

2024 Speaker Bios: March 15

Marine Sanctuaries & the Future of our Oceans

Jennifer Stock



Jennifer Stock is an Education and Outreach Specialist for NOAA's Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. Jennifer has worked in the field of environmental education since 1994. She has worked as an interpretive park ranger with the National Park Service and taught environmental education directly with youth on Catalina Island and in the GGNRA in the Marin Headlands. As part of her current work she leads communications for the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries, supports education programming for youth, communities and the public, through teacher professional development, resource development, digital media, exhibits, signs, and media communications. Jennifer has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of Delaware and completed a Master's of Science in Education at Dominican University.

Elijah Herman



Elijah Herman is a 2019 graduate of Cal Maritime, where he studied Marine Transportation and minored in Law. While he attended Cal Maritime, he was actively involved in the student body and served as a Cruise Corp Commander and Student Hall Director. Upon graduating, Elijah sailed for Chevron Shipping Company on tankers as Third Mate for three and a half years. He worked on the US West Coast and Gulf, frequently transiting through the Panama Canal.

After obtaining his Chief Mate license, he began working for the Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences (BIOS) on the R/V Atlantic Explorer. While at BIOS, he worked on numerous projects relating to ocean chemistry and marine biology and performed joint research with the Naval Research Laboratory. He then briefly sailed as Chief Mate for Fugro Marine - Geoservices on the survey vessel Fugro Enterprise. The vessel played an integral role in surveying the sea floor for Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind projects. He currently works for Scripps Institute of Oceanography as Chief Mate on the R/V Sally Ride and R/V Roger Revelle, where he has sailed on marine biology, time series studies and chemistry cruises for UCSD, and testing for the Naval Information Warfare Center - Pacific (NIWCPAC). He also holds a 1600t Masters license.

In May 2024, Elijah will graduate with a Master's degree in Global Security Studies and a graduate certificate in Intelligence Analysis from Johns Hopkins University. Elijah hopes to become involved in maritime security policy, procedures, and operations on an international level. Outside of school and work, Elijah enjoys traveling (23 countries and counting), photography, hiking, and spending time with family in his home state of Washington.

Jean Alupay



Jean is the Education Program Manager and a member of the JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) Team for the Greater Farallones Association, a non-profit partner to the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries where Jean is also a NOAA affiliate. She has a BS in Biological Science from UC Davis and a PhD in Integrative Biology from UC Berkeley where she studied octopus defense behaviors and arm movement leading to a postdoctoral research position at the University of Southern California. Jean enjoyed research and doing field study for 7 years (including some grad school time), but equally valued the importance of communicating science to the public. As a result, she pivoted her career into marine science education, mostly K-12 students, but also includes outreach to the public and teaching in class and field opportunities with college students to increase visibility and engagement with the local national marine sanctuaries. Her passion and current involvement in JEDI work to broaden the audiences and inclusion of communities that historically may have felt excluded to accessing nature, like the ocean, stems from her own personal experiences and she strives to open those fields to more leaders and thought partners from diverse backgrounds.

PANELISTS: BONNIE VIERRA (NOAA),
FACILITATOR: ALEXANDER PARKER (Cal Maritime)

Teambuilding: The Optimal Mindset

Serena Martin



Serena Martin is a Chief Engineer with the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association. She has spent nearly 20 years going to sea working for various companies on a variety of ships. Currently she is permanent on the Matson Mokihana as CE.

Ian Wallace



Ian Wallace, PhD is a licensed psychologist providing individual, couples, and group counseling, as well as referral, consultation, and training at California State University, Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime). Dr. Wallace started with Cal Maritime in 2013 and currently serves as the Director of Counseling in Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). During his tenure he has supported cadet mental health from the health center to the classroom and on the Training Ship Golden Bear to short-term study abroad experiences. His areas of expertise include college counseling, multicultural counseling, and diversity-equity-and-inclusion (DEI) activities. Dr. Wallace was past chair of the campus DEI council, program coordinator of the CSU Middle Leadership Academy campus initiative *Toward Advancing Gender Equity*, founding member and secretary of the Faculty Senate Gender Equity Committee, as well as co-principal investigator on multiple epidemiological surveys of cadet physical and mental health at Cal Maritime.

Stephanie Harrison



Stephanie Harrison is a 20 year U.S. Navy (Ret) Lieutenant who currently serves as VP of Human Resources and Finance for Eco-Alpha Environmental & Engineering Services. During her time in the Navy, she served onboard various US Naval ships and completed deployments as a Supply Corps Business Officer specializing in personnel, finance, operations and transportation management. In her role at Eco-Alpha, she leads a dynamic HR support staff to provide equitable employee assistance and program oversight to trained industry professionals. Stephanie holds a B.S. in Business Administration and Master's Degree in Operations Management from The University of Arkansas. She currently resides in Sacramento where she enjoys various fitness activities, tennis, hiking, and spending time with family and friends.

PANELISTS: IMHOTET AMEN-RA

Maritime: The Next Generation

Katherine Mattikow



Katherine is a graduate student at SUNY Maritime working toward two MSc degrees in International Transportation Management and Maritime and Naval Studies. Her research is centered around the intersection of artificial intelligence and the maritime industry. She is the 2023 winner of the Cal Maritime Student Research Competition for her paper *The Use of Light Detection and Ranging for Autonomous Docking*. Katherine was awarded the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award by HRH Prince Edward and the White House for her accomplishments in sports, arts, and voluntary service.

Ambria Gee



PANELISTS: MAX JONES, ALAYNA CELESTINE, ANJALI SHARMA,
FACILITATOR: STEPHANIE FRANCIS

Staying Afloat Offshore and Shoreside

Melodie Puente



Melodie Puente is a 2013 graduate of Cal Maritime. Melodie began her career in oil and gas on deepwater 6th generation drillships and now works in offshore floating wind shoreside in a commercial role.

Gwyneth Potter



Gwyn Potter (Curry) graduated from CMA 2020 with a BA Global Studies and Maritime Affairs and a BS Marine Transportation with a USCG 3rd Mate Unlimited Tonnage PIC-DL. Grew up in San Diego, started sailing at about age 6 in San Diego Bay, earned Sea Scouts highest award Quartermaster (equivalent to Eagle Scout). Sailed as 3rdmate with Chevron for two years, mostly USWC and Gulf of Mexico to USWC, one Shipyard in Singapore. Came shoreside and is currently the Fleet Planning and Performance Specialist for the US Fleet and Shuttle Tanker Team.

Sarah Stevens



Sarah Stevens grew up in Morro Bay on the Central Coast of California where she attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Sarah learned of the California Maritime Academy through a Cal Poly summer science cruise program. Upon graduating Cal Poly, she attended Cal Maritime and graduated in 2004 with a Marine Transportation degree, Third Mate's License and a QMED endorsement. Sarah worked on container ships with the Masters, Mates, & Pilots Union for 20 years, mostly as Second Mate shipping off the west coast of California to Asia. As priorities changed for Sarah, she gradually found her way back to working shoreside. It was a five-year process, first working for a ship management company in the office, and finally, switching industries to work as a Broker Associate, REALTOR for Domestique Real Estate, RE/MAX Gold in Benicia. After years of adventure at sea, Sarah now enjoys community involvement, gardening and spending time with family and friends. Sarah holds a Private Pilot's License, last year completed her first century bicycle ride fundraising for the American Diabetes Association and is currently learning horsemanship and western riding. Sarah has found repeatedly that the education at Cal Maritime has been invaluable, whether working on ship, in the real estate office or for life in general.

PANELIST: LAUREN KINKY
