



## From the Rep

Greetings from the other side of the AGU Fall Meeting! This was my first time attending, and I thought I'd share some insights from the busy and somewhat overwhelming experience.

**You can't do it all.** Obvious, really. With so many concurrent sessions and interesting side events, there's no way to get to everything. Just like in life, it's all about prioritizing.

**It's ok to check out.** Speaking of prioritizing, sometimes it's your mental state that takes precedence. If you are burned out or overwhelmed, it's better to recognize that and take a break so you are recharged for the next event, rather than push through.

**Conversations over sessions.** I made it a point this conference to explicitly prioritize a conversation over getting to the next talk or poster. I still made it to almost every event I had planned, and felt much more comfortable taking the time to catch up with colleagues. For me, conferences are for networking; the talks and posters are a stimulus for discussion.

**Start by asking.** Over the course of the week, I had several conversations with mentors and mentees that boiled down to: "Have you asked about it?" If you are worried or concerned about something, even if it seems small, often the best approach is to simply ask your supervisor directly.

**Value different perspectives.** Some of the best sessions I went to were ones in related fields or that combined disciplines. It really cleared the cobwebs from my head and helped me reposition the research I'm doing in the broader context of the community.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for your next conference!

— Stefanie



## TOS Student Member Highlight

**ALEXIA STERLING.** The first year of graduate school can be especially challenging: meeting new people, developing research topics, and learning exactly how many exclamation points in an email seem excited yet serious. In the midst of this,

I attended the Society for Women in Marine Science (SWMS) Symposium the first semester of my PhD. SWMS is an organization for anyone from high school students to senior scientists. It serves as a platform to discuss the experiences of women in marine science and to celebrate their awesome research. Through SWMS, I found a network of welcoming scientists, role models leading the field, and the confidence to own however many exclamation points I choose!

I knew I had to bring this community to my PhD institution, the University of Rhode Island (URI). There I started a SWMS Chapter with fellow PhD student Jillian Freese. Last spring, the URI Chapter held a SWMS Symposium of our own. It was a day-long event with over 150 people in attendance. There were keynote speakers, discussion groups, and a poster session of the research performed by SWMS members.

Starting with this event, I helped create a formal research project to focus on the impact of SWMS Symposia. Using surveys before and after the events, we can examine attendees' expectations, perceptions, and feedback in a structured and repeatable way. Currently, we are analyzing our datasets of two Symposia and will publish our findings of recommendations for related events. I look forward to sharing our results with the larger marine science community, and encourage anyone interested to join SWMS.

SWMS Membership is free and open to all. Learn more at <http://swmsmarinescience.com/>.

## Have You Read?

### Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4)

In November 2018, The US Global Change Research Program released NCA4 Volume II, "Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States." The report assesses potential climate change-related impacts, with the aim of helping decision-makers better identify risks that could be avoided or reduced. Among the 11 findings:

#### Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services.

Ecosystems and the benefits they provide to society are being altered by climate change, and these impacts are projected to continue. Without substantial and sustained reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions, transformative impacts on some ecosystems will occur.

**Oceans and Coasts.** Without significant reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions and regional adaptation measures, many coastal regions will be transformed by the latter part of this century, with impacts affecting other regions and sectors. Even in a future with lower greenhouse gas emissions, many communities are expected to suffer financial impacts as chronic high-tide flooding leads to higher costs and lower property values

Read more at <https://www.global-change.gov/nca4>

## Vote Now for Your Next TOS Student Rep!

**The TOS Council Election is open. All votes must be cast by January 31, 2019.**

Vote for your next Student Rep on the TOS Council, as well as other open Council positions. Voting in this election is an important function of membership and all TOS student members are eligible to vote. The persons elected will participate in directing the affairs and determining the future of the Society. Learn more at <https://tos.org/governance/council-election>

## Seen in Oceanography

### Improving Bed Topography Mapping of Greenland Glaciers Using NASA's Oceans Melting Greenland (OMG) Data

By Mathieu Morlighem, et al.

<https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2016.99>



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