

1. Message from TOS President, Martin Visbeck

Hello, I'm Martin Visbeck, your new TOS President as of January 1st. I am a physical oceanographer at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel. I also hold a professorship at Kiel University. My group studies the role of the ocean in the climate system with a focus on the Atlantic, deep water formation and deep western boundary current transport, ocean mixing and ocean ventilation. We are engaged in sea going activities but exploit our observed data also in the context of ocean model simulations, results from the sustained ocean observing system and remote sensing products. I also co-lead a large project on integrated marine sciences that combines all faculties at Kiel University with the objective to advance ocean natural and social sciences to inform society on development options towards more sustainable human-ocean interactions. A second large project is called AtlantOS and is supported by the European Union under their Horizon 2020 funding framework. AtlantOS strategically advances the integration, innovation and optimization of sustained ocean observing. With more than 60 partners and strong connections to Canada, the USA, Brazil and South Africa, it is one of the largest EU ocean projects ever.

I've enjoyed serving on the TOS Council as president-elect for the past two years under Alan's leadership. And now, I am looking forward to working with all of you to advance the Society. I will be building upon our meaningful recent accomplishments such as the approval of the [TOS Policy on Professional Integrity, Ethics, Conduct, and Implementation Guidelines](#).

My goal as president is to develop and implement innovative ideas which will provide value for our members and strengthen the profile of TOS. What programs can we implement to serve members world-wide? How can we best support the growing numbers of early career scientist members? Can we explore meaningful virtual meetings to provide opportunities to reduce our collective carbon footprint and for connection and collaboration among the ocean science community world-wide? Should we enlarge our disciplinary membership base and encourage talent from ocean economics, ocean governance, ocean policy or ocean philosophy and ethics to join? Working on new initiatives and solutions to these questions and challenges will help TOS stay relevant as we prepare to participate in opportunities that arise, such as the upcoming [Decade of Ocean Sciences for Sustainable Development and similar opportunities](#). Our organization has the flexibility to explore new approaches and programs in response to your ideas as members of our ocean science community. I very much look forward to hearing from you and will support the continuing growth of TOS over my two-year term as president.

2. Seeking Members for TOS Ethics Committee

After several months of work by the Council, [The Oceanography Society \(TOS\) Policy on Professional Integrity, Ethics, Conduct, and Implementation Guidelines](#) has been approved and can be viewed [here](#).

An important element of this Policy is the presence and composition of an Ethics Committee, which is responsible for examining alleged scientific misconduct and making recommendations to the TOS Council. This standing committee of volunteers is comprised of a Chair and six TOS members. Rick Murray, who has recently rotated off the TOS Council has agreed to be the first chair of this important committee, and self-nominations for the remaining committee members are sought from the TOS

membership. Members will serve on the Ethics Committee for a fixed term of up to four years as determined by the TOS Council. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please submit your name to [Jenny Ramarui](#). Questions regarding this committee may be directed to [Rick Murray](#) or [Jenny Ramarui](#).

3. Remember to Vote for TOS Council members by January 31st!

The election for new Council members remains open for the next two weeks. Members who have not yet voted will receive an email reminder from invitations@app.electionbuddy.com tomorrow afternoon. If you do not recall receiving the original invitation to vote (December 1, 2018, subject line: Vote now: The Oceanography Society – 2018 Council Election) be sure to add invitations@app.electionbuddy.com to your contact list and if needed, ask the the technical person who administers your email server to add <https://electionbuddy.com> to their whitelist.

If you are still experiencing technical issues, please contact [Jenny Ramarui](#) and you will be emailed a unique online “voter key” for the ballot. Biographical sketches for all candidates may be viewed [here](#).

4. December issue of *Oceanography* is in the Mail

The December issue of *Oceanography* on The Gulf of San Jorge, Patagonia, Argentina has been posted online and issues have been shipped to those members who requested hard copy delivery. All members received an email from our electronic distribution vendor (with the email address Oceanography Magazine <info@tos.org>via criticalimpactinc.com) dated December 21 with instructions on how to download the full PDF version of this issue. Several interesting topical issues of *Oceanography* are planned for the upcoming year; check out the titles [here](#).

TOS is making great strides toward fulfilling its [mission](#) as we grow to represent more members of the oceanographic community worldwide. Please invite your colleagues to [join](#) by forwarding them [this link](#) to the membership page. If you would like to support TOS initiatives and programs, please consider [contributing](#) by following [this link](#).

Please contact Jenny Ramarui (jenny@tos.org), TOS Executive Director, with any questions about items in this message or your membership.