



From the Rep

Over the past month, I've started thinking a lot about my future career. I'm still in academia (as a postdoc), but I wonder if I can stay, if I want to stay, and if it's financially feasible. Maybe you are pondering this dilemma as well, or maybe you never even considered the academic lifestyle. Regardless, it is helpful to assess your skills, interests, and career options even if you aren't actively looking for jobs.

I've been reading a series of books about careers in science (I recommend *Next Gen PhD* by Melanie Sinche), and they have some common themes. One is to identify the skills you already have. Consider that skills every graduate student learns, such as technical writing, communication, and analytical thinking, are in high demand for many fields, not just oceanography. The next step is to consider your interests: what do you spend your extracurricular and free time doing? Why did you choose an oceanography program? I realized I'm interested in improving society, and it doesn't need to be ocean-related. A final step is to combine skills, interests, and values to identify career options. This is where a career counselor is very helpful (and often free of charge if you are still a student!). Once you identify your options, find a mentor in that career.

After going through this self-assessment, I feel better equipped to make decisions about my career as they arise. Take some time to think about it and visit the TOS web page (<https://tos.org/opportunities>) for more career resources.

— Stefanie



TOS Student Member Highlight

GUALTIERO SPIRO JAEGER. Shepherding is an under-appreciated task: always challenging, rewarding when successful. Instead of jolly sheep on a Swiss meadow, I guided research articles into a special issue of *Oceanography*.

Two years earlier, I began my PhD research in the MIT-WHOI Joint Program, working with Amala Mahadevan as part of a collaboration investigating the northern Indian Ocean's connection with monsoon weather over Southeast Asia. Working on a research vessel together with an international group of scientists and students from the United States, India, and Sri Lanka was an enriching experience. Later, as results emerged, I had the opportunity to assist the guest editors of the June 2016 special issue of *Oceanography* on the "Bay of Bengal: From Monsoons to Mixing" by managing the article workflow from start to finish. As a student, I was in a unique position of facilitating communication between authors, guest editors who were also coauthors, reviewers, and the *Oceanography* editor. To avoid conflicts of interests, I compartmentalized the assignment of anonymous peer reviews, while recusing myself from the process for an article I coauthored. Producing from a collection of manuscripts the desired coherent and appealing structure also involved sourcing relevant photographs from field experiments, soliciting graphics, and deciding the article order, in consultation with the different editors. The task required dedication and attention to details, while keeping sight of the overall vision and meeting deadlines. Proud of the final product, I'm grateful for the valuable experience gained managing the process, and I enjoyed working with the editorial team.



Countdown to Ocean Sciences 2018

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

OSM registration is now open! Register for the events below before they fill up.
» <https://osm.agu.org/2018/registration>

STUDENT & EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP. 8:30 am–4 pm, Sunday, February 11. Workshops on data management, grant writing, and scientific communication. Coffee, lunch, and afternoon beverages are included for all participants.

STUDENT MIXER. 6–8 pm, Monday, February 12. Refreshments provided.

MID-WEEK CAREER PANEL. 12:45–1:45 pm, Tuesday, February 13. Panel discussion on various career options in the ocean sciences. Box lunch included.

SAVE THE DATE — TOS BREAKFAST. Tuesday, February 13, 7:00–8:00 am, Oregon Convention Center (invitation and RSVP form coming from TOS in December).

Check here for updates » <http://osm.agu.org/2018/students/student-early-career-scientist-events>

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](https://twitter.com/mnemoniko)

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News & Views

OUR OCEAN CONFERENCE. On October 5–6, 2017, the European Union hosted the fourth *Our Ocean* conference in Malta. Explore the conference website to learn more about global commitments toward sustaining a healthy ocean in six principal areas » <https://ourocean2017.org>

Student Resources

SECRETS TO THRIVING IN GRADUATE SCHOOL

By Andrew D. Gaudet

» <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.caredit.a1500019>

Seen In *Oceanography*

MARINE MICROALGAE
Climate, Energy, and Food Security
from the Sea

By Charles H. Greene and others

» <https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2016.91>