

2024 - 2025



NEXTGEN

SCHOLARSHIP



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GUE NextGen Scholar

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“Over the past year, my GUE NextGen Scholarship experience has been nothing short of impressive, transformative, and fulfilling.”

What did you do in your Scholarship year?

The GUE NextGen Scholarship provided me with the opportunity to intentionally build a foundation for the type of diver I aim to become: one who values precision, teamwork, and contribution to something larger than individual achievement. Over the past year, my focus has been on developing core skills through repeated exposure, embracing constructive feedback, and actively engaging with the GUE community across multiple regions around the world.

My training journey spanned recreational and technical pathways, beginning with Fundamentals and expanding into drysuit, Rescue, DPV, Cave, and Technical training. Experiencing these courses across different environments and instructional styles reinforced the universality of GUE standards while highlighting the importance of adaptability and teamwork. Each milestone served as both a technical checkpoint and an opportunity to refine precision in procedures, decision-making, team communication, and situational awareness.

Beyond formal instructions, the community meetups, fun diving, Project Baseline work, community day, Young Diver program, and conferences played a critical role in shaping my scholarship year. These experiences allowed me to observe how training translates into real-world application, whether through conservation efforts, mentorship, or simply supporting one another underwater. As I look ahead, this year has firmly anchored my commitment to continued training, practices, exploration, and contributing meaningfully to the GUE's project on exploration, conservation, community, and beyond.

Summary of GUE training courses

- 11-15 Nov 2024: **GUE Fundamentals:** Jon Kieren @High Springs, USA - **Rec**
- 21-22 Mar 2025: **GUE Drysuit Primer:** Kelly Colwell @Panama City Beach, USA
- 4-6 Apr 2025: **GUE Rescue Primer:** Annika @Puerto Aventuras, Mexico
- 18 Apr 2025: **GUE Fundamentals:** Stretch Altenhein @High Springs, USA - **Tech**
- 18-21 May 2025: **GUE Fundamentals:** Imad Farhat @Protaras, Cyprus - **Tech**
- 22-24 May 2025: **GUE DPV1:** Imad Farhat @Protaras, Cyprus
- 28 Sep - 3 Oct 2025: **GUE Cave1:** Jon Kieren @High Springs, USA
- 18-23 Nov 2025: **GUE Tech1:** Kees Beemster Leverenz @Seattle, USA

GUE FUNDAMENTALS REC/TECH – DRYSUIT – RESCUE – DPVI – CAVEI – TECHI



Summary of GUE community events / projects / meetups attended

- 17 Nov 2025: **SEUE Meet & Practice Dive** @Royal Springs, FL, USA
- 7 Dec 2024: **PCUE Meet & Practice Dive** @Morrison Springs, FL, USA
- 12 Jan 2025: **GUE Thai New Year Meetup** @Bangkok, Thailand
- 15 Feb 2025: **Spring Lake volunteer diver DAC course** @San Marcos, TX, USA
- 16 Feb 2025: **GUE Austin-San Marcos Meet & Dive** @Spring Lake, TX, USA
- 8 Mar 2025: **PCUE Meet & Dive** @Vortex Springs, FL, USA
- 22 Mar 2025: **PCUE Project Baseline: Black Bart** @Panama City, FL, USA
- 27 Apr 2025: **GUE Austin-San Marcos Meet & Dive** @Canyon Lake
- 31 May 2025: **NSS-CDS Cave diving conference** @Alachua, FL, USA
- 13-15 Jun 2025: **OCUE Meet & Dive** @Ventura, CA, USA
- 11-14 Jul 2025: **GUE Seattle Dive + Meetup** @Seattle, WA, USA
- 8-10 Aug 2025: **GUE Austin, Texas Flower Garden Banks Liveboards** @TX, USA
- 29-31 Aug 2025: **MWUE Meet & Great Lakes Wreck Dives** @Lake Michigan, WI, USA
- 12-14 Sep 2025: **OCUE Catalina Dive + Redondo Beach Cleanup** @CA, USA
- 20 Sep 2025: **SoCal GUE community day** @Redondo Beach, CA, USA
- 4 Oct 2025: **PCUE Cave diving meet & dive** @Jackson Blue Springs, FL, USA
- 10-12 Oct 2025: **BAUE Meet & dive** @Point Lobos / Breakwater, Monterey, CA, USA
- 11-13 Nov 2025: **Cave diving meetup** @High Springs, FL, USA
- 26 Nov 2025: **GUE Seattle Tech wreck diving** @Lake Washington, Seattle, WA, USA
- 11 Dec 2025: **Cave Diving Meetup** @Merritts Mill Pond, FL, USA

Summary of official GUE events attended

- 22-28 Jun 2025: [GUE Young Divers program 2025](#) @Sardinia, Italy
- 20 Sep 2025: [GUE Community Day 2025 Livestream](#) @Online
- 6-10 Nov 2025: [GUE Conference 2025](#) @High Springs, USA



Detailed breakdown by months

NOVEMBER 2024:

I officially kicked off my GUE NextGen year by revisiting the GUE Fundamentals in High Springs under the instruction of instructor Jon Kieren, earning a Recreational pass. This course set the foundation for my year, tightening my skills and refining how I approached buoyancy, trim, and teamwork mindset. Shortly after, I joined the SEUE (Southeast Underwater Explorers) community for a post-fundamentals practice dive at Royal Springs, marking my first step into the GUE community engagement.

DECEMBER 2024:

In December, I got a chance to consolidate my fundamental skills and connect with the local community. Participating in the PCUE (Panama City Underwater Explorers) meetup and practice dives reinforced my skills in real diving conditions and introduced me to teammates who would become recurring collaborators throughout the year. I also got an opportunity to visit Scuba Adventures Plano to get measured for my first-ever Santi E.Lite+ drysuit.

JANUARY 2025:

At the start of the year, I traveled back to Thailand and connected with the GUE Thai community for the first time through the New Year meetup in Bangkok before coming back to the US for my next diving adventures.

FEBRUARY 2025:

I expanded my non-training experience by participating in the Spring Lake volunteer diver course to learn about one of the most significant springs in the U.S., a site dating back thousands of years that has supported multiple generations of human civilization, while gaining foundational knowledge about springs and aquifers. After the class, I also got to join the GUE Austin community for some volunteer diving, cleaning this precious aquatic preserve, preventing invasive species, and maintaining biodiversity balances. These events emphasized environmental responsibility and public service, diving outside of a formal course structure.

MARCH 2025:

March was a key growth month. After receiving my Santi drysuit, I completed the GUE Drysuit Primer in Panama City Beach with instructor Kelly Colwell and also participated in Project Baseline Black Bart, gaining hands-on experience with standardized project baseline documentation and data collection techniques while strengthening my comfort in colder water with a drysuit.

APRIL 2025:

I started my April journey by flying down to Mexico for a Rescue Primer course with instructor Annika Persson, in the beautiful cenotes of Mexico. After that, I returned to High Springs, taking the GUE Fundamentals Tech upgrade course with instructor Stretch Altenhein and earned a Technical pass. This marked a major personal milestone, validating months of practice, feedback, and skill refinement. I also stayed in contact with the GUE Austin community through some local dives at Canyon Lake.

MAY 2025:

May was one of the most transformative months of my scholarship. I completed a Fundamentals Tech pass and DPV1 in Cyprus with instructor Imad Farhat, expanding my capability in exploration and project diving through the use of DPV. I also attended the NSS-CDS Cave Diving Conference at the end of the month, broadening my exposure to the cave diving and exploration community in Florida and beyond.

JUNE 2025:

I was honored to attend the first-ever GUE Young Divers Program in Sardinia, Italy. This experience connected me with motivated peers from around the world and exposed me to GUE's broader vision for youth engagement, leadership, and the long-term goal of the organization. This opportunity also exposes me to, and allows me to practice documentation techniques, teamwork, communication, and learn about active exploration and conservation projects in Sardinia. We also got to participate in the leadership workshop with Dr. Sean Talamas, who is an expert in the psychology of high-performing teams, a concept deeply embedded in the GUE system.

JULY 2025:

July strengthened my connection with regional communities. I dove with the GUE community in Southern California and later joined the Seattle GUE community for a big gathering and diving, building relationships that would later support my technical and wreck diving progression in the future. This was also my first real cold-water diving experience in a totally different aquatic environment that's bizarre yet utterly impressive.

AUGUST 2025:

This month focused on offshore diving. I joined the Texas GUE community for Flower Garden Banks liveaboard dives for the coral spawn observation and later participated in Great Lakes wreck diving with MWUE (Midwest Underwater Explorers), gaining experience across very different environments from the warm tropical waters 80 miles offshore of Texas to the frigid water of Great Lakes diving.

SEPTEMBER 2025:

September blended community and formal training. I participated in Catalina Island dives with instructor Jung-Hhan Hsieh and the OCUE (Orange County Underwater Explorers) community, and Redondo Beach cleanups hosted by the Drysuit Lady, then returned to High Springs to begin Cave 1 class with instructor Jon Kieren - a significant step into a totally different environment that is very challenging and demanding.

OCTOBER 2025:

Immediately after completed Cave 1 course, I continued refining cave skills through practice dives at Jackson Blue Springs cave system. Shortly after, I got the opportunity to fly to Monterey, CA, for two days of iconic dives at Point Lobos Nature Preserve and Breakwater Cove, two of the most popular spots for local Bay Area divers. I got to see many different species which are not found in the other parts of the world.

NOVEMBER 2025:

In November, I attended the GUE Conference in High Springs, joining many social gatherings, conference lectures, field trip, and sharing my NextGen journey in the NextGen Scholarship presentation. I also got a chance to meet Jialing Cai, our incoming NextGen scholar who's bound for a great journey for her upcoming year, and connect with a lot of great explorers, instructors, and like-minded divers from around the world.

November also marked the culmination of my technical progression with GUE Tech 1 in Seattle under the excellent mentorship and instructions from instructor Kees Beemster Leverenz. I also have had a chance to conduct multiple recreational, cave, and technical dives, tying together training, theory, and real-world application.

What did you learn and how has your diving improved?

Looking back, this year transformed not just my skill level but my identity as a diver, grounding me firmly in the GUE community and equipping me with the mindset, discipline, and network to contribute meaningfully in the years ahead.

My diving improved immensely across every dimension after an intense suite of GUE trainings: technical proficiency, situational awareness, teamwork, and decision-making. I became deeply appreciative of GUE's core educational concept of a paradigm shift, which ends the disconnect between dive training and passion, exploration, conservation, and research, building skillsets that enable divers for "aggressive" diving in demanding environments and missions, with extremely high standards.

I started the NextGen year with only GUE fundamentals completed, holding a provisional rating in wetsuits, and having very poor control over my buoyancy, trim, and balance in my GUE Doubles configuration. The repeated Fundamentals training refined my buoyancy, trim, propulsion, and communication to a level where these skills now feel instinctive rather than forced, compared to where I originally started. Transitioning to drysuit diving dramatically expanded my comfort range, allowing me to focus on task execution instead of the cold and drastically reducing thermal stress so I can dive multiple days in a row without issues, in almost every environment I've ever dreamed of experiencing.

Rescue training strengthened my ability to make decisions under pressure with a standardized framework and reinforced prevention as the cornerstone of safe diving. DPV training introduced a new layer of complexity: managing navigation, task loading, and team awareness simultaneously, while GUE Cave Diver 1 training brought everything from fundamentals into sharp focus. In overhead environments, fundamentals are more than necessity and have become critical survival tools. Zero-visibility, lost line, lost diver, gas sharing drills, and line work showed me the real-world meaning of precision and execution in the environment where mistakes are much less forgiving, home is so far away, and your team might be the only helping hands available.

GUE Technical diver 1 training puts all the above on another level, especially planning. Being a technical diver doesn't simply mean we are extending our dives beyond MDL limits, but also building the necessary skills and awareness on top of the strong fundamental building blocks we have practiced over and over to become second nature. Since Tech 1 diving is heavily focused on planning and precise execution of the plan, I've learned when to be conservative with the calculations and when to be exact with each parameter, to provide the most accurate information while being conservative and safe. I also learned the practical meaning of how every decision in technical diving carries tradeoffs: deco, gas, exposure, and more.

Perhaps most importantly, my mindset changed. I rush less, observe more, and move with intention, and that awareness has made me a safer, more reliable teammate.

Looking back, I've changed from flipping like turtles in doubles and wetsuits to being very comfortable, balanced, and confident in my drysuit with thick undergarments for cave diving and very heavy doubles LP104s or HP117s.

The other important thing I learned to appreciate is that the GUE community is the closest thing I've ever seen to a global family; people are connected by shared standards, values, and passion. Everywhere I went, I was welcomed and provided with all the support I needed. This is uniform amongst all GUE communities I've met, and I believe that unity is one of the pillars that give GUE its strength today.

Next steps and goals for the future / How you plan to make a difference, in conservation, education and/or exploration

Looking forward, I hope to continue growing as a capable, reliable, and resourceful diver - ready to contribute to exploration, conservation, documentation, and scientific projects. I plan to contribute at the intersection of diving, technology, and education.

With my background in robotics and underwater systems, I aim to utilize my engineering skills to bridge the gaps in supporting exploration and conservation projects where human divers and technology complement one another - such as exploration, mapping, photogrammetry, and environmental surveys, creating a future where technology extends our reach while human intuition ensures our humanity remains at the heart of exploration.

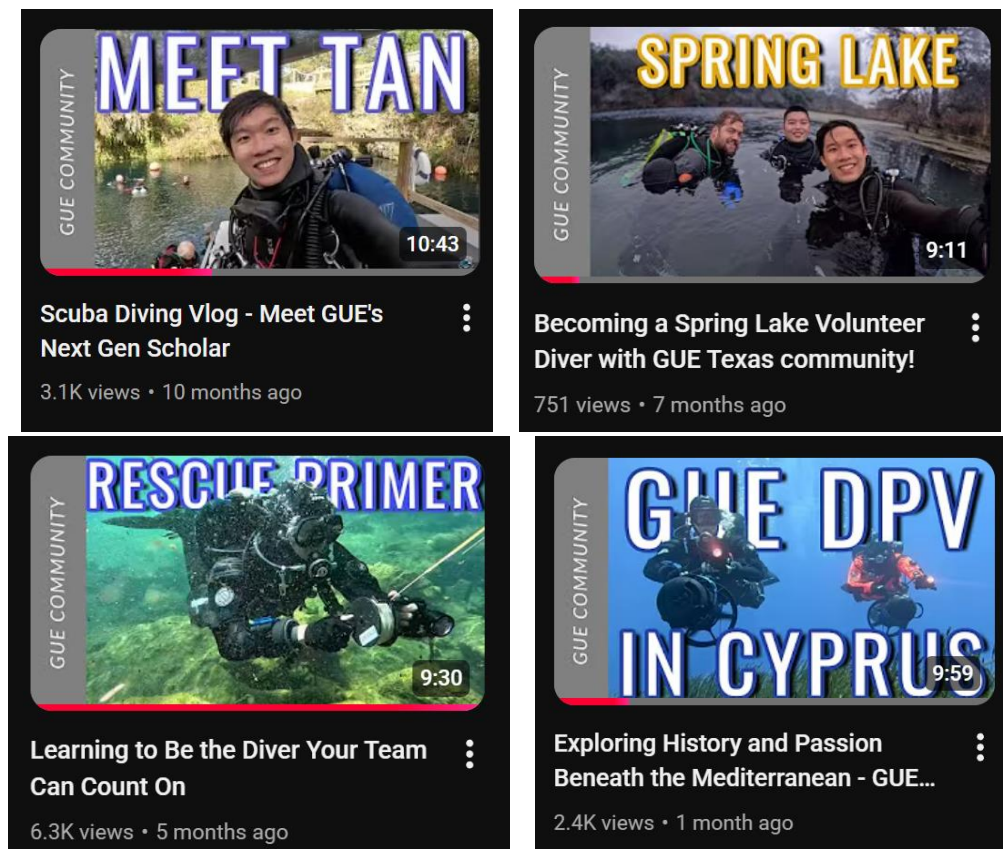
Beyond my own growth, I aim to share my work, my story, and my passion with the broader public and the next generation of divers, inspiring others to pursue curiosity, responsibility, and excellence.

In education, I hope to serve as a bridge for new and young divers passionate for improvement of their skills and further advancing their diving careers. Through mentorship, knowledge sharing, and community engagement, I want to help demystify high-level diving and emphasize that excellence is built through fundamentals and

consistency, not shortcuts or number of certifications. I also plan to gather more experience to become a GUE instructor, to be able to expand our organization's reach and promote this kind of excellence in diving we're passionate about, while giving back to the community and the young divers who could use the jumpstart in their diving careers, by providing free training opportunities to students with strong passion but financial limitations.

Deliverables

1. Quest journal article about the NextGen experience – **Quest 26-4**
2. Video logs discussing progress during the scholarship
 - a. Fundamentals course in High Springs, FL, USA:
<https://youtu.be/rTxzMSpH6l0?si=3VZAzeal5MTtvQmY>
 - b. Spring Lake volunteer diver course in San Marcos, TX, USA:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=06Za91Ni0vw>
 - c. GUE Rescue Primer course in Mexico:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L6UllB0cctM>
 - d. GUE DPV1 course in Cyprus:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0W4HT6d6_-0
 - e. [Pending] Cave1 vs Tech1, What Changes When You Can't Go Up
 - f. [Pending] NextGen Scholarship 2025 recap



3. Blog posts

a. Website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/thanapol-tantagunninat/gue-nextgen-scholarship>

b. NextGen Blog 1 - December 2024:

<https://sites.google.com/view/thanapol-tantagunninat/gue-nextgen-scholarship/nextgen-blog-1-december-2024>

c. NextGen Blog 2 - January 2025:

<https://sites.google.com/view/thanapol-tantagunninat/gue-nextgen-scholarship/nextgen-blog-2-january-2025>

d. NextGen Blog 3 - March 2025:

<https://sites.google.com/view/thanapol-tantagunninat/gue-nextgen-scholarship/nextgen-blog-3-march-2025>

e. NextGen Blog 4 - The Long Road to GUE Fundamentals Tech:

<https://sites.google.com/view/thanapol-tantagunninat/gue-nextgen-scholarship/nextgen-blog-4-the-long-road-to-gue-fundamentals-tech>



4. Maintained social media presence through Instagram and Facebook with posts and stories sharing progress and gratitude to the organization, sponsors, instructors, and communities
5. Gave a short presentation at the GUE conference 2025 in Gainesville, FL, USA
6. Responded to inquiries and gave mentorship to the next round of scholarship applicants
7. Submitted an end-of-scholarship report discussing their journey and what's next, accounting for finances, and acknowledging GUE folks who helped.
8. **[Pending]** one entry for InDEPTH digital magazine for wider diving audiences

Finances (budget) and training (course) summary

Budget

GUE Scholar Travel	Halcyon / Santi Dive Gear	Scholarship Misc.
<u>Drysuit Primer - Florida</u>	Halcyon CF Pro backplate	GUE Platinum Membership 2x years
1. AirBNB - 39.49\$	Halcyon Legend 40 custom wing	GUE TV membership
2. Car rental - 229.11\$	Halcyon Mock Canister stick	GoPro12Black + Creator kit
3. Hotel - 68\$	Halcyon Defender Pro spool 150ft	GUE NextGen Merch
	Halcyon gloves L	GUE conference registration
<u>Rescue Primer course - Mexico</u>	Halcyon backplate padding	GUE Conference 2025 accommodation
1. Flight MIA-CUN fee 60.18\$	Halcyon Vector Pro Fins XL	GUE Young Diver 2025 Program Fee
2. Hotel 153.29\$	Santi E.Lite+ drysuit in SL	
3. Bus 13\$		
4. Flight CUN-MIA fee 77.53\$		
<u>Fundamentals Upgrade - Florida</u>		
1. Car rental 216.69\$		
2. AirBNB 59.52\$		
<u>DPV1 course - Cyprus</u>		
1. Flight EWR-ATH fee: 54\$		
2. Flight ATH-JFK fee: 97.27\$		
3. Flight ATH-LCA : 286.23\$		
4. Luggage Aegean 49.48\$		

Training Summary

Dates	Course	Instructor	Location
11–15 Nov 2024	GUE Fundamentals - Rec	Jon Kieren	High Springs, FL, USA
21–22 Mar 2025	GUE Drysuit Primer	Kelly Colwell	Panama City Beach, FL, USA
4–6 Apr 2025	GUE Rescue Primer	Annika Persson	Puerto Aventuras, Mexico
18 Apr 2025	GUE Fundamentals - Tech	Stretch Altenhein	High Springs, FL, USA
18–21 May 2025	GUE Fundamentals - Tech	Imad Farhat	Protaras, Cyprus
22–24 May 2025	GUE DPV 1	Imad Farhat	Protaras, Cyprus
28 Sep – 3 Oct 2025	GUE Cave 1	Jon Kieren	High Springs, FL, USA
18–23 Nov 2025	GUE Tech 1	Kees Beemster Leverenz	Seattle, WA, USA

Acknowledgements

Jarrold Jablonski, Dorota Czerny, and GUE Board of Directors: For envisioning, creating, and supporting the GUE NextGen Scholarship Program. Thank you for putting your trust in me as a GUE NextGen Scholar, and for building an organization rooted in excellence, exploration, conservation, and community.

Halcyon Dive Systems and Santi Diving: For the generous sponsorship and equipment support. Thank you for keeping me safe, comfortable, warm, and dry throughout the year, and for providing gear that will continue to support my diving far into the future.

Kady Smith: For the constant support, coordination, and behind-the-scenes work on the scholarship admin that kept this journey running smoothly, and for always being an encouraging presence throughout the year.

Corey Jablonski: For conference administration and accommodation in High Springs during the conference.

Nico Lurot: For supporting the GUE Community Day livestreams and for your guidance and assistance with YouTube content publishing.

Jesper Kjøller: For your guidance, support, and assistance in publishing the Quest Article.

Orie Braun: For your recommendations, support, and coordination for the Scholarship equipment support through Halcyon Dive System and Santi Diving.

Jenn Thompson: For your continued support since the start of my NextGen Application until now, thank you for your service to the GUE NextGen community initiatives, and commitment to maintaining high standards while fostering inclusion and mentorship for younger and passionate generations of divers.

Harry Gunning and Annika Andresen: For the assistance and guidance as I navigated through different phases of my NextGen Scholarship year.

Jialing Cai: For the fun-filled days and nights in High Springs together. I really enjoy your enthusiasm and curiosity as the incoming NextGen Scholar, and for the energy and perspective you bring to the next chapter of the program.

Instructor Arthur Nguyen-Kim: For your generosity in donating a spot in your fundamentals class to the GUE conference in 2023, which brought me into the world of GUE, and for providing me with a recommendation for the GUE NextGen Scholarship.

Instructor John Kendall: For your mentorship and assistance in navigating through my GUE NextGen scholarship year.

Instructor Jon Kieren and SJ Alice Bennett: For your generosity and consistent mentorship across multiple courses, starting from Fundamentals through the Cave 1 training. Thank you for your patience during the class, for incorporating your real-life cave exploration experience into the class, and for your ability to push students' growth while building confidence and decision-making skills under stress, and for trusting in my growth in my diving career.

Instructor Kelly Colwell: For accommodating such short notice and for your help in getting me trained on my first-ever drysuit! Thank you for running the excellent charter, and for the great recommendations throughout the year.

Instructor Annika Persson: For your generosity in offering a spot in your Rescue class. I also really appreciate your guidance and recommendation for my future dives in the real cold water, and for the most memorable moments, including our late-night food and ice cream run in Puerto Aventuras!

Instructor Stretch Altenhein: For your generosity in always providing me with a space in your class, whether for getting the tech upgrade or for the practice dives with a drysuit or a new set of tanks, and thank you for your calm, encouraging, friendly face throughout the year.

Instructor Imad Farhat: For your instruction in both Fundamentals Tech and DPV1 courses. Thank you for your attention to detail, which helps expand my capability and performance in exploration-oriented diving and reinforces precision in discipline, planning, and execution. In addition, thanks for your mentorship, support, and exceptional level of hospitality throughout my NextGen year.

Instructor Kees Beemster Leverenz: For a phenomenal Tech1 class experience. I really liked how you connected concepts to actual practical scenarios from your experience, and for taking the time to answer every question thoughtfully. Beyond the instruction itself, thank you for your logistical, equipment, and community support. I hope to learn from you again, and I dream of one day becoming your teammate for epic dives in the future.

Instructor Jung-han Hsieh and Norbert Lee: For introducing me to the great community and the underwater environment of the Southern California ocean. I really appreciate the level of hospitality and support from you and everyone in the community.

Instructor JP Bresser, AM Bresser, Gemma Thomas, Dorota Czerny, Andrea Marassich, Olga Martinelli, and Jenn Thompson: For organizing the first-ever Young Diver Program 2025. Thank you for sharing your knowledge during the workshop, thank you for your logistics support, and for connecting passionate young divers around the world.

Extreme Exposure shop, Evelyn, Greg, Frankie, Liv, Richie, and Kyle: For continuing logistical and emotional support throughout the year. Thank you for the complimentary rental gear and gas support for every class I took in High Springs. It's always so great to see all of your smiling faces every time I visit!

Scuba Adventures Plano, Autumn Raven, and Orie Braun: For your assistance in the recommendations, measurement, and ordering of my first-ever Santi Drysuit.

Eight Diving Shop, Melissa, Travis, Kyle, Nina, and Albert: For your great logistical and emotional support throughout my Tech 1 course. Thank you for the complimentary rental gear, including multiple tanks and Nitrox / deco gas fills, and for maintaining the Helium price to make technical diving accessible for everyone in the community. It's always great to see all of your smiling faces back at the shop after every day of training in the frigid water of Puget Sound.

Spring Lake Dive team, Dive shop San Marcos, Matthew, Scott: For your logistical and equipment support for my Spring Lake volunteer diving course and the volunteer dive afterwards.

All my course classmates: For having each other's backs in and out of the water in every class, thanks for reinforcing my belief in the strength of the GUE system, which is a high performing, trustworthy team. Thank you for the fun-filled days and nights, and for the logistical support such as gear, accommodation, and transportation.

1. **GUE Fundamentals (FL):** Gordon, Christopher, and Libby
2. **GUE Rescue Primer (MX):** Emil Baronov
3. **GUE Fundamentals (FL):** Billy, Mike, Dani, Liz, and Valentina
4. **GUE Fundamentals (Cyprus):** Marcel
5. **GUE Cave 1:** Michael and Emil
6. **GUE Tech 1:** Thomas and Yashar

All the GUE communities around the world: for supporting my year-long GUE NextGen Scholarship journey, from the logistical support, letting me borrow tanks and dive gear, along with providing transportation, accommodation, and recommendations throughout the year. It's really great to meet all of you. I enjoyed watching all of you grow in your diving career, and I hope that in the future we'll meet again in even cooler places, working together on even cooler missions!

1. **SouthEast Underwater Explorers (SEUE):** Nicole, Tyler, Richie, Doug,
2. **Panama City Underwater Explorers (PCUE):** Kyle, Nina, Nicole, Max, Rita, Zach, Austin, Titus,
3. **GUE Seattle:** Danny, Serey, Shahein, Ivette, Devina, Richard, Maria, Andrew, Joe, Yashar, Chris, Adelbert, instructor James, and Deanna
4. **GUE Thai:** Kru San, p' Rose, p' Jon, p' Por, p' Nan, p' Pat, p' Fern, p' Candy, p' Ping, and p' Beam
5. **Midwest Underwater Explorers (MWUE):** Robert Kilburn Jr, Marcus Doshi,
6. **GUE Austin:** Xiangfei, Luke, Carrie, Scott, Matthew, Andrew, Jacob
7. **Los Angeles and Orange County Underwater Explorers (OCUE/LAUE):** Chris, Jamie, Hans, Jung, Stephanie, Norbert, Natalie, Tammer, Juan, Ben, Wes, Cody, Phil, Dan, Aaron, Vlad, Nadia, Steve, Tom, Danny, Keith, Andrew, Vlad, Jennifer, John, Fred, Kristy, Mark, Jing, Carlos
8. **Bay Area Underwater Explorers (BAUE):** Esh, Wenzel, Yipu, Ben, Benedict, Andrew, Adam, Siyu, Tina
9. **All the new friends and connections I made during the GUE Conference:** Hank, Ellie, Logan, instructor Luca, Jonathan, Ioannis, Janet, Michael, Robert, Todd, Julian, Ping, instructor Ricardo, instructor Heison, instructor Eموke, Frank, instructor Max, instructor Ivo, instructor Jason, instructor Francesco, instructor Kirill, instructor Ed, and Ricky



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