

SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM MONTEREY QUESTIONNAIRE

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THE INAUGURAL MEETING of The Oceanography Society (TOS) was held in Monterey, California, during August 27-30, 1989. Attendees were asked to return a questionnaire giving their opinion of various aspects of the meeting. The survey results are summarized here.

Meeting attendees were primarily physical (56%) and biological (35%) oceanographers; other fields ranged from 9-15% of the total. Almost everyone attended for the entire duration, with 15% fewer on Sunday (the first day). Overall response to the meeting was very positive, and in many cases enthusiastic; almost everyone plans to attend a future meeting. The vast majority praised the format, with especially positive response to the daily-theme arrangement, the lack of parallel sessions, and invited talks for a half day and posters for the other half. Major strengths of the format were seen as the interdisciplinary focus and the synthesis/overview nature of the major talks. While people liked the social programs, and availability of smaller rooms for special groups, these aspects were less important. The scientific quality of sessions was judged generally high, although there were some suggestions for improvements in oral presentations.

There was strong support for retaining the same format for future meetings, although with increased opportunity for contributed talks. Popular topics for future meetings were many, with the most popular being the role of the ocean in climate change, coastal and estuarine science, interdisciplinary approaches to air-sea interactions, and comparisons of model results with experimental/observational data. People strongly supported a regular TOS meeting focused on interdisciplinary studies, with 60% believing that biennial intervals are most desirable; a very strong majority felt that it could not be combined with another major meeting. Reactions to New Orleans as a future location were mixed (40% yes, 33% no, 27% indifferent), with the negative reactions very strongly worded. Most popu-

lar venues were Seattle and Monterey (equal), followed by San Francisco, Boston and San Diego (equal, about half as strong as the first two). April and August were preferred months, roughly equal.

Organization and logistics in general were rated good, but with improvement needed in several areas. Many comments addressed the problems of crowded facilities and insufficient time for looking at posters. The cost of the hotel was judged unacceptably high (greater than the federally allowed per diem), with other costs average. Inclusion of a breakfast and dinner in the package were generally popular, although a few people felt that one dinner was enough. Relatively few people used the conference airline, and this appears to be unnecessary for the future. Meeting information (particularly abstracts and speaker titles) and logistics should be mailed earlier. Mailings should be done by post, rather than relying solely on electronic mail, and a list of participants should be provided during the meeting. Most people thought that publicity for the meeting was adequate, but 30% thought there should have been more announcements in the form of fliers, posters, and perhaps ads in other publications. The reporting on use of telemail for registration and abstract submission is complicated by incomplete answers and the fact that the number of abstracts submitted by other means is unknown. It appears that about half of the attendees used telemail for registration, with 15% reporting problems. Fewer people used it for abstracts; 25% of these report problems in submission.

In general, the tone of the responses suggested a strong feeling that TOS was a good idea, that we need a unique society for oceanography, and that we should support it strongly. Many especially felt that student participation should be encouraged through whatever means: lower fees, prizes, etc. Increased international participation was also supported. □



MEET THERESE SCHALEY

IF YOU HAVE CONTACTED the magazine office lately, you have probably spoken with Therese Schaley about manuscript status, advertising policy, or production schedules. As Production Manager for *Oceanography*, Therese is responsible for coordinating and tracking the progress of all manuscript material and for scheduling the production of each issue. She also prepares monthly budgets, oversees printing and mailing, coordinates the design of reprints, handles invoices and payments, maintains files for manuscripts and art, answers telemail and fax communications, and consoles the editor when nothing goes right. In short, she is an absolutely essential part of the day-to-day activities of this magazine. Its continued existence is testimony to Therese's efficiency in coordinating, organizing and summarizing—skills that seem less well developed in the editor's office.

People are sometimes surprised to discover that this magazine operates with a staff of one full-time employee: Therese. The editor and the five associate editors listed on the masthead are unpaid volunteers who contribute variable fractions of their time. We also benefit from the competent assistance of a free-lance art director and a part-time helper during "crunches," but the person most responsible for holding together the fabric of this production is Therese. I am pleased to acknowledge her indispensable services and sunny disposition. —DAB □