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## MTS Announces 2022 Awards Winners

We are pleased to announce our 2022 Award Winners. The diverse field of individual recipients—students, young professionals, career professionals, international programs—have distinguished themselves in their work, through technological accomplishment, volunteer service, and mentorship. In addition, we are honoring a company for its outstanding contribution to the advancement of a marine technology and an MTS Student Section who are foundational to the advancement of the MTS mission. Our awardees work with unfailing commitment to tackle problems that impact our globally connected society in real and tangible. The awards will be presented at OCEANS 2022 Hampton Roads.

This year's recipients include:

**Compass Distinguished Achievement Award:** Presented to an individual whose career includes achievements that have had a significant impact on the fields of marine science and technology.



**Recipient** – Dr. Deidre M. Gibson, University Endowed Professor and Chair of Marine and Environmental Science, Hampton University

Dr. Gibson is a stalwart and unparalleled leader in the pursuit of preparing the next generation of African American marine scientists. While at Hampton University, she has led granted funded programs from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve student outcomes through research opportunities, and worked with public school teachers to develop ocean sustainability curriculum.

**Compass International Award:** Presented to an individual, company, or organization (outside the United States) for outstanding contributions to the advancement of marine science and technology.

**Recipient** – Oceans Network Canada  
Oceans Network Canada (ONC) has delivered outstanding advances in research, development, design, education, and public understanding that has contributed to a new information-based blue economy and demonstrates the benefits of public and private



investments in our marine technology enterprise. Their infrastructure has provided a profound impact on the world's cabled observatories by bringing cutting-edge real-time ocean monitoring technologies to operational status, as well as enabled research and education in ocean sciences based on data thereby generated.

**Compass Industrial Award:** Presented to any industrial firm (excluding government and non-profit organizations) that has demonstrated outstanding contributions to marine science and technology.



**Recipient** – RPS North America

RPS North America is a leading developer in the integration of ocean, coastal and Great lakes data and is revolutionizing the application and use of marine data within North America. Their systems and technology overlayed with real-time data have increased safety and awareness through partnerships in the public and private sector to address societal challenges.

**Lockheed Martin Award for Ocean Science and Engineering:** Presented to an individual who has demonstrated the highest degree of technical accomplishment in the field of marine science, engineering, or technology.



**Recipient** – Dr. Jan Newton, Executive Director, Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS), Senior Principal Oceanographer and Affiliate Professor, University of Washington

Dr. Newton has made significant contributions to the design and development of sustained ocean observing, data analysis and forecasting. She led the coordination between IOOS, NOAA and the shellfish growers to research and mitigate ocean acidification that nearly devastated a \$5 billion dollar industry within the United States. Dr. Newton is globally recognized as an expert in this field and is a co-founder and co-chair of the Global Ocean Acidification Network.

**John P. Craven Mentor Award:** Recognizing the long and impactful career of John Piña Craven, the award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding and sustained service to the field of marine technology through mentoring.

**Recipient** – Dr. J. Preetha Roselyn, Faculty Advisor, MTS SRM Student Section, Professor, Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering, SRM Institute of Science and Technology, India

Dr. Roselyn is a dedicated teacher with over 20 years of experience and is an active researcher in the field of renewable energy and Smart Grid technology. Under her



guidance, many of her students have received scholarships, project funding and internships. She has organized 30 technical training programs, workshops, seminars for the undergraduate and post graduate students through the SRM MTS Student Section.

**Ocean News & Technology Young Professional Award:** Presented to an MTS member, 35 years of age or younger, who has demonstrated leadership in the Society and works in a professional capacity in management, engineering, or research and development in a marine technology field.



**Recipient** – Ms. Cassidy Gonzalez-Morabito, Systems Test and Integration Engineer, L3Harris

Ms. Gonzalez-Morabito is being recognized for her work in the test and integration of software to support naval operations. She has led the updated release of multiple test software packages, which have improved test reliability, reduced false failure rates, increased test speed, updated instrumentation, and simplified operations. These test software packages are used to provide confidence to engine control module (ECM) units before they are deployed in naval aircraft.

**Walter Munk Award:** The Walter Munk Scholar Award, honoring Walter Munk's legacy, is jointly sponsored and awarded by the Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans (WMFO) and the Marine Technology Society (MTS). The Award is presented annually to a scholar currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral program.



**Recipient** – Ms. Marta D. Palacios, PhD Candidate, Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas (CICIMAR), Mexico

Ms. Palacios has made outstanding contributions to the study of manta ray conservation and ecology. Ms. Palacios has assembled a diverse team, including local fishermen, to tag and track manta rays incidentally caught in the artisanal gill net fishery. In addition, she is working on understanding the large-scale seasonal movement patterns in relation to prey availability - key components for developing feasible conservation management plans. Her work will form a key piece in developing feasible strategies for reducing manta ray bycatch in Mexican waters.

**MTS Outstanding Service Award:** Presented to an MTS member or member organization in recognition of outstanding accomplishments in fulfilling the objectives and missions of the Society.

**Recipient** – CAPT Ray Toll USN (Ret), Co-chair OCEANS 2022 Hampton Roads, Former Director, Old Dominion University Coastal Resilience Research.



CAPT (Ret) Toll has tirelessly given his time to MTS. He chaired OCEANS 2012 Hampton Roads and is serving as the Co-Chair for OCEANS 2022 Hampton Roads. He has held numerous leadership positions including Chair of the Hampton Roads Section, Vice President of Industry and Technology, and President of MTS. During his leadership tenure, he created and implemented the concept of a TechSurge, a program model still utilized today by MTS.

**MTS Outstanding Student Section Award:** Presented to an established MTS Student Section that demonstrates superior performance in the advancement of the Society's objectives.



**Recipient** – Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru, India

The Sri Sairam College of Engineering Student Section has developed innovative webinars, workshops, and activities exclusively designed by students under the guidance of academicians. Their students have participated in the MTS Nanda Student Innovation Award competition, Student Autonomous Underwater Vehicle SAVe India competition, TOGETHER 21-Entrepreneurship Bootcamp and Venture Competition with Schulich School of Business & Start-up India, and the Smart India Hackathon.

**MTS Fellow:** Since 1975, the title of MTS Fellow has been awarded to MTS members who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of the Society's objectives and who have distinguished themselves in their fields.



**Recipient** – Ms. Donna Kocak, Engineering Fellow, Advanced Technology Manager for Strategic Initiatives, L3Harris Technologies

Ms. Kocak has actively supported MTS as President, Vice President of Publications, Chair of the Underwater Imaging Committee, and founder of founder of the Ocean Observing Systems Committee. Additionally, she co-chairs the Joint OCEANS Administrative Board and the MTS Liaison to the Ocean Decade. Donna has over 30 years of experience in design, development and testing of many scientific and engineering projects involving computer vision, underwater imaging and communications and ocean observing and space satellite systems.

**Recipient** – Mr. Donald Peters, Principal Engineer Department of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering, Wood Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)

Mr. Peters serves as Co-Chair of the MTS Buoy Technology Committee, leading community efforts to advance buoy and mooring technology. He is a skillful



mentor for MIT students and at WHOI and has authored many research articles and per-reviewed papers. His work as chief engineering for the re-design of the submersible ALVIN, new mooring technology patents, contributions for the National Science Foundation Ocean Observing Initiative, and support to launch EOM Offshore, LLC have supported fundamental advancements in ocean and marine technology.



**Recipient** – Dr. Fritz Stahr, Affiliate Professor, University of Washington

Dr. Stahr is a long-standing MTS member who service as MTS Puget Sound Section Chair and now as Treasurer for the Section has been instrumental in maintaining an active and vibrant section. He also served as Chair for OCEANS 2019 Seattle and as regional coordinator for the MATE ROV competition the past 15 years. As an affiliate professor at the School of Oceanology, University of Washington, Dr. Stahr has inspired countless students to pursue a career in ocean sciences and technology.

“Marine technology impacts our global society and these award recipients have made significant impacts to the facilitation, advancement and promotion of ocean sciences and technology. They represent a diverse set of talents and are an inspiration to their communities. We congratulate them and look forward to seeing their continued successes,” said MTS President Zdenka Willis.

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