

# The Blue INNOVATION symposium

at Salve Regina University

NOVEMBER 27-28, 2018

Premier Sponsor

Canada 

Consulate General of Canada in Boston  
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# Welcome to The Blue Innovation Symposium,

the premier event in New England for connecting the marine technology industry for education, networking and facilitating partnering opportunities. Held for the first time in Newport, Rhode Island, the theme for this year's event is "The Ocean, Data and You" with a focus on data analytics and cybersecurity initiatives.

The symposium has brought together over 160 participants and 30 corporate sponsors, from leading-edge marine technology companies, research institutions, and key stakeholders of the blue tech economy for programming aimed at providing an overview of current trends in the industry, and a showcase of start-up companies to discuss their new technologies.

The Blue Innovation Symposium was organized by Salve Regina's Office of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education in partnership with the Consulate General of Canada in Boston and is part of our effort to connect the University with industry, organizations, state and federal agencies, and other key stakeholders in order to grow the region's economy.

## **About Salve**

Located on a picturesque campus in the historic city of Newport, R.I., Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational university founded by the Sisters of Mercy. The University offers a comprehensive education with a liberal arts foundation that fosters the development of each student's individual talents.

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the University enrolls more than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students from across the U.S. and around the world. Salve Regina's diverse range of academic programs is complemented by community service initiatives, extracurricular activities and a full athletics program featuring varsity, intramural and club sports.

Salve Regina University offers a variety of graduate and continuing programs, including 13 master's degree programs with options for concentrations, including an MBA and a M.S. in Innovation Management, a doctoral program in humanities, and a fully online Ph.D. in International Relations. Many programs also provide options for four-course graduate certificates. Our programs feature small classes led by faculty with real-world experience and the opportunity to take courses on campus in Newport, at the Center for Adult Education in Warwick or online. Each program provides unique and individualized opportunities for personal growth, interaction with experienced faculty members and ethical development.

To learn more about Salve Regina University, visit [salve.edu/grad](http://salve.edu/grad).



Tuesday, November 27  
at Young Building, Salve Regina University,  
518 Bellevue Avenue, Newport, R.I.  
PRE-Conference

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- 9 – 9:30 a.m.      **Registration**  
Light refreshments at the Pell Center, Young Building  
Salve Regina University
- 9:30 – 9:35 a.m.      **Welcome and Introductions**  
Tobias Stapleton, Ph.D., MBA,  
Dean, Graduate and Continuing Education Programs,  
Salve Regina University
- 9:40 – 10:45 a.m.      **Opening Plenary**  
State of the Maritime Unmanned Vehicles Industry:  
Justin Manley, Just Innovation
- 10:45 – 11 a.m.      **Networking Break**
- 11 a.m. – Noon      **UTIC Rapid Prototyping Opportunities**  
Molly Donohue Magee,  
Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium
- 1:30 – 4 p.m.      (optional)  
**Business to Business Tours and Meetings**  
with/for Canadian delegation.  
University of Rhode Island, North Kingstown Campus
- 5 – 7 p.m.      **The Blue Innovation Symposium Opening Reception**  
Cambria Hotel, 240 Aquidneck Avenue, Newport, RI  
sponsored by AUVSI New England  
featuring Jim Bellingham, Director of the Woods Hole  
Oceanographic Institute’s Center for Marine Robotics

# Wednesday, November 28

at the Cambria Hotel, 240 Aquidneck Avenue,  
Newport, R.I.

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- 8 – 9 a.m.                    **Conference Registration**  
Continental breakfast with exhibitors
- 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.            **Blue Innovation Conference**
- 9 – 9:05 a.m.            **Introductory Remarks**  
Toby Stapleton, Ph.D.,  
Dean of Graduate Programs, Salve Regina University
- 9:05 – 9:15 a.m.        **Welcome**, Sister Jane Gerety, RSM,  
President, Salve Regina University
- 9:15 – 9:45 a.m.        **Opening Plenary:**  
**An Ocean of Data and Digitization**  
Louis Beaubien, CEO BlueNode
- 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.      **Panel: The Role of Regional “Clusters”**  
*Moderator:*  
Laurie Jugan, Mississippi Marine Industries Science and  
Technology (MIST)  
*Panelists:*  
Mark Huang, Sea Ahead  
Hugh Dunn, UMASS Dartmouth  
George Nickolopoulos, University of Rhode Island
- 10:30 – 11 a.m.        **Networking Break**
- 11 – 11:45 a.m.        **Flash Talks: Global Innovators and Entrepreneurs**  
1. SIM –CI: “Enhancing environmental security through  
improved critical infrastructure resilience”  
2. Boston Engineering: “NOAA dropsonde data for  
hurricane prediction”  
3. PowerDocks LLC: “Autonomous floating power micro  
grid platforms”  
4. Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MSET): “Gulf  
Coast Cluster”  
5. Cleantech Open: “What is a startup accelerator?”  
6. The Blue Incubator – “Innovation in Plymouth, MA”  
7. Geospectrum: “Innovative Acoustic Technologies”  
8. Sensortech: “Enabling ocean instrumentation”  
9. Igloo Innovations Inc.: “Swim-Fly-Swim, a new drone  
concept”

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. **Lunch, Networking, and a Fireside Chat:  
The Future of Work and the Blue Economy Fireside Chat**

*Moderator:*

Toby Stapleton, Ph.D., MBA,  
Dean of Graduate Programs, Salve Regina University

*Panelists:*

Tuni Schartner, Director of Entrepreneurship & Innovation,  
Innovate Newport  
Leonora Valvo, Founder, Swoogo

1:15 – 2 p.m. **Panel: Oceantech Innovation in Canada**

*Moderator:*

Justin Manley, Just Innovation Inc.

*Panelists:*

Jim Hanlon, Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship  
Karl Kenney, Kraken Robotics  
Derek Inglis, XEOS Technologies  
Derek Puzzuoli, Igloo Innovations

2 – 2:45 p.m.

**Flash Talks: Global Innovators and Entrepreneurs**

1. Riptide Autonomous Solutions: “Swarming UUVs”
2. Woods Hole Group: “From the shelf out into the deep basins one team for all of your ocean and coastal data needs”
3. Kraken Robotic Systems Inc: “Advancing unmanned systems”
4. CIDCO: “Data acquisition in shallow water”
5. M2Ocean: “Ocean observing and mapping”
6. 1MH Solutions: “From surveys to systems”
7. Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship: “Ocean tech in Atlantic Canada”
8. Seatrac: “A new unmanned surface vehicle”
9. MRECo: “Renewable ocean energy in New England”

2:45 – 3 p.m.

**Networking Break**

3 – 3:45 p.m.

**Panel: Maritime Robotics Data, AI and Autonomy**

*Moderator:*

Leslie-Ann McGee, WHOI Center for Marine Robotics

*Panelists:*

Bob Melvin, Teledyne Marine  
Joe Provost, Salve Regina University  
Stephanie Petillo, Ocean Observing Initiative -  
Coastal & Global Scale Nodes, WHOI  
Amy Kukulya, Ocean Systems Laboratory, WHOI

3:45– 4:45 p.m.

**Panel: US Navy is Open For Business**

*Moderator:*

General (Ret) Frank Kelley, Vice President Defense Acquisition University

*Panelists:*

Chris Egan, Director, Undersea Warfare Unmanned Systems and Autonomous Behavior, NUWC Newport

CDR Anders PEO Unmanned and Small Combatants

Brant Brockett, Flight Experimentation Director, SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific

4:45 – 5:15 p.m.

**Closing Plenary:  
Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS),  
Ocean Data in Action**

Tom Shyka, Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems (NERACOOSS)

5:15 – 7:15 p.m.

**The Blue Innovation Closing Reception**

Sponsored by the Marine and Oceanographic Network (MOTN)

*Featuring:*

Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island.

## Thursday, November 29 at UMass Dartmouth (CIE)

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10 a.m – Noon

(optional)

**Tour and Tech Venture Company  
Presentations and Visits**

UMass Dartmouth Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), 151 Martine Street, Fall River, Mass.

# Speakers

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## **Dr. Jane Gerety, RSM**

Dr. Jane Gerety, RSM became the seventh president of Salve Regina University in July 2009. Prior to becoming president, Sister Jane had been a member of Salve's Board of Trustees since 1995.

Sister Jane left the position of Executive Board Officer for Saint Joseph's Health System in Atlanta. She entered the healthcare industry in 1992 when she joined Saint Joseph's as Senior Vice President, Sponsorship and later Corporate Compliance Officer.

Prior to her move to Atlanta, Sister Jane was the Academic Dean at Carlow College in Pittsburgh, where she also served as an associate professor of English, and director of the Public Leadership Program. She earned a bachelor's degree in French from Mount Saint Agnes College in Baltimore, a M.A. in French from Middlebury College in Vermont and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Michigan. She has also taught at the junior high and high school levels.

Sister has served on a number of not-for-profit boards including: Saint Joseph's Health System, Saint John's Mercy Medical Center, Mercy Housing – Southeast, Project Adventure and Mercyhurst University. Sister Jane has served on the President's Council of the Conference of Mercy Higher Education and as chair of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities/RI.



## **Cmdr. Jeremiah Anderson, PMS 406, UUVs**

Commander Jeremiah Anderson was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He was raised in Southern California and graduated in 2002 from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Following commissioning from Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I., he reported to Naval Nuclear Power Training Command (NNPTC), where he instructed over 300 operators the principals of nuclear power.

In 2007, he laterally transferred into the Engineering Duty Officer (EDO) Community with a focus on Submarine Acquisition. In 2009, he graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) with a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering. From 2010 to 2013, he served as a project officer at the Supervisor of Shipbuilding in Newport News, Virginia. During this tour, he earned his Engineering Duty Officer Dolphins, planned and executed the first private shipyard availability in over two years (SSN 753 EDSRA) and led the waterfront coordination and early delivery of SSN 783 (USS MINNESOTA) from new construction.

In 2013, he transitioned to the Washington Navy Yard as part of the VIRGINIA Class Program Office (PMS 450). This tour included managing the transition of all new construction submarines through their shakedown period and post-select availabilities to the fleet. In 2015, he served as the Executive Assistant to the Program Executive Officer (PEO) Submarines. In 2016, he transitioned to the COLUMBIA Class Program Office (PMS 397) and led integration of non-propulsion electronics into the platform. In May 2017, he transferred to OPNAV N80 where he managed the Navy's afloat readiness accounts. In May 2018, he transferred to PMS 406 as the Deputy PAMP for UUVs and manages the program offices core technology portfolio. His career goal is to lead a submarine program office.

Cmdr. Anderson has received various unit and personal awards including the Meritorious Service Medal (with gold star), Navy Commendation Medal (with two gold stars), and the Navy Achievement Medal (with gold star).



**Louis Beaubien, CEO BlueNode**

Dr. Beaubien is an Associate Professor, as well as Associate Dean (Strategy) at Dalhousie University’s Row School of Business. His research interests revolve around the design of financing and governance models, and information system strategy in a variety of organizations, most recently, the co-operative and health care sectors. Examples include work on governance in new information system deployment, performance management and governance in financial services organizations, and financing models in health care. In addition to his academic role he is an accomplished entrepreneur, most recently launching BlueNode to bring advanced data technologies to the maritime sector.



**Brant “Bucket” Brockett, SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific**

CDR Brant Brockett was born and raised in Camarillo, CA. In 1989 he graduated from the Naval Academy with a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science. He attended flight school and became a C2 (COD) pilot in 1991. His first duty station was VRC-50, the Foo Dogs, in CUBI Pt, Philippines. During this time, he flew with multiple detachments across the Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Australia, Persian Gulf, and Africa and supported the effort in Desert Storm, and multiple operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 1994 Brant transferred to VRC-30 in San Diego and flew the C2 on two deployments. He then flew as a Test Pilot flying the C2, E2, S3, and F-18 at Fleet Readiness Center in Coronado. In 2000 he detached from the regular Navy but remained in the Naval Reserves. He was hired by American Airlines in December 2000 as a First Officer on the MD82/83 while continuing to fly as a reservist at NADEP. In 2008, Brant started the EMBA Program at the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated in February 2010 with an EMBA in Defense Finance. Shortly after that he was mobilized to Afghanistan with the Naval Special Warfare Command Unmanned Systems.

After he returned from Afghanistan, Brant was hired as the Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt at SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific. He activated again in April of 2015 and was the Unmanned Systems Military Director for Naval Air Weapons Center, Weapons Division China Lake and Point Mugu. He retired in October 2017 from the Navy and is now the Flight Experimentation Director for SPAWAR Systems Center Pacific. He has flown 33 different manned aircraft and has over 7,000 hours of flight time. He has Operator and Mission Commander Experience in 8 Military Unmanned Systems with over 3,000 hours of flight time.

Brant lives in San Diego, CA with his wife Judi and three children, Braydon, Hailey, and Madison.



**Hugh Dunn, Executive Director, SouthCoast Development Partnership (SCDP)**

Hugh Dunn serves as the Executive Director of the SouthCoast Development Partnership (SCDP), a regional economic development organization led by local business and community leaders in collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.

This Partnership focuses on regional economic development, educational attainment, and workforce readiness initiatives that aim

at improving the quality of life for SouthCoast residents. Notable initiatives championed by the SCDP include: advocacy for wind energy, the Route 18 project, and SouthCoast Rail. Most recently, the Economic Development Administration awarded the Partnership and the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth an Economic Adjustment Program grant to support the region's blue economy. With this grant the Partnership and University will conduct a comprehensive study of the blue economy assets of the region, assess the necessary investments in infrastructure, identify needed workforce training and outline a comprehensive marketing strategy to attract and retain the businesses and talents needed to drive the blue economy. Hugh also directs Government Affairs, and Economic Development for the Dartmouth Campus.

Prior to directing the SCDP, Hugh served as the New Bedford District Representative for Congressman Bill Keating, where he worked on important policy initiatives such as helping veterans access their VA benefits, advocating for the commercial fishing industry, and advocating for constituents and businesses in the SouthCoast on various federal issues.

Hugh moved to New Bedford in 2010, and is a 2013 graduate of the University of Massachusetts School of Law at Dartmouth. Hugh currently serves as a City Councillor in New Bedford.



**Chris Egan, Director, Undersea Warfare Unmanned Systems and Autonomous Behavior, NUWC Newport**

Chris is the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport's Director, USW Unmanned Systems and Autonomous Behavior. As Senior Scientist and Technical Manager (SSTM), he directs Undersea Technology Transfer into acquisition baselines for the Division, and oversees the full spectrum of Science and Technology (S&T) and Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) efforts applicable

to the autonomous behavior of unmanned vehicle technology programs.

He is a Mechanical Engineer (BSME, University of Rhode Island; 1983), and has been active in undersea weapons, vehicle systems and technologies in various Technical Leadership roles during his 36-year career at NUWC Newport; focusing on Unmanned Systems for the past 25 years from concept and requirements development, through S&T and acquisition planning & execution, and to Fleet introduction. He is a NAVSEA subject matter expert on autonomous and unmanned undersea vehicles (AUVs/UUVs), and has maintained an active role in development of US Navy UUV Master Plans, Roadmaps and emerging technical Standards for Navy Unmanned Maritime Systems; and is a former Board Member of the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI). As NUWC's Director of USW Unmanned Systems, Chris interacts with Navy PEOs and Program Offices, the Fleet, Warfare Centers and the Naval Research & Development Establishment (NR&DE), Resource Sponsors, industry and academia on Unmanned Systems Programs and technologies. Chris is a recipient of the Navy Meritorious and Superior Civilian Service Awards.



**Jim Hanlon, Center for Ocean Ventures and Entrepreneurship**

Jim is a 30-year veteran of the Canadian tech industry, having worked in design, marketing and management for companies in Atlantic Canada, Ontario and New England. His career has spanned the aerospace and defence sectors as well as the marine environmental monitoring field. Over the years, Jim has worked in senior management positions with several large publicly traded multinationals. He has also sampled the waters of the entrepreneurial well as an owner in two separate high-tech companies that have

successfully grown and been purchased by multinationals.

Until February of 2012, Jim was the President of Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems in Halifax, NS. He and his partners sold their company to Ultra Electronics Inc. in May of 2008.

Ultra Electronics Maritime Systems is one of the oldest continuously operating electronics design and manufacturing operations in Canada and the largest electronics product design company in Atlantic Canada.

Jim's personal passion is innovation and its impact on the competitiveness of Canadian industry. Jim is a proud alumnus of the Nova Scotia Technical College (now Dalhousie University Faculty of Engineering) with a degree in electrical engineering. He also has an MBA in marketing from Saint Mary's University in Halifax and is a registered professional engineer in Nova Scotia.



**Mark Huang, Sea Ahead  
Co-Founder & Managing Director**

Mark has over 15 years of cleantech venture experience. He co-founded Novus Energy Partners in 2008, a US-European cleantech VC fund. Prior to that, Mark was with GE for 10 years. As a Senior Vice President of GE Energy Financial Services he co- led the effort to re-start GE's cleantech venture investing efforts.

In the maritime sector, Mark has worked in shipbuilding and as a naval architect. Mark also served for 13 years as an officer in the US Army Reserves. He was mobilized in 2003 to Baghdad where he focused on nation-building. Mark's public sector experience also includes a term as the Economic Development Director for Providence where he focused on the Innovation ecosystem and developed an Urban Food strategy.

Mark holds an MBA and Masters of International Affairs from Columbia University and a B.S. in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from Webb Institute.



**Laurie Jugan, Mississippi Marine Industries Science and  
Technology (MIST)**

Laurie Jugan is an independent consultant currently supporting the Mississippi Enterprise for Technology (MSET) to assist MSET client companies in understanding federal contracting opportunities at Stennis Space Center and identifying business opportunities consistent with client capabilities. She serves as liaison with local federal agencies, assessing commercially-developed technologies

for federal use and federally-developed technologies for commercial use. She also coordinates educational and outreach events to inform stakeholders about various business opportunities and technology advancements, such as Industry Days, Conferences, Technology Showcases/Demonstrations, and Meet & Greet events, and various business matchmaking opportunities.

Prior to her work with MSET, Ms. Jugan worked for 25 years in a small, local business serving in a variety both technical and business roles. She is a retired Oceanographer, maintaining connections to the industry through the Marine Technology Society, as well as former professional associates. Her other roles included hiring manager, contracts manager, supervisor, facilities manager, proposal manager, and business development/ marketing specialist.

Ms. Jugan holds a master's degree in Business Administration, as well as a master's in Oceanography, and has taken several advanced courses in Contracting, Marketing, and Project Management. She actively supports local efforts promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education.



**Frank Kelley,  
Vice President Defense Acquisition University**

Mr. Frank Kelley is the Vice President of Defense Acquisition University (DAU). In this position, he is responsible for aligning DAU strategic plans to the goals of both the Secretary of Defense and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, while continuing to build the outstanding reputation of DAU as the Department of Defense primary learning institution for acquisition.

He oversees the development and expansion of acquisition curriculum and learning opportunities and the delivery of those learning assets throughout the five DAU regional campuses, the Defense Systems Management College, and the College of Contract Management.

Prior to this assignment, Mr. Kelley served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy Unmanned Systems from October 2015 – June 2018. In this capacity, he was the principal advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development and Acquisition on matters relating to unmanned systems across all domains – land, sea, and air.

Mr. Kelley joined the civil service in 2015 following a 32-year career as a United States Marine.



**Karl Kenney, Kraken Robotics**

Karl has over 30 years of technical and executive experience in developing and deploying innovative technologies. Karl founded Kraken in September 2012 to focus on developing Synthetic Aperture Sonar technology for high resolution imaging of the seafloor. Since then, Kraken has migrated from being a sensor company into developing underwater robotics.

Karl grew up in a small fishing village in Newfoundland where his family has a long historical connection to the sea. Since his early days as a maritime surface officer with the Royal Canadian Navy, Karl has been involved in high tech. In the 1980's, he was a part of the Microsoft mouse project team. In the 1990's, he formed Telepix, a leader in photo e-commerce solutions. Telepix was acquired by a major European photo equipment manufacturer in 2000.

Karl has led the development of a wide range of advanced marine technologies and products in Canada, the USA and Europe. He co-founded Marport Deep Sea Technologies Inc. in July 2003 and served as its President and CEO until December 2011. Karl was the visionary leader and inventor behind the development of Software Defined Sonar technology that's now being used in underwater defence, commercial fisheries and ocean science applications.

Karl is a member of the Marine Technology Society as well as the Society for Underwater Technology. He has been named Entrepreneur of the Year by Memorial University and twice named as a Top 50 CEO by Atlantic Business magazine. He was inducted into the Newfoundland and Labrador Business Hall of Fame in May 2012. Karl also serves as an entrepreneur mentor at Memorial University's Genesis Centre.



**Amy Kukulya, Ocean Systems Laboratory, WHOI**

Amy Kukulya is a Research Engineer at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Ms. Kukulya develops autonomous underwater vehicles and their applications including new ways to track and monitor endangered species such as sharks and sea turtles to support smarter, habitat-based decision-making. She also leads efforts to develop portable robotic systems to detect environmental

anomalies such as oil spills for the U.S. Coast Guard. She has either led or participated in over 80 oceanographic expeditions since 2002 from the Arctic to Antarctica. Her work has also been featured on several Discovery Channel and PBS productions.



**Leslie-Ann McGee WHOI Center for Marine Robotics**

As the Assistant Director of WHOI's Center for Marine Robotics, Ms. McGee is responsible for developing strategic vision and leadership, managing external relations and partnerships and retaining primary responsibility for organizational and program management of CMR. She provides leadership on customer relationship management for industrial clients and government sponsors and supports CMR Director in incubation of a robust robotics program at WHOI. Ms. McGee, among other projects, manages the "Robots to the Sea" project, a partnership to drive innovation in marine robotics between WHOI and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She is an expert in ocean and coastal issues in both the domestic and international arena and has a diverse background working with and for state, regional, national, business, and environmental entities globally. She has direct experience working as regulatory staff within the federal and state government and has contributed to protecting marine ecosystems through innovative applications of law and policy. She has successfully partnered with interest groups, industry members, private non-profits, and other stakeholders to form cohesive management strategies by communicating regularly with a wide variety of people with often conflicting perspectives. She also maintains a consulting practice through her firm, Full Sail Consulting based in Kingston, Mass. McGee served as the Director of Coastal Zone Management for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition, McGee was the Director of Programs for the World Ocean Council, Director of Ocean and Coastal Solutions at Battelle Memorial Institute and held state and federal positions with NOAA, the New England Fishery Management Council and the Mass. Department of Fish and Game. McGee is a graduate of the University of Colorado at Boulder and Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. She conducted her graduate research on Bluefin Tuna at the New England Aquarium.



**Bob Melvin, Teledyne Marine**

Bob Melvin is the Vice President of Engineering at Teledyne Marine Systems which includes Teledyne Benthos, Teledyne Webb Research, and Teledyne Gavia. He has over 30 years of experience in both engineering and program management. Bob is responsible for overseeing the engineering teams for Teledyne's underwater vehicles including the Slocum Glider, Gavia AUV, tethered Deep Tow, and APEX floats. Bob has a B.S. and M.S. in Electrical Engineering and patents in signal processing and underwater instrumentation.



**George Nickolopoulos, University of Rhode Island**

George Nickolopoulos serves as a key relationship builder for the University of Rhode Island in the areas of defense and marine trades. Before joining the BEC, Nickolopoulos served as director of operations for Nautilus Defense, a Providence-based company providing support to the United States Armed Forces in its efforts to combat terrorism and develop new technologies to enhance operational safety and effectiveness. In his role, Nickolopoulos worked with the United States Navy to support anti-terrorism initiatives in Southeast Asia.



### **Stephanie Petillo, Ocean Observing Initiative - Coastal & Global Scale Nodes, WHOI**

Dr. Stephanie M. Petillo is currently the Software Lead for the Ocean Observatories Initiative – Coastal & Global Scale Nodes (OOI-CGSN) group at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI). In this position, she is responsible for all code and software tools on the OOI moorings, servers, and test setups. Prior to this she worked in another WHOI lab developing new integrated

software-hardware functionality for underwater gliders. Before joining WHOI, Dr. Petillo worked at GobySoft, LLC, as an Oceanographic Engineer developing software for autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) and other marine systems, focusing on autonomous control software and sensor integration. Dr. Petillo received her Ph.D. in Oceanographic Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology / Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Joint Graduate Program in 2015. Her graduate degree research focused on using autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) to perform autonomous and environmentally adaptive sampling of the ocean environment, focusing on underwater feature detection and tracking for more efficient and synoptic data collection with AUVs. She received her B.S. Degree in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Italian Language and Culture from the University of Maryland - College Park in 2008.



### **Joe Provost, Salve Regina University**

Joe Provost is a new member of the Administration of Justice Department. He is a lecturer on cyber security topics that include digital forensics, penetration testing, network security, malware investigations, and general information security.

His experience includes founding a successful cyber security startup, working as an analyst at Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory, and an Army Chief Warrant Officer assigned to the Cyber Operations Group, the NSA's Tailored Access Operations, and a visiting member of the 1st Information Operations Red Team.



### **Stefan Pryor, Secretary of Commerce, State of Rhode Island**

Stefan Pryor serves as Rhode Island's first Secretary of Commerce. Appointed by Governor Gina M. Raimondo and confirmed unanimously by the Rhode Island State Senate in 2015, Secretary Pryor oversees and coordinates the State agencies and offices responsible for economic development, business regulation, housing, and workforce development. Rhode Island's economic progress under Governor Raimondo has been profiled by national

publications including Chief Executive magazine ("Rhode Island Boasts the Biggest Climb in 'Best States/Worst States' Rankings," May 2, 2018) and the New York Times ("After Long Economic Slide, Rhode Island Lures New Business," March 14, 2017). Twenty-four businesses have announced plans to land or expand in Rhode Island since the Governor's new programs were implemented about two years ago. Pryor served for approximately five years (2006-2011) as Deputy Mayor and Director of Economic and Housing Development in the City of Newark, NJ. Pryor and his team played a key role in orchestrating plans for Newark's first new downtown hotel in 40 years and first new office tower in 20 years. They also helped recruit new commercial tenants to Newark including Panasonic (North American headquarters) and Manischewitz (world headquarters). Before his work in Newark, Pryor was President of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC). The LMDC was created in the aftermath

of September 11th by the State and City of New York to plan and help coordinate the physical rebuilding and economic revitalization of Lower Manhattan including the World Trade Center site. From 2002-2006, Pryor served in a number of leadership capacities at the agency, culminating in his service as the LMDC's President. Pryor previously served as a Vice President at the Partnership for New York City, where he led the organization's public education initiatives including a program which worked in collaboration with two low-performing, high-poverty NYC school districts. Pryor served as the Commissioner of Education for the State of Connecticut (2011-2015). During his tenure, Connecticut passed important legislation aimed at closing achievement gaps, improving chronically underperforming schools and districts, enhancing educator effectiveness, and increasing opportunities for all students. Pryor received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale University.



**Derek Puzzuoli, Igloo Innovations**

Derek is a lifelong innovator with expertise in design, project management, manufacturing, and business development / strategy. His diverse experience of over 15 years spans multiple industries including subsea / offshore engineering, rides and attractions, and automotive.

His most recent endeavor, Igloo Innovations, has afforded him the opportunity to act in several different roles with the most recent being business development. Before this, Derek was (and still is) Igloo's chief engineer, handling technical leadership and project management. Leading up to Igloo, Derek spent a large portion of his career as a project/design engineer in Canada, China, and the USA.

Outside of his professional life, Derek's main interests are mainly creative and hands-on. He enjoys cooking in general and has an artisan sausage-making hobby. He has also been obsessed with sports cars since before he can remember and enjoys tinkering with his personal vehicles in his spare time. It was this interest that led him to a B.A.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering with Automotive Specialization from the University of Windsor in 2005, which has driven his career ever since.



**Tuni Shartner, Director of Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Innovate Newport,**

Tuni Shartner is the Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation for Innovate Newport, a state-of-the-art coworking and business accelerator space serving the Greater Newport region's emerging Blue Tech and startup scene. Dubbed Rhode Island's "economic gardener" Shartner has extensive experience working with both established teams and startups to catalyze their growth. She is

co-founder and director of The Hive, a coworking and arts space located inside a historic mill in North Kingstown, R.I. and a contributing writer to the Rhode Island Small Business Journal. An active member of the state's small business community, she serves as a mentor for Venture Mentoring Services of Rhode Island, AMP RI, and Congressman James Langevin's Strengthening Rhode Island Advisory Committee.



**Tom Shyka, Northeastern Regional Association  
of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems  
NERACOOS Product and Engagement Manager**

Tom Shyka is the Product and Engagement Manager at NERACOOS where he works with a variety of NERACOOS end users to understand their information needs and translate them into products and services. He also coordinates the data management activities of the NERACOOS data providers and data assembly center to ensure that NERACOOS data is accessible. Tom led the development of the data management plan for NERACOOS' federal certification application. His work with stakeholders has recently led to the expansion of the observing system including the development of a Cape Cod Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS) that supports safe and efficient navigation.

In his previous roles, Tom led the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Ocean Data Products team, which developed NERACOOS' first website and data management system. Tom also served as the COO at GoMOOS (Gulf of Maine Ocean Observing System) where he oversaw many aspects of the non-profit including product development, communications, and grants management. Tom was the recipient of a Sea Grant Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship and has also worked as an environmental consultant, a marine ecologist for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and as an environmental chemist. He received a M.S. in Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science from the University of Maryland.



**Leonora Valvo, Founder, Swoogo**

Leonora is the co-founder and director of Swoogo, an award-winning event marketing & event registration software platform. She is passionate about finding new ways to solve old problems, helping people, improving companies, and creating value. Leonora has successfully raised four companies and seven children, but killed several house plants – seems she's better at nurture than nature. Leonora is also the co-founder of Women in Event Tech, a community of people who believe in creating more opportunities for female leaders in the event tech space.

# Organizing Committee

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## **Justin Manley**

Justin Manley is an innovative technologist and executive with experience in startup, public corporation, academic, and public sectors. Mr. Manley has been working with marine technology and robotics since 1990 and is a recognized leader in unmanned systems development and operations. After professional roles at MIT, supporting NOAA and in the private sector Mr. Manley founded Just Innovation Inc. in mid-2015. He supports a variety of clients with a focus on unmanned and

undersea systems.

Mr. Manley is extensively involved in the marine technology profession through a variety of leadership roles. He is a Senior Member of IEEE, Served as Vice President of Government and Public Affairs for the Marine Technology Society (MTS), is a Fellow of the Institute for Marine Engineering Science and Technology (IMAREST) and a member of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS) Advisory Committee. He is also dedicated to innovation, serving as an advisor to startup companies and a judge for the Wendy Schmidt Ocean Health XPRIZE. He holds one patent, and a second is pending, in unmanned systems oversight and security.



## **Roger E. Race, Innovation Program Developer at Boston Engineering**

Roger Joined Boston Engineering in 2013. He is a member of the Boston Engineering Advanced Programs; Race is creating innovative solutions to critical problems, and leveraging new technologies to provide better value for all Boston Engineering customers in the Marine and underwater world. Race was General Manager and Chief Engineer at Brooke Ocean

Technology USA. He was responsible for the startup of the company in 2005, and in less than four years won several SBIR grants for unique products utilized by the US Navy. Race holds several patents on underwater devices and their uses. Recent innovations include a patented towed antennae system used with underwater vehicles to acquire GPS signals and communicate in real time via radio that is being utilized by the BIOSwimmer UUV. He also designed an autonomous underwater docking methodology, and a unique launch and recovery system for large and small-unmanned underwater vehicles, as well as a V-Wing product line of towed depressors.



## **Dr. Tobias (Toby) Stapleton**

Dr. Tobias (Toby) Stapleton is the Dean of Graduate Studies and Continuing Education Programs at Salve Regina University. He has over 20 years of experience working with marine technology companies and currently serves as the Vice President of the Marine & Oceanographic Technology Network (MOTN), a member of the National Advisory Committee of the US Maritime Technology Export Initiative, a steering committee member of the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation, and

as an advisory

board member of Ocean News & Technology (ON&T) magazine. He holds a Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, an MBA from Suffolk University, and a B.A. from Bryant College. Salve Regina University offers doctoral and masters programs, including graduate certificates, in a wide-variety of disciplines, [salve.edu/grad](http://salve.edu/grad).

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