

MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering

The Joint Program of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology offers advanced degrees in oceanography and applied ocean science and engineering. Graduate study encompasses virtually all of the basic sciences as they apply to the marine environment: physics, chemistry, geology, geophysics, and biology. Students who choose applied ocean science and engineering may concentrate in the major fields (civil, environmental, mechanical/ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 160 scientists/faculty from the two institutions participate in the joint program. There are currently 112 students enrolled in the five areas of study offered: biological, chemical, or physical oceanography; marine geology and geophysics; and oceanographic engineering.

Since all MIT faculty involved in the joint program are members of an academic department, their individual accomplishments and awards are reported through those departments. These include the departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Biology, and Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences.

New MIT Director

On September 1, 2009, professor Edward A. Boyle became the new MIT director of the Joint Program, succeeding professor Paola Rizzoli, who had served as director since August 15, 1997.

Joint Program 2010 Commencement Celebration at WHOI

WHOI held a formal two-day commencement celebration for graduates of the Joint Program from June 4 to June 5, 2010. The Joint Program alumni association met on June 4, and this was followed by a career panel discussion between alumni and current students that addressed job opportunities in ocean sciences and related fields.

On June 5, Susan Avery, president of WHOI, and James Yoder, vice president for academic programs and dean, presided over a formal commencement ceremony which included the awarding of degrees to the 2009–2010 graduates, the presentation of several honorary awards, and the announcement of a new graduate fellowship named in honor of the outgoing MIT director, Professor Rizzoli. The commencement speech was delivered by Rita Colwell, distinguished university professor at the University of Maryland College Park and Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health; senior advisor and chairman emeritus, Canon US Life Science; and former director of the National Science Foundation.

A reception and luncheon for participants and guests concluded the ceremonies. The next WHOI commencement will be held in June 2015.

Response to the 2009 External Review

A strategic planning committee comprised of faculty and scientists from both MIT and WHOI has been formed to address the issues raised in last year's external review of the program. The co-chairs of the committee, Lauren Mullineaux (WHOI) and Raffaele Ferrari (MIT), have been examining the main topics:

- **Education:** examining the current disciplinary approach to research, coursework, and curriculum in view of the future of major oceanographic research questions and attempting to broaden participation by identifying interdisciplinary research that would be attractive to more faculty at both institutions and by approaching previously uninvolved MIT departments, labs and centers
- **Governance:** examining the current joint committee structure, and finding ways to improve the visibility of the Joint Program at the highest levels of both institutions and in the world at large
- **Finance:** finding new sources of funding for Joint Program students, and examining the current method of sharing tuition costs between MIT and WHOI

The committee's report is due by the end of the summer and the findings will be discussed in next year's Report to the President.

Edward Boyle

Director

Professor, Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences

Ronni Schwartz

Administrator

More information about the Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering can be found at <http://mit.who.edu/>.