



FROM THE REP

Transitions

It's a new school year! It is probably a period of transition for lots of us: out of summer internships, into new programs and classes, moving to a new town. These moments can be really wonderful, full of new experiences, new friends, and the excitement of a fresh start. Relish them—throw yourself into new clubs, get a new academic planner book, marvel over your fresh textbooks.

These moments can also be tough. It can be hard work to figure out how to live your life in a new place—from the basics, like finding the right grocery store, to more complicated things like having a doctor you trust or settling into a new work/activity schedule.

Be gentle with yourself. Be excited, or scared, or both! Whatever you're feeling, it's valid. I often hear new grad students bemoan that they aren't doing enough research during their first year, but they're taking a full course load and navigating all of this life-transition-related stuff. Try to resist the urge to compare yourself to others, and just focus on what you can do today, this week, this month. The speed you can handle is the right speed for you.

— Chrissy



TOS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

CELINA SCOTT-BUECHLER. Things weren't as they should be. Swimming over the once-vibrant coral reef, I could make out only a few patches of yellow, pink, purple. The rest was either a ghostly white or else already covered in mud-colored algae. The magnificent ocean systems that first drew me to marine science were dying—and human activities were to blame. As a junior at Cornell University, I was fortunate to be part of the off-campus CORALS program, which allowed me to study coastal systems' decline in the field and gain intimate understanding of the solutions needed. Cultivating a special fascination with coral bleaching that semester, I went on to be a Summer Student Fellow at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) to study this phenomenon in the Caribbean. My undergraduate research at WHOI would mature over the following year to become my honors thesis. As I was writing my thesis, I was selected for the Cornell delegation at the UN Conference of Parties (COP23)—an opportunity I hoped to use to better understand global conservation efforts. My conversations with government officials, conservation practitioners, and other global leaders led me to broader realization: the ecosystems I so loved might not exist within a few decades if humanity didn't swiftly decarbonize. My research today as a PhD student at Cornell bridges these two societal needs by focusing on the ocean's role in negative emissions. I aim to identify how practitioners can leverage existing processes like the ocean's biological pump while promoting conservation of the ecosystems that first inspired me to study the ocean.

RECOMMENDED READING

How To Transition from College to Grad School

<https://isi.org/intercollegiate-review/how-to-transition-from-college-to-grad-school/>

"Understanding the difference between a student and a scholar is crucial for succeeding in graduate school." In this 2017 article from the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Michael J. Douma of Georgetown University provides some advice on how to become a scholar.

An Open Letter to New Graduate Students

<https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/profhacker/an-open-letter-to-new-graduate-students/26326>

In this helpful ProfHacker blog post aimed at students beginning a PhD program, Brian Croxall makes "explicit the unwritten rules, norms, and quirks of academia."

Tips for First-Time Teaching Assistants

<http://www.pgbovine.net/ta-tips.htm>

It's the start of the semester, and perhaps you are a newly minted TA. These tips might be of help to you in the classroom.

OCEAN SCIENCES MEETING TRAVEL GRANTS

<https://www.agu.org/en/ocean-sciences-meeting/pages/osm-travel-funding-opportunities>

This program provides financial assistance to US and international early career scientists and students who have little or no support from research contracts or grants, and who are presenting for the first time at a conference.

Application Deadline: September 18
Award Notifications Sent: October 14
Deadline to Accept: November 30

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!

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SEEN IN OCEANOGRAPHY

West Antarctic Peninsula: An Ice-Dependent Coastal Marine Ecosystem in Transition

By Hugh W. Ducklow et al.



<https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2013.62>