

GLOBAL UNDERWATER EXPLORERS 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT GUE

Founded in 1998, Global Underwater Explorers (GUE) has grown into an internationally recognized scuba diving educator as well as a leader in underwater exploration and conservation.

Jarrold Jablonski, founder and president of GUE, leads the organization with a commitment to providing high-quality training that allows divers to participate in exploration and conservation projects worldwide. GUE serves the wider dive industry by pushing the standards for training to the next level and serves scientists, archaeologists, other not-for-profits, and universities by helping them to accomplish their research goals effectively and safely.

Throughout its history, GUE's main focus has been to provide like-minded divers with a community of people that could help them accomplish their diving goals. GUE-trained divers are found in far-reaching global communities that offer many social and support opportunities alongside a host of unique and challenging underwater projects.



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

GUE closed 2019 with a strong sense of optimism and big plans for 2020. We had celebrated 20 years since our founding, had just enjoyed a hugely successful conference in Florida, and announced several new and exciting initiatives—including the heralding of our first NextGen scholarship winner, a dream of mine for some time.

We had launched a comprehensive program to reimagine GUE over the next decade, an initiative we call Mission 2030. With successful new programs, important refinements to existing courses, notably enhanced course materials, and new books being completed, there were many things to celebrate and many reasons to be optimistic. You can read about these and other successes in the following pages.

Just as we were gathering the final reporting and closing our financial and certification reports in preparation for this report, the world started to change. It began in ways that were not immediately obvious. Reports were circulating from a little known part of China about another virus that seemed unlikely to be remotely relevant to our lives. Yet, today the world is almost unrecognizable, and there are likely very few people not somehow affected. Hundreds of millions of people are largely locked into their homes and countless people suffer terrible hardship with their very survival in question. The world will likely never be quite the same as we grapple with ways to distance despite being more or less inextricably linked to one another.

Despite the profound hardship, there are many reasons for optimism. There are heartwarming stories of people working together and of

heroes fighting to save lives and unprecedented efforts by wide-ranging individuals, companies, and governments. These gargantuan efforts, painful sacrifices, and inspiring heroism will bring us through these difficult times. I am confident we will eventually return to the heady optimism we felt as the decade came to a close. In the meantime, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved one's during these challenging times.

Please take some time and have a look through GUE's last year of activity in the following pages. Perhaps you can use it as an escape to the time before Covid-19 existed. We look forward to the days when it becomes a distant memory and we all are back enjoying the activities we love.

For now, please take all precautions to stay safe and healthy. We hope even more than ever to see you at a dive site someday in the near future.

Sincerely,



Jarrod Jablonski
President



RECREATIONAL & FOUNDATIONAL CURRICULUM REPORT

The recreational domain remained a focus for GUE during 2019 with a variety of developments and several targets specified for completion in 2020.

One of the focus areas in 2019 was the completion and release of the Recreational Diver Level 2 program. Currently, GUE offers complete Recreational Diver Level 2 training consisting of three primers—Navigation, Triox, and Rescue. The Rescue Primer is an essential step in development as a foreseeable prerequisite for Level 1 classes in both cave and technical curricula. The course prepares divers at all levels for rescues on land, at the water’s surface, and while underwater.

Doubles and Drysuit Primers have been updated and released and are accompanied by comprehensive Student Workbooks (manuals), allowing students to self-study before the courses.

Recreational Diver Level 3 will be released in 2020. With its release, the development of GUE’s recreational program will be concluded, and the organization will start to focus on refining, translating, and modernizing its existing materials in both recreational and foundational curricula.

There has been a focused effort to train recreational instructors around the globe, resulting in more instructors in Europe and Asia teaching GUE’s recreational courses. The instructor training process is being further revitalized in 2020.

Another focused target in 2019, and now in 2020, is the production of educational videos for recreational and foundational students, which has resulted in several instructional video productions that are available on

GUE’s video platform, GUE.tv. This platform is continuing to be a critical resource in the development of GUE’s educational platforms and will continue with focus into 2020 and beyond.

The translation process is progressing well with various materials being available in new languages, including Chinese, Korean, Russian, Hungarian, and Dutch. We have also seen focused effort in translating the new GUE website (launched in January 2019), and it is now available in English, German, and Polish, with Italian, Korean, and Spanish coming very soon.



WHERE THE GREATEST NUMBER OF COURSES WERE TAUGHT

FUNDAMENTALS: UNITED STATES

REC 1: CHINA

REC 2: EGYPT

REC 3: NETHERLANDS

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CAVE CURRICULUM REPORT

**2019 SAW THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF CAVE 1
& CAVE 2 CLASSES
TO DATE**

For GUE cave diving, 2019 was a productive and successful year. We welcomed new instructors, refined critical support materials, and developed new programs while expanding our support for activity within cave exploration projects.

IN SUMMARY:

- We welcomed two new Cave 1 instructors.
- An exciting region on the Iberian Peninsula was newly developed for GUE cave training.
- GUE cave classes grew strongly through 2019.
- Cave 1 and Cave 2 materials received minor updates.
- A number of cave training-specific tutorials were created for GUE.tv.

Looking into 2020, our main goals are to finalize a number of long-term projects, including:

- A new GUE cave diving manual
- A new DPV Cave presentation
- An Underwater Cave Survey presentation
- A DPV 1/DPV Cave photographic skill guide
- New Cave 1 and Cave 2 student exams

In addition to the projects listed above, the plan is to transfer cave materials to a more user-friendly and easily editable format, as well as to create a series of separate, topic-specific documents, including gas calculations, navigation, and survey in both text and video formats.

TECHNICAL CURRICULUM REPORT

For GUE, 2019 was an exciting and successful year with strong training and an increasing interest in a growing number of GUE projects. This is very encouraging, as it further reinforces our dedication to underwater exploration projects.

Many of these fascinating projects are presented in the printed 2018 Project Report available at GUE.com or through GUE shops and instructors. As we shape the curriculums for technical and rebreather diving, we are focused on developing these around project diving.

Looking at our technical training, we see continued popularity of Tech 1 while noting declining popularity for Tech 2. Tech 2 divers now seem to be moving towards Closed-Circuit Rebreather (CCR) as that program continues to steadily grow. We understand the level of commitment for undertaking a high-level class like Tech 2 is significant. This commitment is further extended by the constantly increasing cost and availability of helium. Due to lack of interest, the Tech 60 program has been removed from the technical curriculum, and while Tech 1 and Tech 2 in the cave environment are under review, they remain an option for Cave 2 divers. In order to support the technical curriculum, we have been hard at work updating the teaching and instructor materials for Tech 1 and Tech 2. The new Tech 1 program is now available online with Tech 2 to follow in 2020.

The CCR 1 teaching materials were updated during 2019, and new instructors were trained and qualified. The CCR 2 course was introduced during 2019, and instructors were trained and qualified during the summer. This is a challenging course, but it has significant value for those conducting tech dives and especially with any level of aggressive diving activity. The RB80, the GUE passive semi-closed circuit rebreather (PSCR)

unit, has received a significant increase of interest for exploration teams and specialized military applications. The RB80 remains the unit of choice for cave projects like the Woodville Karst Plain Project (WKPP) and Mexican Cave Exploration Project (MCEP), but a great number of units are also used in the Egadi project outside Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea.

2020 VISION AND GOALS

- Launch the new Tech 2 student and instructor teaching and support materials.
- Continue to develop the long anticipated top-level technical course, which will be the signature course in the technical/rebreather curriculum. This will be a true explorer course.
- Develop more digital support materials for GUE.tv and associated online resources.
- Develop and update instructors seeking to earn or upgrade teaching credentials within the technical/rebreather curriculums.

**THE NUMBER OF CCR
DIVERS CERTIFIED IN
2019 DOUBLED
COMPARED TO 2018**



GUE.TV REPORT

In 2019, the primary focus for GUE.tv was to increase and improve upon the content we were providing to our subscribers.

We focused on educational series, cave exploration short documentaries, wreck documentation, and gear maintenance. We also released 171 high-quality videos and reached an audience of over 48,000. The GUE.tv app was launched at the beginning of 2019 and allows users to access videos more easily from their tablet or phone. A weekly email series also began at the end of the year to deliver new content straight to our subscribers' inboxes, making it easier to stay up to date. GUE.tv has now been added as a FREE benefit to Gold and Platinum membership levels, and is now offered at a discount to Silver members.

For 2020, our main focus is to continue delivering great content while focusing on bringing more technical and cave-specific training videos to the platform. Thank you to those of you who are subscribers and support GUE.tv.

MOST POPULAR VIDEO SERIES

1. BUOYANCY BASICS SERIES
2. DIR 2004 "THE BASICS OF DOING IT RIGHT"
3. GOOD HABITS FOR RECREATIONAL DIVERS
4. GUE EQUIPMENT CONFIGURATION
5. OCEAN EXPLORERS SEASON 1

33% OF VIEWERS ARE DIRECTED TO THE SITE FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

**TOTAL WATCH TIME:
151,724 MINUTES,
48,714 UNIQUE VIEWS**

29,000 VIEWS WERE ON COMPUTERS

INDEPTH REPORT

It's hard to believe, but InDepth, our online blog, has now existed for over a year!

In 2019, we were just beginning, and the editorial focused on creating content that would fit and represent GUE's existing community's interests but that would also bring in divers from outside GUE. In our inaugural year, we published 92 stories covering exploration, diving science and medicine, technology, education, conservation, and technical diving culture. Additionally, 74,000 people visited the blog. Thank you to all of our contributing writers, our editing and designing staff, and our editor in chief for a great year.

In 2020, the blog will continue to grow. One new feature that will be added this year is a section for news stories and articles from sponsors in the diving industry. We are looking forward to another year!

MOST READ STORIES IN 2019

1. GRADIENT FACTORS IN A POST-DEEP STOPS WORLD
BY DR. DAVID DOOLETTE
2. EXTENDING THE ENVELOPE: TODAY'S 30 DEEPEST SHIPWRECK DIVES
BY MICHAEL MENDUNO
3. DECOMPRESSION, DEEP STOPS, AND THE PURSUIT OF PRECISION IN A COMPLEX WORLD
BY JARROD JABLONSKI
4. GUE CONFIGURATION VS. JACKET-STYLE CONFIGURATION
BY DOROTA CZERNY
5. A NEW LOOK AT IN-WATER RECOMPRESSION (IWR)
BY REILLY FOGARTY

35% OF READERS ARE NOT
CERTIFIED GUE DIVERS

62% OF OUR READERS
ARE NOT DIVING
PROFESSIONALS

51% OF OUR
READERS ARE IN
EUROPE

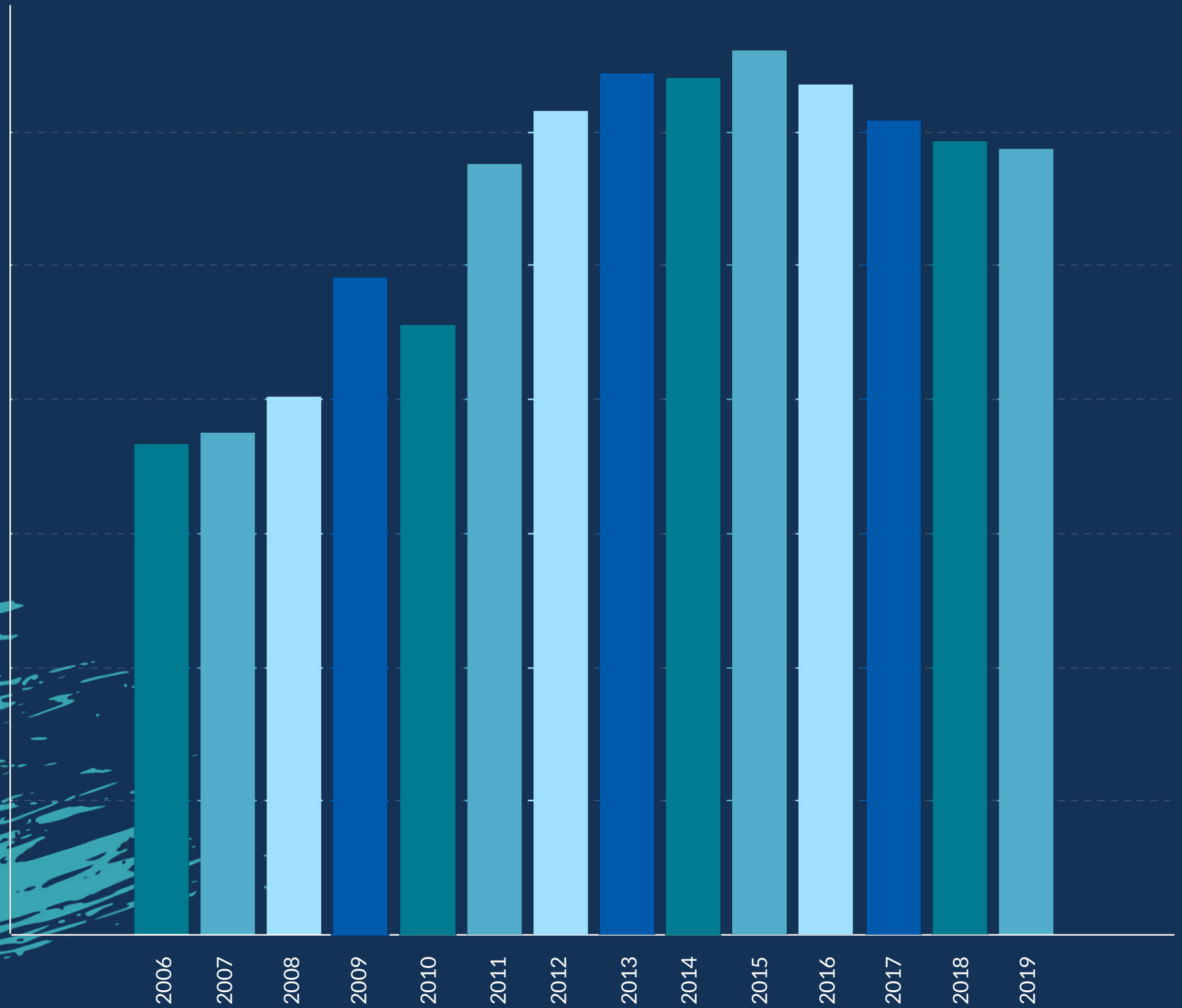
74,000 PEOPLE
VISTED THE BLOG
IN 2019



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Become a member today! Membership is the crucial funding that makes it possible for GUE to maintain its website, update educational materials, support its instructors and students, and grow as an organization. We need your support: visit GUE.com today to see how you can be a part of sustaining GUE.

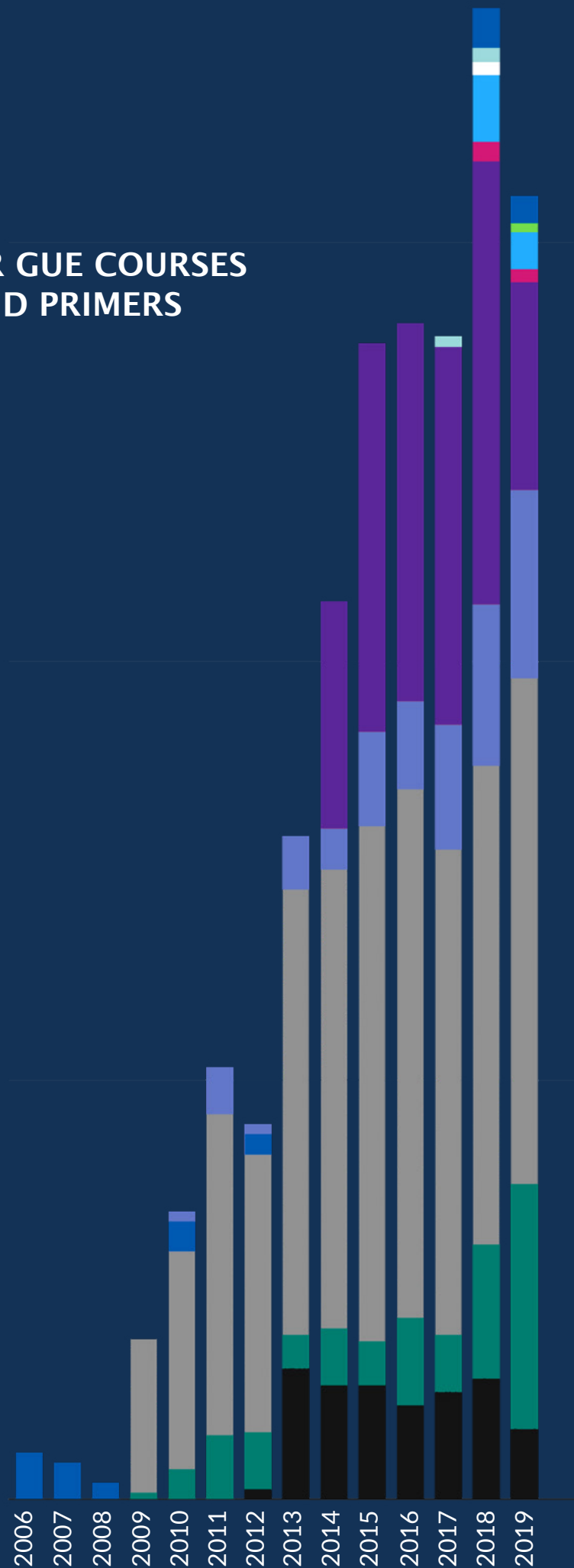
At the end of 2019, GUE reorganized its membership levels in order to provide benefits that better fit each member's wants and needs. We now have four different levels of membership, each with its own benefits. One highlight is that GUE.tv is now included for free with Gold and Platinum levels and is available for a 50% discount with Silver.



STUDENT REPORT

OTHER GUE COURSES AND PRIMERS

- Scientific Diver
- Rescue Primer
- Photogrammetry Diver
- Navigation Primer
- Gas Blender
- Drysuit Primer
- DPV Diver 1
- Documentation Diver
- Doubles Primer
- Triox & Triox Primer



THE NUMBER OF DOUBLES PRIMER STUDENTS WAS UP 88% IN 2019

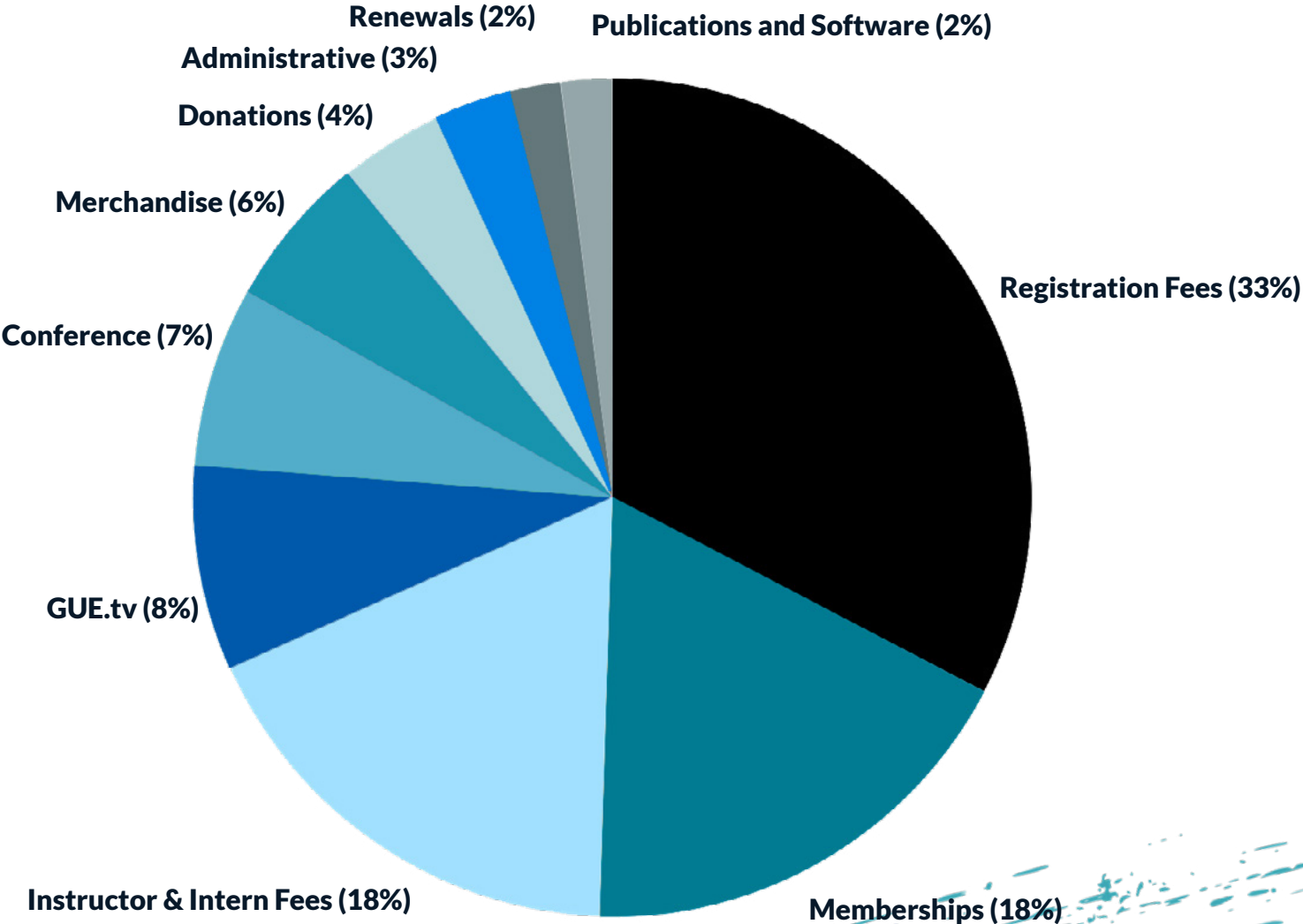
DPV 1 REMAINS ONE OF GUE'S MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS BEHIND FUNDAMENTALS, TECH 1, AND CAVE 1

DRYSUIT PRIMER SAW A 17% INCREASE THIS YEAR

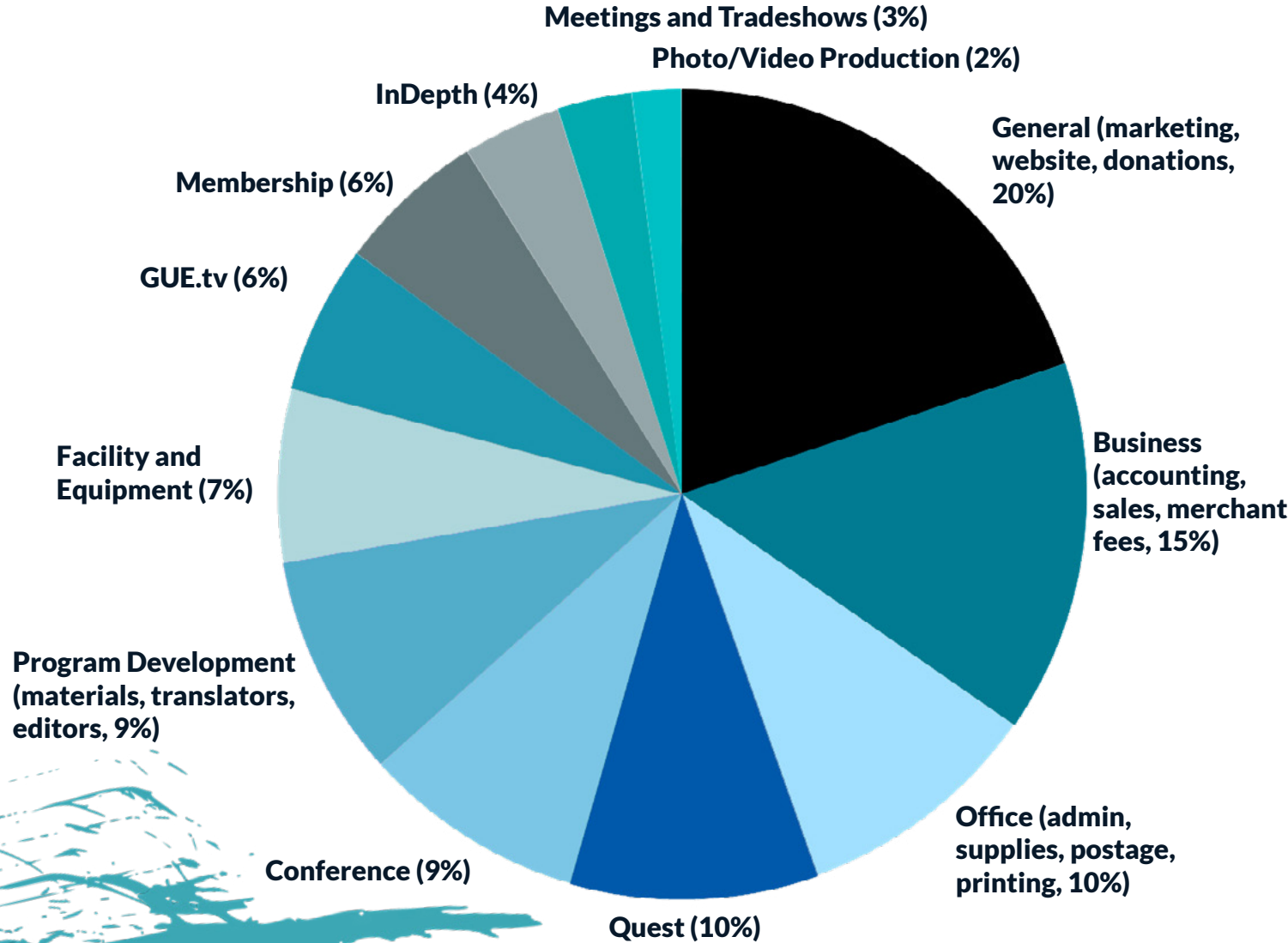


FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME



EXPENSES





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