



UNOLS News

Exciting updates from UNOLS & the Academic Research Fleet!

February 2018 - Volume 32, No. 1

UNOLS Activities at the 2018 Ocean Sciences Meeting



The UNOLS Booth at the 2016 Ocean Science Meeting, photo c/o Annette DeSilva

Town Hall: UNOLS encourages the oceanographic community to join us at a Town Hall titled, *Planning for the next US Global Class Research Vessel*.

The Fleet Improvement Committee (FIC) of UNOLS works to assure the continuing excellence of the Academic Research Fleet (ARF), to improve the capability and effectiveness of individual ships, and to assure that the number, mix and overall capability of ships in the ARF match the science requirements of academic oceanography in the U.S. In this context, planning for a new vessel involves creating a "Science Mission Requirements" (SMRs) document that describes the vessel's size, performance, capabilities, and facilities; which then becomes the blueprint to seek funding for detailed planning and eventually, construction. Based on current science programs and future projections, and considering the age and capabilities of the current fleet, the FIC is developing a SMR for the next Global Class, general purpose, research ship.

The Town Hall will focus on gathering community input to help write SMRs that reflect the requirements of the ocean science community broadly. Early career to senior scientists should



UNOLS EVENTS

[UNOLS Booth at the 2018 Ocean Sciences Meeting](#)

February 13 - 15, 2018

Portland, OR

UNOLS Booth # 301

[2018 Ocean Sciences Town Hall: Planning for the Next Global Research Vessel](#)

February 12, 2018

Portland, OR

[2018 RVOC Meeting](#)

April 17 - April 19, 2018

Narragansett, RI

[2018 RVTEC Meeting](#)

October 15, 2018

Woods Hole, MA

[2018 INMARTECH Meeting](#)

October 16 - 18, 2018

Woods Hole, MA



FEATURED PHOTO

come to the meeting with experience-based ideas for a next-generation ship that will facilitate both discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research. Projects that may be on the horizon that will need Global Class vessels should introduce their mission scenarios.

The Town Hall is hosted by the UNOLS FIC Subcommittee on Global Ship SMRs (Gregory Cutter, Chair; Byron Blomquist; Suzanne Carbotte; Clare Reimers; and James Swift) and will be held on **Monday, February 12, 2018: 12:45 PM – 1:45 PM** at the Oregon Convention Center, Room D139-D140.

UNOLS Booth #301: We look forward to seeing you at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Portland, OR. Please visit us at our booth (#301) and learn about the academic research fleet operations and plans, UNOLS committee activities, and early career scientist programs.

Announcing Green Boats and Ports IV!

WORKSHOP ANNOUNCEMENT

Green Boats and Ports for Blue Waters IV

Hosted by Oregon State University and UNOLS
Portland, Oregon
April 3-4, 2018

Registration coming soon!

Oregon State University and the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) invite you to join representatives from academia, government agencies, and private industry to discuss current and future environmental sustainability of ships, boats, and ports. Previous workshops held in 2012, 2014, and 2016 opened a dialog on marine sustainability topics and initiatives. This workshop will continue these discussions and help our community better understand resources and practical solutions available to maximize the environmental sustainability of our existing and future vessels, support facilities, and ports.

The workshop will be 1½ days long, with invited presentations from marine architects, designers, builders, private businesses, representatives of Federal, State and local agencies, and international sustainability experts. Presentations will cover topics such as port sustainability and best practices, emerging green technologies and initiatives, propulsion and fuel efficiency, emissions, ballast water treatment, waste management, recycling, and best practices for environmental sustainability. Progress on greening initiatives within the UNOLS fleet will be reported. An evening poster session is planned with a reception and dinner, and all participants are welcome to provide displays.

R/V *Thomas G. Thompson* recently completed an 18-month service life refit and upgrade. See our article in this newsletter to read more details about updates to the ship's capabilities. Photo c/o Doug Russell (UW)

To submit a photo of the month, please email office@unols.org

ARCHIVED NEWSLETTERS

Past UNOLS Newsletters can be found on the [UNOLS Website](#)



FROM THE EDITOR

I would like to thank all who contributed information and articles for this issue of UNOLS News. Articles are always welcome and encouraged. Copy can be submitted by e-mail to <office@unols.org>.

Thank you,
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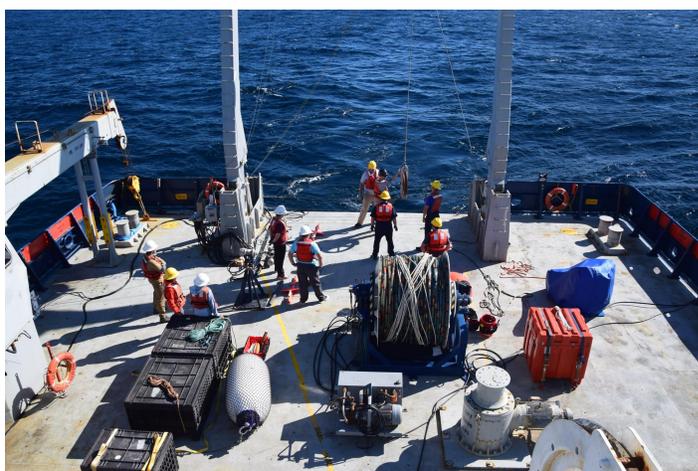
CO-EDITOR
Caitlin Mandel

The Workshop will be held at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland, OR on April 3-4, 2018. Information about the accommodations, and registration will be provided soon on the UNOLS website: <https://www.unols.org/event/meeting/green-boats-and-ports-iv>

Funding support for the workshop is provided by the UNOLS federal sponsors (NSF, Navy, NOAA, BOEM, and USGS) and OSU's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences.



New Cruise Planning Resources Available



A cruise aboard the R/V Roger Revelle, photo c/o Rebecca Fowler

A **cruise planning guide** is now available on the UNOLS website. This cruise planning resource provides a typical timeline to follow when planning your research cruise and includes links to additional helpful resources including but not limited to how to develop a data management plan with the R2R Program, important information on working in foreign waters and ports, and how to request research equipment. Additionally, there are links to vessel-specific cruise planning information. Thorough planning is essential to a cruise's success and we hope this guide will be a helpful resource to the UNOLS Community.

Agency Updates

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SPONSORS



Dr. Frank Herr Receives UNOLS Friend of the Oceans Award



Dr. Frank Herr is presented with the UNOLS Friend of the Oceans award, photo c/o Tim Schnoor (ONR)

The UNOLS community would like to thank Dr. Frank Herr from the Office of Naval Research for his contributions in advancing the capabilities of the United States Academic Research Fleet. His leadership was instrumental in the development and construction of our newest Ocean Class Research Vessels, *Sally Ride* and *Neil Armstrong*, as well as service life extension plans for Global Class ships R/V *Thomas G. Thompson*, R/V *Roger Revelle* and R/V *Atlantis*.

Committee News

2017 Annual Meeting





UNOLS Chair, Debbie Steinberg, presents a UNOLS plaque to Larry Atkinson, former chair of the Ocean Observing Science Committee at the 2017 Annual Meeting, photo c/o Annette DeSilva

The 2017 UNOLS Annual Meeting was held November 29-30, 2017 in Alexandria, Virginia. The meeting included updates on ship operations, Global vessel midlife refits, early career scientist programs, and all committee activities. Dr. Marcia McNutt, president of the National Academy of Sciences, gave the featured presentation about the future of ocean science and implications for UNOLS. UNOLS welcomes newly-elected Council member Elizabeth Sikes (Rutgers University) and re-elected Council member Kipp Shearman (OSU).

2017 RVTEC Meeting



2017 RVTEC attendees tour the R/V Blue Heron, photo c/o Annette DeSilva

The Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota hosted the 2017 RVTEC meeting in Duluth, MN on October 24-26. Attendance was high, with over 90 participants representing 22 institutions, 6 agencies, and 9 companies. The three-day meeting offered technological sessions and discussions on topics including ship/shore communications, cyber security,

internet use, synthetic ropes and winch monitoring systems, to name a few. Participants were provided with tours of the R/V *Blue Heron* operated by University of Minnesota and EPA's research vessel *Lake Explorer II*. Following the RVTEC meeting, a one-day Basic Network Training session was offered by Britten Anderson (Lead Network Communications Specialist and Adjunct Instructor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks).

Thank You Bob Arko!



Suzanne Carbotte (LDEO) presents a UNOLS plaque to Bob Arko, who recently left his position in the Rolling Deck to Repository Program. The plaque was signed by members of the RVTEC Community. Photo c/o Suzanne O'Hara (LDEO).

UNOLS would like to thank Bob Arko, formerly of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and the Rolling Deck to Repository Program for all of his contributions to UNOLS and the research vessel technician community.

DeSSC Meeting/New-User Program

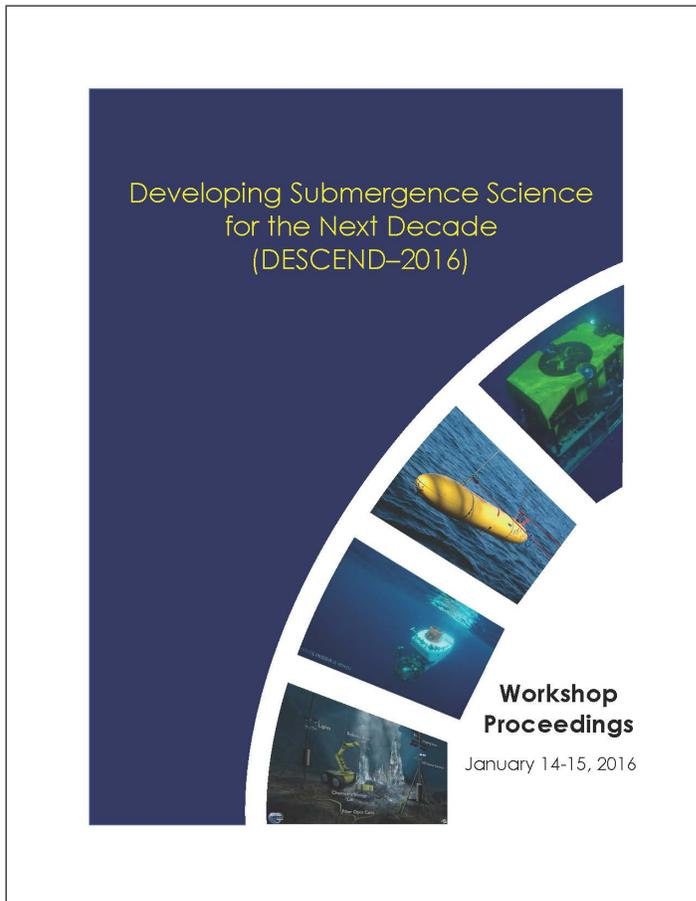


DeSSC New-User Program featured speaker Dr. Peter Gerguis (Harvard),

photo c/o Annette DeSilva

A rare Louisiana snowstorm did not dampen the enthusiasm at the 2017 DeSSC New-User Program! This popular event was attended by 27 early career scientists who met with senior scientists, vehicle operators and agency representatives to learn about deep sea vehicle assets and research, proposal-writing, and research data management. [Sign up for the DeSSC Mailing List](#) to be notified about next year's program!

DESCEND-2 Report Now Available



The DESCEND-2 Workshop was held in 2016 with a focus on determining how both existing and new technologies can be better deployed to help address critical science questions, as well as how federal agencies, non-profit organizations, commercial operations and academic institutions can better work together to advance our understanding of the deep sea. The final proceedings from this meeting are now available on the UNOLS website, [click here to read it!](#) Please contact the UNOLS Office (office@unols.org) if you would like a hard copy of the report mailed to you.

Early Career Updates

Chief Scientist Cruise Participants Publish Article in EOS



Participants in the UNOLS Chief Scientist Training Cruise split and examine sediment cores during the 2016 expedition from Honolulu, Hawaii to San Diego, photo c/o Jennifer Brizzolara (USF College of Marine Science)

Following the December 2016 Chief Scientist Training Cruise (CSTC) aboard the R/V *Sikuliaq*, organized by Robert Pockalny and Bernard Coakley, cruise participants Anastasia Yanchilina, Subbarao Yeliseti, Monica Wolfson-Schwehr, Nicholas Voss, Thomas Kelly, Jennifer Brizzolara, Kristin Brown, John Zayac, Megan Fung, and Melania Guerra wrote an article that has been featured in EOS. The article discusses the variety of methods the participants used to study the methane seeps in the San Diego Trough and what further research can be done. [To read the full article click here!](#)

UNOLS Community Updates

UNOLS Office Re-Competition Update



UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

There is currently an open competition to choose a new host institution for the UNOLS Office and a new UNOLS Executive Secretary. Letters of intent were due in the UNOLS Office by November 28, 2017 and nine institutions submitted letters. Their full proposals are due on March 16, 2018. A proposal evaluation committee of un-conflicted experts has been formed to evaluate the proposals. The UNOLS Office will transition from the University of Rhode Island to the new host institution in May 2019.

Masako Tominaga Joins WHOI NDSF Team



Dr. Masako Tominaga, photo c/o Mathilde Cannat

Masako Tominaga has joined the NDSF Operations Team as a Field Operations Coordinator. Masako started on November 13, 2017 and will be working closely with Catherine Offinger and Kevin Kavanagh on logistical support for the ROV *Jason* and AUV *Sentry* vehicles, promoting the utilization, accessibility, and visibility of the NDSF facility. Masako was formerly a Post Doc with Maurice Tivey in G&G at WHOI; and most recently she was at Texas A&M University as an Assistant Professor in Geophysics. Masako has been an active NDSF vehicle user throughout her previous scientific research career. As Masako transitions into the Operations world of NDSF, she and Cathy will share responsibilities within the NDSF Field Operations team where Cathy will continue to work in her current capacity as the logistical leader. For those who wish to contact NDSF for operations and logistics needs, please continue to send emails to Cathy/(coffinger@whoi.edu) and copy both Masako/(mtominaga@whoi.edu) and Kevin/(kkavanagh@whoi.edu).

Fleet Highlights

R/V *Thomas G. Thompson* Completes Mid-life Refit



R/V Thomas G. Thompson after completing its mid-life refit, photo c/o of Doug Russell (UW)

R/V *Thompson* is back in business! The vessel's 18-month mid-life refit has extended its service life and included important upgrades such as the installation of new diesel generator sets, electrical plant, switchboards, drives, control systems, a new pilothouse, numerous auxiliary and science systems, and the installation of over 5 miles of new electrical cabling and 1000's of feet of new piping. The ship has resumed service and is heading to the Southwest Pacific for science operations.

RCRV Operator Solicitation Open!



Rendering of a potential new RCRV design, photo c/o Demian Bailey (OSU)

The National Science Foundation is soliciting proposals from eligible organizations to serve as Operating Institutions (OIs) for two (2) Regional Class Research Vessels (RCRVs). The solicitation seeks to select qualified institutions to operate the additional RCRV vessels. These institutions shall either have current membership in UNOLS or be capable of becoming UNOLS members prior to taking over responsibility for vessel operations. [Click here](#) to view the solicitation.

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