

MIT-Woods Hole Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering

The [Joint Program of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution \(MIT-WHOI\)](#) 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 (aeronautics and astronautics, civil, environmental, mechanical, ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 170 scientists and faculty from the two institutions participate in the joint program. There are currently 118 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 Aeronautics and Astronautics; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Mechanical Engineering; Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; Biology; and Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

Alumni Reunion

On Saturday, July 21, 2018, approximately 100 MIT-WHOI Joint Program alumni and their families returned to WHOI for a reunion. Seven joint program alumni who now work at WHOI gave tours of their labs in such diverse areas as ultrahigh resolution mass spectrometry, ocean sensors and observing systems, marine bioinorganic chemistry, the National Deep Submergence Facility, and two tours in the Marine Research Facility focusing on marine mammal communication and human impacts on marine mammals. Families also enjoyed tours of the WHOI-operated ship, R/V Atlantis. Current students gave a poster session focusing on current research taking place in the joint program. There were also activities for children and an afternoon barbecue.

50th Anniversary

The joint program celebrated its 50 year anniversary on September 27, 2018 at MIT and on September 28, 2019 at MIT-WHOI. The event was attended by over 200 alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the program. A symposium was held at Wong Auditorium on the afternoon of September 27 followed by a reception and dinner at the Samberg Center.

Speakers at the symposium included a welcome and opening remarks by Professor Edward A. Boyle, (director, MIT-WHOI) and Margaret K. Tivey, (vice president of academic programs and dean, MIT-WHOI). Professor Maria Zuber (vice president of research, MIT) and Mark Abbott (president, MIT-WHOI) delivered introductory remarks followed by talks from Admiral John M. Richardson, chief of Naval Operations (US Navy); Joseph Pedlosky (scientist emeritus, MIT-WHOI); Heather Goldstone (science editor, 90.1 WCAI and contributor to 89.7 WGBH); Henrietta Edmonds (lead program director of Chemical Oceanography, National Science Foundation); Oscar Pizarro (principal research fellow, University of Sydney); Professor John P. Holdren (Teresa

and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy, Harvard University); and Professor Matthew G. Jackson (University of California at Santa Barbara).

On September 28 MIT-WHOI hosted a poster session, as well as lab and dock tours on the Quissett campus and the Village of Woods Hole followed by a reception and dinner under a tent on the Quissett campus. Testimonials by distinguished guests rounded out the festivities for the evening.

Doctoral Degrees

The joint program awarded 20 doctoral degrees in AY2019. Tivey and Boyle conferred the hoods on June 6, 2019 at MIT for participating students. A celebration for the graduates was hosted at MIT-WHOI on June 5, 2019, and a private luncheon was hosted at MIT following the hooding ceremony.

Edward A. Boyle

Director

Professor, Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences