

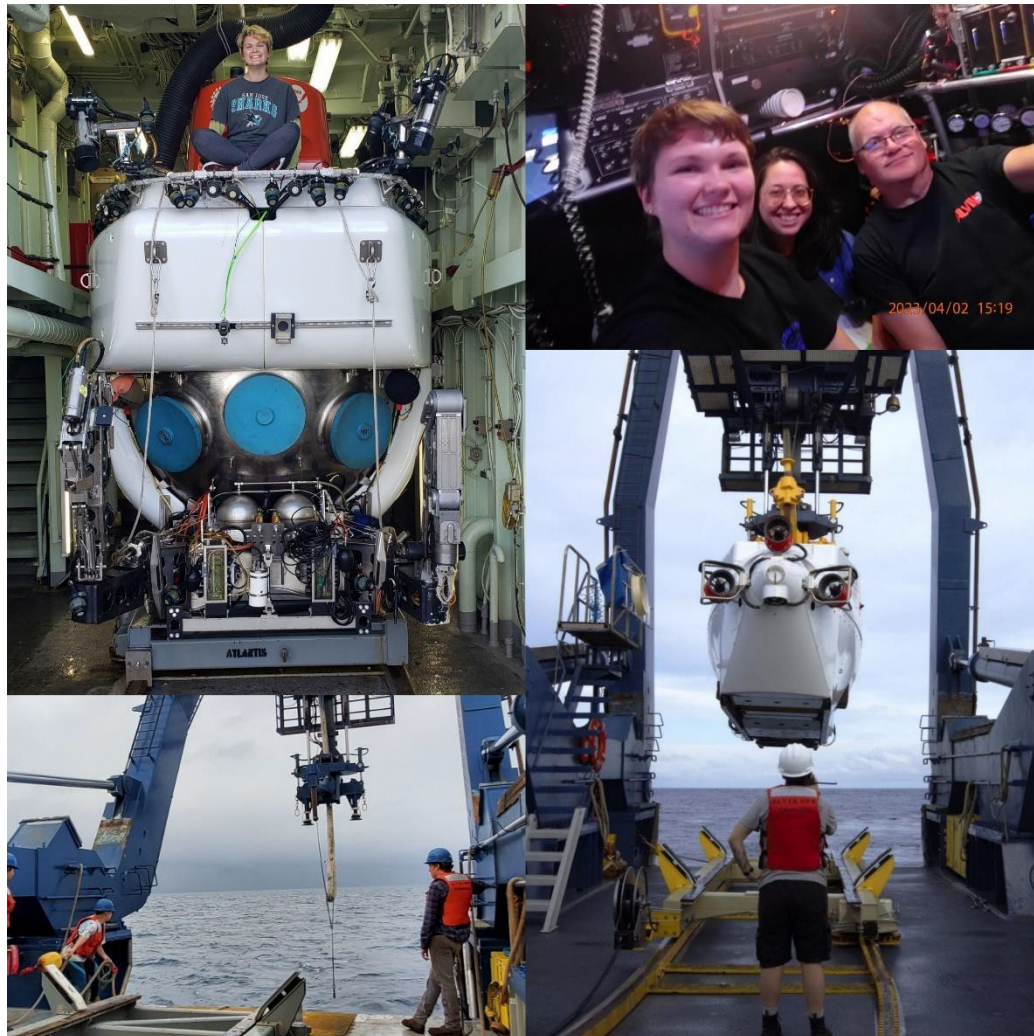
Kaitlyn Beardshear former MATE intern 2020

Entering my last year of college, I wasn't sure what I wanted to do for a career. One of my professors recommended I check out the MATE program and their robotics competitions. Interested, I became a mentor to a middle school robotics group, helped them build an ROV, and later became a judge at the ROV competition.

I decided to pursue a career working with ROVs and applied for every at-sea internship I could find. MATE again helped shape my future by giving me the most amazing internship opportunity: I partnered with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI) and sailed with the Deep Submergence Vehicle (DSV) Alvin. But this wasn't a remotely operated vehicle; this was human occupied. With the time I spent at sea, working on the sub, learning how it functioned, I knew this is where I wanted my career to go.

At the end of my at-sea internship, Alvin and its team of technicians were returning to Woods Hole for an overhaul. MATE and WHOI once again gave me another opportunity by extending my internship so I could stay to participate in this complete tear down and rebuild. It's now three years after my internship has ended and I still haven't left.

I am a WHOI electrical engineer, completed my DSV Alvin Pilot Certification since starting this job, and have already piloted the Alvin on recent expeditions. I wouldn't be here without the MATE program.



On left: 2020
Intern

On right: 2023
Engineer/Pilot
in Training