Oceanography STUDENT NEWS

From the Rep

Lately I've been thinking a lot about the act of writing. I have several tasks piling up (a new paper, a proposal, and an almost submitted paper) and I'm not making much progress on any of them. This week I'm trying a new method of accountability and motivation: a writing buddy. We plan to check in twice each week—once on Monday to review the last week and set new goals, and once on Wednesday to check progress and get back on track.

I also attend an in-person writing group once a week. We meet for two hours and spend a few minutes discussing what we will be working on before getting started. After that, we write. It's amazing how much you can make yourself write under that sort of peer pressure. This method worked particularly well for me when I was getting my dissertation papers finished up.

One of my primary goals now is to spend some time on writing almost every day. I need to break the roller-coaster habit established during grad school of writing to a deadline for weeks/months (thesis submission, anyone?) and then not writing at all during recovery. I'm aiming for something a bit more sustainable.

Let me know if you have any good tips and tools for writing. I've read far too much on the subject (top rec: William Zinsser's On Writing Well), so I'm off to do more practicing and less preparing.

Don't forget to send in your materials to be the next TOS Student Rep!

— Stefanie

Send Us Your Feedback!

Have questions or comments for the Student Rep? Interested in being a highlighted student? Want to share your best career tips and tricks? We need your input!
» studentrep@tos.org and @mnemoniko

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TOS Student Member Highlight

JESSICA C. GARWOOD. Every year, San Diego's Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) partners with one local ocean scientist to develop a year-long research project for a group of underserved, middle school students. When I was asked to participate in this initiative, I was inspired by a *Wired* article that declared coding the next blue-collar job. Not only did I want to expose the students to research, science, and the ocean, but also to coding so that they could build tangible skills for their future, both in school and outside of the classroom. As part of our project, I created 10+ coding activities, ranging from moving a dot on a Cartesian plane, to building a maze, and finally to analyzing properties of waves generated in Scripps Institution of Oceanography's wave tank. All activities are available online with instructions (https://JessCG.github.io/code) and can be used to introduce programming, mathematical concepts, and/or oceanography. Some students who struggle with traditional classrooms reported finding coding motivating as they could approach problems through trial and error, at their own pace, and without fear of *messing up* or having others tell them what they can and cannot do. Sounds familiar to other programmers? Through this project, another student discovered a passion for coding and is now determined to pursue a career that revolves around computers. By the end, this student was teaching both his peers and the ODI instructors some R shortcuts! Overall, ODI is an organization worth looking into as it offers a variety of programs for underserved youth, including field experience in Mexico.

Rather Listen Than Read? A few suggested podcasts, if you are so inclined.

Forecast: Michael White
Michael White, *Nature*'s editor for climate science, chats with climate scientists about their work and lives. Guests include everyone from grad students to the most senior people in the field.
» http://forecastpod.org

Climate Scientists: Dan Jones
Informal conversations between climate scientists.
» https://anchor.fm/climate-scientists

Rock Your Research: Chris Jones
Each episode bring you an academic or nonacademic who shares their graduate school story. They talk about their biggest struggles and the worst and best moments as a graduate student. They also talk about their current career and the path they took to get there. The show concludes with resources they use to stay productive and motivated.
» http://www.rockyourresearch.com/podcasts/

PhD (in Progress) Podcast | Education, Career, Life
Promotes the discussion of what each of us can do to improve our own education. The focus is on personal/career development, the glory and tribulations of research, and thriving in the social setting of graduate school. The show interviews leaders and novices alike.
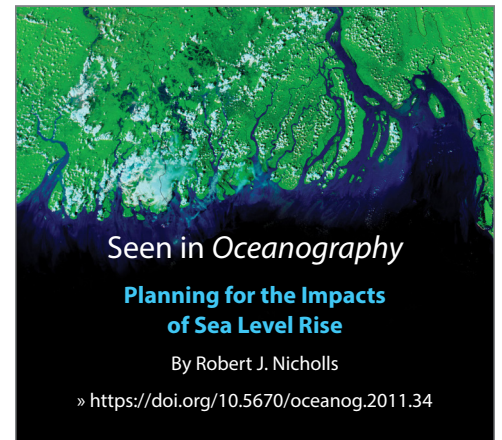» http://phdinprogress.com

You Could be the Next TOS Student Rep

Seeking Candidates for Student Representative on the TOS Council
Self-nominations are welcome. Please send a statement of interest and an abbreviated CV to Jenny Ramarui by September 30, 2018. Also please contact your current Student Rep, Stefanie Mack, to learn more about the position. Term begins January 2019.

Seen in *Oceanography*

Planning for the Impacts of Sea Level Rise

By Robert J. Nicholls

» https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2011.34