



## FROM THE REP

### Making the Most of a Big Conference #3

This is the third in a series of columns about making the most of a big conference. This month, I focus on tips for putting together a great talk or poster.

1. Make your figures the centerpoint. Make them as beautiful and clear as possible. Don't forget to think about color accessibility (read more here), and to make all text labels and legends sufficiently large!
2. Try to get the message across with the least text possible. Go for bullet points instead of sentences, when practical.
3. Practice! Whether you're giving a talk or a poster, practice the whole thing, with a timer (and maybe an audience). My secret is that I memorize my first sentence to help me get over my nerves, and then try to make the rest a bit more improvised.
4. Provide your contact info in an obvious place. Put it in there twice! You want interested folks to find it really easy to get in touch with you—about your project or about possible collaborations.
5. I'm not totally sold on the #betterposter movement, but I do agree that your results should take center stage. Focus on making the poster a visual aid for when you speak, rather than trying to make sure it's 100% understandable without you there.

I'm really curious to see how many people use the real-time captioning feature of Powerpoint at OSM 2020. Are there other trends or best practices I've missed? Tweet @fishy\_chrissy to tell me!

— Chrissy



## TOS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

**HOLLY OLIVAREZ.** The global carbon cycle can be thought of as three reservoirs of carbon: atmosphere, land, and ocean. The ocean is the largest reservoir, and it absorbs 60 times more carbon than land. Scientists measure and model how much carbon the ocean has taken up in the past, but how much carbon will it take up in the future? Using large ensemble simulations of global Earth processes from multiple Earth system models and statistical methods, I separate external forcings, such as volcanic eruptions and the burning of fossil fuels, from internal processes. I quantify the origin of variations of carbon taken up by or coming out of the ocean for better short-term predictions and long-term projections of the future climate system.

I am a first generation, underrepresented National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow in the Environmental Studies Program and the Institute for Alpine and Arctic Research at the University of Colorado Boulder. I am passionate about inspiring people to talk about climate change in their daily lives. The Yale Program for Climate Change Communication recently reported that only one in five Americans understands the level of consensus among scientists about climate change is very high! Conveying the urgency and seriousness of the climate crisis, combined with conveying rational hope of the power of creative human smarts and collective action, lies on each of us. No matter what our climate system knowledge is or where we are geographically, climate change is impacting our lives and we can find a way to talk about it.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### NOAA Explorer-in-Training Program

Application deadline is January 31.

> Learn more

### Gulf Research Program's Early-Career Research Fellowship

Application deadline is February 20.

> Learn more

### John Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship Program

Application deadline is February 21.

> Learn more

### More Opportunities

Check the [Grad Student/Early Career Resources](#) and the [Undergraduate Student Resources](#) pages on the TOS website for more listings!

## RECOMMENDED READING

### Marine Labs on the Water's Edge Are Threatened by Climate Change

In this article published in *The New York Times*, science writer John Schwartz finds out how some marine labs along the coast are coping with and planning for climate-related changes that are affecting their infrastructure. > Read more

## SEEN IN OCEANOGRAPHY

### JELLYFISH, FORAGE FISH, AND THE WORLD'S MAJOR FISHERIES

By K.L. Robinson et al.

<https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2014.90>

## 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](mailto:studentrep@tos.org)  
and [@fishy\\_chrissy](https://twitter.com/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!