

New Underwater Robotics Award Announced



The new Gwyn Griffiths Underwater Robotics Award was one of the announcements made at the Society for Underwater Technology's (SUT's) Annual General Meeting by the new President of Council, Judith Patten MBE.

"SUT's International Panel on Underwater Robotics is honoured to announce the creation of the Gwyn Griffiths Underwater Robotics Award (GGURA). The award recognizes people in the early to mid-stages of their career (and under 40 years old) who have made outstanding contributions to their field in underwater robotics. The award may be for industry/commercial, research and/or creative activity in underwater robotics," she explained.

The winner will receive £500, a certificate and an engraved award.

Neil Bose, chair of the Panel on Underwater Robotics stated: "Members of the Panel on Underwater Robotics were excited by Professor Gwyn Griffiths' generosity in supporting this award and were especially enthusiastic that it should be an early to mid-career award to encourage the up-and-coming generation of underwater robotics workers in their careers."

Gwyn Griffiths MBE, a past president of the SUT added: "As a vibrant, forward-looking learned society, the SUT is at the forefront of encouraging and facilitating international cooperation in underwater robotics. From my own career I know that peer-recognition of achievements through an international award can make a substantial and lasting difference. These have been times for reflection, and by enabling this new Underwater Robotics Award I am delighted to support the innovators of today and tomorrow."

Nominations or applications for a GGURA must consist of the following documents:

- A letter of nomination or application that describes how the candidate meets the criteria. Further information [can be found here](#).
- The letter should be no more than two pages in length. Supporter(s) of the nomination/application may add their signature to this letter or supply an email that indicates their support for the candidate.
- A 100-word citation or appraisal of the candidate's research describing their contributions in a way easily understandable to those outside the discipline.
- A curriculum vitae.
- All applications/nominations to be received by 14 February 2021.

Other Awards and Announcements Made at the AGM

John Partridge of [Sonardyne](#) was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the SUT in recognition of his engineering vision and his commitment to supporting the future of the underwater science and technology community.

Simon Cheeseman, sector lead, Wave & Tidal Energy, at the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult was this year's winner of the Lennard Senior Prize, awarded by SUT's Marine Renewable Energies Committee (MREC) with its chairman Professor John Sharp making the presentation.

Six Members were elected Fellows of the SUT:

- Gareth Wood – Services to OSIG (Offshore Site Investigation & Geotechnics special interest group)
- Tim Carrington – Services to OSIG
- Andrew Benson – Services to OSIG
- Miguel Pacheco Andrade – Services to OSIG
- Andrew Hunt – Service to sustainable offshore energy & safety in diving
- Vahid Walker – Service to North East Branch & support of early career members.

The registration of the first three SUT Chartered Marine Technologists – Tom Bennetts CMarTech and John Houlder CMarTech both of Sonardyne, and André Rose CMarTech of the International Marine Contractors Association (IMCA) – was also celebrated.

Finding the *Empire Windrush* and its Iconic Anchor

Attendees enjoyed an interesting insight into the life, work and future plans of shipwreck hunter David Mearns, introduced by Immediate Past President Professor Ralph Rayner. Providing funding is secured, David will (giving his time on a pro bono basis) lead the search for the *Empire Windrush*, which lies up to 3,000m down at the bottom of the Mediterranean, some 23 nautical miles off the coast of Algeria. The aim is to recover the *Empire Windrush*'s iconic anchor and bring it back to the UK as an alternative monument to acknowledge the contribution of the Windrush Generation and migration in Britain.

Portions of the meeting, including David Mearns' presentation, will appear on the SUT's website shortly at www.sut.org.

About the SUT

The Society for Underwater Technology (SUT) is a multidisciplinary learned society that brings together organizations and individuals with a common interest in underwater technology, ocean science and offshore engineering.

SUT was founded in 1966 and has members from more than 40 countries, including engineers, scientists, other professionals and students working in these areas. In recent decades, many SUT members have come from the offshore hydrocarbon sector; today, there are growing numbers of members from offshore renewables, marine autonomous systems, and the policy, law and insurance sectors who support offshore activities of many kinds.

The Underwater Association, which also commenced operations in 1966, had a long-standing relationship with SUT, and merged with SUT in 1992, having played a key role in establishing safer diving practices in consultation with the UK Health & Safety Executive. Their legacy can be particularly seen in the work of the Diving & Manned Submersibles Committee.

<https://www.hydro-international.com/content/news/new-underwater-robotics-award-announced>
