

TOS NEWS — September 8, 2017

1. Message from TOS President, Alan Mix

We are all watching the news anxiously this hurricane season. Catastrophic flooding has already hit Texas and Louisiana from Hurricane Harvey. As I write, the northern Caribbean is being devastated by Hurricane Irma, with further damage expected in Florida and perhaps further north. Our hearts go out to everyone hurt by these events. Many TOS members are in these regions.

After we get past the immediate task of getting people to safety, and begin the long process of rebuilding lives, homes, and communities, let's look again at how we as ocean scientists can help to build more resiliency for these (and many other) natural hazards. TOS can be particularly helpful as a storehouse of expertise about the interaction of the ocean, climate, weather, and impactful storms. As I watch the news on TV and online, I'm stunned by the amount of misinformation and misunderstanding I see. I hope we can have a conversation about how we as scientists, and our professional organizations such as TOS, can do a better job providing the latest, strongest, truest scientific information in service of healthy people, communities and planet. We've all been frustrated in this era of fake news and political posturing, but I trust that over time the truth will win.

Within the academic ocean sciences community, we argue among ourselves as we pose, test, and hone our hypotheses. The scientific process, however stormy it sometimes feels, is self-correcting and generally tracks toward truth. Unfortunately our internal debates often confuse non-scientists, who sometimes think that science "facts" are simply a matter of opinion, with equal validity on all sides. Not so! Let's have a conversation, in our institutions, at the Ocean Sciences Meeting this winter, and forever, about how we can provide the best scientific information for decision-making and for planning and building a more resilient, sustainable, global society. I'd love to hear your ideas on how TOS can contribute.

But first, let's all do what we can for people in need. Those of us in luckier circumstances can open our homes to those who need shelter. Universities and businesses can provide temporary office space for colleagues and students to continue their work and study. Arbitrary deadlines can be waived. We can get through this together. March for Science – Houston has arranged a [web-based list of resources](#) to help. TOS can also serve as an information point to connect those who can help with those who need help. Please send additional resources that you are aware of and/or needs you may have to jenny@tos.org; we will update the website and TOS social media accounts as we receive information.

2. *Oceanography* June and September issues now available

Articles from the [June](#) (Autonomous and Lagrangian Platforms and Sensors (ALPS)) and [September](#) (Sedimentary Processes Building a Tropical Delta Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow: The Mekong System) issues of *Oceanography* are available for viewing on the [Oceanography](#) website, and electronic access to PDFs of the full issues will be completed soon. Hard copies will arrive in the same package and will be shipped within the next several days.

3. OSM registration and housing system will open soon

The registration and hotel reservation systems will open later this month. 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 registration 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.