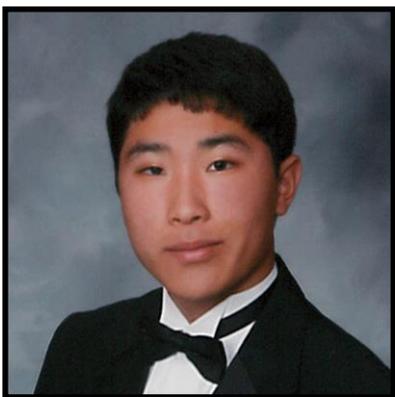




*The National Ocean Sciences Bowl®*  
*2018 National Ocean Scholarship Program Recipients*

Since 2003, the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), a program of the Consortium for Ocean Leadership, has recognized and rewarded student achievement by providing scholarships to up to five students per year who plan to pursue degrees in ocean science or a related science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) field. With the help of dedicated and caring individuals, we were able to reward five talented young scholars in 2018 as they begin the next phase of their education and start working towards their future careers.

**2018 Recipients:**



**Ryunosuke “Ryu” Akiba**, showed great leadership as the captain of his team from Santa Monica High School in California while competing at the Los Angeles Surf Bowl. He learned teamwork was key to success, as was having to make decisions when faced with opposing viewpoints or answers. His letters of recommendation showed Ryu is academically motivated and driven, with an intellectual curiosity that transcends any particular class or subject. He is also described as patient, humble, and thoughtful and volunteers his time to tutor other students after school. At the University of California, Berkeley, Ryu plans to apply his favorite subject — math— to understanding physical oceanography through mathematical models of fluid dynamics. He is also interested in designing blue energy solutions to utilize the ocean for a more sustainable future.

**Emma Gould** competed at the Nor’easter Bowl on the team from Morse High School in Maine. She also attended the Coastal Studies for Girls program for a semester focused on marine science, leadership, and experiential learning. Teachers noted her positive influence on other classmates, helping everyone approach challenges with humor and creativity. Marine science helped Emma find a path and direction. Her goal is to use her love of ocean science, a result of her participation in the NOSB, with her interest to share the importance of the ocean and the challenges it faces with others. Emma wants to produce documentaries that educate communities on important ocean conservation topics. She knows it’s easy to lose hope when hearing all the sad news about the ocean’s health but says her time competing in the NOSB has shown her there is hope. She’s already created one short film, *Minuscule*, on ocean acidification (online at <https://youtu.be/JXwZ0ifDg54>). She will major in marine biology and film at Eckerd College.



**Rachel Kuklinski** competed with Poland Regional High School from Maine at the Nor’easter Bowl for two years, serving as team captain her senior year. Her teachers and NOSB coach noted her amazing focus and diligence and how she never shied away from challenging work or assisting her peers - both in and out of the classroom. In fact, one teacher stated that if being a student was a sport, Rachel “would have been noticed by scouts at 14 and entered the draft right out of high school.” Rachel’s participation in the NOSB, which connected her to college-level students and professors studying the ocean, inspired her to pursue a degree, and ultimately a career, in marine biology. She plans to major in marine biology at Eckerd College.

**Peyton Lee** competed at the Orca Bowl for four years with his team from Newport High School in Washington. Those around Peyton have stated he is a true leader - showing perseverance, curiosity, positivity, humility, and enthusiasm. Peyton's passion for the ocean is magnetic, inspiring change in those around him. When he asked mentors at a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Junior Leader networking event how he should narrow down his career choices based on his interests in marine science, computer science, theater, art, and design, the response was a resounding "don't." Now understanding the importance of computing to environmental science, he has decided to double major in computer science as well as aquatic and fisheries science at the University of Washington. Peyton wants to tackle oceanographic data while furthering his interests in ecology, marine biology, and aquaculture. In February 2019, the Orca Bowl will gain yet another NOSB alumni as a volunteer.



**James Riddell** competed with his Michigan Huron High School team at the Great Lakes Bowl for four years, serving as captain for two of those. His participation in the NOSB and interest in scuba taught him to love some of the ocean's qualities that initially frightened him as a new diver – namely, the ocean's size and mystery. His coach noted that their high school does not have a dedicated ocean science course, so he provided lectures to his team outside of school hours. James was never one to wait for his coach to present material. Instead, he independently searched for resources to assist his insatiable quest for ocean knowledge. His willingness and determination to pursue interests, and maturity when faced with obstacles, speak to his skills as the leader of his NOSB team. He also attended the Acadia Institute of Oceanography to learn more about career opportunities for marine scientists. James will pursue a major

in marine biology at the University of California, San Diego and eventually the contiguous BS/MS degree program offered at Scripps Institute of Oceanography.