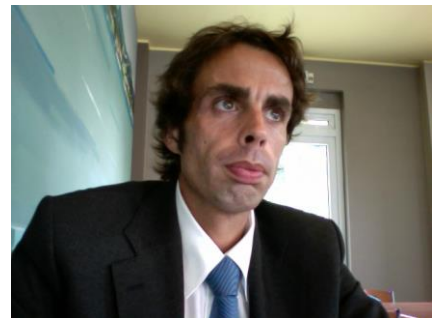# Student Biographies

Ahmed Nait Chabane (Béjaïa, Algeria), received his degree in Electrical Engineering in 2007 from the university of Béjaïa in Algeria, then a degree of Master on Image Processing in 2010 from the University of Algiers (USTHB). Presently, he is PhD student at the National Institute of advanced technology (ENSTA Bretagne) in Brest, France. His current research includes image processing (sonar, radar); neural network algorithms and Data Mining.

André Bianchi Figueiredo (Portugal) was born on 18 April 1971 in Porto, Portugal. He earned degrees in electrical engineering from Instituto Politécnico do Porto and Universidade Técnica de Lisboa. André is currently a PhD student at FEUP – Universidade do Porto and has worked as a scientific researcher at INESC TEC since 2009. He is focused on the improvement of the relative navigation capabilities of autonomous marine vehicles by the development of a tracking system based on artificial vision. Before the scientific research activity, André was co-founder and CEO of OMNITA, S.A., a portuguese company which develops autonomous systems for remote monitoring and observation. André also worked in the chemicals industry for 8 years developing automated manufacturing processes.

Anthony Sylvester III (United States) was born in 1990 and has lived in Hawaii ever since. He holds a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering (December 2012) and is working toward his M.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering (December 2014) from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is currently working as a graduate research assistant in the Field Robotics Laboratory of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. His interests include marine and field robotics, electromechanical systems, devices, and entrepreneurship.

Antonella Colucci (Italy) is currently engaged in PhD research at the University of Exeter, UK on resource assessment and wave-current interactions. She has a MSc.Eng (hons) in Land Protection Engineering

from the Polytechnic of Bari, Italy. She undertook a placement at Imperial College, London and worked on coastal structure reflection at the University of Valencia, Spain.

Bo Li (China) was born in 1988 in Shaanxi, China, and received a bachelor's degree from Zhejiang University in 2011. Now a candidate for Doctoral degree in Zhejiang University, research interests include control of Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) and path-planning.

Brian Claus (Canada) is a PhD student at Memorial University of Newfoundland studying under the supervision of Dr. Ralf Bachmayer. His present research interests are in navigation of long range underwater vehicles in surface denied regions. He has worked extensively with underwater gliders including the design of an auxiliary glider propulsion system which is often called a Hybrid Glider. Brian completed his Masters degree in Engineering from Memorial University in 2010 and an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Victoria in 2008.

David Illig (United States) is currently pursuing a PhD in electrical engineering at Clarkson University. His research focuses on using signal processing to enhance the performance of underwater laser-radar systems. He has previously been supported by Office of Naval Research internship and fellowship programs. He received a Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship in 2013, sponsored by the Department of Defense and the American Society for Engineering Education.

Dr. Hannan Lohrasbipeydeh (Victoria Canada, Citizenship: Iranian) got a MSc degree in 2011 from Amirkabir University of Technology and the Ph.D degree from University of Victoria (UVIC), Canada in 2014 all in electrical engineering. My PhD study was mainly focused on the blind received signal energy based source localization with unknown channel and sensor position uncertainty. I'm currently pursuing Post Doctorate study in the area of underwater acoustic signal processing and source localization and separation. My research interest includes the underwater signal processing, blind source separation, stochastic signal detection and localization and wireless communication. I had started the collaboration with the Ocean Network Canada (ONC), since 2012 to analysis the real acoustic data for different underwater source consist of marine mammal, earthquake, landslide and etc. I was signal acoustic specialist since 2013 for the ultra baseline hydrophone array data deployed by ONC. The author was the winner of two IEEE Ocean Scholarships in 2012 and 2013. I also was the chair of bioacoustic session in IEEE ocean conference in 2013 at San Diego, CA, USA. The major area of the author publication in underwater acoustic signal processing is focused on marine mammal classification and tracking, Diver detection and Landslide localization.

Himansu Kesari Pradhan (India) is from New Delhi, India and an Indian by citizenship. Presently, I am pursuing my Doctoral degree at Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. Prior to this I have a Master degree in Physical Oceanography from School of Marine Sciences, Cochin University and a Bachelor degree in Physics from Ravenshaw University. Belonging to a coastal town Puri in east coast of India, the childhood hobbies of playing with the sea and sand at sea shore has gradually been transformed to my research interests. Coastal circulation, waves in ocean, environmental oceanography are some of my interests. At present I use a numerical model (MITgcm) to study Internal waves in the ocean and validate my results with in-situ observations. Besides this in future I look forward to work in impacts of climate change on the ocean and physical-biological oceanography. I have had the opportunity to present multiple papers and posters at national and international conferences in Norway and Germany. At the academic level I have lead various student activities and organisations. I enjoy spending my spare time travelling to find mountains, lakes, river, beaches and meeting people of diverse cultures watching movies, historical drama and documentaries.

Ignacio Sánchez Gendriz (Cuba) was born in Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, in 1982. He holds a degree in Automatic Control Engineering (July 2006) and a Master's degree in Automatic Control Engineering (May 2012) from Universidad de Oriente, Santiago de Cuba. He was granted a diploma in Optoelectronic and Laser at José Antonio Echeverría Politechnical Institute from Havana City (November 2006). He worked as a researcher at the Biophysics and Medical Physics Center, Cuba from 2008 - 2013, and he is currently a PhD. student at the Polytechnic School - University of Sao Paulo. Languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English.

Jean-Christophe Morgère (France) is a PhD student at Lab-STICC in Université de Bretagne Sud, Lorient, France where he obtained his Master degree in Electronics. He is now working on the design of a mobile augmented reality embedded system: multiple sensors, low consumption and prototype in marine domain.

Jeffrey M. Walls (United States) received the B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, USA, in 2009 and the M.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA, in 2011. Currently, he is pursuing the Ph.D. degree with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Michigan under the supervision of Dr. Ryan Eustice. His research interests are in the areas of cooperative navigation and coordinated planning for autonomous underwater vehicles.

Jie Li (China) received the B.S. Degree in Electronic Engineering from Tsinghua University, Berijing, China, in 2012, and a M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from University of Michigan , Ann Arbor, United States, in 2013. She worked as a intern in Microsoft Research Asia in 2012. Currently, she is a Ph. D student with the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan. Her research interests include signal processing, robotics and computer vision.

José Melo (Portugal) is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto. In 2008 he received his M.Sc. degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, with a major in Automation, from the Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto. After concluding his degree, José worked as a Software Engineering, at CERN, in Geneve, Switzerland. In September 2010 he started his PhD at the Ocean Systems Group, supervised by Dr. Anibal Matos, and in 2011 he joined the Robotics and Intelligent Systems unit of INESC TEC (formerly INESC Porto) as a researcher. His current research interests are in the area of Estimation and Sensor Fusion for Autonomous Vehicles.

Juan Ramirez (United States) is a senior in electrical engineering at Florida Atlantic University; he is a U.S. citizen and his ethnic background is Colombian. His research interests include renewable energy systems, analog electronics, control systems, and embedded systems. He was President of Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honor society, and the chapter won Honorable Mention for Most Improved Chapter at Convention last year. He's helped design the power system of an AUV as a member of the Marine Robotics Club and founded the Applied Electronics Bootcamp to help other engineering students acquire hands-on skills related to electrical engineering often not taught in theoretical classes. He enjoys playing soccer, tennis, skating, and scuba diving.

Ken Sooknanan (Ireland) is a PhD student in Electrical Engineering at Trinity College Dublin. He is currently researching the feasibility of analyzing marine videos automatically using computer vision techniques, and is set to graduate in December 2014. When asked what drew him to pursue this area of research, he stated that certain movies had driven his interest. "After viewing movies involving awesome artificial intelligence scenes such as Star Wars, The Matrix, and Iron Man etc., I became very interested in computer vision and machine learning". When he isn't trying to finish up his school work, he enjoys hanging out with friends and taking part in many different sporting activities such as cricket, football, squash, running and karate. Currently, Ken lives in Dublin, Ireland, but is originally from the Caribbean island of Trinidad, which explains why he always appears to be so calm, laid back and friendly.

Loïc Bernicola (France)received a M.S degree in Robotics Engineering in 2010 and a M.S degree in Physic of Sensor in 2013 from the University of Montpellier 2 (France). He is currently a PhD. student at Telecom Bretagne (France). His current research interests include image processing and fusion of information in underwater environment.

Parvathy K.G (India) was born in Trivandrum, Kerala, India in 1990. She is Indian by citizenship. She has recently defended her M.Tech viva voice (July 2014) successfully in the Department of Applied Mechanics and Hydraulics at National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal. She has received her B.Tech degree (2012) in Civil Engineering from Marian Engineering College, Kerala. She looks forward to join for PhD in the next academic season. Her research interests include shoreline dynamics, nearshore coastal processes etc. She had the opportunity to present papers at national and international conferences. She is friendly and speaks English and Malayalam. She enjoys reading and travelling. She can be contacted at pkg130590@gmail.com

Mr. Tushar Mohan (India) is currently pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Engineering Product Development from Singapore University of Technology and Design. Prior to this he finished his Diploma in Electronics (major in Robotics) from Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore. With an experience of more than five years in robotics, he has worked in R&D labs in Kenwood Electronics, Airbus and Procter and Gamble. His research projects include bio-inspired robots, home automation, AGVs and USVs. He is also the director of cardbotiX, an initiative to promote robotics in schools and colleges in developing countries. His aim is to nurture a creative student through latest technologies in robotics and digital fabrication and prepare them to be the 'designers of tomorrow'.

Violeta Skoro Kaskarovska (United States) received B.S. degree in electrical engineering from St. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, Macedonia in 1999 and M.S. degree in electrical engineering from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, USA in 2005. She worked as an RF engineer in the research and development department in Motorola and Foxconn Industries, from 2007-2009. She is currently working toward a Ph.D. in Ocean Engineering at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, Florida, USA. Her current research interests include application of digital communications and signal processing algorithms to underwater acoustic communication systems.

Yukang Liu (China) received the B.Eng. degree from Northwestern Polytechnical University (NPU), Xi'an, Shaanxi, China and M.S. degree from University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, USA, both in Electrical Engineering in 2009 and 2012, respectively. He is currently working toward the Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering with University of Kentucky. His research interests include array signal processing, machine vision/image processing, dynamic system modeling, and adaptive/predictive control of dynamic systems. He has authored and co-authored over 30 referred journal and conference papers as well as one book chapter in welding, system modeling, and control. Mr. Liu received Top-Ten Scored Paper Recognition from the ISIE 2012. He also received student poster session awards for MTS/IEEE Oceans' 12 Yeosu, Korea, Oceans' 12 Hampton Roads, VA, USA, and.Oceans' 14 Taipei, Taiwan.