

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

The Joint Program between MIT and the [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution \(WHOI\)](#) 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/astronautics, civil, environmental, mechanical/ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 170 scientists and faculty members from the two institutions participate in the joint program. There are currently 161 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.

### **MIT-WHOI Joint Program Virtual Open House**

With the COVID-19 pandemic still requiring remote learning and work, the Joint Program hosted a virtual open house in March 2020 for our newly admitted graduate students. 40 prospective students were invited to participate in the two-day event through an extensively developed website that included videos recorded from our current students in the five disciplines, video tours of the two campuses, presentations from our student representatives, and links to resources at MIT and WHOI. Live sessions included a welcome and introductions; discipline breakout sessions; a diversity, equity and inclusion session; and a relaxation session led by MIT Medical staff. Feedback from participants was very positive, and prospective students commented that the virtual open house was less tiring (though they missed in-person programming) and the wealth of information provided through the website had a positive effect in influencing their decisions to accept our offers of admission.

### **MIT-WHOI Joint Program Continued Response to COVID-19**

Throughout the pandemic, the students, faculty, and staff in the Joint Program worked to find creative ways to stay connected as a community. With the help of student representatives, we held multiple trivia nights, paint-by-number social gatherings, virtual pet cafes, and virtual coffee hours. Individual disciplines also carried out student-centered events throughout the year with additional support for our students taking general exams in a virtual environment.

Like the rest of the MIT and WHOI communities, the Joint Program is looking forward to returning to our campuses and more typical activities in fall 2021.

## **The MIT-WHOI Joint Program Awards 15 Doctoral Degrees**

The Joint Program awarded 15 doctoral degrees in 2020–2021 and 10 master of science degrees. Degrees were conferred by MIT on June 4, 2021. Dr. Margaret Tivey, the vice president for academic programs and dean of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Professor Edward Boyle, director of the Joint Program, honored the Joint Program graduates on June 2, 2021, during a virtual online celebration. The quinquennial WHOI graduation ceremony scheduled with all Joint Program graduates from past five years was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in both 2020 and 2021. The Joint Program plans to celebrate with seven years of graduates in summer 2022.

**Edward Boyle**

**Director**

**Professor, Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences**

