

# BONNIE EPSTEIN

Cell phone: (401) 487-3521      Email address: bepstein@rimosa.org

## ***Professional Preparation***

A.B. 1994 Brown University, Geology/Biology

Ph.D. 1999 University of Rhode Island Graduate School of Oceanography, Geological Oceanography

## ***Appointments***

### **Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI**

#### **Part-time Faculty**

**2009-Present**

- Developed and taught 6 highly rated multidisciplinary courses combining – in varying degrees – large systems, problem solving, Biology, Geology, Chemistry, and Physics as well as Design Solutions.
- Courses developed and taught: *Environmental Disasters & Design Solutions*; *Water Pollution*; *Global Water Crisis*; *Alternative Energy*; *Climate Change & Design Solutions* and *Introductory Geology*.
- Worked with faculty across disciplines and departments to refine and update existing Nature, Culture and Sustainability Studies Core Seminar.
- Taught 1 of 4 updated Nature, Culture and Sustainability Studies Core Seminars.

### **Bryant University, Smithfield, RI**

#### **Part-time Faculty**

**2023-Present**

- Developed and taught Geo/Bio/Chem course *Environmental Toxicology and Human Health*.

### **Rhode Island Museum of Science and Art (RIMOSA), Founder**

#### **Vice-President of Board & Executive Director**

**2016-2022**

- Led transition from pop-up museum (2010-2017) to permanent one at 763 Westminster St. Prov.
- Maintained RIMOSA's vision and viability by working with Museum staff & other stakeholders on programming, exhibits, physical plant, branding, partnerships & development.
- Conceived of, and oversaw RIMOSA's transition of in-person, hands-on programs to kit-based online programs in order to maintain hands-on nature of programming during global pandemic.
- Oversaw RIMOSA's absorption into the Rhode Island Computer Museum in 2022

#### **Board President**

**2009-2016**

- Conceived of and led formation of unique hands-on museum for RI for ages 8 and up. RIMOSA merges science and art in interactive exhibits and programs supporting open-ended exploration. Federal non-profit status (501-c-3) obtained 2010
- Built diverse and involved working board of directors; coordinated board in museum activities
- Wrote grants to support programs and design/construction of over 20 substantial, hands-on exhibits
- Hired p/t educators. Lead educators in development of curriculum for over 40 different science/art facilitated programs for middle and high school students. Developed evaluations for same.
- Coordinated partnerships with other RI non-profits to give as many Rhode Islanders as possible access to exhibits and outreach programs. Over 10,000 served.
- Oversaw hiring of consultants to develop strategic plan, 2015, and recruited new board president

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## **University of Rhode Island. Kingston & Providence, RI**

### **Grant Writer**

**2012**

- Wrote successful \$640K grant (NSF #1259473) supporting underrepresented STEM students at URI

### **Part-time Faculty**

**1999-2000, 2013, 2015, 2016**

- Developed and delivered courses on Environmental Geology, Geomorphology and Oceanography

## **New England Aquarium, Boston, MA**

### **Principal Investigator**

**2000-2007**

#### ***New England Aquarium Master Plan: 2007***

- Provided content, conducted visitor research and lead in-house focus groups to inform direction of New England Aquarium immediate and long term plans.

#### ***Gulf of Maine Exhibit: opened 2005***

- Developed concept and content for graphics and interactive exhibits at the Aquarium which, combined with live exhibits, teach visitors about the unique nature of the Gulf of Maine.
- Wrote text for exhibit panels which explained concepts to visitors such as food webs, sustainable fisheries, fishing techniques and marine sanctuary management.
- Coordinated efforts between Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary and New England Aquarium to create a joint exhibit which pleased both.

#### ***Amazing Jellies Exhibit: opened 2004***

- Initiated, developed and wrote National Science Foundation grant for \$1.9 million, 2,500 sqft exhibit using live animals, graphics and interactive experiences to teach visitors how human activity is changing the ocean (NSF Award Number ESI-0206136).
- Directed internal exhibit team (husbandry, design, education and finance departments) to ensure integrity of completed exhibit.
- Accomplished our stated exhibit goal of raising visitor awareness of several specific threats to the ocean. This accomplishment was demonstrated by outside evaluation.

## **Director, New England Aquarium's (NEAq) Newport Exploration Center (NEC) 2000-2005**

- Developed, implemented, promoted and evaluated exhibits and programs at NEC, NEAq's seasonal satellite facility in Rhode Island, tripling attendance to reach over 11,000 people/yr.
- Generated \$150K annual budget through external grant support and program revenue.
- Hired and oversaw professional development of 12 seasonal staff and volunteers.
- Designed and supervised implementation of major improvements to the NEC including safety and aesthetic work, 8 new live exhibits and 7 new computer or mechanical interactive exhibits.
- Developed, implemented and evaluated numerous new marine science programs, including activities for preschoolers, in-school programs and day camps for ages 6 - 14, and Elderhostel.

## ***Publications***

*List is available upon request*

## ***Committees***

- Rhode Island Computer Museum, Board President
- RISD Science Educators Working Group
- RISD Initiative for Sustainability and the Environment
- Committee for RISD Warner-Cook Prize for Excellence
- Peer Reviewer for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine