

TOS NEWS — October 4, 2017

1. Jim Ledwell and Stan Wilson selected as TOS Fellows

The Oceanography Society (TOS) congratulates James R. Ledwell (Emeritus Research Scholar, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) and W. Stanley Wilson on being selected as Fellows of The Oceanography Society. Both will be formally recognized on February 13, 2018 during a ceremony at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Portland, Oregon. To learn more about their accomplishments, visit the [TOS Fellows page](#). The next deadline for Fellows nominations is October 31, 2017.

2. Aid for Puerto Rico and the Caribbean

Looking for ways to help fellow scientists and others affected by Hurricane Maria? [Ciencia Puerto Rico](#) has provided an [online form](#) to coordinate and disseminate offers of aid to scientists and students in Puerto Rico and other areas of the Caribbean whose work has been affected. Click [here](#) to view a list of additional organizations seeking donations to help with the recovery effort.

3. Message from TOS President, Alan Mix

An Uncomfortable Topic.

In this month's column I'd like to bring up an uncomfortable topic. Sexual harassment. It would be easy to simply say there is no place for this in TOS, or in oceanography, or in my university, or whatever. But without actions those are empty words. It is just so obvious that this is wrong, and yet the problem persists.

It is time to shine some daylight on this issue.

I recently read an article from the American Chemical Society about [harassment in the sciences](#). This is not uniquely a gender issue (ACS states that 10% of men and 25% of women have experienced workplace sexual harassment). The details are unclear; underreporting is rampant so these are probably underestimates. Most studies show that women suffer the most. The problem is even worse among students.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine are trying to do something about this. They are conducting a qualitative study on the [impacts of gender-related experiences on women](#). Among their fact-finding approaches is a questionnaire for women who have specific harassment experiences to report. If you would consider being interviewed privately about this topic, please look at their [questionnaire](#) and respond if you can. This is not a quantitative survey in the sense of the ACS report, i.e., its goal is not to discern victimization rates. But it is part of a larger process that will lead to action.

I am not aware of a quantitative study on this issue specific to ocean sciences – if anyone knows of one, please send it to me. Oceanography has some unique issues that need focused

attention, such as going to sea or elsewhere in the field where getting out of a bad situation may be difficult. Most of us – myself included – are well intended but ignorant of these things. So although it is uncomfortable, it is important for oceanographers to face this issue, to learn, and to take action.

Oceanography is changing rapidly. Our massive gender imbalance from decades ago is disappearing. TOS is now 44% female, 56% male. In the last three years, our membership growth has been 55% female, so within a few years we should hit gender parity in our membership. We can be proud of this progress, but it is just a start. It will take longer to achieve parity in the senior career ranks – oceanographers know that complete mixing of reservoirs takes a few residence times. But getting to full parity (on many things not just gender) requires that all of our members have a fair pathway to success and advancement. And that means getting rid of all forms of harassment and other barriers that hold people back or make people leave. That takes more than words. TOS, and the field of oceanography in general, needs all of us.

4. Seeking Nominations for TOS Council

Three members of The Oceanography Society Council will complete their term this December. TOS thanks Barney Balch (Biological Oceanography), Lee Karp-Boss (Education) and Julie Pullen (Physical Oceanography) for their service. The Council welcomes self nominations or suggestions for others who should be considered for inclusion on the upcoming election ballot. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a candidate for one of these three Council positions, **please contact [Jenny Ramarui](#) by October 15th.**

5. Openings for two new *Oceanography* editorial board members

At the end of the calendar year, two long time members of the *Oceanography* Editorial Board, James Syvitski and Gregg Brunskill, will be stepping down. We are seeking TOS members to fill these vacancies, starting January 1, 2018. TOS Editorial Board members provide advice and guidance to the *Oceanography* Editor, and may be called upon to handle peer review of unsolicited manuscripts. Editorial Board positions do not have term limits. If you are interested in serving on the board, **please send a short statement of no more than 150 words to [Ellen Kappel](#), *Oceanography* editor, by October 31.** Area of expertise, gender, and country distribution will be considered when evaluating candidates, in addition to experience. Please direct any questions to Dr. Kappel. We thank James and Gregg for their outstanding service to *Oceanography* and The Oceanography Society.

6. Ocean Sciences Meeting Housing and Registration opens in a few days

The registration and hotel reservation systems for the Ocean Sciences Meeting will open later this week. Click [here](#) to read the registration policy and click [here](#) to view a list of hotels and rates. You will be notified by email when both the re and housing systems are available.

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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.

