Conference Program



The Future of the Blue Economy

















February 9-12, 2026

.blue innovation SYMPOSIUM

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UNDERSEA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION CONSORTIUM UTIC

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Our Mission

To foster and support a collaborative environment for commercial, academic, and nonprofit organizations focused on the rapid development of innovative undersea and maritime technologies.

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- **New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal** –marshalling port building Vineyard Wind 1
- **Wind Technology Testing Center** – largest independent indoor blade testing facility in North America
- **Salem Offshore Wind Terminal** will expand marshalling capacity in MA for offshore wind build-out
- **$180 million investments** in port facility upgrades

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- **State offshorewind tax credits** to facilitate economic development
- Comprehensive **supply chain directory**
- **Business readiness services** to prepare local companies for offshore win
- Competitive **economic development incentives** and programs

WORKFORCE

- Experienced **manufacturing** and **professional marine** workforce
- Multi-sector **workforce development and training** programs with emphasis on access and inclusion
- **GWO-certified safety training** at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and the National Offshore Wind Institute

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

- **Ocean Innovation Network** – providing funding, collaboration, and testing assets
- **ARROW**–state funded Academic Center for Reliability and Resilience of Offshore Wind led by UMass Amherst
- **WindSTAR** industry/university research center at UMass Lowell
- **Science & research** grant program



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Rising Tide Award Recipients



Lifetime Achievement Award
Karl Kenny (Posthumously), Founder and Former CEO of Kraken Robotics

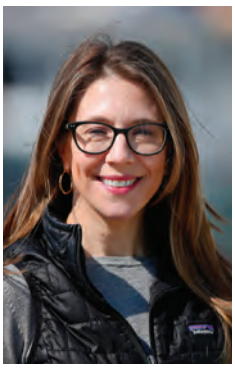
Karl Kenny, founder and former CEO of Kraken Robotics passed away on February 11, 2025, at the age of 64. Karl founded Kraken in 2012 and was instrumental in building the company into a leading player in subsea robotics over his 10-year tenure, before retiring in December 2022.

"An ideas man and a builder, Karl's energy was as relentless as his passion to compete against the bigger industry players," said Greg Reid, President and CEO of Kraken Robotics. "He was an incredible force that drove Kraken to success. On behalf of the Board of Directors, management and employees, he will be sorely missed."

Karl grew up in a small fishing village in Newfoundland with a deep connection to the sea. Over his 45-year career in the marine technology industry, he led the development of a wide range of advanced marine technologies and products in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

Karl spent time as a maritime surface officer with the Canadian Navy and was always involved in high technology. In the 1980's, he was a part of the Microsoft mouse project team and in the 1990's he formed Telepix, a leader in photo e-commerce solutions. He co-founded Marport Deep Sea Technologies Inc. in July 2003 and served as its President and CEO until December 2011. In 2012, Karl founded Kraken to commercialize compact, lower-cost synthetic aperture sonar technology for unmanned systems.

"Karl's strategic vision and entrepreneurial spirit enabled Kraken, a small start-up out of Newfoundland, to punch well above our weight and become recognized world-wide for our high-resolution synthetic aperture sonar technology," said David Shea, Executive Vice President and CTO of Kraken Robotics. "We're grateful for everything Karl contributed to Kraken and recognize that he leaves behind a legacy of innovation and excellence that we will continue to carry on in our work."



Bluetech Supporter
Jen Downing, New Bedford Ocean Cluster

Jennifer Downing is the Executive Director of the New Bedford Ocean Cluster and serves as the Regional Innovation Officer for New Bedford's Marine Tech Hub recently designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She brings to her role 25 years of nonprofit experience in the areas of economic development, urban renewal, and environmental sustainability. Previously held positions include vice president of engagement at the Buzzards Bay Coalition, executive director of Leadership Southcoast, and program officer & operations manager at the Garfield Foundation.

She served on the Acushnet School Committee for seven years, three of those years as Chair, and on several nonprofit boards and committees. She currently serves on the United Way of Greater New Bedford's Board of Directors, the Mayor of New Bedford's Regeneration Committee, and the Ocean Technology and Innovation Technical Working Group for the Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management's Ocean Management Plan. In 2020, Downing was honored as a recipient of the John S. Brayton Community Service Award by the One South Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Jennifer holds a BFA from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City and an MA in Leadership, Public Policy, and Social Issues from Union Institute & University.



Industry Advocate
Carolyn Kirk, Mass Tech Collaborative

Carolyn A. Kirk
Chief Executive Officer
MassTech Collaborative

Carolyn Kirk has served as CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) since February 2019. Kirk has earned a reputation as a fierce advocate for the state's tech and innovation sector by building strong partnerships across industry, academia and government.

Kirk oversees a team of almost 90 employees, more than 60 percent of whom are women. In 2024, Kirk was ranked #72 in the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts, a list created by The Women's Edge and published in the Women & Power issue of The Boston Globe Magazine and again in 2025 ranked #76.

Under Kirk's leadership, MassTech has spearheaded investments statewide and regionally across several critical industries including advanced manufacturing, bluetech/marinetech, cybersecurity, digital health, fintech, robotics and quantum computing. Notably, in 2023, Kirk steered the agency through a highly competitive process that secured $19.7 million to establish the Northeast Microelectronics Hub (NEMC), a regional Department of Defense Microelectronics Commons Hub funded through the federal CHIPS and Science Act. And in 2024, Governor Healey signed the Mass Leads Act, which entrusted Kirk and MassTech with $100 million to establish the Massachusetts AI Hub.

For more than a decade prior to becoming MassTech CEO, Kirk was a government leader at both the local and state level. She served as the first woman popularly elected as the City of Gloucester's mayor for seven years. After departing the mayor's office, she served as the deputy secretary at the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Prior to roles in public service, Kirk's private professional career spans more than 25 years and includes long-time experience as a management consultant, working with clients that included many of the Top 20 U.S. banks along with Fortune 500 companies.

She was raised in Clinton, N.Y. and moved to Massachusetts to attend college, graduating from Boston College.

In 2025, Kirk was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Administration from Merrimack College. In the same year, she also accepted, on behalf of MassTech, the Chancellor's Medal for Outstanding University Support at University of Massachusetts Lowell.



Emerging Industry Leader
Nelson Mills, VATN Systems

Nelson Mills is the founder and CEO of Vatn Systems, an underwater vehicle startup that is building the lowest cost, highest production underwater vehicles in the world. At Vatn, Nelson has raised over $16.5M in venture capital, led the team from idea to customer deliveries in 17 months, and grown the team to 48 people. Prior to Vatn, Nelson led hull development at Pure Watercraft, a boating startup that secured over $170 million in funding. More recently, he held venture capital roles at Link Ventures, Lux Capital, and Global Founders Capital, Nelson brings a wealth of experience in product development and fundraising to his leadership at Vatn. Nelson holds both a BA and MBA from Columbia University.

Thank You!

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Welcome

To Our 11th Annual **Blue Innovation Symposium!**



We are pleased to bring together innovators, builders, and leaders from across the bluetech ecosystem. The agenda for BIS'26 explores the ideas, innovations, and partnerships that are shaping the next generation of marine & oceanographic technologies.

Over the course of 4 days, we'll be hosting 300 attendees, 50 speakers, and more than 20 innovative startups, including the members of the inaugural cohort of the Ocean Tech Challenge (OTC) Accelerator Program. We'll also be showcasing the region's incredible blue economy assets by providing tours of Rhode Island and nearby New Bedford, MA.

We hope that this symposium does what it was designed to do: spark insight, encourage collaboration, and translate innovation into real-world impact.

Thank you for joining us!
Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, Co-Founder

We want to thank this year's co-organizers, including:

Todd Amaral
Adler Pollock & Sheehan

Gloria Berlanga
RI Commerce Corp.

Randy Brandenburg
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

David Ford
Third Rail Technologies

Hope Hopkins
New England Venture Capital Association

Linda Larsen
Polaris Tech Bridge

Molly Magee
UTIC

Lee Silvestre
Venture Frontiers

Dan Shropshire
Teledyne Marine

Nate Walton
Sachem Strategies

Blue Venture Forum

By the Industry, For the Industry

Agenda

Optional Rhode Island Blue Economy Ecosystem Tours

Monday, February 9, 2026
Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, RI

8:00 AM – **4:00** PM	Rhode Island Ecosystem Tour
	Register Here
	Leave from Wyndham Newport Hotel 240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI
12:00 PM – **4:00** PM	Exhibitor Setup
4:30 PM – **6:30** PM	Opening Event, Networking Reception and Blue Venture Forum Annual Meeting
	Special Guest: Dr. Ben Van Mooy, Deputy Director and Vice President for Science and Engineering, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)
	Join the Blue Venture Forum's board of directors as we make a special announcement about our 2026/27 programming year.
	Wyndham Newport Hotel 240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI Passed Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar

Blue Innovation Symposium Kick-off

Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, RI

8:00 AM - **8:30** AM	**Registration and Continental Breakfast**
8:30 AM - **9:30** AM	**Opening Remarks** • Dr. Toby Stapleton, Director, Blue Venture Forum, Inc. • Nate Walton, Founder & Principal, Sachem Strategies and BVF Board Chair • Molly Magee, CEO, Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC) **Welcome** • Honorable Daniel J. McKee, Governor of Rhode Island • Honorable Bernadette Jordan, Consul General of Canada in Boston
9:30 AM - **10:00** AM	**Keynote:** Ben Van Mooy, Deputy Director and Vice President of Science & Engineering, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)
10:00 AM - **10:45** AM	**Panel Discussion** Unlocking the Ocean's Secrets: The Future of Oceanographic Data **Moderator** • Leslie-Ann McGee, Chief Innovation Officer, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)

Panelists

- Mark Hager, CEO, New England Marine Monitoring
- Joshua Humberson, PhD, Founder and CEO, Coastal Measures
- Ravi Pappu, CEO, Apeiron Labs
- Adam Shepard, Technical Director, Co-PI of Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)

10:45 AM - **11:15** AM **Break**

11:15 AM - **12:00** PM **Working with Large Businesses: Success Stories from Industry**

Moderator

- Dan Shropshire, Vice President Business Development and Program Execution, Teledyne Marine Vehicles

Panelists

- Jeremy Shattuck, CTO, Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) Uncrewed Systems
- James Buescher, General Manager, Anduril Maritime
- Abigail Fabian, Strategic Technology Partnerships and Transitions Lead, Raytheon
- Daryl Slocum, Founder & CEO, Poseidon's Forge

12:00 PM - **1:00** PM **Lunch**

1:00 PM - **1:35** PM **Flashtalks**-Global BlueTech Innovators and Entrepreneurs

- Open Ocean Robotics
- Open Waters Solar
- Newport Mussels
- James R Moden Fuel Incorporated
- Axiotrop
- Verdantas

1:35 PM - **2:30** PM **Panel Discussion:** Military Drivers of Innovation in Defense Tech

Moderator

- Gloria Berlanga, Associate Vice President Business Development, Defense Sector, Rhode Island Commerce Corp.

Panelists

- Commander David Branighan, Staff Officer Submarines, British Defense Staff, Royal Navy
- Dr. Jason Gomez, Chief Technology Officer, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Division Newport
- Richard Lewis, APEX Accelerator State Director, Rhode Island Commerce Corp.
- Hunter Stires, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Navy League's Center for Maritime Strategy

2:45 PM - **3:15** PM **Break**

3:15 PM - **4:00** PM **Multi-Domain Communications, Challenges and Opportunities with open-source systems**

This panel explores how open-source systems enable integration, interoperability, and resilience across complex multi-domain environments. Experts will discuss best practices, security considerations, and real-world use cases spanning cloud, edge, and on-premise domains, highlighting how open source accelerates innovation while supporting mission-critical operations.

Moderator

- Hanumhat Singh, Director, Institute for Experiential Robotics, Northeastern University

Panelists

- Matt Ferro, VP, Software Engineering, Jaia Robotics
- Peter Girard, Senior Software Engineer, Poseidon's Forge
- Isaac Vando, Robotics Software Engineer, Deep Submergence Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI)
- Scott Sideleau, Chief Architect, Undersea Warfare (USW) Combat Systems Dept, Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division Newport

4:00 PM - **4:30** PM

Fireside Chat with Jeremy Parker, Head of Aerospace, Defense & Government Services, Macquarie Capital

Facilitator

- Nate Walton, Founder and Principal, Sachem Strategies

4:30 PM - **5:30** PM

Special Presentation: Ocean Tech Challenge (OTC) Accelerator Flashtalk Presentations & Rising Tide Awards

- Ocean Tech Challenge (OTC) Accelerator Program Flashtalk presentations:
- Extreme Sonar
- Orpheus Ocean
- New England Marine Monitoring
- Charging Chain
- Shred Electric
- Poseidon's Forge
- Ocean State Sensing
- Bluesonde
- Robysys
- Titanium Technology

Annual Rising Tide Award Ceremony

Lifetime Achievement Award
Karl Kenny (posthumously), Kraken Robotics
Presented by: Jim Hanlon, BVF board member

Emerging Industry Leader
Nelson Mills, VATN Systems
Presented by: Toby Stapleton, BVF board member

Industry Advocate
Carolyn Kirk, Mass Tech Collaborative
Presented by Nate Walton, Founder and Principal, Sachem Strategies, and BVF board member

Bluetech Supporter
Jen Downing, New Bedford Ocean Cluster
Presented by: Hope Hopkins, Executive Director, New England Venture Capital Association, and BVF board member

Join us as we recognize individuals and organizations for their continued support of, and leadership within, the blue economy.

5:30 PM - **6:30** PM

Opening Reception

- Open Bar & Passed Hors d'oeuvres
- Thank you to our sponsors

Blue Innovation Symposium

Wednesday, February 11
Wyndham Newport Hotel, Middletown, RI

8:30 AM - **9:00** AM	**Registration and Continental Breakfast**
9:00 AM - **9:45** AM	**Economic Opportunities in Blue tech a fireside chat with Helena Foulkes, former CEO of CVS and Hudson Bay Company.** **Facilitator** • Susan Daly
9:45 AM - **10:30** AM	**Panel Discussion:** From Mission Need to Market Reality: Building Venture-Backable Companies in Maritime Defense Tech **Moderator** • Hope Hopkins, Executive Director, New England Venture Capital Association **Panelists** • Dhimiter Cobani, Associate, Fedtech • Jon Chait, Managing Partner, Investments, iqt • Scott Robertson, Managing Partner, Dauntless Ventures • John Griffin, Advisor and former Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) Government Engagement Lead and Strategic Advisor to the Autonomy Portfolio
10:30 AM - **10:45** AM	**Networking Break**
10:45 AM - **11:15** AM	**Flashtalks-Global Bluetech Innovators and Entrepreneurs** D-2 Inc. Aloft Systems Jaia Robotics Dolgo NCC Hawboldt Industries LeVanta Tech Dolphin Labs
11:15 AM - **12:00** PM	**Panel Discussion:** Turning data into intelligence and insight for critical decision making **Moderator** • Lee Silvestre, Principal, Venture Frontiers and Associate Advisor, Spirit Advisory **Panelists** • Dr. Joy Lapseritis, Deputy CTO Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) HQ and Head, Ocean & Physical Sciences NUWC Division Newport • Nick Rotker, Chief BlueTech Strategist, MITRE • Dennis Williams, Co-founder and BD Lead, Lunar Station • Joseph Wheeler, CEO and Co-founder, Bluemvmt
12:00 PM - **1:00** PM	**Annual Economic Update Luncheon, Growing our Ocean Economy:** A Fireside Chat with Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island Erin Donovan Boyle, President & CEO will provide the welcome on behalf of the Greater Newport County Chamber of Commerce

Brought to you by the Blue Venture Forum and the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce

1:00 PM - **1:45** PM — **Panel: Regional Collaboration in the Blue Economy**

Moderator

- Ashley Medeiros, Ocean Tech Hub Director, Rhode Island Commerce Corporation

Panelists

- Jen Downing, Executive Director, New Bedford Ocean Cluster
- Sam Watters, Senior Program Manager, Offshore Wind, Mass Clean Energy Center
- Mark Parsons, Executive Director and Founder, New Bedford Research & Robotics

1:45 PM - **2:15** PM — **Networking Break**

2:15 PM - **3:30** PM — **Panel Discussion:** Autonomy to 2030: Safely Deploying Surface and Undersea Vessels at Scale

Moderator

- Todd Amaral, Associate, Adler Pollock & Sheehan

Panelists

- Julie Angus, Founder and CEO, Open Ocean Robotics
- Nelson Mills, CEO, VATN Systems
- Chris Glander, President, ThayerMahan Offshore

3:30 PM - **4:00** PM — **Panel Discussion:** From Demonstration to Workforce: How Ocean Technology is Shaping Talent Demand

Moderator

- Linda Larsen, Polaris Tech Bridge, Manager, Maritime and Industry Engagement

Panelists

- Lindsey Brickel, Polaris MEP, Director, Workforce & Community Partnerships
- Matt Morin, Co- Founder, Robobouy
- Mark Parsons, Executive Director and Founder, New Bedford Research & Robotics

4:00 PM - **4:30** PM — **Closing Remarks**

4:30 PM - **6:00** PM — **Closing Reception**

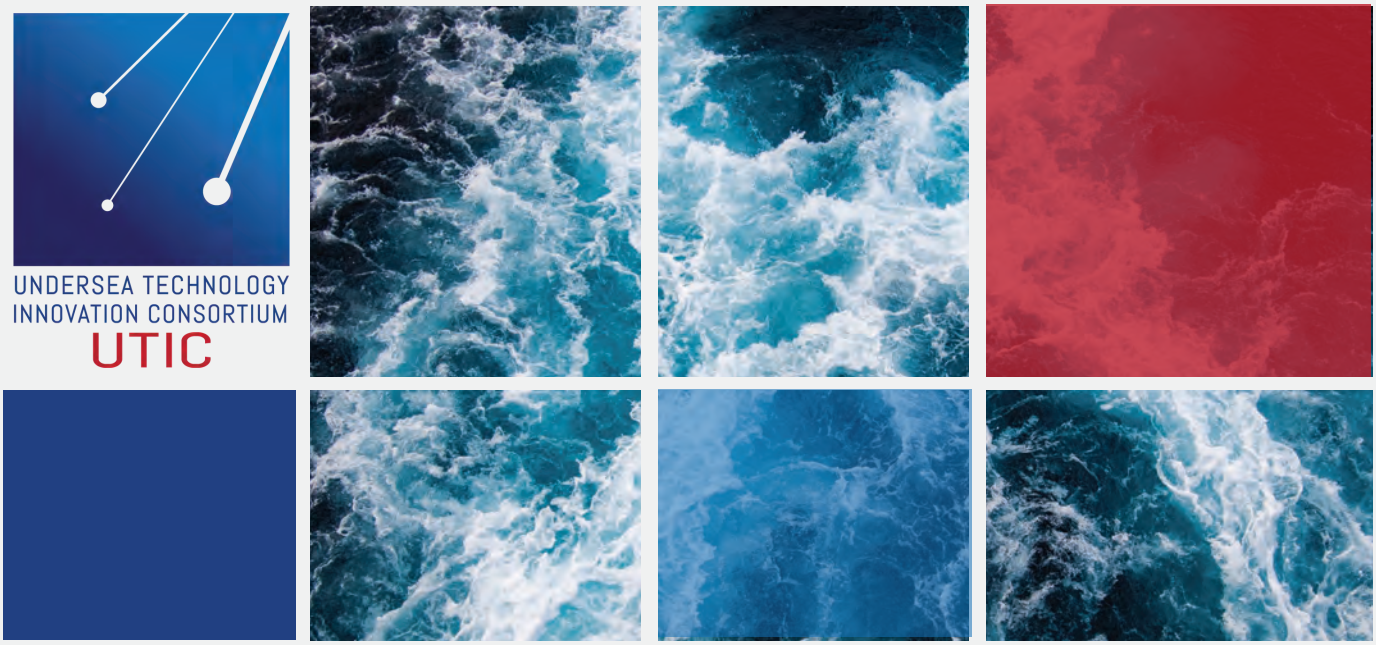
Cash Bar & Passed Hors d'oeuvres

Thursday, February 13

9:30 AM- **3:00** PM — **New Bedford Ecosystem Tour, organized by the New Bedford Ocean Cluster and OTC Matchmaking Meetings**

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The Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC) promotes the rapid development, prototyping, and commercialization of innovative undersea and maritime defense projects. The Consortium represents a united undersea and maritime industry voice, breaking down barriers to growth by identifying and integrating undersea and maritime technology resources and opportunities, and providing the environment to collaborate on innovative solutions.

Connect with UTIC

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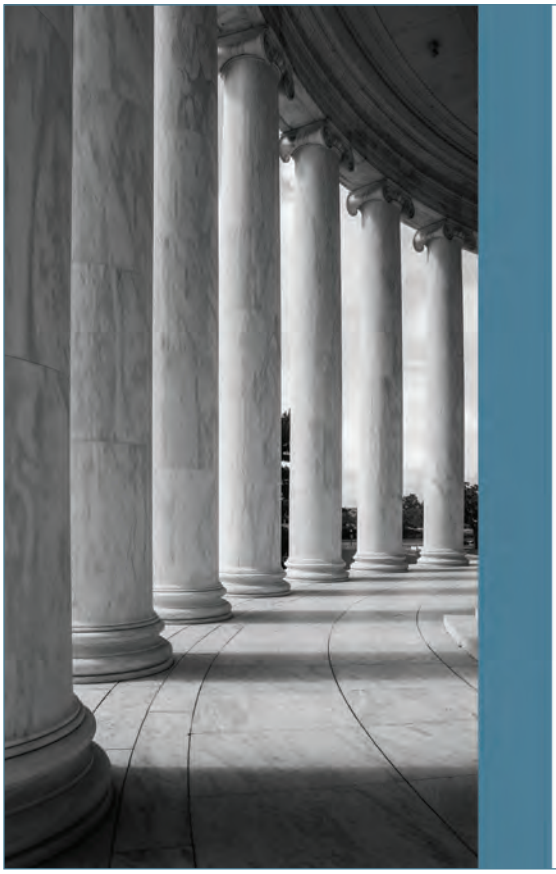
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Scan the QR code to see speaker biographies and list of exhibitors

Save the Date(s)!

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12th Annual
Blue Innovation Symposium

2027 Dates to be Announced soon!

Wyndham Newport Hotel

240 Aquidneck Ave., Middletown, RI

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Todd D. Amaral is an associate at Adler Pollock & Sheehan where he assists clients with energy, environmental, and maritime issues. He combines experience with coastal and renewable energy project development, environmental and maritime law, and corporate, intellectual property, and commercial matters to support the needs of businesses throughout the Blue Economy. Todd currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Rhode Island Bar Association Energy and Environmental Law Committee and is a member of the Ocean and Coastal Resources Committee of the Environmental Business Council of New England and Propeller Club of Narragansett Bay.

Before joining AP&S, Todd interned with Judge Brian Stern of the Rhode Island Superior Court Business Calendar and in the offshore energy industry. He has written about offshore wind and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act in the Journal of Maritime Law and Commerce and previously presented on sustainable finance and ESG.

Todd received his J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law. He also has an M.B.A. from Providence College and a B.A. in International Relations from Boston University. He previously worked in banking and finance.



Julie Angus is the CEO and co-founder of Open Ocean Robotics, a marine robotics company delivering low-carbon ocean monitoring through autonomous surface vehicles and AI-enabled data analytics. The company provides real-time ocean intelligence for environmental monitoring, maritime operations, and offshore infrastructure.

Julie is a scientist, explorer, and bestselling author. She was named National Geographic Adventurer of the Year after becoming the first woman to row across the Atlantic Ocean from mainland to mainland. She holds a graduate degree in microbiology and is a serial entrepreneur.

She serves on the advisory boards of the Centre for Ocean Applied Sustainable Technologies (COAST) and the University of Victoria Faculty of Science Alumni Advisory Board. Julie is a Royal Canadian Geographical Society Fellow, holds an honorary doctorate from McMaster University, and has been recognized as Innovator of the Year by BC Business and an Industry Icon by the BC Cleantech industry.



Gloria Berlanga serves as Commerce Corporation's ambassador to businesses within Rhode Island's robust defense community. She provides concierge service to defense sector companies by understanding needs, supporting growth and expansion, and educating all stakeholders on business opportunities in Rhode Island.

Professional Background

Gloria is a combat veteran and retired U.S. Army Engineer Colonel with 34 years of service. Her culminating assignment was as the Chief of Staff for a two-star general. In this capacity, Gloria was the full-time Army lead, coordinating staff action and focusing efforts of over 400 full-time personnel to support Soldiers and deployments in support of federal and state missions. Concurrent with this assignment, Gloria served as the National Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Advisory Council and was the primary liaison between the NGB Army COS and the field. Finally, Gloria completed several command and operational assignments throughout her career and served as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) prior to being commissioned.

Education

Gloria holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Wheaton College and a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College. Additionally, she is a graduate of Yale University School of Management's Global Executive Leadership Program (2020) and is a Graduate with Distinction from the Said Business School, Oxford University, where she earned a Diploma in Organizational Leadership (2025).



Commander Dave Brannighan Royal Navy Staff Officer Submarines – British Defence Staff United States

Joining the Royal Navy in 2006, Dave is a career Warfare Officer with a broad range of operational experience across seagoing and shore appointments. His early career saw tours on the Trafalgar Class SSNs HMS TURBULENT and HMS TORBAY, focussed on operations in both the North Atlantic and East of Suez/Indian Ocean. He then completed two WESTLANT deployments as the Navigating Officer of HMS ASTUTE, progressing the platform through trials to operational readiness, before switching to the SSBN HMS VICTORIOUS, where he spent three years as the Operations Officer planning and executing strategic deterrence patrols. In a departure from the standard warfare career pipeline, in 2017 Dave was seconded to the Royal Household as Equerry and Chief of Staff to HRH Prince William, now HRH The Prince of Wales. Returning to the RN in 2021, he was appointed to J3 Joint Effects at Permanent Joint Headquarters (PJHQ) Northwood, where he led the Tomahawk Strike Cell at CMSA UK, before being appointed as the UK Executive Officer of Theater Undersea Surveillance Command Atlantic (TUSC LANT) in November 2023. Selected for promotion in 2024, Dave assumed his present role as Staff Officer Submarines within the British Embassy in July 2025. Married to Eva, an accountant, he has three children, Lucie (12), Harry (10), and Juliet (7), and one very energetic Golden Retriever!



Lindsey Brickle is recognized as a national leader in workforce development programs for the manufacturing sector. She joined Polaris MEP, the Rhode Island Center in the MEP National Network in 2019, with extensive experience as a strategic program and development consultant with organizations in the nonprofit, public and private sectors. Since 2023 she has been the Director of Workforce and Community Partnerships for both Polaris MEP and its sister-center 401 Tech Bridge.

Lindsey manages a large portfolio of local, state and federally-funded workforce programs, through partnerships with the community college, universities, government agencies and non-profit training partners. Each program helps manufacturers create jobs, retain talent and train workers for tomorrow's challenges. These include the nationally-recognized "Fast Track to CNC Manufacturing," include the Department of Labor's "Pathway Home," the Jane Addams Resource Corporation (JARC) RI training center, and pioneering programs for justice involved candidates.

Lindsey is a sought-after speaker on innovative workforce development within and beyond the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. She is a board member for the Rhode Island Black Business Association, Jane Addams Resource Corporation, The International Charter School and was recognized as a 40 Under 40 awardee by Providence Business News. Lindsey and her incredible team were recently awarded a Workforce System Innovation Award for their work on training for justice impacted individuals.

Lindsey has a master's degree in sustainable international development from The Heller School at Brandeis University and a bachelor's degree in international affairs from Northeastern University. She is passionate about human rights, social and environmental justice, and economic empowerment. She has consulted on and supported the implementation of programs in STEM education, water sanitation and hygiene, refugees and migration, monitoring, evaluation and gender mainstreaming. Lindsey lives in Barrington with her three children.

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindsey-brickle-she-her-94b980a/



James Buescher is General Manager at Anduril Industries, where he leads the Undersea Reconnaissance & Strike business line within the Maritime division. Based in Quincy, MA, he is responsible for delivering advanced undersea capabilities to support national defense missions. James joined Anduril through its acquisition of Dive Technologies, where he served as Director of Programs and helped scale the company's autonomous underwater vehicle business.

Earlier in his career, James was an engineer for the Naval Information Warfare Systems Command and later served as the Head of Business Development for Liquid Robotics. He holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters of Engineering from Cornell University



Jon Chait currently serves as Managing Partner for IQT (InQTel), having joined in 2022. IQT is a strategic investor that fosters growth of cutting-edge technology ventures in U.S. national interest and innovative capabilities for a broad range of U.S. government (USG) agencies, including the National Security Community. For over 25 years, IQT has been one of the most prolific strategic VC investors in dual-use ventures at all stages of development. Learn more at www.iqt.org.

Chait collaborates on strategic leadership at IQT, managing both the HQ Tysons, VA and Cambridge, MA investment teams located in eastern US. His focus is on deep-tech investing within IQT's practice areas of advanced systems (autonomy/AI, drones/robotics (land, air, maritime), defense tech, spacetech, power and energy, critical minerals harvesting and processing, innovative materials and additive manufacturing, BCI/BMI, and AR/VR), intelligent connectivity (wireless 5G/6G/mmWave, non-terrestrial networking, photonics, IoT, and AI-enabled advanced sensors) and nextgen compute (trusted infrastructure, new materials, AI-specialized IC's, and quantum computing). Chait contributes as a manager and mentor within IQT's investment team, and is a frequent speaker in areas of innovation, venture capital investing, and entrepreneurial thinking. He is currently managing relationships with and serving as board observer for IQT portfolio investments in multiple technology sectors. IQT additionally invests in AI enablement technologies (predictive and gen-AI, ML, data analytics), cybersecurity, and biotechnology.

Chait has over 35 years of leadership experience as a venture capitalist and entrepreneur, gaining perspective through generations of technology waves and economic cycles. He joined IQT from Dace Ventures (early stage technology sector VC), having managed investments as General Partner for 18 years, including Liveramp (acq. by Acxiom) and Vitrue (acq. by Oracle). Earlier Chait was Managing Director of Garage Technology Ventures (early stage multi-sector VC) and Principal of Pod Venture Partners (Nordic-US multi-sector VC). His career began in management, marketing, and engineering at Lotus Development Corp., prior to its acquisition by IBM. Chait also has served as adjunct faculty at Bentley University's McCallum Graduate School of Business.

About IQT: IQT delivers global insights and actively contributes to its portfolio's success by bridging the gaps between the challenging technology needs of national interest, the constantly changing landscape of startups and tech innovation, and our shared VC community that helps to grow successful ventures. IQT's unique access to and deep understanding of these diverse and intersecting communities enables its ability to make strategic investments with high impact for U.S. government partners and our allies. Additionally, through deep trusted relationships with USG, IQT contributes thought leadership that helps inform national innovation goals. IQT operates globally, in the US in Washington DC, Silicon Valley, CA and Boston, MA areas, as well as having international presence in the United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, and Singapore. Learn more at www.iqt.org.



Dhimiter Cobani is a technologist and innovation advisor working at the intersection of startups and defense. He has experience across venture-backed startups, defense technology consulting, and early-stage innovation ecosystems, advising founders on commercialization, product-market fit, and dual-use technology adoption. His technical background spans biomedical engineering, physics, and AI/ML-driven R&D, with hands-on experience as a researcher prior to transitioning into strategic and advisory roles. Based in Boston, Dhimiter works closely with early-stage companies and mission partners to shape business strategy and guide the transition of emerging technologies into deployable, mission-relevant solutions. His interests include dual-use technologies and the pathways by which innovations move from prototypes to market at scale



Christian Cowan is an economic development and manufacturing innovation leader at Polaris MEP in Rhode Island, where he focuses on advancing technology-driven manufacturing, workforce development, and regional competitiveness. His work centers on building partnerships across industry, government, academia, and defense to help companies scale, adopt new technologies, and access federal and national opportunities. Christian plays a key role in initiatives supporting advanced manufacturing, ocean and defense technologies, and dual-use innovation, with an emphasis on translating technical capability into business growth, job creation, and long-term community impact across Rhode Island and southern New England.



Susan Daly is a longtime leader in Rhode Island's marine and advanced manufacturing sectors, with a career focused on strengthening industry collaboration, workforce development, and economic growth. She has held leadership roles with the Rhode Island Marine Trades Association and the Composites Alliance of Rhode Island, working closely with manufacturers, educators, and public partners to advance innovation, supply chains, and talent pipelines. Susan has also played a key role including Board Chair at Sail Newport, supporting its mission to expand access to sailing, education, and maritime programming. She is widely respected for her ability to connect industry needs with practical, community-centered solutions across Rhode Island's marine ecosystem.



Jennifer Downing is the Executive Director of the New Bedford Ocean Cluster and serves as the Regional Innovation Officer for New Bedford's Marine Tech Hub recently designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She brings to her role 25 years of nonprofit experience in the areas of economic development, urban renewal, and environmental sustainability. Previously held positions include vice president of engagement at the Buzzards Bay Coalition, executive director of Leadership Southcoast, and program officer & operations manager at the Garfield Foundation.

She served on the Acushnet School Committee for seven years, three of those years as Chair, and on several nonprofit boards and committees. She currently serves on the United Way of Greater New Bedford's Board of Directors, the Mayor of New Bedford's Regeneration Committee, and the Ocean Technology and Innovation Technical Working Group for the Massachusetts Department of Coastal Zone Management's Ocean Management Plan. In 2020, Downing was honored as a recipient of the John S. Brayton Community Service Award by the One South Coast Chamber of Commerce.

Jennifer holds a BFA from Marymount Manhattan College in New York City and an MA in Leadership, Public Policy, and Social Issues from Union Institute & University.



Abigail Fabian is the Effectors Portfolio Lead of Technology Teaming and Transitions for Raytheon, an RTX Corporation. In this role, she delivers discriminating capabilities to key defense programs. She works at the intersection of industry, government, and emerging technology by forging strategic partnerships, aligning stakeholders and leading technology transitions that deliver operational value.

Fabian is a versatile leader who has successfully led undersea and defense programs beyond this field. She is an innovator that was the principal investigator for several undersea acoustic/signal processing research and development projects.

Fabian earned a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Her graduate research focused on implementing biologically inspired search algorithms.

She is the President of WID Greater Boston Chapter, a National Defense Industrial Association Affiliate, and has received the 2025 Chapter of Excellence Award on behalf of her board. She is a keynote speaker on technology and professional development as well as an active volunteer for STEM initiatives in her community.



Peter Girard is a founding software engineer and primary architect at Poseidon's Forge, where he builds autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) systems spanning onboard autonomy, operator tooling, and cloud services. One of his current focuses is a mesh-network communication protocols for low-bandwidth, high-latency, and intermittent links—enabling resilient, interoperable multi-vehicle operations. He has previously shipped mission planning, sensor fusion, and at-sea autonomy capabilities across defense and commercial AUV programs.



Chris Glander
President, ThayerMahan Offshore

During a distinguished career in the United States Coast Guard spanning more than three decades, Chris was the Commanding Officer of four ships including the USCGC ESCANABA, a

270-ft worldwide deployable medium endurance cutter. From the Galapagos Islands to Mediterranean Sea and beyond, he conducted migrant interdiction, search and rescue, homeland security, drug operations, and national defense missions.

Chris also served as Officer Personnel Management Division Chief, Sector Commander for Southeastern New England, and as the Coast Guard's First District Chief of Staff — where he led a workforce of 6,000 in the execution of all Coast Guard missions from the Canadian border to Northern New Jersey.

As President, ThayerMahan Offshore, Chris leads a multidisciplinary team responsible for the implementation of unmanned and autonomous maritime technologies for commercial and government customers. He is a recognized leader in advancing innovative undersea and maritime solutions, and regularly collaborates with industry and government partners to strengthen national security and commercial resilience.



Dr. Jason Gomez, a Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport employee since 1992, was selected as Division Newport's Chief Technology Officer in Jan 2020.

Gomez, a resident of East Greenwich, Rhode Island, leads Division Newport's Chief Technology Office, driving innovation and development of new technologies through strategic partnerships with academia, industry, international partners and innovation cells. The office uses its influence to speed technology solutions to the Fleet; to enhance information flow among the Office of Naval Research (ONR), other Science and Technology (S&T) customers and the warfare centers; and to transfer technologies developed at NUWC Division Newport to industry.

Most recently, Gomez served as chief scientist in the Undersea Warfare Weapons, Vehicles, and Defensive Systems Department providing technical guidance to Navy leadership on full spectrum of 6.1-6.3 research efforts funded by both internal and external sponsors. He also served as a technical advisor to the Underwater Weapon Program Office (PMS 404) providing unbiased assessments on emerging technology and technology solutions as to the feasibility of their integration into and operation as a torpedo system.

He began his career at Division Newport in 1992 in the Torpedo Systems Department, as a principle investigator on ONR-sponsored torpedo silencing programs, conducting finite element analyses, analytic studies, and component testing to support machinery noise quieting of Mark 48 Mod 6 torpedoes. He went on to the lead the development of numerous next generation, heavyweight torpedo technologies.

He served as the head for the Vehicle Dynamics and Signature Control Branch and as division head for the Applied Engineering Mechanics Division, as well as program manager for ONR AHSUM [adaptable high-speed underwater munitions] Supercavitating Underwater Projectile Program and DARPA program manager for the Blue Wolf and Underwater Express.

Gomez received a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from Syracuse University and a master's degree and doctorate from the University of Rhode Island in mechanical engineering. He has numerous refereed journal articles, conference presentations, publications and patents.



Dr. John F. Griffin recently concluded his tenure as the DIU Boston Office Lead and Government Engagement Lead and Strategic Advisor to the Autonomy Portfolio. He is currently advising select organizations while exploring senior roles at the intersection of defense, innovation, and national security.

With a distinguished military career, John retired as a Marine Corps infantry officer who commanded at all levels up to battalion. John served as an infantry and light armored reconnaissance officer, a Middle East - North Africa Regional Area Officer, and within the special operations community. John's operational assignments include: Operation Restore Hope, Somalia, 1992-3; Operation Southern Watch, Arabian Gulf, 1998; JTF-160, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 2001-2; Operation Iraqi Freedom, Battle of Fallujah, Iraq, 2004; Operation Enduring Freedom, Helmand Province, Afghanistan, 2010, and Operation Enduring Freedom, Israel, 2012.

Following his retirement from the Marine Corps, John transitioned to teaching at the US Naval War College. There, he co-founded a research and education center focused on information warfare for both US and international

officers. Previously, John served as the National Security Innovation Network Regional Engagement Principal assigned to Boston MA, with regional responsibilities across New England.

John's extensive civilian education includes: BA, Political Science, University of Massachusetts Boston; MPA, Public Management, Troy University; MMS, Military Science, Marine Corps University; ALM, Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, EdD, Organizational Leadership, Northeastern University where his dissertation focused on artificial intelligence education and training for senior organizational leadership. John's military education includes residency selection at every Primary Military Education level.

John is an Assistant Field Hockey Coach at Harvard University and for USA U18 Field Hockey.

John is an ardent and passionate advocate for veteran education and active in local ministries.

John has been happily married to the former Jean Marie Sasso of Revere, Massachusetts since 1997. Together, they have two children: their son John "Jack"and their daughter Abigail "Abby." He is also the proud owner of an Icelandic Sheepdog, Reyki.



Josh Humberston is founder and CEO of Coastal Measures, a company offering digital infrastructure for ocean data aggregation, governance, and analytics. He also serves as Director of the Coastal Hazards Lab at the Atlantic Resilience Innovation Institute, a 501(c)3 organization addressing coastal resilience challenges through workforce development and scientific collaboration. Josh holds a PhD in Physical Oceanography from the University of New Hampshire and previously led work at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and managed the maritime sensing portfolio at Sandia National Laboratories. His work focuses on modern data systems that move beyond raw observations to deliver actionable intelligence for defense, communities, and critical coastal systems.



Bernadette Jordan (BA [Political Science], St. Francis Xavier University, 1984) was raised on the South Shore of Nova Scotia in a small fishing community. Her love of her community and desire to see it grow and thrive started at a young age when she became a community volunteer while in junior high school. Bernadette started her working career in the field of economic development and built an extensive network. She then went on to a career in community news, spending almost 12 years as the special projects manager for the award-winning newspaper publisher Lighthouse Publishing. She received multiple awards in the areas of advertising, promotion, business campaigns and volunteerism. During this time, she also served as the president of the Atlantic Canadian Newspapers Association and as a member of the board of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association. In 2006, Bernadette left community news to take on a new role in fund development with the Health Services Foundation of the South Shore. Her work helped the foundation raise millions of dollars for health care in her community. She was an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, received their Rising Star Award and led a campaign that won their Ten Star Chapter Award. In 2015, Bernadette ran for and won the federal riding of South Shore-St. Margarets by the largest margin ever in the riding and became the first woman to hold the seat. In her first years in government, she was the chair of the Atlantic Liberal Caucus, a member of the standing committees on the Status of Women and on the Scrutiny of Regulations, and the chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans. During that time, she introduced a motion calling on the government to deal with abandoned and derelict vessels in Canada's waterways, which led to legislation passed in 2018 to address this ongoing problem. She was then appointed parliamentary secretary to the minister of democratic institutions. In 2019, she became the first minister of rural economic development. Later that same year she became minister of fisheries, oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. This made Bernadette the first woman elected in Nova Scotia to hold a seat at the Cabinet table. After leaving politics in 2021, Bernadette went back to her fund development roots, accepting a position as the national director of philanthropy with Shelter Movers, a volunteer-powered charity providing free moving and storage services to people, primarily women and children, leaving abuse. Bernadette and her husband, David, live on the beautiful South Shore. They have raised 3 children and enjoy the beach, kayaking and their dog Alfie. She continues to volunteer with organizations in her community. Bernadette is the recipient of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal (Nova Scotia) for service to Nova Scotia and Canada and the recipient of the King Charles lll Coronation Medal for service to Canada. In her spare

time, Bernadette is a fabric artist and speaker at many events involving women in leadership.



Carolyn A. Kirk has served as CEO of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech) since February 2019. Kirk has earned a reputation as a fierce advocate for the state's tech and innovation sector by building strong partnerships across industry, academia and government.

Kirk oversees a team of almost 90 employees, more than 60 percent of whom are women. In 2024, Kirk was ranked #72 in the Top 100 Women-Led Businesses in Massachusetts, a list created by The Women's Edge and published in the Women & Power issue of The Boston Globe Magazine and again in 2025 ranked #76.

Under Kirk's leadership, MassTech has spearheaded investments statewide and regionally across several critical industries including advanced manufacturing, bluetech/marinetech, cybersecurity, digital health, fintech, robotics and quantum computing. Notably, in 2023, Kirk steered the agency through a highly competitive process that secured $19.7 million to establish the Northeast Microelectronics Hub (NEMC), a regional Department of Defense Microelectronics Commons Hub funded through the federal CHIPS and Science Act. And in 2024, Governor Healey signed the Mass Leads Act, which entrusted Kirk and MassTech with $100 million to establish the Massachusetts AI Hub.

For more than a decade prior to becoming MassTech CEO, Kirk was a government leader at both the local and state level. She served as the first woman popularly elected as the City of Gloucester's mayor for seven years. After departing the mayor's office, she served as the deputy secretary at the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Prior to roles in public service, Kirk's private professional career spans more than 25 years and includes long-time experience as a management consultant, working with clients that included many of the Top 20 U.S. banks along with Fortune 500 companies.

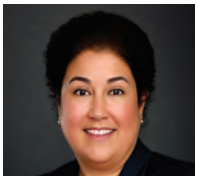
She was raised in Clinton, N.Y. and moved to Massachusetts to attend college, graduating from Boston College.

In 2025, Kirk was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Public Administration from Merrimack College. In the same year, she also accepted, on behalf of MassTech, the Chancellor's Medal for Outstanding University Support at University of Massachusetts Lowell.



Dr. Joy Lapseritis is the Deputy Chief Technology Officer for Program Development at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) focusing on subsea and seabed warfare, counter unmanned undersea vehicles, and bio-inspired technologies. Previously she was the head of the Undersea Modeling Branch for the Ranges, Engineering and Analysis Department at NUWC Division, Newport where she supervised the Navy's acoustic effects modeling team for environmental planning and the Ocean Data Initiative, a research effort to understand the utility of open-source oceanographic data for anomaly detection. She served as a Technology Fellow for 2 cohorts of the Chief of Naval Operation's Strategic Studies Group, where she led the Autonomy & Decision-Making concept team and co-authored the Human-Machine Symbiosis final report.

Prior to her government service, Dr. Lapseritis was a research assistant at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and a biology professor at Bard College at Simon's Rock. She earned her PhD from the Joint Program in Oceanography at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MS in Biomimicry from Arizona State University, and MA/BA in biology from Smith College. She is a Certified Biomimicry Professional.



Linda Larsen is the Maritime and Industry Engagement Manager at Polaris Tech Bridge and a recognized connector across the defense and blue-technology innovation ecosystem. She leads initiatives that align industry, government, and academia to accelerate emerging technologies, strengthen supply chains, and expand commercialization opportunities supporting Department of Defense priorities.

Her portfolio includes technology scouting, industry engagement strategy, and oversight of BlueTIDE demonstrations and experimentation programs that move advanced capabilities toward operational use. With a background in workforce and economic development, Linda is known for building partnerships that translate innovation into real-world impact. Previously Director of Education and Workforce Outreach at SENEDIA where she helped expand talent pipelines supporting the defense industrial base.

Her public service leadership includes serving as Chair of the Rhode Island Career and Technical Education Board of Trustees, appointment to Rhode Island National Guard Commander Task Force, and participation in the Rhode Island Joint Cybersecurity Task Force. While also supporting youth in the areas of STEM, robotics, and leadership mentorship.



Chad Lewis is the Director of the Rhode Island APEX Accelerator and serves as the National APEX Accelerator Alliance (NAPEX) Region 1 Director. In these roles, he leads efforts to help businesses across New England enter and succeed in federal and defense supply chains, with a focus on strengthening the defense industrial base.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Chad served with U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia. He later deployed to Ramadi, Iraq with Task Force Ramadi in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and subsequently served aboard the USS George H.W. Bush (CVN-77) as part of Carrier Air Wing Eight supporting Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn.

Following his military service, Chad served as a Contracting Officer with the Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support, working on critical U.S. and U.K. submarine programs and addressing supply-chain and obsolescence challenges. He holds a BS in Business Management from Alvernia University and a DAWIA Level II certification in Government Contracting.



Molly Donohue Magee is the Chief Executive Officer of the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC), a nonprofit organization focused on propelling undersea technology innovation, research, and workforce development. UTIC is the consortium for the Department of Navy Other Transaction Agreement, creating an environment for industry and academia to communicate, collaborate, innovate, and prototype in support of Navy needs. She has recently transitioned from her concurrent role as CEO of SENEDIA, the alliance for Defense Tech, Talent, and Innovation. There she managed economic and workforce development programs and created SENEDIA's nationally recognized annual event, Defense Innovation Days. She has been a member of the Rhode Island Science and Technology Advisory Council, the Rhode Island Defense Economy Planning Commission, and the Rhode Island Governor's Workforce Board.

After completing a 30-year civilian career in the government, she started a woman-owned and managed small business providing value-added engineering and financial management services to the Department of Defense. Her last assignment in the government was as the Chief Financial Officer for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center in Newport, RI, a billion-dollar Department of Navy research and development activity. Her civilian government career included managing product assurance engineering for submarine systems prior to transitioning to senior leadership of the organization where, in addition to Chief Financial Officer, she held the position of Director of Corporate Operations.



Leslie-Ann McGee is the Chief Innova5on Officer at Woods Hole Oceanographic Ins5tu5on (WHOI), where she leads OceanWorks—the Institution's innovation and partnership hub focused on accelerating technology development, strengthening industry engagement, and expanding new models of research funding. She is building OceanWorks from the ground up, developing its strategy, structure, and early initiatives to better connect WHOI's scientific and engineering capabilities with real-world impact.

Leslie-Ann brings more than two decades of leadership across marine science, applied research, and public policy. Prior to becoming CIO, she held senior positions at WHOI, including Director of Special Projects and Assistant Director of the Consortium for Marine Robotics, where she helped expand industry partnerships and advance cuRng-edge marine technology efforts. Earlier in her career, she held roles in state and federal government and served as Director of Ocean and Coastal Solutions at BaLelle, managing multidisciplinary teams and complex environmental programs.

She serves on Governor Maura Healey's DRIVE Commission, a statewide initiative shaping Massachusetts' strategy for innovation, economic development, and emerging technologies.

Known for her collaborative, solutions-driven leadership, Leslie-Ann excels at bridging science, policy, and industry. She holds a Master of Environmental Management from

Duke University, a Bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado Boulder, a Master of Business Administration from the Isenberg School of Management, and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).



Dan McKee is the 76th Governor of the State of Rhode Island and a champion for the blue economy.

Under his leadership, Rhode Island has made significant strides in building a more resilient and sustainable economy, particularly by leveraging the state's rich coastal resources.

The Governor's administration is focused on promoting innovative industries that contribute to environmental conservation while creating high-quality jobs for Rhode Islanders.

The Governor has made significant blue economy investments at Quonset and in Galilee. He's worked to attract new blue economy businesses and solidified the state's position as a leader in offshore wind.

Governor McKee remains committed to building on Rhode Island's blue economy momentum through his Rhode Island 2030 Plan, a visionary policy document that charts a course for the state's bright future.



Ashley Medeiros is a strategic and results-driven leader with extensive expertise in economic development, innovation ecosystems, and program design. She currently serves as the Director of the Ocean Tech Hub at the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, where she leads a collaborative initiative aimed at accelerating the growth and commercialization of ocean technologies throughout Southeastern New England. In this role, she is responsible for overseeing strategy, partnerships, and operations to drive economic opportunities within the ocean economy.

Previously, Ashley held senior leadership positions, including Vice President and Executive Director, where she developed organizational strategies, managed partnerships, and built scalable programs to support sustainable growth. With nearly two decades of experience in nonprofit leadership and regional economic development, and business consulting, she enjoys aligning mission-driven work with measurable outcomes and fostering inclusive, innovative approaches to economic and entrepreneurial growth.



Nelson Mills is the founder and CEO of Vatn Systems, an underwater vehicle startup that is building the lowest cost, highest production underwater vehicles in the world. At Vatn, Nelson has raised over $16.5M in venture capital, led the team from idea to customer deliveries in 17 months, and grown the team to 48 people. Prior to Vatn, Nelson led hull development at Pure Watercraft, a boating startup that secured over $170 million in funding. More recently, he held venture capital roles at Link Ventures, Lux Capital, and Global Founders Capital, Nelson brings a wealth of experience in product development and fundraising to his leadership at Vatn. Nelson holds both a BA and MBA from Columbia University.



Matthew Morin is the Co-Founder of Robobuoy, maker of the world's first robotic race buoy, MarkSetBot. Matthew is a lifelong sailor with thousands of miles of open water racing experience and 25 years of dinghy racing. He is also a member of the Society of Old Goats (25+ races completed) for the annual Bayview Port Huron to Mackinac Race.

Matt is a serial entrepreneur who has co-founded and led six businesses (all with his brother, Kevin) in industries ranging from information technology to real estate development to restaurant management. MarkSetBot is their first foray into blue technology. Their Bots have now been used in more than 40 different countries by more than 250 different organizations and have over 65,000 days on the water. In just the past few years, MarkSetBot and their water golf product, GolfShotBot, have served some of the top brands in the sports world including: SailGP, The America's Cup, The Ryder Cup, and the US Golf Association. As a true dual use technology, the Bots have also been leveraged from coast to coast by organizations ranging from NUWC Newport to Matter Labs and SpaceX.



Ravi Pappu a co-founder and CEO of Apeiron Labs, a venture-backed startup focused on delivering upper ocean data, anywhere on the planet, on demand. Most recently, he was CTO at In-Q-Tel and a co-founder of IQT Emerge. Prior to that, he was at Trimble Navigation, which acquired ThingMagic, a venture-backed IoT startup that he co-founded. He earned an MS and PhD from MIT, an MSEE from Villanova, and a B.Tech from Osmania University in India. Ravi is a TR35 and a Boston Business Journal 40 under 40 honoree.



Jeremy Parker founded the Aerospace, Defense & Government Services Group at Macquarie Capital a decade ago. Jeremy has over 25 years of investment banking and corporate finance experience, having worked on a wide range of mergers & acquisitions and financing transactions across the aerospace, defense, government, and information technology sectors. Jeremy's M&A transactions in the naval technology sector include the sale of Azure Summit Technology to CACI for $1.28 billion, the sale of Alion Science and Technology to Huntington Ingalls for $1.65 billion, and SAIC's acquisition of AETC Technologies.

Jeremy was previously at Gleacher Partners and Sagent Advisors (now DC Advisory) where he led their respective Aerospace, Defense and Government Technology investment banking businesses. Prior to Gleacher, Jeremy worked at SAIC (now Leidos and SAIC) their Corporate Development and Venture Capital groups. Jeremy started his investment banking career at Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette.

Mr. Parker received his MBA from Stanford's Graduate School of Business and a BA from Georgetown University.



Mark Parsons is a leading technologist, entrepreneur, and educator with a distinguished history of innovation at the intersection of design, robotics, and community development. He is the founder and Executive Director of New Bedford Research & Robotics (NBRR), a non-profit incubator he established to provide equitable access to frontier technologies like industrial robotics, artificial intelligence, marine tech, and clean energy. NBRR's mission is to foster a creative ecosystem that drives economic empowerment and social impact.

Prior to founding NBRR, Parsons established the successful Consortium for Research & Robotics (CRR) in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in 2014. This multi-disciplinary research center was created to bring industrial and higher education communities together, providing access to advanced technologies like New York City's largest industrial robot. His work at CRR and NBRR exemplifies his innovative approach to creating spaces where designers, artists, engineers, and entrepreneurs can leverage cutting-edge tools for innovative, ethical and creative outcomes.

A recognized authority on the subject, Parsons was appointed by the U.S. Department of State as a U.S. Speaker on Creativity, Innovation and Technology. His 2016 TEDx Talk, "Making a Thing. Discovering a Space," explores how creativity and technology can serve as agents for community empowerment. His work has been featured in publications and presentations on topics such as "Robotics in the AEC Industry" and "Robological Topologies."

Parsons' innovative work extends to humanitarian efforts, most notably as the Lead Designer and Principal of the Haiti SoftHouse. This transitional shelter was a highly engineered, tensile structure designed to be resistant to both hurricanes and earthquakes, providing a dignified and sustainable solution for communities rebuilding after the 2010 earthquake. He is also a two-time recipient of the FIPSE Grant for his work on sustainable structures and fabric forms.

His career is marked by a consistent focus on leveraging technology and advanced design for both commercial and social benefit. He serves and has served on several advisory boards, including the NYU RLab Faculty Advisory Board, the STEAM Advisory Board at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Technology Committee, Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce Innovation Committee, RI-DIGI @ NEIT, the New Bedford Light, and the New Bedford Ocean Cluster, and the Federal Ocean Tech Hub Steering Committee.

Before grad school, Parsons rebuilt a 40 foot sailboat and sailed 2 years and 30,000 miles around the globe.



Stefan Pryor currently serves as the Secretary of Commerce for the State of Rhode Island, a position he previously held for seven years under two governors. In between his terms as Commerce Secretary, Pryor served as the Secretary of Housing for Rhode Island and as a partner at an impact investment firm, Palm Venture Studios. Earlier in his career, Pryor was President of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, which coordinated the rebuilding and revitalization of Lower Manhattan including the World Trade Center site following the attacks of September 11th. After his service at the LMDC, Pryor was the Deputy Mayor of Economic Development in Newark, New Jersey. Following that, Pryor was the Education Commissioner for the State of Connecticut. Pryor received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.



Dr. Vic Ricci is Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Headquarters. Dr. Ricci is the senior advisor for Undersea Science and Technology (S&T) for NUWC Commander and Executive Director. From 2015-2020, Dr. Ricci concurrently served as CTO Division Newport. Prior to this, Dr. Ricci was the Director of S&T for the Sensor and Sonar Systems Department at NUWC Newport. He also served as the Technical Manager for the SPARTAN ACTD, which provided operational unmanned surface vehicle capabilities to the warfighter. At NUWC, he has also served as Assistant Tomahawk Program Manager and Tomahawk Test and Evaluation Project Manager. Dr. Ricci holds BS in Aerospace Engineering from Syracuse University and an MS and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and Applied Mechanics from University of Rhode Island.



Scott Robertson: Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Dauntless Ventures

Dauntless Ventures is a Critical Technology fund backed by the DOD as part of the Critical Technology Initiative. Dauntless invests in the Critical Technology Areas defined by the Undersecretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Scott is a former US Navy Super Hornet pilot and TOPGUN graduate, after which he has had a career building fast growing startups. Scott was an early team member at Ginkgo Biosecurity, Chief Commercial Officer at Solugen and a co-founder of Lila Sciences. He is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, Harvard Business School, and UC Berkeley and is a CFA charter holder.



Nick Rotker is MITRE's Chief BlueTech Strategist and manages the Underwater and Acoustic Systems department within MITRE Labs. He leads MITRE's efforts to solve big challenges in the BlueTech space, including internal R&D, partnerships, and government work programs. He has experience developing and leading solutions in underwater acoustics, SONAR, signal processing, algorithm development, and distributed sensing systems. Nick facilitates maritime innovation-related collaboration across the government, industry, and academic stakeholders, and provides connection and mentorship to early-state entrepreneurs looking to accelerate the nations Blue Economy. Nick is currently an executive board member and chair of the New England Chapter of the Marine Technology Society (MTS). Prior to MITRE, Nick worked as an Acoustic Research Scientist at Scientific Solutions, Inc. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Vermont and a M.S. in Electrical Engineering from Tufts University. Contact Nick at **nrotker@mitre.org**



Jeremy Shattuck is the Chief Technology Officer in Mission Technologies' Unmanned Systems group. Reporting to the group president, he leads the technology roadmap for HII's work in unmanned underwater vehicles (UUVs) (REMUS), unmanned surface vehicles (USVs) (ROMULUS), unmanned maritime vehicle auxiliary gear, and autonomy software (ODYSSEY).

Shattuck began his career with the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport in 2001, becoming the Technical Program Manager for Special Projects, leading technical solutions for undersea national intelligence collection priorities. He joined then Hydroid in 2017 and has since taken on multiple engineering leadership positions with HII Unmanned Systems over the past 8 years. Shattuck earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Connecticut, an M.B.A and M.A. in International Relations from Salve Regina University, a Naval War College

Diploma, and an M.S. in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School. He is also a recipient of the National Defense Industrial Association Ferguson Award for Systems Engineering Excellence.

He serves on the board of directors for the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium and is a guest lecturer at several local universities on topics of marine robotics and the defense industry for engineers.

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Adam Shepherd is the co-Principal Investigator and Technical Director of the Biological and Chemical Oceanography Data Management Office (BCO-DMO) at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). His research interests revolve around sustainable infrastructures through applied artificial intelligence to enterprise data management. BCO-DMO employs ontologies and artificial intelligence to reduce technical debt by moving business intelligence from software into the data.

In 2025, he founded Harbor Light Technologies, a data management consultancy focused on delivering AI-ready data products and services. At the Earth Science Information Partners, he has chaired the Schema.org Cluster, and for the Research Data Alliance, he chaired the Research Metadata Schemas and Vocabulary Services working groups. In 2019, he founded Science-on-Schema.org that brought AI strategies to scientific data publishing on the web. This work is now adopted at many data repositories across NSF, NASA, and NOAA, including the global Ocean InfoHub Project led by IOC/UNESCO.

As a Reggie Lewis Scholar at Northeastern University, Adam received his B.S. in Computer Science with a Minor in Business. He came to WHOI as a Northeastern Intern in 2000 for which he was awarded the Co-op of the Year.



Dan Shropshire is Vice President of Teledyne Marine Vehicle Business Development and Project Execution in North Falmouth, Massachusetts. In this role, Dan oversees business and strategic development, community engagement, business aquisitions, program management, and product development for a variety of Teledyne Marine products which include: gliders, profiling floats, acoustic communication and positioning systems, AUVs, ROVs, and ASVs. He holds a Bachelors and Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder and an Executive Management certificate form UCLA's Anderson School of Management. Dan started his career as an attitude control systems engineer working for Hughes Space and Communications on Geo Communications Satellites and later worked at TRW and Northrop Grumman at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics as Program Manager for NASA's Chandra X-Ray Observatory. After leaving Northrop, Dan started his own business developing software solutions for the tourism industry. He came to work for Teledyne in 2013 and has held several different positions including Program Manager, Director of Product Line Management and Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing for Marine Vehicles. While at Teledyne, Dan has managed multiple subsea vehicle design and development projects and development of a low frequency acoustic source for the marine seismic industry. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the New England chapter of the Marine Technical Society and is on the technology subcommittee for the Regional Wildlife Science Collaborative for Offshore Wind.



Scott R. Sideleau is the Chief Architect for the Undersea Warfare (USW) Combat Systems Department at NUWC Division Newport, where he leads the modernization of Navy command-and-control (C2) through mission-centric, modular open architectures, advanced decision-support, and human-machine teaming. His work focuses on transforming today's operator-centric combat systems into distributed, resilient C2 ecosystems capable of delivering decision advantage across all domains and depths. Since 2007 he has been a driving force in intelligent autonomous systems (IAS) and robotic autonomous systems (RAS) integration, advancing supervisory and executive control concepts and pioneering

human-machine teaming (HMT) approaches to improve the effectiveness of complex missions, including Intelligence Preparation of the Operational Environment (IPOE). He has transitioned multiple autonomy-enabled capabilities into Navy programs of record—most notably the AN/BYG-1 submarine combat system and the Common Control System (CCS)—and continues to shape next-generation C2 frameworks that unify distributed platforms, sensors, and decision agents. Sideleau serves as Principal Investigator for ONR's PADRE-UxS Future Naval Capability (FNC) and Executive Chair of the FVEY S&T Artificial Intelligence Strategic Challenge (AISC), where he leads multinational experimentation in AI, distributed decision-making, and coalition interoperability. His work spans applied research, advanced development, and operational demonstration, leveraging close collaboration across Navy with ONR, NRL, and NRDE partners; across services with AFRL, ARL, DARPA, and OSD-RE Critical Technology Areas (CTA); and across academia, industry, and international partners. His research interests include mission reasoning and decision advantage, distributed maritime C2 architectures, hybrid approaches to autonomy, and enhancing human-autonomy collaboration (HAC) at scale. Across these efforts, Sideleau's focus remains consistent: delivering warfighter-centered capabilities that provide clarity under pressure and strengthen maritime decision superiority.



Lee Silvestre has decades of experience supporting Defense and commercial markets through technology development and transition, programmatic execution, and strategy formation, particularly focused on multiple-use, multi-mission applications. She recently launched Venture Frontiers where Lee brings her years of experience helping ventures to develop, evolve, and thrive in the blue tech world evolving from early stage to sustained, robust businesses. She partners with early stage and dual use companies that are looking to evolve their business in the blue tech space and explore opportunities across maritime commercial and defense applications. This recent role has allowed a heightened focus and priority to the evolving companies, business entities, and investment opportunities in the North Atlantic region. Additionally, Lee is an associate advisor with Spirit Advisory supporting the same mission objectives.

As the NavalX North Atlantic Tech Hub Director, Lee worked with entrepreneurs, small businesses and academia, blue tech industry members, high tech investors, as well as nontraditional defense companies and large system integrators to identify, accelerate, and expose unique and dual-use technology solutions that contribute to Naval missions and pressing needs of national security and the blue tech/ocean sector. The Navy's newest regional tech hub was a partner in the Defense Innovation Unit's East Coast Defense Innovation Community of Entities (DICE) team, and partnered with DIU, Air Force, Space Force, Army, Academic, and community teammates to address pressing national security needs, engaging the nontraditional commercial sector.

Previously she worked to stand up and subsequently manage the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium, a national organization awarded the Navy's undersea technology OTA (Other Transaction Agreement) focused on undersea and maritime technology prototype efforts. Prior to this, Lee was one of five senior entrepreneurial leaders that established a new business in high tech light and color technology. Earlier, Lee served in various senior leadership roles in the $6.2B Integrated Defense Systems Raytheon Business where Lee was Vice President, Mission Innovation, the group chartered with identifying dual-use, high growth applications for Raytheon's defense technologies. Lee's early career experience with KPMG Peat Marwick embedded her professionally within the maritime defense community where her efforts addressing issues of National Defense and the intersection of technology and mission needs became a passion.

With degrees in Applied Mathematics and Operations Research, Lee is leveraging her innovation and business transformation experience within the high-tech community to transition technologies and solutions into meaningful applications that address critical mission needs.



Hanumant Singh is a Professor at Northeastern University. He received his Ph.D. from the MIT WHOI Joint Program in 1995 and then worked on the Staff at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution until 2016 when he joined Northeastern. His research interests are in the area of field robotics, with an emphasis on SLAM, imaging, and mapping, particularly in the marine, polar and aerial domains.

His group has designed and built the Seabed AUV and the Jetyak Autonomous Surface Vehicle, dozens of which are in

use for scientific and academic research across the globe. He also has strong interests in small Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). He has participated in 60 expeditions in all of the world's oceans in support of Marine Geology, Marine Biology, Deep Water Archaeology, Chemical Oceanography, Polar Studies, and Coral Reef Ecology. In collaboration with his students his awards include the ICRA Best Student Paper Award, the Sung Fu Memorial Best IEEE Transactions on Robotics Paper Award and Best Paper Awards at the Oceans Conference and at AGU.



Daryl B. Slocum is a recognized leader in maritime technology with over three decades of experience advancing autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV/UUV) systems for both defense and commercial applications. As President & CTO of Poseidon's Forge, he spearheads innovation in undersea autonomy, leveraging his deep technical expertise and proven track record in business strategy, engineering leadership, and product development. His career has been defined by pioneering work across AUV platforms of varying sizes and mission profiles, with contributions that have shaped the evolution of modern unmanned maritime systems.

Mr. Slocum's journey with AUVs began in 1992, when he designed and built his first vehicle—a 10-inch diameter platform—while studying Ocean Engineering at Florida Tech. Since then, he has continually pushed the boundaries of undersea autonomy. At L3Harris AUV Systems (formerly OceanServer), he was instrumental in the development of the Iver3 and Iver4 family of vehicles, expanding capabilities across multiple sizes and endurance classes. His leadership combined technical innovation with business growth, ensuring these platforms met the needs of both defense and industry customers worldwide. Following his tenure at L3Harris, Mr. Slocum served as Chief Scientist at Systems & Technology Research (STR), providing technical leadership on advanced UUV research and development initiatives before founding Poseidon's Forge. Widely recognized as a global expert in AUV design, power systems, and acoustic sensing, Mr. Slocum is an inventor with multiple patents and a published contributor to the field of intelligent maritime robotics. His leadership style emphasizes clarity, motivation, and innovation, enabling teams to tackle complex technical challenges with agility and efficiency. At the Defense Investment Forum, he brings not only a wealth of technical expertise but also a strategic vision for how undersea autonomy can strengthen national security and reshape the future of maritime operations.



Dr. Tobias (Toby) Stapleton, PhD, MBA, co-founder and director of the Blue Venture Forum, Inc. is an active and recognized leader in New England's Blue Economy ecosystem. He regularly advises investors, founders, and policy makers on issues related to growing and sustaining technology startups. Toby provides mentorship to early-stage tech startups through organizations like Creative Destruction Lab (CDL) and MassChallenge.

In addition to his work in the blue economy, Toby is an active investor and an Assistant Teaching Professor, in the Decision & Information Sciences Department, at UMass Dartmouth's Charlton College of Business. Contact Toby at **Toby@blueventureforum.org**



Hunter Stires is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Navy League's Center for Maritime Strategy. He served as the Maritime Strategist to the 78th Secretary of the Navy, where he was recognized for his work as one of the principal architects of the Maritime Statecraft strategy put into action by Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro to rebuild America's comprehensive maritime power, both commercial and naval. He serves as the Project Director of the U.S. Naval Institute's Maritime Counterinsurgency Project and the Founder and CEO of The Maritime Strategy Group. A graduate of Columbia University, Mr. Stires previously served in the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Policy and in several positions on the Navy Staff, including in the OPNAV N96 Surface Warfare Directorate, OPNAV N95 Expeditionary Warfare Directorate, and OPNAV N522 Navy Irregular Warfare Group.

Mr. Stires has been published widely, with his work appearing in outlets including the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, the Naval War College Review, Defense One, The National Interest, the Center for International Maritime Security, as well as the Center for Maritime Strategy's journal, The MOC. He has been recognized twice with the U.S. Naval Institute's General Prize. He was awarded 1st Prize for ,"The South China Sea Needs a 'COIN' Toss," published in Proceedings in May 2019; he was awarded 2nd Prize for,

"Win Without Fighting," published in June 2020. His article in the Summer 2019 issue of the Naval War College Review, "They Were Playing Chicken:' The U.S. Asiatic Fleet's Gray-Zone Deterrence Campaign against Japan, 1937-40," was selected for inclusion in the Newport Papers monograph Deterrence. Mr. Stires's perspective has been quoted in a wide range of outlets, including The Wall Street Journal, Voice of America, Radio Free Asia, the Australian Naval Institute, War on the Rocks, The National Interest, 19FortyFive, gCaptain, The Maritime Executive, Breaking Defense, The Strategy Bridge, Ilta-Sanomat, Iltalehti, the Liberty Times, Rappler, and the South China Morning Post - as well as the Chinese language edition of the Global Times.



Isaac Vandor is a robotics software engineer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's Deep Submergence Lab, where he builds and maintains open-source software systems supporting DSV Alvin, ROV Jason, and AUV Sentry. His work focuses on shared architecture and communication frameworks that enable reliable, interoperable operations across heterogeneous platforms. He is leading the transition of NDSF vehicle systems from ROS1 to ROS2 and has contributed to adaptive AUV surveying techniques and co-exploration systems supporting long-duration, mission-critical deployments with human-in-the-loop autonomy.



Dr. Benjamin Van Mooy is the Deputy Director and Vice President for Science & Engineering at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. A 2024 MacArthur "Genius Award" Fellow, his leadership bridges cutting edge ocean science with the emerging needs of the blue economy. A globally recognized chemical oceanographer, Ben's work illuminates the biochemical processes that structure carbon and nutrient cycling—knowledge increasingly applied in environmental sensing, autonomous systems, and ocean data platforms.

Ben's research specializes in advanced high resolution mass spectrometry to decode the biochemical signatures of plankton and microbial communities. These molecular insights support next generation ocean monitoring tools, biooptical sensor development, and improved ecosystem intelligence used by industry, government, and technology partners focused on climate resilience, offshore operations, and coastal protection. An active contributor to WHOI's innovation and commercialization pipeline, Ben regularly collaborates with engineers, startups, and corporate partners exploring new applications in ocean observation, biological sensing, and datadriven decision platforms.

Ben is a coPI of the Palmer Station LongTerm Ecological Research Program and an Investigator with the Simons Collaboration on Ocean Processes and Ecology, initiatives that generate high value datasets used broadly in applied ocean sectors. As WHOI's senior scientific executive, he guides the Institution's research strategy, partnerships, and scientific investment portfolio—ensuring new discoveries and technologies are positioned to make realworld impact.

His contributions have been recognized with top honors in the field, including the Evelyn G. Hutchinson Award from the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography. Ben holds degrees from Northwestern University and the University of Washington and joined WHOI in 2003 as a Postdoctoral Scholar before rising into scientific leadership.



Nate Walton is the founder and principal of Sachem Strategies, a government relations firm based in Boston and Washington, DC. The firm's client focus is early-stage ventures in the defense, energy, and financial services sectors.

In his role at Sachem, Nate has played a leading role as an advocate for businesses at the forefront of innovation. This has included organizing coalitions within Congress to advance research funding, address intellectual property threats, and reduce regulatory obstacles. Nate has also regularly partnered with congressional leaders, industry executives, and think tanks to design reform proposals that would better integrate innovative businesses into the military procurement system.

A New England native, Nate has been a champion for the region's dynamic innovation ecosystem. He serves as Board Chair of the Blue Venture Forum, a nonprofit that connects and supports businesses in the maritime technology sector. He previously served a five-year gubernatorial appointment on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, which promotes business growth in the technology sector.

Nate holds a B.A. in political science from Bates College and a M.P.P. from Brown University.



Joe Wheeler is the Co-Founder & CEO of Bluemvmt, a conversational analytics company serving both commercial and defense clients. He is also a best-selling author, speaker, and consultant and serves as the Executive Director of the Service Profit Chain Institute (SPCI), a Boston-based consulting firm he co-founded with Professors Len Schlesinger, James Heskett and W. Earl Sasser of the Harvard Business School. He is the co-author of two books on the topic of employee and customer experience: The Ownership Quotient (2008) and Managing the Customer Experience (2002), His most recent book: The Digital-First Customer Experience – Seven Design Strategies from the World's Leading Brands was released in July of 2023.

Prior to launching The Service Profit Chain Institute, Mr. Wheeler was the Quality and Productivity Executive for Bank of America. Prior to this, he was an Executive Vice President with The Forum Corporation where he managed the firm's Customer Experience Consulting Practice.

He earned his MBA from the Edinburgh Business School and lives in Massachusetts and Nova Scotia.



Dennis Williams is a champion for change, collaboration and crunching/ pushing the envelope for harnessing and harvesting plus matching the best of innovations to the most viable of applications. It didn't take long to spark Dennis' interest in the potential for advanced off-world Intelligence as he got acquainted with Blair DeWitt as he led MIT's first New Space Conference in 2016. Especially so. Dennis' enthusiasm built over continued brews, at each day's post session tag-up at the campus's venerable "The Muddy" watering hole. The exchanges ignited a fascination with Blair's vision and roadmap for his brand of high-performance insight for dynamic, complex data-austere domains. There was e clear path forward for relevance, value and adventure for helping drive the space ecosystem well on its way there. Lunar Station with its AI/ML powered Moon Hacker ™Analytics/ Visualization prowess -- no question -- would be a unique value proposition for space as well as undersea environments. Dennis joined excitedly when invited aboard at a conference follow on tag up the week after. The two's enthusiasm and synergy continue unabated, building the company to be a significant player for driving scale, scope, dimension and pace for better understanding and utilization of space and below the sea surface benefits.

Dennis brings more than four decades of robust, cross-cut domain/market technology development/commercial growth leadership and management expertise. His immersion into innovative technology and successful user outcomes spans corporations, entrepreneurships, and government roles.

He is a USN CAPT (Ret.) who served multiple times as commanding officer as well as most senior roles in public affairs and emergency preparedness/disaster response roles. His business acumen includes business development, research & intelligence, communications, and program operations. Dennis champions outlier thinking, regard for human values and contributions, consistent reality checks. deep relationship building, task orchestration + choreography plus attention to follow through and always attention to lessons learned. https://www.linkedin.com/in/denniswilliams1/

See You Next Year at the 12th Annual Blue Innovation Symposium!

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