2021 Overview

Teacher at Sea Program
• Operations on hiatus in 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic
• Continued partnership with Alumni Association
• Prepped for teachers sailing in 2022

Teacher at Sea Alumni Association
• Celebrated 10-year anniversary
• Conducted virtual workshops, book clubs
• Supported scientist/teacher partnerships
• Shared resources with teachers
• Launched TASAA at NOAA Fellowship
• Launched new website

TAS Alumni excited for vaccines!
10 Years of the Teacher at Sea Alumni Association

#FindingYourInnerExplorer

- Provides a bridge between the “at sea” experience and further engagement with NOAA staff and resources
- Strengthens alumni understanding of physical and marine oceanography
- Fosters relationships between NOAA scientists, alumni, and their students
- Encourages and supports collaboration to build a strong alumni network

The Teacher at Sea Alumni Association is supported through a partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
February 2020 interview with Dr. Sian Proctor about her TAS experience: https://vimeo.com/555268118

“A lot of times people think that in order to be an explorer, you have to discover something new for humanity. My thing is to tell them, “No, you have to discover something new for you.” If you can redefine ‘exploration’ as a personal experience, a personal journey of discovery, then you can see the explorer within.” – TAS ‘17 Sian Proctor

2021 Anniversary Theme: Finding Your Inner Explorer, inspired by Dr. Sian Proctor (TAS 2017)
10 Years of the Teacher at Sea Alumni Association

#FindingYourInnerExplorer

• 2021 Anniversary Theme: Finding Your Inner Explorer, inspired by Dr. Sian Proctor (TAS 2017)

New TASAA logo

TASAA anniversary logo

Stickers!
In February, Sue Cullumber (TAS 2014) and her students at Banner Academy in Tempe, Arizona created a list of questions for NOAA oceanographer Jerry Prezioso about marine science and working at sea. He answered each, accompanied by great photos.
Bringing NOAA to the Classroom: Students Send Cups to Sea

In May, Sue Cullumber’s students sent decorated Styrofoam cups with Jerry on the Spring Ecosystem Monitoring Survey aboard NOAA Ship Gordon Gunter. He and his team submerged the cups along with their water sampling gear to demonstrate how pressure increases with depth.

2021 Northeast Spring Ecosystem Monitoring Survey Completed
From Sea to Space:
TAS Alumni in High Places

In March (AFTER inspiring the TASA anniversary theme), Dr. Sian Proctor (TAS 2017) was selected to be a **civilian astronaut** aboard SpaceX’s Inspiration4 mission. Mission preparations were documented in a 4-part Netflix series.

On September 15, 2021, Sian safely piloted the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft as it launched a 3-day flight. TAS staff and alumni across the country followed along!

February 2020 interview with Dr. Sian Proctor about her TAS experience:  [https://vimeo.com/555268118](https://vimeo.com/555268118)

Photo of astronaut Sian courtesy of Inspiration4 via Reuters
DJ Kast (TAS 2015) first connected with Sian at the Southwest TASA Alumni Workshop in La Jolla, California in 2017.

In April, DJ invited Sian to talk with her after-school STEAM program, USC Wonderkids. Sian talked to the students about her lifelong interest in becoming an astronaut and led them in an art project designing mission badges.
Virtual Regional Alumni Meetings

- **February**: Mid-Atlantic
- **April**: Pacific Northwest
- **May**: Gulf of Mexico
- **September**: Pacific Southwest
- **December**: Southeast

**TAS ’09 Lollie Garay shows off the octopus hat she created for the virtual Gulf of Mexico Alumni meeting**
Mid-Atlantic Teacher at Sea Alumni Meeting

February 6, 2021

- **Attendees:** 12 TAS alumni who are current or former residents of MD, DE, NJ, and D.C.

- **Agenda:** Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt

- **Book Club:** Mid-Atlantic TASA Book Club discussion of *Chesapeake Requiem* by Earl Swift followed in May-June

2021 Year in Review
Pacific Northwest Teacher at Sea Alumni Meeting

April 17, 2021

- **Attendees:** 13 TAS alumni from OR, WA, and AK (and 1 visiting NY TAS alum)
- **Agenda:** Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt

- **Book Club:** Pacific Northwest TASA Book Club discussion of *Salmon* by Mark Kurlansky followed in October-December
Gulf of Mexico Teacher at Sea Alumni Meeting

May 15, 2021

- **Attendees:** 26 TAS alumni from 7 Gulf of Mexico and central U.S. states
- **Agenda:** Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt

- **Next Step:** Gulf of Mexico TASA Book Club discussion of *Gulf: The Making of an American Sea* by Jack E. Davis to follow in 2022

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2021 Year in Review
Pacific Southwest Teacher at Sea Alumni Meeting

October 30, 2021

- **Attendees:** 20 TAS alumni from 5 southwest states plus Hawaii
- **Agenda:** Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt

- **Next Step:** Pacific Southwest TASA Book Club discussion of *Where the Water Goes* by David Owen to follow in 2022
Southeast Teacher at Sea Alumni Meeting

December 4, 2021

- **Attendees**: 12 TAS alumni from 6 southeast states
- **Agenda**: Introductions, small group discussions, virtual science museum scavenger hunt
- **Next Step**: Southeast TASA Book Club discussion of *The World of the Salt Marsh* by Charles Seabrook to follow in 2022

2021 Year in Review
Alumni Meeting Impacts

“I appreciate how much we are treated as professionals, have created solid friendships, and can reach out and get help, ideas and support at any time.”

– TAS ’17 Helen Haskell
Virtual Regional Alumni Book Clubs

- **February-April:**
  Great Lakes/Great Plains Region

- **May-June:**
  Mid-Atlantic Region

- **October-December:**
  Pacific Northwest Region

A “Book Bento” created by the Great Lakes / Great Plains Region Book Club while reading The Death and Life of the Great Lakes
Great Lakes / Great Plains
Teacher at Sea Alumni Book Club

February 25 – April 22, 2021

• 11 alumni and staff participants from PA, IN, MN, WI, SD, OH, NY
• Discussed book in parts over five meetings
• Discussion moderated by TAS alumna
• Opportunity to share regional perspectives, expertise, resources
Mid-Atlantic Teacher at Sea Alumni Book Club

May 12 – June 23, 2021

- 9 alumni and staff participants from MD, VA, D.C.
- Discussed book in parts over four meetings
- Discussion moderated by two TAS alumni
- Opportunity to share regional perspectives, expertise, resources

CHESAPEAKE REQUIEM
A YEAR WITH THE WATERMEN OF VANISHING TANGIER ISLAND
EARL SWIFT

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
Pacific Northwest Teacher at Sea Alumni Book Club

October 7 – December 2, 2021

- 8 alumni and staff participants from AK, WA, OR
- Discussed book in parts over five meetings
- Discussion moderated by two TAS alumni
- Opportunity to share regional perspectives, expertise, resources

*Before the second meeting, moderator Kirk Beckendorf (TAS 2004) shared photos from his book club-themed dinner*
“I was able to get a lot of ideas from the book club. I put together a NOAA Planet Stewards proposal on the subject of aquatic invasives, and it was funded.

I will be delivering a book study on the same book starting in January through the University of Sioux Falls for graduate credit... Teachers in any state can participate and receive credit.

The project will culminate in a field experience for my students visiting all five Great Lakes relating our stops to the book. The same group of teachers will have the option to follow and engage with our group virtually during the summer for an additional graduate credit. We just did a zebra mussel survey of South Dakota lakes last week.”

– TAS ‘14/’16 Spencer Cody
Finding Your Inner Explorer Video Challenge

Finding your inner explorer is our theme for 2021. We know all of you have stories to tell and we would like to share your stories on social media. If you would like to participate in this challenge, register below and Britta will send you a password to upload your video.

Register here by March 5th if you plan to participate; videos must be uploaded by March 29th.

• In March, TAS alumni were invited to record 3-minute videos describing times they have found their inner explorers
10 Years of the Teacher at Sea Alumni Association

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Finding Your Inner Explorer Video Challenge

- 6 submissions selected for longer video features coming January 2022
- Watch the videos here: https://marinesanctuary.org/tasaa/videos/

Our teachers are EXPLORERS

Teacher at Sea Alumni Find Their Inner Explorers https://marinesanctuary.org/tasaa/blog/teacher-at-sea-alumni-find-their-inner-explorers/
Introducing the Teacher at Sea Alumni Association NOAA Fellowship

TAS Andrea Schmuttermair
TAS ‘12 NOAA Ship Oregon II, TASA ‘15 NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson

- Consulted on several education-related projects submitted by NOAA offices and programs
- Supported alumni activities and communications
- Developed an independent project using NOAA-related resources and partnerships focused on remotely operated vehicles (ROVs)