



From the Rep



It's that time again—abstract submission is open for the Ocean Sciences

Meeting. This newsletter includes some great tips for writing an abstract. However, I want to talk about something different. For me, the submission of an abstract to any conference marks the beginning of temporary financial stress. First, there's the abstract fee. A nominal amount to most, but still a slight worry that it is wasted money if your abstract isn't accepted (spoiler: almost no abstracts are rejected from OSM). Then comes the registration fee, transportation, and lodging. If the conference isn't local, costs can be significant. Most students who travel to conferences have travel support—from their advisor, department, institution, meeting organizers (such as TOS), or sometimes from outside funding bodies. Often, this support is just barely sufficient, and we save money by finding roommates, taking red eyes, and hunting down free lunches. But it's not the net balance of money I have an issue with. It's the timing. Grad students are not known for having a lot of money, yet to attend conferences, we must sit with expenses on our credit cards, waiting months for the conference, and then for reimbursement. It's a flawed system where to participate, you must pay, or at least have enough money to enable you to wait to be paid back. That is not OK. Some institutions are making improvements—they book the flight for you and pay a per diem for meals and lodging before you leave. This is a good step, but it isn't enough. We need a way for all students to participate in science conferences and not miss out for financial reasons. Let's start a conversation about this problem and work together to find solutions. — 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

AMANDA LAVERTY. In 2014, I graduated from Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk, Virginia, with a Bachelor of Science degree. I decided to stay at ODU in the Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences Department to work toward a Master's degree in biological oceanography. During graduate school, my research focused on examining marine plastic pollution as a potential vector for bacteria and human pathogens, particularly *Vibrio* species. Now, I most often describe myself as a biological oceanographer by study and a microbial ecologist by training.

In February 2017, I began my journey at the science-policy interface in Washington, DC, after being awarded a Sea Grant Knauss Fellowship. My fellowship position is with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Division. I work on a variety of things, ranging from communication tasks to the evaluation of marine debris removal as a form of ecosystem restoration. I spend most of my time at headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, but I have had the chance to do some fieldwork and also take advantage of professional development opportunities. This fellowship has opened my eyes to the policy realm and has educated me in the many interesting connections between science and policy. So far, my six months as a Fellow have been packed with meaningful professional experiences and immense growth for me—both as a scientist and as a human.



Countdown to Ocean Sciences 2018

February 11–16 » Portland, OR, USA » osm.agu.org

ABSTRACTS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 6 » <http://osm.agu.org/2018/abstract-submissions>

ABSTRACT TIPS. Need some help in writing your OSM abstract? Here are some tips from Chris Parsons, an associate professor at George Mason University. » <http://www.southernfriedscience.com/distracted-by-abstracts-tips-for-writing-a-good-abstract-for-a-scientific-conference>

STUDENT & EARLY CAREER SCIENTIST TRAVEL GRANTS. A limited number of travel grants are available to support students and early career scientists attending the Ocean Sciences Meeting. Learn more about travel grants. » <http://osm.agu.org/2018/students/student-travel-grants-and-scholarships>

OSM STUDENT PAPER EVALUATION ACTIVITY. Students who would like to gain valuable feedback on their oral or poster presentation can participate in the OSM Student Paper Evaluation activity. Students can indicate their interest in participating by checking the box on the special programs page when submitting their abstract. » <http://osm.agu.org/2018/students/student-paper-evaluations>

Student Resources

UNOLS CRUISE OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM. The goal of this program is to provide graduate students with the opportunity to participate in a research cruise. Apply now. Two cruises are listed. » <https://www.unols.org/unols-cruise-opportunity-program>

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO SAIL ON JOIDES RESOLUTION. Three International Ocean Discovery Program expeditions are looking for shipboard scientists. Sailing on the drillship is a great career opportunity. » <https://iodp.tamu.edu/participants/applytosail.html>

News & Views

NEWS ITEM. The Gulf of Mexico's dead zone is roughly the size of New Jersey—the largest ever measured. » <http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/gulf-of-mexico-dead-zone-is-largest-ever-measured>

Seen In Oceanography

WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL OF THE OIL?

By U. Passow and R.D. Hetland

Read about the fate of the oil spilled during the Deepwater Horizon disaster of 2010.

» <https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2016.73>