



# WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME™

## Congratulations to the 2021 Scholarship/Training Grant Winners

The Women Divers Hall of Fame™ (WDHOF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring and raising awareness of the contributions of outstanding women divers. WDHOF provides educational, financial, career and mentorship opportunities to the diving community throughout the world. Each year, WDHOF awards scholarships and training grants that provide financial and educational support to individuals of all ages, particularly those who are preparing for professional careers that involve diving.

The Women Divers Hall of Fame scholarships and training grants are awarded yearly in the spring at Beneath the Sea in Secaucus, New Jersey. The program began in 2002 with three scholarships. This year we had a record number of applications and we will be awarding \$68,400 to 47 individuals who are passionate about our water planet and looking to grow in their knowledge and skills.

A special thank you goes out to Shirley Pomponi, our Scholarship Chair, and her committee members for all of their hard work and many, many hours spent on our program.

### Bonnie Cardone Memorial Scholarship in Journalism, Graphic Arts, Photography, or Videography

Sponsored by WDHOF Members Michele Hall, Drey Stockert, Karen Straus, in memory of WDHOF Member Bonnie Cardone (\$1,500)



#### Janet Tam

As the Exhibit Designer at the Wildlife Conservation Society, Janet develops exhibit experiences that engage visitors with science education. She is a graduate student with the Advanced Inquiry Program at Miami University, pursuing a Master of Arts in Biology. She is interested in teaching others about their local waterways to promote marine conservation. By building on her media communication skills, Janet will use underwater videography to provide meaningful learning experiences through interactive instruction.

### Laurel Clark Sea to Space Physiology Research Grant

Sponsored by Jon Clark, in memory of his wife, Astronaut Laurel Clark (2 @ \$5,000 each)



#### Courtney Brown

Courtney Brown completed her B.H.K. and M.Sc. at the University of British Columbia where she developed a passion for physiology. During her M.Sc., she was able to work with elite breath-hold divers which inspired her passion for diving physiology. From there, she learned about the Ama and Bajau populations that have been free diving as a means of survival for thousands of years and show physiological adaptations that support their marine-dependent lifestyle. Courtney's goal is to work with the Ama people to better understand if these differences are genetic and what their functional outcomes are.



#### Olivia Jackson

A native of Pensacola, Florida, Olivia spent countless hours enjoying the water in her youth. While she has always loved this unique town, her affection multiplied when she experienced her first wreck dive in the Gulf. With a fascination for the unknown and drive to understand all types of mysteries, Olivia has dedicated herself to scientific research. She has spent the last five years conducting human and animal neuroscience research. Olivia holds a particular fascination for optimization of performance and neuroprotection in extreme environments. Olivia will use this grant to better understand the blood-gas relationship in freediving humans.

### Graduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Meg Donat (\$2,000)



#### Hannah Rempel

Hannah is a Ph.D. student in Marine Sciences at the University of Texas at Austin Marine Science Institute and has an M.S. in Biology from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Her current research is focused on understanding the role of herbivorous fishes on coral reef ecosystems and how human impacts may alter their role. Her broader research interests are in evaluating impacts of human-related stressors on coral reef ecosystems to inform management of coral reef resilience and recovery, as well as sustainable coastal livelihoods for communities reliant on coral reefs.

### Graduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Cecillie Benjamin, in memory of her husband Max (\$2,000)



#### Brianna Cahill

Brianna is a Master's student at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, in the Fisheries Ecology and Conservation Lab. She is an AAUS Scientific Diver and PADI Rescue Diver, with hopes of completing her PADI Divemaster in the near future. The focus of her thesis aims to characterize the diet of whitespotted eagle rays (*Aetobatus narinari*) in Florida coastal waters using techniques like DNA barcoding and stable isotope analysis. Following graduate school, Brianna hopes to continue studying elasmobranchs in coastal ecosystems, to create a more cohesive view on benthic-pelagic coupling.

If you are interested in further information about the scholarship programs or would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit our website at:

[www.wdhof.org](http://www.wdhof.org)

### Rachel Morrison Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation

Sponsored by John and Jeanne Morrison, in memory of their daughter Rachel (2 @ \$2,000 each)



#### Georgina Ramirez-Ortiz

Gina is a certified Rescue Diver and a Ph.D. candidate in the Use, Management and Preservation of Natural Resources program at CIBNOR. Her thesis project is about temporal changes in fish fauna at Marine Protected Areas, and she will use this award to analyze the effects of the ceasing of tourism due to the COVID-19 quarantine on fish diversity. Since

her Bachelor's (Marine Biology-UABCS) and Master's (Marine Ecology-CICESE) studies, she has participated in multiple underwater monitoring programs and coral restoration efforts. As alternative projects, she studies mesophotic reefs with the use of Remotely Operated Vehicles and coordinates science communication projects.



#### Lachan Roth

Lachan is a M.Sc. student at Tel-Aviv University, Israel, and studies the ecology, population dynamics, and life history traits of fire coral species in the Red Sea. Studying the unique environment of the northern Red Sea is a privilege to her and every day of field work is a great day, in her perspective.

These species are intriguing, especially because they hold a significant ecological importance as reef-building organisms that, together with stony corals, are in charge of the third-dimension reef structure. Her focus is studying their reproduction cycle, measuring regeneration and growth rates and surveying ecological properties of their populations.

### Graduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation

Sponsored by donations to the WDHO scholarship fund (\$2,000)



#### Samantha Salomé Izurieta Benitez

I am Salomé Izurieta from Quito, Ecuador. I earned a B.S. in Biology with Marine Ecology concentration. I am going to study Marine Resources Management at Instituto Politécnico Nacional in Mexico. I authored scientific articles about Galapagos sea lions (GSL). I have volunteered in different NGOs, environmental education, and research projects (Ecuador and USA).

In the Galapagos National Park, I undertook biological monitoring of endangered species and co-coordinated field works. Since I was a child, I always dreamed of becoming a Marine Biologist and scientist. That is what I will do in my Master's degree and later in life.

### Sherry Reed Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation (\$1500)

Sponsored by family & friends of WDHO Member Sherry Reed (\$1,500)



#### Eloise Rose Lopez

Eloise, who lives in the Marianas Islands, earned an A.A in Education and is now pursuing her Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Natural Resources Management. Eloise participated in the Division of Coastal Resources Management Summer Internship and worked under the DEQ LAB - Department of Environmental Quality Laboratory where she collected and analyzed marine and drinking waters here in the Marianas Islands. Eloise is also currently doing a year-long internship with the Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality as a Shoreline Monitor Intern, where she studies the states of how the CNMI's shorelines are in order to better inform coastal planning to determine if our shores are decreasing or increasing from the way they are now. Eloise's goal is to give back to the waters of her island. She wants to contribute her key findings and promote the benefit of its importance to the public. Her goal is to also promote the securing of the safety of the coral reefs.

### Undergraduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation

Sponsored by Blue Green Expeditions (WDHO Member Faith Ortins) (\$1,000)



#### Gabrielle Martineau

Gabrielle is a third-year undergraduate biology student in Biology at Laval University in Quebec. She is an aspiring marine scientist and aims to tackle marine climatic perturbations issues and to raise awareness for ocean conservation through research. Her current work involves understanding coral microbiomes through research on coral's symbiotic composition under environmental stress.

### Undergraduate Scholarship in Marine Conservation

Sponsored by Oceanic Research Group, Inc. (WDHO Member Dr. Christine Bird) (\$1,000)



#### Sofia Ferreira

Sofia is a junior at the University of Hawaii majoring in Marine Science and completing a Data Science certificate. Throughout the past couple of years, Sofia has been part of various cutting-edge research projects. Her focus and passion is on applying data science and innovative technologies to enhance coral reef research in an interdisciplinary manner. She hopes to attend graduate school with this same focus track, and advance her diving skills in order to be able to collect coral reef data for her research.

### Susan L. Williams Memorial Fellowship in Seagrass Rehabilitation

Sponsored by family & friends of WDHOFF Member Susan L. Williams (2 @ \$2,500 each)



#### Kate Hruby

Kate's enthusiasm for science is driven by her curiosity about the world, both above and below the ocean. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences, a Master's degree in Earth and Climate Sciences, and leads marine education trips on a 60' wooden sailboat. She's a science communicator, running a nature podcast and drawing science cartoons under the title Go Forth and Science. This fellowship will grant her the opportunity to research coral reefs in person and communicate their struggles and successes to both stakeholders and new audiences.



#### Marija Oštarić

Marija is a student of a Master's study program, "Sustainable Management of Aquatic Ecosystems," at University of Zadar, Croatia. She is a rescue scuba diver with more than 300 dives classified as scientific and ecology dives, and she is an active member/volunteer in a local NGO "Marine Explorers Society – 20000 leagues." She is from and currently lives in Zadar, the fifth largest city in Croatia, positioned in the middle of the eastern Adriatic coast. Her story can start with the fact that throughout life, her body and soul were always somehow connected to the ocean – one great big ocean.

### Susan L. Williams Memorial Fellowship in Coral Rehabilitation

Sponsored by family & friends of WDHOFF Member Susan L. Williams (2 @ \$2,500 each)



#### Sonora Meiling

Sonora Meiling received her B.Sc. in Zoology at Oregon State University and M.Sc. in Marine and Environmental Science at the University of the Virgin Islands. She is currently the Marine Disease Specialist at the University of the Virgin Islands leading various coral disease monitoring projects and investigating techniques to build disease resistance and resilience. Sonora hopes to identify methods to successfully outplant species susceptible to stony coral tissue loss disease and begin restoring the populations devastated by the recent outbreak.



#### Laura Zaldivar

My name is Laura Zaldivar and I grew up on the small island of Guanaja in Honduras, in a community of artisanal fishermen. I started diving about two years ago, and during my dives, I can see the difference between healthy, diseased, and over-exploited reefs. This experience helped me work better as coordinator of the environmental education and community development program, and involved the community in marine activities where they can immerse themselves and know the reality of the ecosystem on which they depend. My objective with this award is to secure new coral colonies through nurseries and restore areas affected with coral disease, involving volunteers and fishermen for conservation activities empowering communities.

### J. Berman Memorial Scholarship in Sea Turtle Conservation

Sponsored by the J. Berman Memorial Fund (\$1,100)



#### Julyne Norlie

Julyne obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences degree from the University of Papua New Guinea. Her passion for marine resource management and conservation has driven her to successfully establish an informal "No Take Fishing Zone" in her community. She plans to gain skills and more in-depth knowledge in the practical world of marine science to effectively use the skillset and experience in advocating for conservation locally, nationally and internationally, if given the opportunity. She aspires to be a certified scuba diver so she can document and build a database for the marine life on her island as well as other maritime communities in Papua New Guinea.

### Cecelia Connelly Memorial Graduate Scholarship in Underwater Archaeology

Sponsored by the Connelly family, in memory of their mother, WDHOFF Member Cecelia Connelly (\$2,000)



#### Kelsey Rooney

Kelsey is a Ph.D. student at the University of Chicago, currently researching how the Atlantic trade – specifically the slave trade – shaped the lives of the Africans and Europeans who worked within the harbors of Dakar. She holds a Master's of Science in Maritime Archaeology & Conservation from Texas A&M University, and has been diving since being certified in cold Massachusetts waters in 2010. Since then, she has been diving on projects in Cyprus, Bahamas, and Lake Champlain, Vermont. She is in the process of completing her NAUI Divemaster certification, diving locally in the Lake Michigan waters off Chicago.

### Undergraduate Marine Research Internship

Sponsored by WDHOFF Members Drs. Sue Shoemaker & Kathleen Dudzinski (\$1,000)



#### Phoebe Churney

Phoebe is presently a sophomore at Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) in a five-year program studying Marine Biology and Small Vessel Operations. She was fortunate enough to grow up in a coastal town in Maine, where her passion for the ocean and diving blossomed. She got her PADI Junior Open Water certification at the age of fourteen. She is currently working towards Divemaster and is working as a scuba Teaching Assistant at MMA. Her internship will take her to Anacortes, Washington, where she will be utilizing scientific diving to study two native octopus species.

## TRAINING GRANTS: BASIC DIVE TRAINING

### Ella Jean Morgan Memorial Dive Training Grant for Young Women

Sponsored by Frank Boulanger, in memory of his wife, WDHOF Member Ella Jean Morgan (\$1,000)



#### Gigi Fernandez

Gigi is currently an undergraduate studying Marine Biology at California State University, Long Beach, and will be graduating in Spring 2022. It is her goal to advance in research in order to help write a narrative for marine life and enact global change.

This year, she is looking forward to using her dive certification to aid in her research training to develop new technology to track sharks and sea turtles in Costa Rica.

### Kids Sea Camp Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by Kids Sea Camp (WDHOF Member Margo Peyton) & donations to the WDHOF Scholarship Fund (2 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Wilma Mavea

Wilma is a volunteer at Pidua (traditional name for dolphin/dugong) research project in Papua New Guinea. She grew up enjoying the coastal environment. Studying the Australian Snubfin and Humpback Dolphins during her post-graduate studies has created the desire to become a Marine Mammal expert so she can be able to represent the

voiceless marine mammals whose homes are deteriorating mercilessly at human expense. She is currently completing a National Marine Mammal Sighting and Stranding database project. The KSC Grant will help her get a basic diving certificate, enabling her to work at local dive resorts and continue the efforts on Marine Mammal research and conservation work.



#### Talya Redinger

A native Floridian and avid boater, Talya has spent her life snorkeling in reefs and waterways. The mother of two returned to college August 2020 to pursue a degree in Environmental Science with hopes to work in coastal conservation. "I am really fascinated by the use of biological systems for the protection of our shorelines. I am hoping to work

with these ecosystems to preserve the quality of our water and help fortify our coasts against the rising seas." Talya is a sophomore at St. Petersburg College and is volunteering with SPC Stem Center on their Living Shoreline Project. She is excited to learn to dive as this will give her greater opportunities to advance her future career and open the door for understanding how coastal conservation works beyond the beach.

### Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Patti Gross (\$1,000)



#### Maisy Lus

Maisy earned a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of Papua New Guinea in November 2020. She comes from the beautiful island country of Papua New Guinea (PNG) - known for its abundance in resources, extremely high biodiversity, and its extraordinary cultural diversity. PNG's remarkable diversity is indisputable in its oceans as well - filled with incredible life and mystery. In 2020, she successfully incorporated a local NGO called the Fish Reef Project PNG with the vision to see ocean

life thrive in her country through the creation and placement of man-made reef units. She is excited to have the opportunity to learn how to dive, knowing it's an essential start to her work with the Fish Reef Project PNG.

### Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Rene Hernandez (\$1,000)



#### Emory Wellman

Emory is a New England native who received her B.A. in Government from Georgetown University in 2015. After a few years working in the policy world, the desire to be near the coastal habitats among which she'd grown up led her to pivot towards coastal science. Emory worked in marine laboratories in Massachusetts, Alabama, and North Carolina before

starting her M.S. at East Carolina University, where she studies oyster and salt marsh restoration. She is excited to begin diving to appreciate the ocean more fully.

### Basic Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by Donations to the WDHOF scholarship fund (4 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Laura Crane

Laura holds an M.S. in Marine Biology and is currently a researcher at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maine where she works on projects evaluating the effects of climate change on coastal ecosystems, particularly estuaries.

These projects sometimes involve scuba diving to access submerged monitoring equipment, collect specimens, or conduct underwater surveys. She is pursuing a scuba certification so she can fully engage in and contribute to these and other important research efforts. Outside of work, she looks forward to being able to fully explore the underwater world she has dedicated her life to studying and protecting.



#### Melanie Munt

Melanie has been passionate about archaeology and the ocean for as long as she can remember. In 2017, she made the decision to return to university to study archaeology and was thrilled to discover that her two passions could be combined in a professional capacity! Melanie is now studying a Master of Maritime Archaeology degree at Flinders University, South Australia, and is particularly interested in submerged landscapes, ancient iconography, and watercraft conservation and reconstruction.

She intends to use her diving qualifications to support extensive maritime archaeological research, learning about our past in the hope of positively shaping our future.



#### Chelsi Sparti

Chelsi holds a Bachelor's degree in Biology, and is pursuing an advanced degree in energy and environmental policy. She is a Californian belonging to the Wintun tribe, and centers her connection to nature in all her work. She's led an energy advocacy nonprofit for four years and served as a Fulbright Scholar in Borneo. Chelsi has successfully organized

communities and engaged stakeholders on climate issues. She thrives when turning generational issues into approachable conversations and solutions. Learning to scuba dive will advance her study of natural resource conservation at the intersection of renewable energy, human behavior, and government regulation.

### Basic Dive Training Grant (continued)

Sponsored by donations to the WDHO scholarship fund (4 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Kaylyn Zipp

Kay is a first-generation college student working on her Master's in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources at West Virginia University. Her thesis examines Channel Catfish populations and differences in their thermal plasticity through bioenergetics and transcriptomics. It has always been her dream to learn how to dive so she could trade her experimental tanks for the open water and observe how fish alter their behavior in response to abiotic stress. This training grant will allow that dream to become a reality while also enhancing the breadth and impact of her research.

## TRAINING GRANTS: ADVANCED DIVE TRAINING

### Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by Blue Green Expeditions (WDHO Member Faith Ortins) (\$1,000)



#### Emma Rudy Srebnik

Emma Rudy Srebnik is a first-year student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill studying Environmental and Marine Science. She began diving during high school while living in Japan. She was the leader of her school's Underwater Explorers club and helped promote community service through scuba diving. She also recently published a research paper in a peer-reviewed journal on microplastics in fish. In the future, Emma Rudy plans to continue marine conservation and research. She is excited to use her training grant to learn how to dive in a drysuit!

### Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by WDHO Member Bonnie Toth (\$1,000)



#### Elise Foot Puchalski

Elise learned to dive at age 12 in Puget Sound, Washington, and now at 15 she studies the ocean with the eyes of a scientist and photographer. The ocean is her second home and diving is how she explores its mysteries. Currently a STEM-focused HS student who has conducted research on factors in plankton growth, Elise wants to become a marine biologist equipped for underwater research. This WDHO grant will help Elise complete a specialized scientific diving course for teens. She aims to help people around the world understand the ocean better. Elise also plays lacrosse, runs cross-country, skis, paints, and bakes awesome cookies for her scuba team.

### Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational

Sponsored by donations to the WDHO Scholarship Fund (2 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Audrey Bennett

Audrey grew up in the Monterey Bay area surrounded by nutrient-rich waters and ecology-minded mentors. She now attends Stanford University and is pursuing a B.S. in Ecology and Evolution. In 2021, she will be embarking on a sailing research expedition in the Eastern and Central Pacific with the primary goals of educating youth and supporting local marine conservation. This award will support her dive gear and training for the upcoming voyage. She is especially in love with snails, cold water, and nudibranchs.



#### Frida J. Sánchez Luna

Frida is a biologist from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. Her interest in the complexity of invertebrate communities and the influence of the environmental factors led her to develop her Bachelor's thesis project about the Crown-of-thorns starfish at the Gulf of California. During her project, she collaborates with multidisciplinary research groups in reef monitoring biodiversity to document ecosystem changes over time. Frida plans to improve her diving skills to explore the underwater world further and pursue a Master's degree in Applied Marine Ecology that allows her to be prepared for current and future challenges in marine conservation.

### Advanced Dive Training Grant - Professional

Sponsored by donations to the WDHO Scholarship Fund (3 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Valesca de Groot

Valesca is a Marine Biology Master's student at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. She combines her passion for science with her love for scuba through volunteer work with the Reef Life Survey, a citizen science project in which divers take standardized underwater surveys to create important links among marine scientists, recreational divers, and management agencies. At the local level, Valesca co-founded Student Dive NL, an all-inclusive dive club where she takes joy in mentoring beginner divers. Valesca will use this grant towards her Divemaster training in order to become an even better scuba diving mentor for the local community.



#### Lauren Enright

Lauren is currently a lab technician at UC Santa Barbara. She completed her Open Water certification in August 2018, followed by her Advanced, Rescue, Nitrox, and AAUS certifications in 2019. Lauren shows her passion for marine ecosystems through research and education. She has conducted research in both the Channel Islands and French Polynesia and has extensive outreach experience - including giving presentations via scuba at an aquarium in southern California. Her next goals are to pursue her Ph.D. in Community Ecology and use her Divemaster certification to increase her outreach efforts.



#### Jydee Leonard

Jydee is a recent high school graduate from Auckland, New Zealand. She will soon begin a Diploma in Professional Scuba Instruction, a year-long course allowing her to become a qualified PADI Divemaster, and teach specialty courses as well as first aid. She plans to work as a scuba instructor and educator, helping others discover a passion for diving. Jydee intends to later continue her studies focusing in the marine sciences where she has a special interest in coral restoration. She wants to document her experiences on social media sharing her love for scuba and the marine environment.

### Advanced Dive Training Grant - Technical

Sponsored by donations to the WDHOF Scholarship Fund (2 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Cami Plum

Cami is a Ph.D. candidate at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia, researching aquatic biogeochemistry and microbial ecology. When not in the lab, she can be found under water moonlighting as a maritime archaeologist to identify, survey and preserve shipwrecks in Port Phillip Bay. Cami seeks to understand how climate change will

affect shipwreck degradation and what can be done to prevent loss of underwater cultural heritage. Cami plans to combine her skillset and extend her diving qualifications to investigate and protect shipwrecks and their surrounding biota. In short, get under water, preserve wrecks & save the ocean!



#### Shari Rohret

Shari is currently a second-year graduate student in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (MIT-WHOI) Joint Program in Geology and Geophysics. Taking after her father, who was a dive instructor, Shari received a Diving Technologies and Methods minor from Texas A&M University at Galveston. After taking a

summer field course in the Yucatan Peninsula, Shari became fascinated with underwater caves, and is currently studying the benthic ecology of these complex systems. She plans to use her Advanced Training Grant to get her full cave certification, allowing her to continue carrying out research in caves for her thesis.

### Ocean Wishes Advanced Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by Ocean Wishes (WDHOF Member Margo Peyton) & donations to the WDHOF Scholarship Fund (2 @ \$1,000 each)



#### Sophia Diaz

Sophia Diaz was just 13 when she won the WDHOF Advanced Dive Training Grant - Recreational award. She has wanted to become a marine biologist since she was six years old. She has an undying passion for sharks and is working hard to protect them. Sophia has also been a Girl Scout since she was five years old. Her YouTube channel, Sharkz4lyfe, is dedicated

to teaching kids about the ocean in English and Spanish. Sophia's goal with this award is to film her underwater adventures and share them with her young and curious audience.



#### Rebecca Ferreira

Rebecca graduated with an M.A. in Maritime Archaeology from the University of Southampton (UoS) in 2018 and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at UoS. Rebecca holds a BSAC Sports Diver qualification and, as a maritime archaeologist, has diverse experience diving on sites ranging from submerged Pleistocene landscapes in the North

Sea to warships in the Solent, UK. Her doctoral research is focused on investigating the Mesolithic submerged landscapes in the Solent. Rebecca will use this grant to pursue a HSE Scuba diving certification, allowing her to conduct significant graduate research and manage all elements of her own fieldwork.

### Women's Scuba Association Advanced Dive Training Grant

Sponsored by Women's Scuba Association (WDHOF Founder/Member Jennifer King) (\$1,000)



#### Kellie Smith

I am an Army ROTC Cadet at Clemson University. I quickly fell in love with the wonders of the ocean after attending Project Global Officer in East Africa at the Marine Biology school on the island of Zanzibar. I am currently training to become one of six women who have completed the Combat Dive School in Key West, FL. This goal I have set for

myself will be challenging mentally and physically, but I am up for the challenge! My future goal is to one day be a police officer and member of the recovery dive squad or marine research.

### Hugh Fletcher Memorial Training Grant to Assist the Disabled to Dive

Sponsored by friends of Hugh Fletcher (WDHOF Founder/Member Kathy Weydig) & the Sister Fund (\$1,000)



#### Lucelle Hudson

Lucelle is an Australian woman with Cerebral Palsy who loves the sea. Until 2019, she hadn't been in the ocean for over 40 years! Determined to return, she connected with Aquatherapist Robert Orr. After months of work at indoor pools, she achieved a day of ocean snorkelling. Determined to go deeper, Lucelle plans to dive, accessing adaptive support with

her grant. On land, she uses a chin-operated wheelchair. In water, she experiences freer mobility which brings her joy, together with the sea life. Emerging filmmaker Jemma Pigott is documenting her journey which Lucelle hopes will inspire others to follow their dreams.

## SPECIALTY DIVE TRAINING GRANTS

### Instructor Advanced Education Grant

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Jeanne Bear Sleeper (\$2,000)



#### Tokea "Kea" Payton

Tokea "Kea" is currently a Biological Sciences Ph.D. student at Clemson University studying reef species interactions with marine debris in the Florida Keys. She is involved in community education and outreach through the Something Very Fishy program where she helps bring ocean literacy principles to K-5 classrooms in South Carolina. She started diving

as a sophomore in college and is now a PADI OWSI. She is pleased to have received this award as she will use it to enhance her instructor training and earn her DAN DEMP/DFA Pro instructor to teach safety skills to undergraduate researchers in her lab.

### Instructor Advanced Education Grant

Sponsored by WDHOF Member Jeanne Bear Sleeper (\$1,000)



#### Katelyn Mika

Katelyn is a NAUI Instructor and Chair of the 501(c)3 nonprofit Chicago Undersea Explorers Society. Through these roles, she works with other divers to increase access to and diversity within scuba diving by offering free or at-cost scuba training and experiences to historically excluded and underserved communities. She plans to use

this grant to expand her safety knowledge and skills by pursuing the DAN Instructor and Advanced Nitrox and Decompression Procedures certifications. During surface intervals, Katelyn is a postdoctoral scholar at the University of Chicago, using genetics to study fish development and evolution.

### Diver Medical Education Grant: Emergency First Responder

Sponsored by The Diver Medic (WDHOF Member Chantelle Newman) (3 valued at \$500 each)



#### Nazde Edeer

Nazde is a fourth-year medical student at the University of British Columbia. She fell in love with the ocean when she began volunteering at the Vancouver Aquarium at the age of 14. She is an avid diver and Divemaster candidate and is always on the pursuit to find cool creatures off the BC coast. Her passion for research led to her involvement with the

SFU Environmental Medicine and Physiology unit, where she became a hyperbaric chamber tender. In the future she hopes to integrate her love for diving and physiology by pursuing a fellowship in clinical diving and hyperbaric medicine.



#### Madeline Sulava

Madeline currently attends Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania pursuing a degree in Exercise Science Pre-Physician's Assistant studies. She has a passion for diving and medicine and in the future hopes to work as a Physician's Assistant specializing in trauma and hyperbarics. Currently, Madeline works as an EMT in her hometown and as a teaching

assistant and photographer for SRU's scuba and emergency medical responder classes. In her free time, Madeline enjoys traveling, editing pictures, and spending time with friends and family.



#### James Ye

James is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia. As an Eagle Scout of Boy Scout Troop 55B and an Able rank scout from Sea Scouts Ship 1942, he has a passion for outdoor adventure and environmental stewardship. He has earned his Open Water, Advanced, and Rescue scuba certifications, and he

has participated in four high adventures at BSA Sea Base (Florida & Bahamas). In the summer of 2018, he cycled across America from Seattle to Washington DC for 66 days and 4000 miles, receiving Congressional recognition for promoting healthy living and outdoor adventure. He has volunteered more than 1,000 hours for his local community since 2014, earning five "President's Volunteer Service Award" gold medals and the "2020 Billy Michal Student Leadership Award." James plans to get Divemaster and Instructor training to also help more youth to enjoy scuba diving.

### Diver Medical Education Grant: Diver Medical Technician

Sponsored by The Diver Medic (WDHOF Member Chantelle Newman) (2 valued at \$1,400 each)



#### Karin Murray-Bergquist

Karin is a Ph.D. student in Folklore, currently studying at Memorial University of Newfoundland. Her interest in maritime history has led her to try to study the ocean from every possible angle, including going beneath the waves. She is also a volunteer with Ocean Bridge, through which she is producing an ocean-themed podcast, "The Deeps." The areas of

expertise held by the diving community have given her insights into the science of the ocean, as well as motivation to pursue dive training. She intends to use this scholarship to become better prepared to deal with the dangers of diving.



#### Beatrice Rivoira

Beatrice is an Italian vocational diver with a Master's Degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography. With 20 years of diving experience, she has worked around the world as a CCR & OC instructor and participated in biological and archaeological underwater projects. She co-authored the book, *Biodiving*, and translated and contributed to several other diving texts.

Beatrice plans to use the training grant to enhance the safety of her teams when working in remote areas and that of diving communities at training sites. It is also an additional step towards her goal of becoming a Diving Safety Officer.

## WOMEN DIVERS HALL OF FAME MISSION

The Women Divers Hall of Fame's two-part mission includes:

- Recognizing women divers who have made outstanding contributions to the exploration, understanding, safety and enjoyment of our underwater world and
- Supporting the underwater world and its associated careers by promoting opportunities for women and men in diving through scholarships, internships and mentorship opportunities and a worldwide network of industry contacts.

To learn more about the Women Divers Hall of Fame, visit [www.wdhof.org](http://www.wdhof.org)