

TOS NEWS — December 14, 2017

1. Message from TOS President, Alan Mix: Prepare for the Decade of Ocean Science

For many of us who live and work in the United States, this past year has been sobering. The US government has initiated withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accords, has taken many anti-science and anti-environment actions, and has proposed tax laws that will punish graduate students ([but thankfully this proposal has been withdrawn](#)). We dodged a government shutdown this past week, but there may be one in the future. TOS has been monitoring government moves that have the potential to thwart science, and has spoken out with other scientific societies when appropriate.

Graduate students I've had the opportunity to speak with recently have expressed concern about the current research climate and wondered what can be done. They asked what they, or TOS, can do to help. Surely, we can all speak up and communicate with our elected officials, we can educate the public, and we can promote rational discourse. Being realistic, this is a storm we will need to weather a bit longer.

But not all the news is bad.

A few days ago, UNESCO announced a new global initiative, the [Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development \(2021-2030\)](#). This international effort recognizes that the ocean is our new global frontier. The ocean is essential to our well-being, but remains largely unexplored and poorly understood. Watch the message from UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay – she explains clearly the needs and the opportunities ahead. We hope the United States joins with the rest of the world's nations in a new decade-long push to understand the ocean.

This important initiative helps to explain TOS' strategic moves to grow its membership and expand its international connections, while focusing on programs for graduate students and early career ocean scientists. We need to gear up now to be ready for the important work of the coming decade, and our energetic young scientists will lead the charge. We want to empower this new generation of oceanographers to work across national boundaries to solve the big problems we face.

To succeed at our goals, we need your help.

Those who are able, please consider donating before the end of the year to one of the [TOS funds that help graduate students](#). We have had great success with the [COSTARS Fund](#) (Career Opportunity/Student Travel and Research Support), and this has already helped many students to receive training in life skills such as networking, communication, and time management, and to attend the upcoming 2018 Ocean Sciences Meeting. We also have the [TOS Student Fund](#), and the [TOS Early Career Scientist Fund](#), all helping young scientists in need. Or you may select the [TOS General Fund](#), letting us target resources flexibly where they are most needed. Of course, all donations are tax deductible in the United States (at least this year).

So, although it is easy to feel down when watching the evening news, let's all stay focused on the important work to be done, and let's all communicate the importance of ocean science to everyone. Now is the time to build strength and to be ready. The Decade of Ocean Science will be here soon.

2. Ocean Sciences Meeting: Registration and Housing Deadlines Approaching Fast

The discounted [registration deadline](#) for the 2018 Ocean Sciences Meeting is January 3 and the deadline to for [discounted hotel rates](#) is January 17. Reserve now to receive the best rates.

3. Vote for TOS Council Members by 1/8/18

Have you voted for TOS Council members yet? A reminder message with a link to the online voting system was sent to members who have not yet voted earlier today. To review the biographical sketches for each candidate, please [click here](#).

4. Invitations Coming Soon for the TOS Breakfast

All TOS members are welcome to attend the TOS breakfast on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, from 7 – 8 am in the Oregon Convention Center. Invitations and RSVP instructions will arrive within the next few weeks.

5. Self-Nominations Sought for OSM 2020 Vice-Chair and Student Representative on Planning Committee

Are you interested in representing TOS on the the 2020 Ocean Sciences Meeting Planning Committee? TOS is seeking self-nominations for the positions of vice-chair and student representative. The vice-chairs for TOS, ASLO, and AGU serve alongside the OSM 2020 co-chairs from each society to guide the planning process for the upcoming conference. The expectation is that the vice-chairs from each society assume the position of co-chair for the 2022 conference.

The student representatives from each of the three societies work together to plan student workshops and special events for the 2020 Ocean Sciences Meeting. Please visit [this page](#) to see examples of the types of events planned for 2018.

To learn more about these opportunities and to submit your self-nomination, please contact [Jenny Ramarui](#) by January 31, 2018.

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.