

MIT/ Woods Hole Joint Program in Oceanography and Applied Ocean Science and Engineering

The Joint Program of the [Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution](#) (WHOI) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 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 (civil, environmental, mechanical/ocean, and electrical engineering). More than 170 scientists/faculty from the two institutions participate in the joint program. There are currently 117 students enrolled in five areas of study: 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 Biology; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences; Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; and Mechanical Engineering.

Joint MIT-WHOI Faculty Meeting and Symposium: “Watching the Arctic Melt”

On November 19, 2012, a joint MIT-WHOI faculty meeting was held at the Faculty Club to discuss suggestions for improving the organization, oversight, and local facilities for faculty and students at MIT and WHOI. Some of the issues discussed were:

- Finding dedicated office space at MIT for Joint Program students
- Improving committee oversight and monitoring of graduate student progress
- Integrating and standardizing Joint Program procedures across disciplines
- Increasing the number of MIT faculty involved in advising and supporting Joint Program students
- Organizing a yearly faculty-student retreat.

The meeting was followed by a symposium at Whitehead Auditorium titled “Watching the Arctic Melt: Adventures in Polar Oceanography.” More than 100 people attended, including MIT and WHOI faculty and staff, journalists, and members of the general public.

MIT professors Arthur Baggeroer, John Leonard, and Henrik Schmidt, research scientist Patrick Heimbach, and WHOI scientists Carin Ashjian, Hanumant Singh, and John Toole gave presentations on Arctic-related research. Admiral Richard Pittenger (US Navy, retired) gave the final talk—a history of the US Navy’s involvement in the region and a frank assessment of the geopolitical implications of a melting Arctic.

A news story on the symposium, as well as a complete list of talks and speakers, can be found at: <http://oceans.mit.edu/featured-stories/watching-arctic-melt-adventures-polar-oceanography>.

Administrative Changes

Effective January 16, 2013, professor Maria Zuber, vice president for research, assumed budgetary and administrative oversight of the Joint Program. In addition, professor Robert van der Hilst, head of the Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, has been asked to take day-to-day administrative and operational responsibility of the program as of July 1, 2013.

Edward Boyle

Director

Professor, Department of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences