



## FROM THE REP

### Making the Most of a Big Conference #2

This is the second in a series of columns about making the most of a big conference. This month, I'm focusing on how to make sense of the giant program. How do you narrow it down and decide where to go? Here are some tips:

1. If you have a smartphone, download the meeting program app. Do this before you arrive at the conference because the app is pretty large.
2. Make two lists: entire sessions that interest you based on the topic, and specific people or talks that you want to hear.
3. Prioritize. If two concurrent sessions are both really interesting to you, go to one for the first half and the other for the second half, rather than trying to run back and forth.
4. Remember to visit posters! All the posters for a given session/topic are grouped together, so you can sort of "browse" in a lower-intensity way. Posters are a great way to learn about new science and simultaneously network. In order to save some mental energy for the afternoon poster sessions, I find that I need to skip an hour or two of talks earlier in the day.
5. If there's a time slot where none of the talks interests you, take a break! Don't force yourself to sit through talks just because they're happening. You could use that time to go for a walk, to network, or to browse the very quiet poster hall.

What are your strategies for making sense of the big and complex program for a meeting like AGU or OSM?

— Chrissy



## TOS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

**COLETTE KELLY.** I am a doctoral student at Stanford University, studying the site-specific isotopes of nitrous oxide to understand its cycling in oxygen deficient zones. In addition to my research, I am also interested in novel modes of science communication—in particular, communicating science through dance. Last year, I worked with a team of students and my advisor, Karen Casciotti, to produce *Ocean Trilogy*, an evening-length work about ocean science that was performed by a local, professional dance company. The success of *Ocean Trilogy* inspired a workshop at Stanford to develop short dance-science vignettes aimed at conveying scientific concepts that could be more thoroughly understood through movement. Through this workshop, I choreographed a series of short dances that engaged with isotopes, nitrogen cycling, and mass spectrometry, which I shared on social media; I am now building these "isotope dances" out into a longer work, to be performed as part of a full evening of science-dance in the autumn of 2020.

The really wonderful thing about this kind of work is that it also helps me better understand my own research. Nothing helps you grasp the curved path of a charged particle through a mass spectrometer's flight tube like visualizing and dancing that path yourself—turning the dance studio into a vacuum chamber, with the piano in the corner as the magnet. I look forward to sharing these dances with a broader audience in the latter half of my PhD.

## INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### Ocean Exploration Trust Science & Engineering Internship Program

Opportunities in ocean science, seafloor mapping, ROV engineering, and video engineering. **Application deadline is January 24.** > [Learn more](#)

### MATE At-Sea Long-Term Internship

Work on board research vessels and get exposed to a wide range of marine technologies and equipment. **Application deadline is December 22.** > [Learn more](#)

### More Opportunities

Don't forget to check the [Grad Student/Early Career Resources](#) and the [Undergraduate Student Resources](#) pages on the TOS website for listings of summer internships!

## RECOMMENDED READING

### Graduate School Should Be Challenging, Not Traumatic

In this article published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, doctoral student Kathryn R. Wedemeyer-Strombel describes the difference between a "challenging" vs. "toxic" environment and offers some suggestions on how to best navigate it. > [Read more](#)

## SEEN IN OCEANOGRAPHY

### IMPACT OF OIL SPILLS ON MARINE LIFE IN THE GULF OF MEXICO Effects on Plankton, Nekton, and Deep-Sea Benthos

By E.J. Buskey, H.K. White,  
and A.J. Esbaugh

<https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2016.81>



## SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK!

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We need your input!

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and [@fishy\\_chrissy](mailto:@fishy_chrissy)

## SAVE THE DATE

### TOS Awards Breakfast at the 2020 Ocean Sciences Meeting

Attending OSM 2020? Be sure your plans include coming to the TOS Awards Breakfast on Tuesday morning, February 18. Breakfast will be served promptly at 7:00 am. We'll wrap up in time for you to attend 8:00 am sessions. More information will be provided soon!