Meet the 2022 Teachers at Sea!
Hometown: Tierra Verde, Florida  
Position: Informal educator at Tampa Bay Watch  
Ship: NOAA Ship *Pisces*  
Survey: SEAMAP Reef Fish Survey  
Ports: Galveston, TX to Pascagoula, MS  

"I can’t express enough how grateful I am to have been selected for the NOAA Teacher at Sea Program and be a part of its mission. The experience was so much more than I could have even imagined. Participating in the research was so rewarding, and offered valuable insight into fisheries research and scientific operations... Continuous learning is what enhances our understanding of the world around us, in so many ways, and why I love what I do.”

– TAS ‘22 Jordan Findley
TAS ‘22 Oktay Ince

Hometown: Beavercreek, OH
Position: Assistant Principal of Academics at Horizon Science Academy
Ship: NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*
Survey: Hydrographic survey of Lake Erie
Ports: Cleveland, OH

"I loved every bit of my time while at sea. The ship crew was awesome and welcomed me as part of their team. They taught me many things in my short time and I started to do many tasks on my own. I can't wait to share all the things I learned with my students and colleagues."

– TAS ‘22 Oktay Ince
Hometown: Dalton, OH
Position: K-8th STEAM teacher at Dalton Local Schools
Ship: NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson*
Survey: Hydrographic survey of Lake Erie
Ports: Cleveland, OH

"My landlocked world has been cracked open. I now have knowledge of so many more resources, data and careers. I want to share them with my students and with the community. I am excited to develop new lessons and to incorporate that which I have learned in to lessons already established."

– TAS ‘22 Laura Grimm
As an educator interested in any and all things science, I would always look forward to the end of the sampling process and the emptying of the nets to survey our catch – a grab bag of a variety of different types of marine life and species. I had seen images of several types of marine life contained within the nets and recognized even fewer numbers by their name, but again this was an opportunity to learn and every sampling increased my library of marine science knowledge.

– TAS ‘22 George Hademenos
Hometown: Isabela, Puerto Rico
Position: Environmental science teacher at Abelardo Martinez Otero High School
Ship: NOAA Ship Bell M. Shimada
Survey: Hake Survey
Ports: Seattle, WA to Newport, OR

"The crew has been excellent, all with a kind and respectful treatment towards me... In just a few days of meeting them, they have taught me a lot. They have all been patient and have explained and answered questions regarding the work they do on the high seas. Their knowledge and experiences have led me to create great admiration for them."

– TAS ‘22 Michael Gutiérrez Santiago
TAS ‘22 Maronda Hastie

Hometown: Stone Mountain, GA
Position: Math teacher at Dr. Ronald E. McNair High School
Ship: NOAA Ship Oregon II
Survey: Shark/Snapper Longline Survey
Ports: Port Canaveral, FL, to Pascagoula, MS

“I loved learning the process of catching the different types of fish and all the research that happens. The atmosphere was welcoming and fun while I learned and felt safe. The experience was amazing, and I love answering questions about my pictures and videos. This program is highly motivating and I want to expose my students to similar opportunities.”

– TAS ‘22 Maronda Hastie
A New Frontier for NOAA’s Teachers at Sea

In 2022, Teacher at Sea Program had the **historic opportunity to sail teachers on a Great Lake**. NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* traversed the St. Lawrence Seaway to survey the bed of Lake Erie, marking the first visit of a large NOAA survey vessel to a Great Lake since NOAA Ship *Whiting* surveyed Lake Huron in 1990.
In early September, TAS ’22 Laura Grimm brought 23 students from Dalton Local Schools, in Dalton, Ohio, to visit NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson at the Port of Cleveland. Ensign Forrest Foxen hosted the tour as Officer on Duty.
The next day, TAS ’22 Oktay Ince brought 23 students from Horizon Science Academy Columbus High School, in Columbus, Ohio, to visit NOAA Ship Thomas Jefferson. Ensign John Brostowski hosted the tour as Officer on Duty.
Teacher at Sea
Alumni Association

2022 Highlights

2022 Year in Review
The Teacher at Sea Alumni Association (TASAA) provides valuable networking opportunities and high-quality professional development experiences for alumni of NOAA’s Teacher at Sea Program. TASAA extends the benefits of program participation throughout teachers’ careers, and in doing so, offers them the opportunity to become dedicated ambassadors for NOAA’s work and mission.

The Teacher at Sea Alumni Association is supported through a partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
In 2022, TASAA took on the theme of **art and science integration** to celebrate the ways that our educators use the arts to engage their students and communities in the content and concepts that are important to a science literate society.

The theme included a series of guest blog posts by written TAS alumni. Read intro here: https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/navigating-science-with-art/
Navigating Science with Art:
April: TAS Laura Guertin

TAS ‘14 Laura Guertin:
Sharing Stories of the Louisiana Coast through Quilts

Read Laura’s blog post here: https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/sharing-stories-of-the-louisiana-coast-through-quilts/

“Quilting has become a passion and tool that I use for science communication and education. The quilts have been a success with scientists and non-scientists alike. I have found that people enjoy coming up and looking at a quilt, because everyone has their own quilt story!”
Navigating Science with Art:
May: TAS Cristina Veresan

TAS ‘15 Cristina Veresan: Sci-Art Lesson Share: Illustrated Graphs

“I highly recommend this climate data art project for upper elementary and secondary students...
One of the central aims of my science curriculum is to empower students as science communicators; I want them to share accurate scientific information in creative ways.”

Read Cristina’s blog post here: https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/sci-art-lesson-share-illustrated-graphs/
Navigating Science with Art:
October: TAS Denise Harrington

TAS ’14/16 Denise Harrington: Finding Free Gifts in Nature through Journaling

“Equal parts science and art, journals are a first step for students to become stewards of the place in which they live. By observing and documenting the plants, animals, and features, they understand it better... Through deep knowledge comes appreciation, and ultimately a desire to protect the environment in which we live.”

Read Denise’s blog post here: https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/finding-free-gifts-in-nature-through-journaling
Navigating Science with Art: November: TAS Cat Prenot

TAS ’11/16 Cat Prenot: Connecting through Cartoons

“Just as I use cartoons to help my students understand complex topics, students can make their own cartoons to create meaning. Cartoons don’t have to be intricate to communicate ideas.”

Read Cat’s blog post here: https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/connecting-through-cartoons

2022 Year in Review
New England Teacher at Sea Alumni Meeting

March 12, 2022

• **Attendees:** 7 TAS alumni from 6 northeast states

• **Agenda:** Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt

• **Next Step:** New England TASA Book Club discussion of *The Secret Life of Lobsters* by Trevor Corson to follow in 2023

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*The Secret Life of Lobsters* by Trevor Corson
• **Attendees:** 6 TAS alumni from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

• **Agenda:** Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt

• **Next Step:** Tri-State TASA Book Club discussion of *Gotham Unbound* by Ted Steinberg to follow in 2023
Gulf of Mexico
Teacher at Sea Alumni Book Club

April 4 – May 16, 2022

• 6 alumni and staff participants from Gulf states
• Discussed *The Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* by Jack E. Davis in parts over 5 meetings
• Discussion moderated by Arkansas-based TAS alumna
• Opportunity to share regional perspectives, expertise, resources
Pacific Southwest
Teacher at Sea Alumni Book Club

October 6 – December 1, 2022

• 18 alumni and staff participants from CA, NV, AZ, CO, other regions
• Discussed *Where the Water Goes* by David Owen over 5 meetings
• Discussion moderated by two California-based TAS alumni
• Opportunity to share regional perspectives, expertise, resources
• Book club playlist!

PLAYLIST
River Songs ~ NOAA Book Club
Jeffrey Peterson • 3 likes
• 15 songs, 1 hr 8 min

2022 Year in Review
TAS ‘02 Jennifer McDonald from California co-moderated the Southwest TASA Book Club discussion of Where the Water Goes.

“I enjoyed each and every meeting and ALL the fantastic resources that everyone shared...This was just what I needed this semester, enrichment for my own continuing education/lifelong learning about the world and that amazing kind of energy that comes from discussion and exchange with people who enjoy the same. The conversation every time was nourishment for my book-loving, curious mind.”

- TAS ‘02 Jennifer McDonald
Introducing the TASAA Project ROVe:
Remotely Operated Vehicles for educators

TAS Andrea Schmuttermair
TASAA ROV Education Coordinator

Following her TASAA Fellowship, Andrea transitioned to the role of ROV Education Coordinator and developed her independent project into a year of ROV professional development courses for TAS alumni, named Project ROVe.

Oh, the Places We Rove: Andrea’s journey into the world of ROVs https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/oh-the-places-we-rove
Project ROVe: Introduction to ROVs, Cohort 1

January – June 2022

Project ROVe: Introduction to ROVs
• 15 participants (2 applied for graduate credit)
• Monthly virtual meetings
• Course materials shipped to each participant
• Readings, hands-on activities, guest speakers, competitions

Blog: Project ROVe: Exploring New Depths with ROVs
https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/project-rove
Project ROVe: Design and Build Workshop

July 19–21, 2022

Project ROVe: Design and Build In-Person Workshop

- Held at Mariners’ Museum and Park, Newport News, VA
- 10 participants
- Alumni worked in teams to build MATE Pufferfish ROVs
- Alumni shared plans for classroom implementation

Watch a video about the Design and Build workshop:
https://vimeo.com/777447176/5172c717a0
Project ROVe: Introduction to ROVs, Cohort 2

September 2022 – February 2023

Project ROVe: Introduction to ROVs

• 15 participants (including 1 non-alum from American Samoa NOAA Ed/Outreach)
• Monthly virtual meetings
• Course materials shipped to each participant
• Readings, hands-on activities, guest speakers, competitions
• Virtual mixers with Cohort 1
“It’s great being able to spend time with other teachers who have a passion for similar things...especially this group, because we’ve all shared the Teacher at Sea experience, and so we have that camaraderie already built in. Then you bring people from all over the country to do something that they like, and they want to bring it back and engage their students, it’s just a fabulous experience.”

- TAS ‘15 Jeff Miller
Teacher at Sea Alumni Association
NOAA Fellowship: Year 2

TAS Denise Harrington
TAS ‘14 NOAA Ship Rainier, TASA ‘16 NOAA Ship Oregon II

- Consulted on several education-related projects submitted by NOAA offices and programs
- Supported alumni activities and communications
- Developed independent projects and partnerships focused on marine debris and art, including a virtual workshop for TASA on creating wreaths from derelict crab lines

Meet Denise:
In December, TASAA NOAA Fellow Denise Harrington hosted a virtual workshop on creating holiday wreaths from repurposed rope, such as the derelict crab lines she finds on the Oregon coast. The Association raffled off eight kits of salvaged rope to interested alumni.

Blog with instructions: https://teacheratseaalumni.org/blog/repurposed-rope-wreaths/