careers for our students, and keeping them connected. STEMSEAS is extremely grateful to all the scientists, technicians and staff who have contributed their time to these efforts. If you have an upcoming cruise or other ideas for virtual STEMSEAS programs, we are eager to hear from you and happy to collaborate with everyone!

2020 UNOLS Annual Meeting

In this year of Zoom, the UNOLS office took a different approach to their fall meetings. Instead of arranging the meetings by committee, the meetings were arranged by topic. Starting 5 October, the office held a series of 8 webinars over several weeks. Each of the sessions was recorded and posted on the event page on the [UNOLS website](#).

This year's **Keynote Speaker** was Brandon Jones, the Program Director for education and broadening participation efforts in the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Geosciences Program. His talk on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion was well attended and received. The video can be found [here](#).

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 member.

- Roni Avissar / Miami - SCOAR
- Andrew Woogen / OSU - SCOAR
- Jeff Marlow / BU - DeSSC
- Emily Eidam / UNC Chapel Hill - AICC
- Seth Danielson / UAF - AICC
- Helen Janiszewski / UH - MSROC

THANK YOU to Outgoing Committee Members

MANY THANKS to the following individuals' contributions to the UNOLS community.

- Amanda Demopolous/USGS - DeSSC
- David Fischella/WHOI - SCOAR
- Mike Lomas / Bigelow - AICC
- Chris Polashenski / USACE-CRREL - AICC

SCOAR Moves to Monthly Meetings

In this year of the pandemic, the SCOAR committee has moved to short, monthly meetings. Their first meeting was 22 October and featured an update of the NPS-CIRPAS facility as well as a look at their future plans. Their next meeting is scheduled for 19 November at 4PM Eastern.

RVTEC Goes Virtual

Since COVID-19 made meeting in person impossible this year, UNOLS migrated it's largest annual meeting to an entirely virtual event. The goal to not leave a single technician out resulted in a multi-platform strategy. All presentations were live streamed on YouTube (where they will remain available) and attendees were invited to a dedicated Slack Channel to ask questions, engage in conversation, and interact with one another.

The format was intended to make presentations available to technicians who were unable to attend live and the Slack was intended to make valuable conversations accessible by technicians who were at sea, extending conversations throughout the course of the week. UNOLS was thrilled to have over 200 individuals register. Many individuals in the technical community who are unable to travel for in person meetings were able to attend as well as technicians busy working through shipyards and mid-life refit projects.

Multiple social events were held over zoom and a valuable training in Administrative Mesh networking held by John Haverlacc at UAF generated interest in regularly occurring technical discussions. Lessons learned in the new format will hopefully influence more accessible conversations and collaborations in the future.

Fleet Highlights

RCRV #2 Name Competition

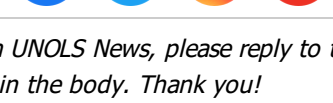
The University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography is holding a national competition to select a name for the second National Science Foundation (NSF) - owned Regional Class Research Vessel (RCRV) which will homeport at the URI Narragansett Bay Campus. The competition will be open from October 15, 2020 through December 31, 2020. For more information, visit [the URI/GSO announcement on their website](#).



R/V Roger Revelle Photo: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

R/V Roger Revelle Mid-life Refit Complete

R/V Roger Revelle recently wrapped up its comprehensive Mid-Life Refit project as the ship successfully completed a very busy shakedown cruise that included calibration of numerous science systems, grooming of the new dynamic positioning system, and verification of the ship's enhanced scientific capabilities. Revelle departed Dakota Creek Shipyard upon completion of the shipyard phase of the mid-life on 2 July returning to San Diego. Over the next 4+ months the Scripps team re-outfitted the ship, installed numerous science and communications systems, refreshed living spaces, and expanded & upgraded the workout room and equipment. The extensive investment in the project by the Office of Naval Research and the National Science Foundation has extended the service life of the Roger Revelle for another 20+ years while significantly upgrading the ship's capabilities, reliability, and habitability. Congratulations to the Scripps team for successfully completing this major undertaking!! Revelle recently departed for its first post-mid-life science cruise. Welcome back to the fleet Roger Revelle!

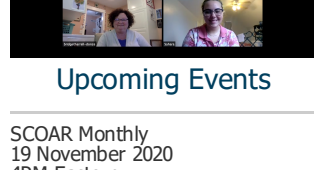


To unsubscribe from UNOLS News, please reply to this email with the word "unsubscribe" in the body. Thank you!



Featured Photo

The HOV ALVIN completed its routine disassembly and maintenance. Upon completion ALVIN will be upgraded to operate to 6500m. Photo NDSF



Upcoming Events

SCOAR Monthly
19 November 2020
4PM Eastern
Online Teleconference

DeSSC Annual Community Meeting
4 December 2020
1Pm Eastern
Online Teleconference

Please continue to check your email or the UNOLS website regarding the status of committee meetings.

Did you know...

UNOLS has compiled a list of Frequently Asked Questions in regards to COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the U.S. Academic Research Fleet. Please find them on our website [here](#).

