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Students selected for 2017 NOAA scholarship honoring Dr. Nancy Foster

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has selected three graduate students as recipients of the [Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship](#), representing graduate-level areas of study such as marine biology, oceanography and maritime archaeology. The scholarship recognizes outstanding academics and encourages independent graduate level research, particularly by female and minority students.

To date, 13 percent of alumni are minorities and 90 percent are women. Sixty-six percent of the grant alumni work as professionals in a field related to NOAA mission critical sciences.

"This highly competitive scholarship program allows the next generation of NOAA scientists to grow intellectually and expand their knowledge while promoting the work and mission of the National Marine Sanctuary System," said John Armor, NOAA's [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#) director. "It presents an unmatched opportunity to provide these young scholars with guidance in the very beginning of their careers."

Subject to appropriations, each scholarship recipient will receive an annual stipend of \$30,000 and up to \$12,000 annually as an education allowance. Additionally, recipients could receive up to \$10,000 to support a four to six week research collaboration at a NOAA facility. Masters students may be supported for up to two years, and doctoral students for up to four years.

The three scholarship recipients for 2017 are:



Samara Haver, Oregon State University. Her doctoral studies compare long-term changes in underwater ambient sound by using a network of hydrophones. Ms. Haver will document baseline levels and multi-year trends of acoustic data collected from twelve sites, including four national marine sanctuaries: Olympic Coast, Cordell Bank, Channel Islands and Stellwagen Bank. She earned her undergraduate degree at Colorado College and completed her master's degree at Oregon State University.



Nissa Kreidler, Humboldt State University. Ms. Kreidler is pursuing a master's of science in natural resources and fisheries focused on the deep-sea coral habitats in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz, where she worked in island conservation in California and the Philippines.



Anna Robucks, University of Rhode Island. Her doctoral studies in oceanography will explore the transport and fate of pollutants in coastal and deep sea ecosystems and their effects on Great Shearwater seabirds. Ms. Robucks obtained her undergraduate and master's degree from the University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

As recipients of the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship, these women become recognized members of the NOAA community, as well as ambassadors for the National Marine Sanctuary System. Scholars are highly encouraged to share their research and results with a broad community, focusing on how their research will benefit society.

The scholarships were established in memory of Nancy Foster, Ph.D., a leader in marine resource conservation, a former assistant NOAA administrator for oceanic services and coastal zone management and a past director of NOAA's [National Ocean Service](#). Throughout her NOAA career, Dr. Foster was well respected as a personal supporter of mentoring, a champion of diversity and an advocate of fair and equal treatment of all people in the workplace. Congress created the scholarship in 2000 as a way to honor her life's work, 23 years of service to NOAA and her contribution to the nation.

This year, the Office of the National Marine Sanctuaries received more than 180 applications for this prestigious scholarship. Experts in the fields of science, education and policy from across NOAA reviewed and scored the applications based on their financial need, academic excellence, research, recommendations and career goals.

The office serves as trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. Through active research, management and public engagement, national marine sanctuaries sustain healthy environments that are the foundation for thriving communities and stable economies. Join us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Tumblr](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and our other [social media channels](#).

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