

# TOS Biennial Scientific Meeting Miami, Florida April 2-5, 2001



Top Photo: Front row: Munk Award Winners Bob Spindel (left) and Rob Pinkel (right), with Walter Munk (center); Back Row: TOS President Jim Yoder (left) and TOS Past-President Ken Brink (right).

Right Photo: Captain Dan Schwartz says, "These glasses work better than my bi-focals!"



Melbourne G. Briscoe  
TOS Secretary

Eric O. Hartwig  
TOS President-Elect

The Oceanography Society (TOS) meetings, starting with the inaugural meeting in Monterey in 1989, have become recognized for their unique non-concurrent plenary sessions followed by contributed posters designed to highlight specific science results relevant to the plenary sessions. The plenary session talks are designed for interdisciplinary audiences to excite and interest the broad spectrum of scientific and technical expertise within the oceanographic community.

It was an article of faith in the formation of TOS in 1988 that the community would place high value on overt interdisciplinary talks designed to tutor, to synthesize, to review, and to explain the excitement of one branch of oceanography to listeners from the other

branches. In fact, this has worked out well and it is indeed being valued. But it was another article of faith that people would come to meetings to hear such talks, and then take the opportunity to talk with each other on the various interdisciplinary presentations. TOS believed that oceanographers needed an opportunity to hear major presentations on complex scientific subjects and use posters for presenting short individual research topics with plenty of "face time" available at the posters to have in depth discussions on each researcher's individual research. Thus, the generic TOS meeting format with plenary, not parallel sessions, and lots of opportunity for discussion around posters, at breaks, at meals and in the hallways.

Right Photo: Ryan Sharp and his poster on Early Detection of Tropical Cyclones using SeaWinds derived Vorticity.


Bottom Photo: Dana Yoerger prepares the audience to use their 3-D glasses to see the "Deep Seafloor through the Eyes of Robots."



TOS met in Miami in April in an experiment designed to hold to our fundamental beliefs, but in a format that would broaden the scientific and technical scope of the meeting, and encourage interactions among scientists, marine engineers, and marine industrial firms. We met jointly with Oceanology International Americas (OIA), a new venture of the Oceanology International, born in Brighton, England many years ago. OIA has a unique business model: charge no registration fees and have a very large number of commercial exhibitors. The exhibitors are promised many visitors, the visitors are promised many exhibits, and everybody wins. TOS was invited by PGI Spearhead, Ltd., the organizers of OIA,

to be a part of the "Joint Ocean Forum." The TOS Council discussed this and decided it was a unique opportunity for the Society. We would have the many exhibits we desired for our meetings, we would still have our TOS scientific meeting and format and we would provide additional visitors to the exhibits in accordance with the Spearhead business model. Everybody wins.

The TOS/OI meeting had 2169 people in Miami the first week in April, saw over 300 exhibits from commercial firms, agencies, universities, etc., and many attended the TOS sessions or the talks put on by Spearhead. Great talks, super posters, fascinating exhibits, and Miami in early April. As this was the first time for Spearhead and TOS to hold such a joint conference there were growing pains, but all were easy to fix for next time. The TOS Council is working with Spearhead toward OIA 2003, and we have already agreed with them that TOS will manage the entire speakers program and we will have just one large, plenary program. The hotels will be nearby; we will not run out of coffee; there will be time to see the exhibits; and we will still have great posters and ancillary events going on (like the National Ocean Sciences Bowl finals).

TOS is working for all aspects of oceanography; we think this new direction of meeting with OIA represents TOS' strong support and commitment to the interdisciplinary nature of oceanography, to communication across all boundaries, to the connections of oceanography with industry and education, and with the essential technologies our field is built upon. 

*See you at TOS/OIA  
in 2003*