

# UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program Annual Key Outcomes, Highlights and Other Achievements 2018-2026



## Key Outcomes or Other Achievements since the last annual report:

1. Ken Csukas, 2025-26 LT intern, was hired as an Assistant Engineer at the end of his internship and will be joining sea trials and science expeditions this summer with the WHOI NDSF Alvin Group. Ken was mentored by Kaitlyn and also wants to be an Alvin Pilot.
2. Athena Abrahamsen, 2024 intern, was interviewed during the 2025 RVTEC meeting and offered a full-time Marine Technician position with Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences working on the R/V Atlantic Explorer.
3. Kaitlyn Beardshear, 2020 intern, was promoted to promoted to Engineer II in WHOI NDSF Operational Scientific Services. Last year, Kaitlyn completed the DSV Alvin Pilot Certification, and has piloted the Alvin on recent deep-ocean expeditions. Kaitlyn also mentors new interns.
4. Grace Fulton, 2021 intern, mentor, and Marine Technician for Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium was awarded the RVTEC MacGyver Award for outstanding marine technical achievement.

5. Ethan Wadsworth, 2025 intern, was hired as a Diver for the Marine Taxonomic Services, South Lake Tahoe.
6. Theo Lafontant Kagan, 2025 intern, participated at RVTEC, was selected for a WHOI Internship, and joined a science expedition on the LDEO R/V Langseth.
7. Daniel Silguero, 2025 intern, was hired as a Remote Operations Technician at the Department of Marine & Coastal Sciences in Rutgers and manages ROV competition teams.
8. Brian Samuelsen, 2025 intern, was selected to complete a Summer Sea Term on board the Empire VII.
9. Wil Kleiner, 2025 intern, presented at RVTEC and was invited by Scripps to work as a Temporary Marine Technician aboard the R/V Sally Ride, and has been selected to work as a Research Technician on the Tiglax Alaskan Research Vessel for Hauri Lab, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
10. Mackenzie Hilburn, 2025 intern, was hired as a temporary Research Technician sailing aboard E/V Nautilus and is working on Certifications for MMC, QMED, 3rd Assistant Engineer.
11. Sarah Gisler, 2024 intern, was hired as a full-time Coring Technician for Marine Rock & Sediment Sampling Group at Oregon State University.

One of the highlights of the program is the growing involvement by former interns as mentors and professional career advisors. Many former interns continue to share about their internship experiences and promote the program at educational events and career fairs. Among these are Emily Cheung (2019 intern), Kaitlyn Beardshear (2020 intern), Emily Shimada (2018 intern), Tyler Peterson (2022 intern), Alejandro Dominguez, (2023 intern), Huxley Conner (2017 intern), Maya Thompson (2018 intern), Nick Ellis (2018 intern), Grace Fulton (2021 intern), Liz Ricci (2016 intern), Lydia Sgouros (2020 intern), and Claire Mayorga (2023 intern).

#### **Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2024-2025):**

One of the highlights of the program is the dedication and growing involvement by former interns as mentors and professional career advisors. Many former interns, most working as Marine Technical professionals, contribute by promoting the program at various professional events and social media, assisting with recruiting new applicants and the intern selection process, mentoring, and helping to improve training/support strategies for new interns. Their generosity and expertise contribute greatly to the growing success of the program. Alumni who interned within the last 25 years attended the RVTEC meetings. These were amazing in-person reunion that offered the opportunity to network, share internship experiences, and engage in insightful discussions about internship program improvements and professional career development.

Many interns have received employment offers and advanced their careers, most working directly with the ARF or the Fleet's supporting oceanographic research organizations. Host organizations often reach out to the program to ask if any former interns are available to apply for open positions. For example, WHOI's AUV Sentry Team recently reached out to the program looking for potential applicants to work with the National Deep Submergence Facility. Syenna Graham and Norman Chung (both former interns with the Sentry Team, 2022 and 2024 respectively) have been recommended.

Some highlights since the last annual report:

1. Lydia Sgouros, 2020 intern, was hired as a full-time Oceanography Technician (RV Sikuliaq) at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Seward Marine Center. She has contributed to the program by reviewing applications and as a mentor for new interns during her previous BIOS shipboard Marine Technical work.
2. Adam Ensminger, 2023 intern, was hired as a full-time Electrical Engineer (ROV Jason) with WHOI's Applied Ocean Physics & Engineering Department.
3. Athena Abrahamsen, 2024 intern, participated at the 2024 RVTEC meeting and presented about her internship experience on board LUMCON's RV Pelican. She also contributed to the program by sharing [videos](#) about her internship experience on the social media. She was hired as a Marine Technician this year to participate in an expedition on the RV Sikuliaq.
4. Josie Adams, 2024 intern, was hired as a full-time Oceanographic Technician with the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.
5. Raymond Barrett, 2024 intern, received his Offshore Wind Maintenance Technician Certificate from Bristol Community College after completing his internship on the RV Langseth.
6. Noah Bourassa, 2024 intern, was hired as a full-time Mechanical Engineer for the AUV Sentry with WHOI's Applied Ocean Physics & Engineering Department. He also contributed to the program by sharing [videos](#) about his internship experience.
7. Kristen Carroll, 2024 intern, completed the Marine Technology Program at Kingsborough Community College and is working on her Captain's License while applying for Marine Technical positions. She attended the 2024 RVTEC meeting and has since been sharing her internship experience at campus events and encouraging new students to apply.
8. Eleanor 'Eddy' Duva, 2024 intern, was hired as a full-time Research Vessel Specialist/Technician (R/V Marcelle Melosira) at the University of Vermont. She participated in the 2024 RVTEC meeting.
9. Ayse Macknight, 2024 intern, is currently working as a Deckhand on the RV Coral Sea with Cal. Poly Humboldt and completing EMT and Motor Boat Operator Training. She is applying as a Marine Technician with the ARF.
10. Chaii Layne-Neubauer, 2024 intern, joined the UNOLS Tech Pool and was invited back to work as a Marine Technician during an expedition on the RV Langseth.
11. Briana Prado, 2024 intern, joined the UNOLS Tech Pool and was offered a Marine Technician/Mentor position during a STEMSEAS Cruise on the RV Sikuliaq.
12. Hunter Adams, 2024 long-term intern, was offered a new full-time position as a SUBSEA Project Ocean Technician with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Hunter also assisted the program this year with updating pre-internship documents for new interns and reviewing applications.

Other former interns not listed above who have assisted with the program's application review process include: Emily Shimada (2018 intern), Grace Fulton (2021 intern), Alesha Gregoire (2022 intern), Anastasia Elmendorf (2022 intern), Kyle Hebert (2022 intern), Tyler Peterson (2022 intern), Alejandro Dominguez (2023 intern), Claire Mayorga (2023 intern), and Sarah Gisler (2024 intern). All are currently working for the ARF as Marine Technicians.

Many former interns are currently working as Marine Technicians or Marine Engineers with the ARF and supporting facilities. Some of those have been promoted and are now mentoring new interns. Some recent examples include:

1. *Emily Shimada* (2018 long-term intern) is currently working as a Marine Technician and 3rd Asst. Engineer with Oregon State University. She is also the Co-Chair of the UNOLS Maintaining an Environment of Respect Aboard Ships (MERAS) Committee.
2. *Emily Cheung* (2018 short-term intern on R/V Explorer and 2019 long-term intern on R/V Carson and R/V Thompson) is now working for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as a Marine Technician on the R/V Armstrong where she is also mentoring two new interns in 2022.
3. *Jonathan Raymond* (2020 intern on R/V Smith) was hired right after his internship as an Engineering Assistant and has since been promoted to Ship Engineer II on the R/V Walton Smith with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami. Jonathan is mentoring two new interns in 2022.
4. *Kaitlyn Beardshear* (2020 intern at NDSF Lab) started working as an Engineering Assistant right after her internship, and has since been promoted to Electrical Engineer with the Deep Submergence Facility Lab at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. She is training to be a pilot for the HOV Alvin.

***MATE Alumni at the 2025 RVTEC Meeting***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Internship Year</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
Nick Benz	2016	Research Development Engineer, Ship Operations & Marine Technology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Adam Ensminger	2023	Electrical Engineer, Jason Team, WHOI, Applied Ocean Physics & Engineering
Theo Lafontant Kagan	2025	Joined LDEO Langseth as Research Technician for WHOI
Ella Cedarholm	2019	Marine Technician, Shipboard Scientific Services Group, R/V Atlantis, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Morgan Hudgins	2018	Marine Technician, R/V Savannah, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Charles Brooks	2018	Lead Technician, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, R/V Revelle
Eleanor Duva	2024	Research Vessel Specialist/Technician, R/V Marcelle Melosira, University of Vermont
Maya Thompson	2018	Mentor, Instrumentation Technician, Ship Operations & Marine Technology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Maria Osiadacz	2008	UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program Manager
Grace Fulton	2021	Mentor, Marine Technician R/V Pt. Sur, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Alejandro Dominguez	2023	Mentor, Marine Technician, R/V Sharp, University of Delaware
Sonia Brugger	2015	Mentor, Marine Technician, Shipboard Scientific Services Group, R/V Armstrong, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Athena Abrahamsen	2024	Joining R/V Sikuliaq as Marine Technician this year, Seward Marine Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks

Namith Kennedy	2025	Completed Marine Technology Program, Northwestern Michigan College, applying for Marine Technical positions, Presenting about 2025 internship experience
Wil Kleiner	2025	Joining R/V Sally Ride, Scripps for Spring expedition, Presenting about 2025 internship experience
Tyler Peterson	2022	Mentor, Marine Technician, Oregon State University
Colleen Peters	2001	Marine Technology Product Manager, Kongsberg Discovery
Tara Willis	2012	Instructor, MATE ROV Competition, Santa Barbara City College
Briana Prado	2024	Joined STEMSEAS cruise on the Sikuliaq as Marine Technician

### ***MATE Alumni at the 2024 RVTEC Meeting***

<b>Name</b>	<b>Internship Year</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
Nick Benz	2016	Research Development Engineer, Ship Operations & Marine Technology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Ella Cedarholm	2019	Marine Technician, Shipboard Scientific Services Group, R/V Atlantis, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Morgan Hudgins	2018	Marine Technician, R/V Savannah, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Eleanor Duva	2024	Research Vessel Specialist/Technician, R/V Marcelle Melosira, University of Vermont
Maya Thompson	2018	Mentor, Instrumentation Technician, Ship Operations & Marine Technology, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Maria Osiadacz	2008	UNOLS-MATE Marine Technical Internship Program Manager
Grace Fulton	2021	Mentor, Marine Technician R/V Pt. Sur, Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium
Kristen Carroll	2024	Completed Marine Technology Program, Kingsborough Community College, applying for Marine Technical positions, working on Captain's License
Sonia Brugger	2015	Mentor, Marine Technician, Shipboard Scientific Services Group, R/V Armstrong, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Athena Abrahamsen	2024	Joining R/V Sikuliaq as Marine Technician this year, Seward Marine Center, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, presented about internship experience
Anastasia Elmendorf	2022	Marine Technician, Shipboard Scientific Services Group, R/Vs Armstrong & Atlantis, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Tyler Peterson	2022	Mentor, Marine Technician, Oregon State University
Alejandro Dominguez	2023	Mentor, Marine Technician, R/V Sharp, University of Delaware
Colleen Peters	2001	Marine Technology Product Manager, Kongsberg Discovery

### **Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2023-2024):**

Many interns have received employment offers after completing their internships, most working directly with the ARF or the Fleet's supporting oceanographic research organizations:

1. Alejandro Dominguez, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was hired as a full-time Marine Technician by the University of Delaware on board the RV Sharp.
2. Claire Mayorga, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was hired as a full-time Marine Technician by the University of Rhode Island, on board the RV Endeavor. Claire also participated at the 2023 RVTEC meeting and presented about her internship experience on board

LDEO's RV Langseth. During her internship, she co-authored, with UNOLS-MATE Intern Sara Pierson, a comprehensive *Welcome Aboard the Langseth Guide* that has been instrumental in helping new interns prepare for the internship.

3. Adam Ensminger, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was hired as an Engineer by the WHOI National Deep Submergence Facility to work with the Jason ROV Team.
4. Cassie Ferrante, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was hired to work as a Marine Technician aboard the R/V Marie Tharp Schooner to survey the Chesapeake Bay.
5. Jenn Willson, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was hired as a full-time Service Technician for Sea-Bird Scientific developing oceanographic instruments.
6. Sarah Sergent, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Long-term Intern, contracted with the WHOI National Deep Submergence Facility as a full-time Marine Technician working with the Jason Team.
7. Sarah Gisler, 2024 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was invited to return to the RV Sikuliaq as a Relief Marine Technician during summer expeditions, and has also been hired as a full-time Coring Technician with the Oregon State University Marine Sediment Sampling (MARSSAM) group who conduct research aboard the ARF.
8. Emilia Topp-Johnson, 2024 UNOLS-MATE Intern, is interested in working in extreme environments. After completing her internship with WHOI's HOV Alvin Team, she was hired to work as a Research Assistant conducting dark matter experiments in a cryogenic underground test facility (CUTE Project) in the SNOLAB, a research laboratory deep underground. After this project, she will be training to be an Alvin Submersible Pilot.
9. Noah Bourassa, 2024 UNOLS-MATE Intern, is currently providing Marine Technical support for the UNOLS Tech Pool on board research vessels.
10. Rachael Byrd, 2024 UNOLS-MATE Intern, was hired as an Able-Bodied Seaman/Deckhand on board National Geographic Expedition Cruises.

One of the highlights of the program is the growing involvement by former interns as mentors and professional career advisors. Many former interns continue to share about their internship experiences and promote the program at educational events and career fairs. Among these are:

1. Emily Shimada, 2018 MATE Long-term Intern whose [Marine Technician Career Path](#) is featured on the MATE website, is currently working as a Marine Technician and STARC Coordinator for Oregon State University. Emily met with interns in 2023 to offer professional career advice and is mentoring new interns on board the USCGC Healy.
2. Maya Thompson, 2018 MATE Intern, is a Shipboard Instrumentation Technician with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She meets with 2024 interns to offer professional career advice and is also mentoring new interns on board the USCGC Healy.
3. Alejandro Dominguez, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern and new Marine Technician for UDEL's RV Sharp, mentored Hunter Adams, the long-term intern this year.
4. Grace Fulton, 2021 UNOLS-MATE Intern and Marine Technician for Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium will mentor a new intern this year on the RV Pt. Sur.
5. Lydia Sgouros, 2020 MATE Intern and Marine Technician for Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences on the RV Explorer, mentored new interns in 2023 and will also be mentoring the long-term intern this year.
6. Kaitlyn Beardshear, 2020 MATE Intern, and Nick Ellis, 2018 MATE Intern, are both Engineers who assist new interns working with the HOV Alvin Team on board the RV

Atlantis. Kaitlyn's [Marine Technician Career Path](#) is also featured on the MATE Website. She is training to become an Alvin Submersible Pilot.

7. Croy Carlin, 2009 MATE Intern, and Emily Cheung, 2019 MATE Long-term Intern, both full-time Marine Technicians with WHOI, have been mentoring new interns together on board the RV Armstrong since 2022.
8. Tyler Peterson, 2022 MATE Intern and full-time Marine Technician for Oregon State University, is preparing to mentor new interns next year on the new RV Taani. He shared his internship experience and promoted the program along with Jenn Willson, 2023 UNOLS-MATE Intern, at the UW Ocean Technology Program Career Event. See supporting file ***UW School of Oceanography Ocean Technology Program 2023-2024 Year-in-Review***. Some of the students featured here have applied to the internship program. Josie Adams will be interning this year with the University of Rhode Island on the RV Endeavor.

Several former interns participated in the 2023 RVTEC Meeting. Many are now Marine Technicians or Engineers on ARF Ships, some have been promoted to supervisory positions, and some are also mentoring new interns.

### **Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2022-2023):**

Networking and Job opportunities for 2022 interns –

Tyler Peterson was hired by the UNOLS Tech Pool right after completing his internship to work on board the USCGC Healy, and soon after accepted a full-time position as a Marine Technician with Oregon State University.

Alesha Gregoire was invited at the end of her internship with the Rosenstiel School of Marine Atmospheric and Earth Sciences Marine Operations to stay on as a full-time Ship's Mate working on board the R/V Walton Smith.

Kyle Hebert was hired by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution right after he completed his internship working full-time as a Communications Electronics Technician on board the R/V Atlantic.

Anastasia Elmendorf was hired by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) to continue working on board the R/V Armstrong as a Casual Shipboard Scientific Services Group Technician right after she completed her internship.

Jackson Hollocker returned to Northwestern Michigan College to finish his studies. He has since been hired as an ROV Pilot Technician for SubCom, LLC, a company that designs, manufactures, deploys, maintains, and operates undersea data transport via fiber optic cable networks.

Sarah Sergent returned to Northwestern Michigan College to finish her studies. During the fall of 2022, Sarah was recognized by the Marine Technology Society as an EMERGE scholar. She was invited by the Ocean Exploration Trust to join a cruise the Spring of 2023 and work as an ROV Jr. Engineer/Co-Pilot. Right after that, she will start her 2023 UNOLS-MATE Long-term Internship with the WHOI National Deep Submergence Facility working with the Jason ROV Team. Sarah is shown working with the Jason ROV in a video filmed during her internship about the *Oregon Coast Deep Sea Research with the Jason Team* <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/03/16/oregon-coast-deep-sea-volcano-axial-seamount-research-eruption-forecasting/>.

Several former interns participated in the 2022 RVTEC Meeting. Many are now Marine Technicians or Engineers on ARF Ships, some have been promoted to supervisory positions, and some are also mentoring new interns.

**Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2021-2022):**

Job opportunities –

Grace Fulton (2021 Intern) was hired by the UNOLS Tech Pool right after completing her internship to work as an eDNA Sampling Technician on board the R/V Sally Ride.

Angeline Deluca (2021 Intern) returned to her work as a Power Generation Technician after completing her internship, but is transitioning to Marine Engineering and pursuing her QMED (Qualified Member of the Engine Department) Certification after working with WHOI Engineers during her internship.

Bella Lax (2021 Intern) is pursuing her Hydrographic Surveying Certification, and is currently looking for work in the Marine Technical Field.

Cherisse Figueroa (2021 Intern) is currently looking for work in the Marine Technical Field.

Jonathan Raymond (2020 intern) was hired in 2021 as a permanent staff member with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Marine Operations Team to continue working on the R/V Walton Smith, and was recently promoted to Lead Engineer. He will be mentoring a new MATE Intern in 2022.

Emily Cheung (2019 LTI working with the University of Washington on the R/V Thompson and the R/V Carson) joined WHOI in 2021 as a Marine Technician on the R/V Armstrong. She will be mentoring a new MATE Intern in 2022.

Several past interns participated in the 2021 Virtual RVTEC Meeting. Many are now Marine Technicians or Engineers on UNOLS Vessels and some have been promoted to supervisory positions.

**Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2020-2021):**

Job opportunities –

1. Lydia Sgouros (2020 intern on the R/V Endeavor with URI) was offered a position with BIOS as a Marine Technician on the R/V Atlantic Explorer.
2. Kaitlyn Beardshear (2020 intern) was hired by WHOI as an Engineering Assistant to continue working on the Alvin overhaul and possibly join fall excursions on the R/V Atlantis when the new submersible is deployed.
3. Jonathan Raymond (2020 intern) was hired as a permanent staff member with the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science Marine Operations Team to continue working on the R/V Walton Smith and is also currently taking classes. RSMAS is sponsoring his continued education to receive his QMED (Qualified Member of the Engineering Department) License, the senior most rating in the engine room of a ship.
4. Bailey Armos (2020 intern) was a very successful intern in her short time with BIOS and has been actively applying for jobs in the marine technical field. She received very a positive evaluation from BIOS in spite of having to end her internship after only two weeks due to COVID-19. BIOS hopes she will return to work on the R/V Atlantic Explorer at some point to complete the full internship.

5. Ella Cedarholm (2019 Summer Intern working on the WHOI R/V Armstrong) was hired by BIOS as a Marine Technician last July to work on board the R/V Atlantic Explorer.
6. Emily Cheung (2019 LTI working with the University of Washington on the R/V Thompson and the R/V Carson) is joining WHOI this Spring as their newest Marine Technician.
7. Several past interns participated in the 2020 Virtual RVTEC Meeting. Many are now Marine Technicians on UNOLS Vessels and some hold supervisory positions.

### **Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2019-2020):**

Job opportunities – Alex Sidelev (intern on *USCGC Healy*) was offered a position right after his internship working as a Marine Technician in the Marine Operations Department at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Shaun Teter (intern on R/V Sharp) was offered a position right after his internship working as part of the crew on board the research and exploration vessel Alucia. Kylie Pasternak (intern on R/V Atlantis) may be working with the Alvin Team on the overhaul of the submersible at the WHOI facility. All other interns have been actively applying for jobs in the marine technical field (many also continued education in the fall).

Several past interns were present at the RVTEC Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska. They are now Marine Technicians on the UNOLS Vessels, some hold supervisory positions. Some former interns expressed interest in hosting and mentoring new interns in 2020.

### **Key Outcomes or Other Achievements (2018-2019):**

Job opportunities – Charles Brooks (intern on *R/V Sharp*) started interviewing for jobs immediately after completing his internship. He was offered employment at the Scripps Oceanographic Institute as a marine technician. Royhon Agostine (2017 intern on *USCGC Healy*) who had gone back to school to complete his degree, also started applying for jobs this year and was hired at Scripps. Maya Thompson (intern on *R/V Atlantic Explorer*) was offered a job at University of Connecticut as a marine technician. Morgan Hudgins (intern on *R/V Atlantic Explorer*) has accepted employment as a field engineer in a private company.

Community support and “brand recognition” – The internship coordinator presented an annual update at the RVTEC meeting in Woods Hole in October 2018. Briana Grenier also attended the meeting. Many past interns were present at the conference in their current professional capacity as marine technicians.

Currently in its twentieth year, the MATE internship program has produced many interns throughout the years. Many of the early interns have been in the industry for over a decade now and are in supervisory positions themselves. At marine technology conferences and forums, many past interns introduce themselves to the internship coordinator and ask to host interns.