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The Downline:

DIT Bi-Annual Newsletter

Willy Wilson Retires After 40 Years at DIT!

By Nick Crivello, Director of Placement

Willy's Celebration

On July 2, Divers Institute congratulated Sylvester "Willy" Wilson on his retirement after 40 years and 1 day at DIT with a ceremony and BBQ at the school. Featured speakers included Phil Newsum, Executive Director of the ADCI who presented Willy with the ADCI Lifetime Achievement Award and Sid Macken, President of the Historical Diving Society, who presented the Leonard Greenstone Award. Cindy Manlove Moran, daughter of DIT founder John Manlove offered some comments in honor of Willy's long friendship with the Manlove family and his service to DIT students for generations. John Paul Johnston, Executive Director of DIT and the man, the legend, Willy Wilson himself also took the podium.

Around 200 students, faculty, alumni, and guests had the chance to wish Willy well and thank him for passing on his knowledge to several generations of new divers. Over his tenure at Divers Institute, Willy has served as Instructor, Admissions, Director of Training, Director of Placement, Director of Surliness, Eternal Knower of Everything, and a few other titles none of us are old enough to remember.

As a token of our gratitude for his service to our students for all these years, DIT presented Willy with a replica Mark V hat to commemorate the many students whose opportunity to dive the Mark V came under Willy's tutelage.

Willy's Canvas Works

Willy's future endeavors will continue through his business at Willy's Canvas Works, where you can order a new harness or snoopy if you ever need one. Give Willy a call at 425-923-7810 or email him at sylvesterwilson@me.com to get his production line busy on your behalf.



Willy's Legacy

"The empty chair is what I leave behind along with the memories of a 40-year career. Days were good and some were not so good, but they all come to an end, as I walk away from a great career. Hopefully I was instrumental in the formation of students' lives. Always lived by the motto of a noble instructor. As you change their lives, so you change the world. Don't know who said it, but it is how I lived in my career." –Willy Wilson



Message from Our Executive Director

by John Paul Johnston

As Divers Institute enters its 47th year of operation, the number, depth of experience and importance of our alumni has been highlighted with the recent retirement of Sylvester "Willy" Wilson. Willy was a key member of the DIT staff for 40 years and 1 day. During the festivities surrounding his retirement, the school was visited by several alumni who had the privilege of being taught by Willy.

In the weeks prior to this milestone event, I had calls and emails from many of our former students expressing their regrets that they'd be unable to attend but wanted to pass on their congratulations and to let Willy know the impact that he had on their training and subsequent success. As we began the event, I looked around the crowd and was pleased to see so many of our alumni in attendance. It speaks volumes of the influence Willy had on so many.

Throughout the day I spoke with several of our long time graduates and it dawned on me what an influence this institution has had on the lives of those who've come to school here and completed their courses. Many of our alumni are the leaders of our diving industry and many more are leaders in other industries they've moved on to. All spoke to the positive experience they had while

attending DIT and the inspiration it provided them going forward with their lives.

The school has undergone significant changes over the years and many of those changes have been precipitated by the feedback we've received from our Program Advisory Committee (PAC) members, former graduates, and students currently attending DIT. While we enjoy a highly qualified and dedicated staff, it is the input from all involved that has made this school the finest commercial diving education venue worldwide.

Today when I speak to classes preparing to graduate, one of the key issues I touch on is the requirement to network! The relationships that they have developed while in school and those that they will develop over time are often the basis for their ongoing success in whatever industry they dedicate themselves to. This concept also transcends the boundaries of the schoolhouse here in Seattle.

As we close in on our 50th Anniversary in 2018, it's important to everyone here at DIT that we begin a comprehensive effort to contact and include everyone who has worked for or graduated from Divers Institute. This is the first newsletter the school has published and is part of our drive to contact and network with our graduates globally.



I hope that all of you will come and see the new location and bring your memories with you. Also, if you're aware of and in touch with some of your former classmates, please forward their contact information to us so we can reach out to them.

Stay safe!

John Paul

LEAVING A LEGACY

Photo above from our recent Oct. 12, 2015 graduation day. *On behalf of Class 103-15, graduate James Yates III, who is known as "Sugar Bear" throughout campus, presented the faculty & staff of DIT with a specially made plaque as a Thank You for investing in generation after generation of commercial divers. This beautiful shellback-style piece is displayed proudly at the school.*

Student Volunteers in Action

by Justin Shults, Veteran Services/Admissions Specialist

Several students from Class 105-15 assisted the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance (PSA) with a clean-up effort on sections of Salmon Bay on June 13, 2015. The event yielded nearly a half-ton of debris. Members of Class 102-15 volunteered their time in a second PSA clean-up event on August 8, 2015. Six divers in the Inland Diving block of our seven-month program braved the muddy waters of the Washington Park Arboretum and conducted a two-hour cleanup below the WA-520 on-ramp.

Many thanks to our SCUBA instructor Mike Hemion for supervising the diving portion of the cleanup!

"A huge thanks to the Divers Institute of Technology for helping to collect 808 pounds of trash from the Arboretum and Portage Bay, including giant blocks of Styrofoam, several tires, and many beer cans!"

--Kathryn Davis, Stewardship Coordinator,
Puget Soundkeeper Alliance



Class 102-15 Volunteers

GRADUATES: CHECK THIS OUT!



New Placement Director: Nick Crivello

Alumni looking for placement assistance are encouraged to contact Nick Crivello, our new Placement Director. Nick has been in the school's Admissions Department for 6 years before transitioning to this new role. He is excited to help recent grads and seasoned alumni in their new and continuing career pursuits.

Always feel free to call DIT and ask for Nick, or use his direct line at (206) 582-5343, or email him at ncrivello@diversinstitute.edu with any placement needs or questions!



Financial Words of Wisdom from Caycee Clark, Director of Financial Aid

Graduates: Remember to keep paying your loans!

If you are experiencing any kind of hardship which is making it difficult for you to make payments, reach out to Caycee and her team so they can help. There may be alternatives for being able to reduce or temporarily postpone payments if necessary. All you need to do is call (206) 783-5542 and the Financial Aid team can get you on the right track for help.

FAST FACTS

88% Employment Rate

166 students placed out of 188 available for industry employment from June 2013-May 2014

42% Veteran Students

269 veterans of 636 active students from Jan 2013- June 2015



New instructor Steve Coleman (L- "Note: This is not coffee creamer!") and newly returned instructor Britt Coates (below) are adding their wit, wisdom, and industry experience to the quality curriculum taught by DIT faculty.

Top-Notch Training

by Boy Kayona, Director of Training

ACCSC Accreditation

Under our accreditation with the ACCSC (Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges), we completed a visit with an Educational Specialist in early July. The Specialist was impressed with DIT's curriculum and program organization, the quality and expertise of our instructors, and students' energy and commitment to their success in training. She came back with "zero findings" about the Training Department, meaning that DIT is achieving and exceeding our stated training objectives. We're expecting to receive official notice of our 5-year accreditation renewal by the end of the year.



Riser Clamp Project

Former students may remember the Riser Clamp Project used during the Offshore module at our previous campus. We've redesigned it for our current facilities and completed the final installation during our Summer Break this past July. This project has been designed to replicate conditions common in the offshore industry and challenge our students' skills on tasks that they will encounter in the



Gulf of Mexico and other offshore job sites. A dedicated team of instructors redesigned, built, and planned for several months to refresh this component of our training.

New Instructors

This August, we were pleased to have two instructors come on board to add to our experienced and skilled instructor team.

Brand new to DIT is Steve Coleman. Steve is a Retired U.S. Navy Chief, Hospital Corpsman, Independent Duty Corpsman, and Diving Medical Technician (DMT). With his extensive experience in 1st Aid / CPR instruction and DMT applications, Steve will be taking over for Larry Gillard in the 1st Aid / CPR and HazMat I modules. He recently completed a week-long intensive HazMat Train-the-Trainer course to enhance our course materials and resources.

Reclaiming one of our own, Britt Coates has returned to the instructor team after a 9-month term of industry work. Britt has been updating his experience on a variety of ships' husbandry, power plant, and nuclear plant inland jobs in the Southeast. Britt brings



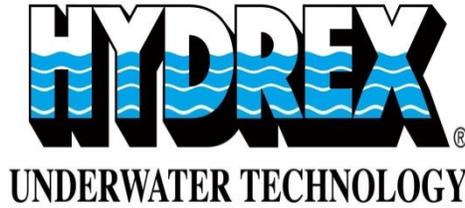
back current practices and fresh perspective on the industry to add to our students' practical training.

Company Spotlight

by Roscelin Vivas, Hydrex Personnel Admin

Established in 1974, Hydrex has earned a long-standing reputation as a world leader in providing professional, reliable, and innovative repair and maintenance solutions to the commercial shipping and offshore industries. Our international team of diver-technicians regularly mobilizes all around the globe at short notice to carry out tailor-made services to help clients maintain the efficiency and productivity of their vessels. Key services include:

- Thruster Repair and Replacement
- Stern Tube Seal Repair and Replacement
- Propeller Repair and Modification
- Propeller Cone Fin Installations
- Permanent and Temporary Hull Repairs



Offshore Industry

Hydrex provides all our underwater repair and maintenance services to the offshore industry as well, including thruster repair/removal, hull plating repairs, full hull inspections and NDT, and high quality cleaning of heavy and severe marine growth. Our containerized equipment allows Hydrex to respond rapidly to immediate offshore needs, allowing us to have our teams on location within days.

New Applicants

Hydrex is always looking for motivated, capable additions to our international team. Dry and wet welding skills are of course valued, but not required.

Mechanical, electronic, and construction experience are also applicable traits in a new team member. New hires are expected to be competent and prepared to dive immediately from their first day. As Hydrex offers repair solutions all over the world, a readiness to travel is necessary. A passport and TWIC card should be obtained prior to applying. Applications can be sent to jobs@hydrex.us for consideration.

Hydrex Past Operations Magazines

I highly recommend anyone interested in joining our Hydrex team to review some of the Hydrex Magazines, which detail past operations, to gain some understanding of the level of services we provide the industry. <http://www.hydrex.be/magazines>

Student Veterans' Services

by Justin Shults, Veteran Services/Admissions Specialist

After changes in personnel, we're catching up with providing expanded avenues to success for our Veteran students, both academically and for their recent transitions from Active, Reserve and Guard duty into school. There is and always will be a strong dedication to our Veteran student body—the majority of services provided through the Student Veterans Association (SVA) are specific to Veterans; however, student activities are open to the entire student body (unless specified otherwise).

Edmunds Community College have played a huge role in reestablishing our Veteran services program! We've managed to stay busy keeping up with our Veterans, and with the help of external resources (VetCorp Navigators/AmeriCorps, local VFW Service Officers, and VA Health Care affiliates), several of our Veterans' needs were met, ranging from temporary housing to approval of VA benefits. To provide a supportive academic experience, we'll continue to explore and expand our network to provide for our Veteran students in need.

Along with expanding the DIT's Veteran Services resources, we've also reestablished our Student Veterans Association (SVA). Attendance at SVA meetings is consistent, especially after a self-funded camping trip to Lake Diablo during the Summer Break (picture at left)! The group recently elected their Executive Council, which will rotate as leaders graduate. The group was registered with the national Student Veterans of America registry as of September 2015.



Photo Above: Jade Khatib, former SVA President chats with a visiting VFW officer during an SVA Cookout/Fundraiser held on campus in October.



Support from the DIT staff has been tremendous! Additionally, Veteran Advisors from the University of Washington-Bothell and Veterans Training Support Center-

For questions comments or suggestions, contact Justin at jshults@diversinstitute.edu or (206) 783-5542.

Congratulations to our current SVA leaders:

President:	Richard Willis
Vice President:	Ian Kidney
Secretary:	Levi Boland
Treasurer:	Aaron Cashen
Public Affairs:	Ryan Olevson

Special Feature: DIT Trains to International CSA Standards

by Bruce Banks, DIT Managing Member

I thought you may be interested in how and why we participate in the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Diving Standards. In 2000, DIT sought out the process of how U.S. divers could gain world-wide, international recognition. I was told by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in Great Britain that because there was no U.S. federal authority to oversee the development of standards nor a government entity or organization to guarantee certification across the spectrum of diving specialties, that HSE could not recognize U.S. divers unless the required training competencies came from HSE or an HSE-recognized national standard.

I was taken aback as I knew it was the U.S., through the U.S. Navy, who advanced modern diving techniques, saturation diving, and equipment to support offshore diving. (In fact, the North Sea was first opened by U.S. Saturation diving companies). With "hat in hand," I approached the Canadian National Energy Board (NEB) who had developed standards acceptable to the international community. Back then, NEB was issuing competency cards, but was in the process of transferring standard development to CSA and concurrently developing a national oversight body, the Diver Certification Board of Canada (DCBC) to certify diver competency through a vigorous audit and continuous inspection and oversight of schools who taught to the CSA standards.

CSA strongly encourages the development and maintenance of its standards through consensus among its members. Members of the CSA commercial diving committees and subcommittees comprise divers, contractors, educators, regulators, inspectors (from the provinces), and medical and scientific experts. These members come together twice a year to provide a review and update the CSA standards, working throughout the year through its committees and subcommittees.

The heart of the CSA Diving Standards is the *Competency of Standard for Diving, Hyperbaric Chamber, and Remotely Operated Vehicle Operations*, commonly referred to as Z275.4, which spells out the competency and performance standards. Its corresponding Z275.5, *Occupational Diver Training*, breaks

down these standards into terminal and enabling objectives that all CSA-compliant diving schools must use within their curricula. DIT's curriculum is compliant with all Z275.5 terminal and enabling objectives for the Unrestricted Surface Supplied Diver category.

MEET ONE OF OUR STUDENTS



Raymond Mukolu:

International Student from Nigeria

Raymond is from the city of Agbor in the Delta State of Nigeria. He is 36 years old and has twin 9-year old boys. He has worked at his family's business, Uniglobe Group of Companies since 2000 as a Public Relations Officer. One of the subsidiaries of the company is Industrial Services, which supports the oil and gas industry offshore. This is the side of the company Raymond hopes to return to; however, he is open to going to work anywhere as long as he is diving. He wants to share how much he loves his country and that Nigeria is blessed to have an abundance of natural resources. He is proud of his culture and feels that the people of Nigeria are family oriented, accommodating, and friendly, and he would encourage anyone to visit. Raymond added that his experience here at DIT has been wonderful and that DIT is the best place to be. He appreciates the friendliness of all the DIT instructors and staff. Raymond also stated that he promises to be a lifelong ambassador of DIT!



Agbor, Nigeria

Agbor in Delta State is in the south central area of Nigeria, approximately 3 hours west of Enugu.



Nigerian Flag

The current Nigerian flag was adapted from the winning design done by a 23-year old student, Michael Taiwo Akinkunmi, for a national competition in 1959. It was first officially used on October 1, 1960, Nigeria's Independence Day.

Progress on ROV Program Development

by Bill McGilton, ROV Program Developer

Last year, Divers Institute of Technology (DIT) completed a comprehensive study that provided the feasibility of entering the U.S. Market for Pilot/Technician (ROV-PT) Training. In early 2015, a review with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges (ACCSC) approved DIT's application for a 24-week, 912 hour course. The course will be compliant with both the International Marine Contractors' Association (IMCA) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). The goal is for the program to begin in the first part of 2016.

The first 12 weeks (Phase One) is a basic program consisting of Math, Hydraulics, Electrical/Electronics, Machine Fundamentals, CPR/First Aid, Rigging and HazMat. Phase One is now 80% complete. The instructor manuals are available and the Power Point presentations are 80% complete.

The second 12 weeks (Phase Two) comprising the ROV-specific technology and piloting modules, was started in June 2015 and is about 40% complete.

Training aids and equipment have been identified and contacts have been made with ROV companies to acquire used gear.

DIT Managing Member Bruce Banks stated, "We're poised to offer a comprehensive ROV training program that will provide the ROV industry with entry-level ROV technicians/pilots." Bruce added, "We are excited with the prospect of providing the industry with not only quality initial training, but continued advanced training as well."



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