



## Ocean Sciences Newsletter: June 2020

### **1. From the President-elect, Dr. Clare Reimers**

Last week, AGU president Robin Bell with three other members of AGU leadership joined voices around the world demanding actions to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in the aftermath of the heartless killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis and further examples of police brutality against peaceful protesters and members of the press in the United States and other parts of the world (<https://fromtheprow.agu.org/agu-demands-diversity-equity-and-inclusion/>). The leadership of the Ocean Sciences section stands with these demands. As scientists, most of us have been fortunate to be able to continue our work from home during the COVID-19 pandemic and to occupy our thoughts with scientific pursuits. We recognize that most people on Earth are not so lucky, and now more than ever, we need to connect and engage, inclusively and without bias. As reported in the 3 June 2020 issue of *Eos*, diversity in science leads to innovation, but researchers from underrepresented groups are often stifled by their peers. We urge all members to help us eliminate such discrimination, to welcome new ideas, and to embrace diversity. We support our colleagues who take time off from work or classes to exercise their First Amendment rights through peaceful protests or who are needed at home because of COVID-19 closings. Please let us know of other ways we can move the barometer of change toward *fair*. Furthermore, join us in recognizing member contributions highlighted below.

### **2. Recognition of Contributions to Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020**

Ocean Sciences Meeting 2020 in San Diego, Calif., cosponsored by AGU, the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO), and the Oceanography Society (TOS), centered on the theme of a resilient planet. More than 6,000 ocean sciences professionals from 66 countries attended in spite of the looming COVID-19 pandemic. A superb Sverdrup Lecture was given by **Dr. Mary-Louise Timmermans** (Yale University) highlighting her pioneering work on Arctic Ocean circulation and dynamics. Scientists selected for the Sverdrup Lecture series exemplify colleagues we recognize for outstanding contributions to, and unselfish cooperation in, atmospheric and oceanographic research. Videos of plenary talks, including a moving opening perspective on oceans and on Polynesian ocean navigation by **Nainoa Thompson**, remain available for viewing (links are available at <https://www.agu.org/Ocean-Sciences-Meeting>).

Special recognition is given here to **Dr. Marjy Friedrichs** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) for her dedicated work as AGU chair of the Program Committee, and to **Hadley McIntosh Marcek** (University of Maryland) and **Dr. Chris Hayes** (University of Southern Mississippi) for organizing student and early-career activities and participating in meeting planning.

### **3. New Executive Committee Early Career Scientist and Graduate Student Members**

**Dr. Nicole Millette** (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) and **Carina Fish** (University of California, Davis) have been selected to serve as the early-career scientist and graduate student members-at-large for the AGU Ocean Sciences section Executive Committee with 2-year terms starting 1 January 2021. These representatives will assist in the planning of student and early-career events at AGU's Fall Meeting, and they will serve on the Ocean Sciences Meeting 2022 Program Committee. The newly appointed representatives will take over from **Dr. Chris Hayes** and **Hadley McIntosh Marcek**, who are serving with distinction in these positions now. The section thanks all who applied for the 2021 positions.

#### 4. AGU Fall Meeting 2020: Virtual Innovation

Ocean Sciences section members serving on the Fall Meeting Planning Committee are **Dr. Kendra Daly** (University of South Florida), **Dr. Zackary Johnson** (Duke University), **Dr. Charles Nittrouer** (University of Washington), and **Dr. Janet Sprintall** (University of California, San Diego). As of now, the committee is still planning both a fully virtual meeting and one with some in-person attendance with an expanded virtual presence. Either way, expect technological innovation to showcase science and build community connections. Members are encouraged to support Fall Meeting by submitting abstracts and exploring new presentation formats. Abstracts will be accepted from 10 June to 29 July. If you have suggestions or ideas for approaches to improving a virtual meeting, please send them to the planning committee at [meetinginfo@agu.org](mailto:meetinginfo@agu.org).

#### 5. On the Horizon

- The section Fellows Committee and the Honors and Recognition Committee are in the process of preparing their recommendations for 2020 honorees. Look for announcements of these awardees in October.
- Candidates for the next Ocean Sciences section president-elect and the Marine Geochemistry and Marine Geology and Geophysics secretaries will be announced soon. Be sure to vote when the election is announced this fall.

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