

BONNIE EPSTEIN

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

2010-Present

- Developed & taught 7 highly rated multidisciplinary courses combining, in varying degrees, large systems, problem solving, Biology, Geology, Chemistry, and Physics as well as Design Solutions.
- Courses solely developed and taught: *Environmental Disasters & Design Solutions*; *Water Pollution*; *Global Water Crisis*; *Alternative Energy* and *Introductory Geology*.
- Worked with 3 biology faculty to develop & teach new *Interconnected Nature* course.
- Worked with RISD Liberal Arts and Architecture faculty to refine and update existing Nature, Culture and Sustainability Studies (NCSS) Core Seminar.
- Taught 1 of multiple updated NCSS Seminars, working with fellow teachers to ensure consistency.
- Chair of RISD Initiative for Sustainability & the Environment Committee, focused on interdepartmental sustainability/regeneration initiatives on campus

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, Chair
- Committee for RISD Warner-Cook Prize for Excellence
- Peer Reviewer for the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine