

Women at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, 1940-1965

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Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives

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The first Ph.D. granted to a woman at Scripps was a Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography granted in 1934 to Easter Ellen Cupp.



Easter Ellen Cupp, 1935

Women were recruited into faculty positions at Scripps Institution of Oceanography after the timeline of this history and beginning in 1972.

The first woman on the faculty of Scripps was Tanya Atwater who arrived in 1972. The first woman chief scientist of an SIO research cruise was also Tanya Atwater, chief scientist with an all-woman scientific party on a cruise appropriately named "Aphrodite" [APRO01EB], San Diego to San Diego, 14-20 July 1968, on R/V E.B. Scripps.



Tanya Atwater, 21 November 1972

The first tenured woman at Scripps was Miriam Kastner who joined the SIO faculty in 1972 and was tenured July 1, 1977.



Miriam Kastner, 21 November 1972

Women Employed at SIO, 1940-1965

The following is a list of women who worked at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography during the period 1940-1965, excluding accountants, secretaries, telephone operators, programmers, librarians, seamen, editors, illustrators, trainees and draftsmen but including graduate students with assistantships. This list was compiled from staff lists, biographical files and other sources

in the Archives of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. It is not comprehensive as staff lists are missing for some years and as Scripps Archives does not have a comprehensive list of all students who were registered at the institution, just a list of all who completed doctoral degrees.

The fullest form of the name of each woman is used, rather than the name at date of hire. The notation "See AM&WS" means that there is more complete biographical information published in American Men & Women of Science.

This list includes information on one woman, Laura Clark Hubbs, who worked at SIO without salary. Two women on this list, Miriam Kastner and Marcia McNutt, joined SIO after 1965, but as they were among the first women to join the faculty, they have been added to this list.

Angeles Alvarino de Leira (1916-)

B.S. 1933, M.S. 1941, Ph.D., University of Madrid, 1951. Biologist. Assistant Research Biologist to Biologist, SIO, 1958-1969. Dr. Alvarino had a very full career both before she came to SIO and after she left. She retired in 1987 after 17 years at National Marine Fisheries Service, La Jolla. See AM&WS.

Tanya Maria Atwater (1942-)

Ph.D. UCSD/SIO, 1972. Marine Geophysicist. Graduate student at SIO with H. William Menard during the 1960's when she overturned a longstanding policy limiting the access of women to oceanographic vessels to become the first woman chief scientist on an SIO expedition in 1968. Atwater became the first woman on the faculty at SIO in on June 6, 1972, but left in 1973 to accept a professorship at MIT. Joined the faculty of UCSB in 1980 as Professor of Tectonics. Elected to National Academy of Sciences in 1997. Author of over 50 papers in geology. See AM&WS.

Marjorie A. Baker

Hired October 22, 1951 as Laboratory Technician in Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Mary C. Barstow

Hired March 27, 1950 as Laboratory Technician in Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Elizabeth Maitland Kampa Boden (1922-1986)

Ph.D., UCLA (SIO), 1950. Biologist. Betty Boden came to SIO as a graduate student in 1944 when her professor, Carl L. Hubbs left University of Michigan for La Jolla. She is listed as Research Assistant on a 1948 staff list. She returned to SIO in 1954 as Assistant Research Biologist and Research Fellow in 1957. She did a decade of major research on diurnal vertical migratory cycle of deep scattering layer with ONR support beginning in 1954. She left SIO in 1977 for the University of Hawaii.

Geneva S. Browne

Hired June 4, 1951 as Engineering Aide Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Rose Marie Cassady

Hired October 2, 1951 as Engineering Aide, Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Vera W. Chamberlin

Engineering Aide in Descriptive Oceanography in 1953 at SIO.

Catherine Clark

Postgraduate research at SIO in 1965.

Eugenie Clark (1922-)

B.A., 1942, M.S. 1946, Ph.D., Zoology, 1950. Ichthyologist. Assistant in Ichthyology, SIO, 1946-1947. Clark did a postdoc under Carl Leavitt Hubbs at SIO. She was Director of Marine Biology at Cape Haze Marine Lab, 1955-1966. She went on to a distinguished career at the Department of Zoology, University of Maryland beginning in 1969. See AM&WS.

Clara B. Crane

Engineering Aid at SIO's Marine Physical Laboratory in 1953.

Margaret F. Culbertson

M.A. Listed as Graduate Research Meteorologist II at SIO in 1957.

Frances R. Culver

B.S. Graduate Research Physicist II in Visibility Laboratory at SIO in 1953.

Doris Malkin Curtis (1914-)

BA, 1933, M.A, 1934, Ph.D, Columbia, 1949. Petroleum Geologist. Assistant Research Geologist at SIO, 1951-1954. Curtis was at Shell Oil and University of Houston before coming to SIO. After leaving SIO, she went to the University of Oklahoma and eventually became a partner in a geological consulting firm. See AM&WS.

Valeria Artel De Saussure (1921-)

A.B. 1943, Ph.D. 1965. Physical Chemist. Associate Research Specialist, Sea Water Test Facility, SIO, 1964-1966. DeSaussure had a career in industry before coming to SIO, and after leaving SIO went to Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation, La Jolla. See AM&WS.

Margaret E. DeSelle

Engineering Aid in Waves and Currents unit at SIO in 1953.

Lorraine L. Eby

Hired March 23, 1951 as Engineering Aide in Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Patricia M. Embshoff

Hired August 13, 1951 as Engineering Aide, SIO.

Ann G. Estrada (Mrs. Jesse Estrada)

Engineering Aid Division of Marine Research, SIO in 1959.

Shirley C. Fisher

Hired April 1, 1951 as Engineering Aide in Oceanography working at NEL in 1953. NEL (Naval Electronics Laboratory) has never been part of SIO, although scientists at NEL and SIO's Marine Physical Laboratory have worked closely together. It is not clear from the staff list whether Fisher had a joint appointment at SIO.

Jane Frazer

Listed in July 1965 staff list as Junior Specialist in Earth Sciences Division.

Jacqueline Irene Gordon (1926-)

B.A., UCLA, 1949. Atmospheric Optics. Assistant Engineer and Head, Visibility Branch, SIO Visibility Laboratory in 1956-1965. She became a consultant in the field after leaving SIO. See AM&WS.

Anita B. Smith Hall

A.B., Talladega College, M.A., Zoology, University of Michigan. Anita B. Hall was a biologist at the Hampton Institute, Hampton, Virginia when she was admitted for doctoral study at UCLA in May 1945 as a doctoral student of Carl Hubbs at SIO. She was the first black student to study at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She was Associate Professor of Biology at Hampton Institute when she initiated the teaching of marine biology there in 1960.

Marjorie B. Harvey

Laboratory technician in Marine Botany at SIO in 1953.

Doris V. Haulmen

Hired June 4, 1951 as Engineering Aide in Marine Life Research unit, SIO.

Laura Clark Hubbs (1893-)

A.B, 1915, M.S., Mathematics, Stanford, 1916. Mathematician, ichthyologist. She married Carl Leavitt Hubbs, a fellow student and ichthyologist in 1918. She assisted him throughout his career, first at the University of Michigan as a "cataloger" paid \$900 per year and, after 1944, at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography where she was paid nothing. The University of California nepotism rules at the time forbade the employment of related persons in the same department. Laura Hubbs worked beside her husband in the laboratory at Scripps 8-10 hours daily for thirty-five years. She cataloged her husband's scientific library, she assisted in collecting specimens in the field, she preserved and cataloged those specimens, she did all of the statistical analysis for his taxonomic work and compiled and plotted environmental data, she

took field photographs, she kept his files, and she organized and soothed his graduate students. She was a coauthor of 16 of her husband's 787 scientific papers. See AM&WS.

Lela M. Jeffery

M.A. Listed as "research assistant" in 1950 staff list

Miriam Kastner

B.Sc. and M.Sc. Hebrew University, 1964, Ph.D. Geology, Harvard, 1970. Geologist, Oceanographer. Hired in 1972 as Assistant Professor at SIO, Kastner received tenure July 1, 1977, becoming the first tenured faculty woman at SIO. She was promoted to Professor of Geology in 1982 and became Chairman of the SIO Geological Research Division in 1989 and remains at SIO today. See AM&WS.

Margaret D. Knight

Hired as Laboratory Technician January 17, 1949 to work on American Petroleum Institute grant project at SIO. She later worked in Marine Life Research Group with Martin Johnson as Specialist, Oceanography. Remains at SIO today as a volunteer in MLRG.

B. Jean Kauanui (Mrs. Patrick P. Kauanui)

Laboratory Assistant I, Institute for Marine Research, SIO in 1959.

Beatrice Elizabeth LaRue

UCLA graduate student who took a course with Martin Johnson in 1940.

Doris K. La Rue

Laboratory Technician in Descriptive Oceanography in 1953.

Ailene M. Lane

Ph.D. Assistant Research Psychologist in 1955 staff list.

Joyce Chismore Lewin (1926-)

B.S. 1948, M.S. 1950, Ph.D., Botany, Microbiology, Yale, 1953. Microbiologist. Lewin was Associate Research Biologist at Woods Hole before coming to SIO in 1960. She was Assistant Research Biologist at SIO 1960-1965, working with Benjamin Volcani. After leaving SIO she went to University of California, Santa Barbara. See AM&WS.

Shih-Chia Chen Lin (Mrs. The-Ping Lin)

B.S. Listed as "research assistant" in 1950 SIO staff list

Barbara R. McDermott

Engineering Aide in Bathythermograph Processing Unit, SIO in 1953.

Delpha S. McGowan

Laboratory Technician in Marine Invertebrates at SIO in 1953. McGowan stayed at SIO until her retirement in the 1980's.

Elizabeth A. McGraw

Hired as "engineering aide" May 14, 1951 at SIO, McGraw worked in Bathythermograph Processing Unit (BT).

Marcia Kemper McNutt (1952-)

B.A. 1973, Ph.D. UCSD/SIO, Earth Science, 1978. McNutt was a graduate student of H. William Menard at SIO. McNutt was with USGS 1979-1982. In 1982, she became Assistant Professor (later Associate Professor) at MIT. She is currently President of MBARI in Monterey, California. See AM&WS.

Gladys K. Matheny

Hired January 1, 1929 as Engineering Aide in Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Maryruth L. Melander

Melander was hired as Laboratory Technician at SIO on July 2, 1951 to work on the American Petroleum Institute grant project.

Bernadette L. Miller

Miller was hired at SIO on June 18, 1951 as Engineering Aide in Marine Life Research unit.

Mildred Minasian Moe (1929-)

B.A. 1951, M.A., 1953, Ph.D. Physics, UCLA, 1957. Atmospheric Physics. Graduate Research Physicist II at SIO in 1953. After a varied career in industry and academe, she is currently at University of California, Irvine. See AM&WS.

Grace Louise Orton (1916-)

B.S. 1938, M.S. 1940, Ph.D., Michigan, Zoology, 1944. Zoologist. SIO Associate in Marine Biology 1950 to at least 1960. Joined SIO at the suggestion of Carl Hubbs to work on larval forms of fishes in connection with the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI). At SIO she was attached to the Marine Life Research Program. Orton retired to Pacific Beach, California. See AM&WS.

Elizabeth L. Parker (1905-)

Parker was hired as an Engineering Aid in Bathythermography Processing Unit at SIO in 1953.

Frances Lawrence Parker (1906-)

M.S., MIT, 1930. Micropaleontologist. Frances Parker was trained in foraminiferal research by Joseph Cushman. She was a research assistant at USGS 1930-1940, a geologist at Shell Oil Company 1943-1945, and on the research staff of WHOI, 1947-1950. SIO hired her on

December 1, 1950 as an Associate in Marine Geology in the Marine Foraminiferal Laboratory. Actually, she and her associate Fred Phleger founded the Marine Foraminiferal Laboratory at SIO. She is listed in 1959 staff lists as Associate Research Geologist. She has won many awards. See AM&WS. Retired in La Jolla, California.

June Grace Pattullo (1921-)

B.S. 1948, M.S. 1950, Ph.D, UCLA/SIO, 1957. Physical Oceanographer. Graduate student of Walter Munk. Hired September 10, 1948 as Associate in Oceanography. Graduate Research Oceanographer II in 1953. Remained at SIO as Assistant Research Oceanographer until 1960. After leaving SIO, she became Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State College. She died after 1967, but I don't have her date of death. See AM&WS.

Jean F. Peirson,

Peirson was hired at SIO December 1, 1950 as Laboratory Technician for the Marine Foraminiferal Laboratory.

Viola E. Pracanica

Pracanica was hired as Senior Engineering Aide in Bathythermography Processing Unit of SIO in 1953.

Ruth O. Propsner

Hired April 20, 1951 as Engineering Aide, Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Freda M. Hunt Reid

B.S. Hired at SIO in 1953 as Graduate Research Botanist I in Marine Botany, Reid remains at SIO today as Research Associate in the Marine Life Research Group.

Johanna W. Ridgely

Hired September 4, 1951 as Laboratory technician in Oceanography at SIO.

Barbara J. Rimbach

Hired as "Engineering Aide" at SIO July 1, 1946, Rimbach worked in the Bathythermograph Processing Unit (BT).

Margaret King Robinson (1906-)

B.A. 1928, M.S. UCLA/SIO, Oceanography, 1951. Physical Oceanographer. Hired October 1, 1946 as Senior Engineering Aide on oceanography at SIO, Robinson became head of the Bathythermograph Processing Unit (BT). She was classed as Assistant Research Oceanographer II in 1953 and listed as Assistant Research Oceanographer in 1960. In 1962, she was classed as Associate Specialist and is listed in 1969 as Specialist. Robinson went to Bangkok in 1962 as a consultant to the Thai Navy Hydrographic Office. She retired from SIO in 1973 and received a letter of commendation from Rear Admiral M.D. Van Orden, Chief of Naval Research for her dedication to advancing our understanding of the physical ocean. See AM&WS.

Gwendolyn A. Roy

Roy was hired at SIO on May 1, 1947 as Engineering Aide in Marine Physics.

Annika B. Sanfilippo

Ph.D. Micropaleontologist. Sanfilippo joined the SIO staff in 1965 as Junior Specialist. She remains on the staff today as Specialist, RTAD, Geosciences Research Division.

Marguerette C. Cunningham Schultz

Hired as “engineering aide” January 8, 1951 Schultz worked in the Bathythermograph Processing Unit at SIO for many years. Later worked as assistant to Dr. Jerome Namias.

Lois P. Scott

Scott was hired as an Engineering Aide in Chemical Oceanography at SIO in 1953.

Josephine Day Beckwith Senn

A.B. 1932, Ph.D., UCLA/SIO, 1946. Senn was a graduate student of Claude ZoBell in 1944-1945 and worked with T.K. Tseng on marine botany.

Jean F. Short

Hired at SIO as “Engineering Aid” April 9, 1951, Short worked on beach erosion research funded by U.S. Army with Francis Shepard and Douglas Inman.

Dorothy F. Shumway

Graduate Research Mathematician II in Waves and Currents unit at SIO in 1953.

Gloria J. Slack

Hired July 22, 1946 as an “Engineering Aid” in Marine Physics at SIO and was at Marine Physical Laboratory, SIO in 1953.

Lois Ysabella Lovell Sorkness

A.B, 1925. Sorkness was a teacher when she first came to SIO and took courses in 1924. In 1939 she was accepted for degree candidacy for a M.S. degree in oceanography at SIO, but it is not clear from our records if she completed the degree.

Debbie Smith

Student of SIO geologist H. William Menard along with Tanya Atwater and Marcia McNutt in the 1960's.

Sally J. Smith

Hired at SIO as Laboratory Technician September 4, 1951. Smith worked on American Petroleum Institute grant project with Francis Shepard.

Squire, Mary C.

Hired as Laboratory Technician June 26, 1950 in Marine Life Research unit, SIO.

Elizabeth Strong

Hired November 22, 1948 as Laboratory Technician in oceanography, SIO.

Phyllis M. Strout

Laboratory Technician in Marine Botany unit at SIO in 1953.

Jean E. Sullivan

Listed as “laboratory technician” in 1946 staff list.

Beatrice Marcy Sweeney (1914-1989)

AB 1936, Ph.D., Radcliffe, 1942. Marine Botany. Volunteered at SIO as a research biologist assisting C.K. Tseng. Hired September 1, 1948 as Research Associate in Marine Life Research unit at SIO. Her job title was later changed to Assistant Research Biologist by 1955, and Associate Research Biologist 1960-1961 when she left SIO for a position at Yale, and then moved to UCSB in 1967 as a lecturer. She was promoted by UCSB to full professor in 1971 and became Associate Provost there in 1978. Published over 130 papers in botany. See AM&WS.

Ethel M. Toll

Engineering Aide in Bathythermograph Processing Unit in 1953.

Elaine A. Trowbridge

Hired as Laboratory Assistant July 1, 1946, Trowbridge worked in the Bathythermograph Processing Unit, SIO.

Alice D. Whitney

Hired January 29, 1951 as Engineering Aide, Marine Life Research unit at SIO.

Janet W. Wickam

B.S. Listed as “Research assistant” in 1950 SIO staff list.

Virginia A. Wilburn

Hired May 1, 1948 as Statistician for Marine Life Research unit, SIO.

Frances G. Wilkes

Hired February 5, 1951 as “Engineering Aide” in the Marine Life Research unit, SIO.

Helen M. Wilson

Laboratory Technician in Chemical Oceanography at SIO in 1953.

Marjorie E. Worthington

B.A. Listed as Research Assistant in Microbiology at SIO in 1955 staff list.

Ruth Young

Hired November 17, 1947 as Engineering Aide in Oceanography. Worked with Francis Shepard. Sometimes classified as “secretary.” She died in the 1960’s.

Jean Elliott Switzer ZoBell

M.A. Wisconsin, 1940. Graduate students at SIO in 1944 under Claude ZoBell whom she later married.