

## **AG/Committee Name: SETAC North America Student Advisory Council (NASAC)**

**Submitted by:** Austin Gray (Chair),  
Blair Paulik (Vice Chair), &  
Sarah Bowman (Outgoing Chair)

**Council/Board Liaison: Karsten Liber**

**Date: 28 OCTOBER 2015**

### **Executive Summary**

The SETAC North America Student Advisory Council (NASAC) is comprised of three elected leadership positions (Vice Chair/Chair/Outgoing Chair), Regional Chapter representatives (one or two students per Chapter), two members at large, and a Board of Directors (BoD) liaison. NASAC works closely with the SETAC Board of Director's and other SETAC Committees to plan student events for the annual meeting and to provide a voice for student members of SETAC. In 2014-2015, NASAC accomplished many goals including: a student short course, increased activity on our social media sites, a newsletter, a sponsored student workshop, a WordPress blog for students of SETAC, art and song contest, three articles featured in the *Globe*, a Reddit Ask Me Anything event, and a career navigation fair. NASAC worked closely with the Student Activities Committee (SAC) and the Salt Lake City Program Committee (PC) to plan our annual student-mentor lunch. At this year's annual meeting in place of our Noontime Seminar, NASAC will host a student workshop/luncheon sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive. The workshop will focus on "Communicating science in 140 characters or less". Aside from the events that will take place at this year's annual meeting, NASAC has worked with the Membership Committee, Endowment Fund, Science Committee, Career Development Committee and the Chemistry Advisory Group Steering Committee. Each of these committees has a liaison that is part of NASAC. NASAC has also continued interacting with the SETAC Europe student advisory council, and student representatives of SETAC chapters in Latin America and Australia. Thanks to Board of Directors of SNA, we were able to support several members of NASAC to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> YES Meeting in Serbia, and the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual SETAC Europe Meeting in Spain. This year members of NASAC have been planning the 5<sup>th</sup> YES meeting. The meeting will take place in Gainesville, FL. February 29<sup>th</sup>-March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2016. The executive committee of NASAC (Chair, Vice Chair, Out-Going Chair) have also composed a Standard Operating Procedure for the regional chapter representatives within NASAC. The purpose of this SOP is to provide guidelines to standardize how student representatives are elected to NASAC. NASAC is currently in the process of revising its general SOP as well. NASAC meets face-to-face once per year at the annual meeting and communicates via phone and email throughout the year. NASAC had 16 active members over the last year.

### **Organization**

The SETAC North America Student Advisory Council (NASAC) is comprised of three elected leadership positions (Vice Chair/Chair/Outgoing Chair), Regional Chapter representatives (one or two students per Chapter), two members at large, liaisons to committees within SNA, associate members, and a Board of Directors (BoD) liaison. Before the SETAC North America (SNA) annual meeting, a new Vice Chair is elected and assumes the Vice Chair role at the NASAC annual assembly meeting. This person serves as Vice Chair for one full year before rotating into the Chair position, and subsequently into the Outgoing Chair position the following year. We are currently missing student representatives from the Desert Southwest, Rocky Mountain, Mexico, and North Atlantic regional chapters, and two member at large positions. All members are students of SETAC, except the BoD Liaison. For details on the election/appointment of positions please refer to the NASAC SOP (October 2015).

In the summer of 2015 the executive committee of NASAC worked towards revising NASAC's SOP. We established associate members within NASAC as well as set a quorum for voting. The SOP also details subcommittees in NASAC. Previously subcommittees were chaired by RC reps or members at large. The SOP now states that chairs of subcommittees may also be filled by associate members of NASAC. Our current subcommittee chairs are: Vacant (Newsletter), Katie Albanese (Art and Song Contest), Louise Stevenson and Namrata Sengupta (Outreach), Cody Smith (Fundraising), Vacant (Social Media).

In 2014-2015, Austin Gray served as the Chair of NASAC, Blair Paulik as the Vice Chair, and Sarah Bowman as Outgoing Chair. Karsten Liber served as the BoD liaison for 2014-2015. In October 2014, Blair Paulik was elected by NASAC to serve a three year term as the 2014-2015 Vice Chair, 2015-2016 Chair and 2016-2017 Outgoing Chair. At the Student Assembly in Salt Lake City, Austin Gray will transition to Outgoing Chair, Blair Paulik will become Chair, and David Dreier (elected in October 2015) will become Vice Chair.

### **Activities Summary**

Thanks to our dedicated members within NASAC, we have been able to accomplish various things this year. We have highlighted the major activities in bullet form and have included full write-ups from each Subcommittee Chair at the end of this document.

- *Globe* article highlighting student activities after Vancouver
- *Globe* article reflecting NASAC members experience at the 4<sup>th</sup> YES Meeting in Serbia
- *Globe* article highlighting student activities in Salt Lake City
- One summer newsletter distributed before the annual meeting Survey of annual meeting activities which were incorporated into the events planned for Vancouver
- Increased Students of SETAC social media page followers and engagement on all platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
- Colgate-Palmolive sponsored student workshop/luncheon, student mixer, student corner/booth, and student-mentor lunch, Reddit AMA, Career Navigation Fair at the annual meeting in Salt Lake City
- Two NASAC reps assigned to SETAC Leadership Development Program
- Fundraising along with the PC for the student mixer
- Students of SETAC WordPress Blog
- Art and Song Contest
- 5<sup>th</sup> YES Meeting website composed

In addition to our great activities in NASAC, we have also been active in collaborating with other advisory groups, committees, and other student advisory council and student representatives of SETAC. A full summary of these activities can be found at the end of the document.

- CAG sponsoring travel awards to students
- Student-specific letters drafted to encourage students to renew memberships and outreach with potential seminar speakers with Membership Committee
- Change in cost of membership for recent graduates to increase retention of young professionals into SETAC
- Change of Student Activities Committee SOP to include additional student members
- NASAC participation in SAC Europe events in Spain, YES meeting in Serbia, and a continued discussion between NASAC to SAC Europe in regards to a student vote on the BoD
- Use of the Student of SETAC social media sites by other student leaders in GU's around the world to promote their meetings to all students in SETAC
- NASAC, Membership Committee, Career Development Committee working collectively towards group for young professionals and recent graduates

### **Future Plans**

## Improving representation and strengthening the student voice in SNA

*Blair Paulik, Vice Chair of NASAC*

As NASAC Chair in 2015-2016, I plan to continue to ensure that the students of SETAC are well-represented within SETAC North America.

One way that I will lead this initiative is by ensuring that the NASAC Regional Chapter representatives SOP, which was written by the NASAC Executive Committee over the past few months, is put into practice. The Regional Chapters SOP aims to improve the representation of all student members of SNA, by standardizing how Regional Chapter representatives are elected. This is important because, together, the Regional Chapter representatives make up the majority of the voting members of NASAC. The Regional Chapter representatives are also the only direct link between the broad SNA student membership, and decisions that are made by NASAC. I will work toward putting this SOP into practice by engaging with the SNA Regional Chapters committee, starting at the SNA Annual Meeting in Salt Lake. I will also work toward this goal by engaging with the current NASAC Regional Chapter representatives, so that they may distribute knowledge of the SOP into their respective regional chapters, and hopefully advocate for its implementation.

Another way that I will work to improve student representation within SNA is by working toward the goal of having a formal student vote within SNA. In recent years there has been a push to get a student member to have a vote on the SNA BoD. While this is a useful initiative, an additional goal that the NASAC executive committee has recently considered is working toward having all student members of SNA vote for SNA BoD members. This is already done in SETAC Europe, and it seems like a good next step, while deliberation continues on the topic of having a student vote on the SNA BoD.

I am honored and excited about the opportunity to represent the students of SNA as NASAC Chair.

## YES 2016: Science in the Swamp

*Erica Brockmeier, NASAC associate member*

*Sarah Bowman, NASAC Outgoing Chair and YES 2016 Fundraising Subcommittee Chair*

*Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

*Blair Paulik, NASAC Vice Chair*

*Cody Smith, YES 2016 Local Organizing Committee Chair*

*David Dreier, YES 2016 LOC Member and Advertising Subcommittee Chair*

*Bekah Burket, YES 2016 Scientific Committee Chair*

The YES 2016 planning committee currently consists of 15 members. These include NASAC attendees of the YES 2015 meeting (NASAC Outgoing Chair Sarah Bowman, NASAC Liaison to the CAG Katie Albanese, the YES 2016 Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Chair Cody Smith, and LOC member David Dreier). The LOC also includes 4 additional students from UF. Bekah Burket is the Chair of the Scientific Committee (SC), and current and incoming NASAC Chairs, as well as leaders of SAC Europe, are also involved in the YES 2016 conference calls.

In addition to the LOC and SC Chairs, we have also established the Advertising subcommittee, chaired by David Dreier, and the Fundraising subcommittee, chaired by Sarah Bowman, to coordinate the completion of advertising materials and fundraising strategies respectively. We have also appointed a SC Co-Chair, Kelsey Lewis of the LOC, to assist Bekah with meeting logistics such as room selection, poster board layout, and platform presentation order.

To date we have held three conference calls (23 April, 21 July, and 30 Sept) as well as at our first face-to-face meeting in Vancouver. Topics discussed have included short course and session topics, local and national fundraising strategies, social events, developing advertising material, and new topics for career and professional development talks.

We will begin the 2016 YES meeting on Sunday Feb 28 with registration and an opening presentation on science communication by Marianne Shockley from UGA. This will be followed by an opening ceremony and a small social event, all taking place at the UF cancer and genetics research center (CGRC). On Monday and Tuesday (Feb 29-March 1) we will have two full days of parallel presentations followed by poster socials. This YES meeting incorporates several new session topics, including human health, ecological stressors, and a special session on swamp ecology, in order to reach out to a wider range of research backgrounds. In addition to the scientific program, on Monday Feb 29 we will have an hour-long presentation in the format of a 'pub quiz' (using the questions and format developed by the Baylor student chapter) on the topic of 'What can SETAC do for you?' and on Tuesday March 1 during the same block of time we will have a career panel discussion, using the same format used at the SETAC Vancouver meeting. We currently have Elizabeth Carraway from Clemson representing academia, Isabel Johnson from Golder Associates representing industry, and Mace Barron from US EPA representing government on the career panel. On Wednesday March 2 we will have a morning short course session hosted by the UF interdisciplinary center for biotechnology research (ICBR), focusing on courses related to molecular techniques and laboratory demonstrations. The day will be finished with half-day short courses, with a selection of topics ranging from science improve to risk assessment.

We are now shifting our focus to fundraising and advertising for this event. The SETAC office has created our website ([yes2016.setac.org](http://yes2016.setac.org)) and will also coordinate abstract submissions via survey monkey. Abstract submission will close on Dec 11, at which point we will select abstracts and assign presentations as either platform or poster. We aim to open registration in early January and to have our budget finalized by late January so we can determine which students will receive travel grants after registration is complete. Our fundraising goal is \$30,000, including local in-kind donations and support. We will advertise at the SETAC Salt Lake City annual meeting, through our Students of SETAC social media accounts, and will also target universities with environmental science and toxicology programs in order to reach a wider range of students that fall outside of SETAC.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Revision  
*Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

The Executive Committee of NASAC is in the process of revising NASAC's SOP to submit to the SNA BoD. The SOP addresses topics mentioned in last year's annual report in regards to "Associate Members", quorums, breach of duties, and standardized voting of NASAC reps by regional chapters. Further explanation of these changes can be viewed in the (issues/problems/resolutions) section of this document.

**Business and Planning Meetings**

NASAC meetings were held in November 2014 (face-to-face in Vancouver), January 2015 (conference call), April 2015 (conference call), June 2015 (conference call), August 2015 (conference call), and October 2015 (conference call). Email communication, Doodle polls, and SurveyMonkey, were used to continue discussions and idea exchanges between conference calls.

There was an additional face to face meeting between the Chair, Vice Chair and BoD Liaison at the face to face SNA BoD Meeting in July 2015. Additionally, the Chair and BoD Liaison discussed NASAC matters at the face to face SNA BoD Meeting in February 2015, and the Vice Chair and BoD Liaison discussed NASAC matters at SETAC Europe in May 2015.

**Membership Communications**

Email and conference calls seem to be the best routes of communication among members of NASAC. The annual face to face meeting was well attended by NASAC members and guests in Vancouver. We will have a closed NASAC meeting in Salt Lake City separate from the Student Assembly.

Table 1: Member and guest participation for each NASAC meeting in 2015.

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>NASAC Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Discussion Topics</b>
November 2014	17	3	Review of annual meeting activities; Future of NASAC: new subcommittee chairs
January 2015	12	2	SOP Revisions, overview of Vancouver, Buddy Program, student workshop for SLC, globe articles
April 2015	12	3	Student Party, BoD F2F overview, student activities, student leadership development program, YES 2015, YES 2016, student mixer fundraising letters
June 2015	13	2	SOP, Student vote on BoD, CP workshop, student corner
August 2015	12	2	CP Workshop, Global Horizon Scanning Project, NASAC vacant positions, NASAC SOP, Globe articles
October 2015	11	1	Redditt AMA; Vice Chair vote, Career navigation fair

### **Issues/Problems/Resolutions**

Students and recent graduates make up 19% of membership in SNA. The SNA BoD has been open and considerate of the viewpoints of students in all discussions and decisions, and NASAC is incredibly appreciative of this. This year we have been in talks with the SNA BoD about potentially working towards having a student vote on the BoD. The goal is to further improve student representation within SNA. Many initiatives that the BoD votes on within SNA take place years after they are voted and last years afterwards. Students are the future of the society, if we have a say so on these initiatives at their inception it will be a better transition when we are the BoD members, AG leaders, and committee chairs

One issue that NASAC worked to amend this year is the election of NASAC representatives by their regional chapters. Throughout SNA there are 19 regional chapters. Through discussions with various members of SNA it was brought to our attention that each chapter had its own way of electing its NASAC representative. Student members also brought to our attention that in some regions students were not included in the voting procedures. The leadership of NASAC felt we needed to find a way to resolve this issue. The executive committee of NASAC (Chair, Vice Chair, Outgoing Chair and BoD Liaison) compiled an SOP for regional chapters to use as a guideline to vote student representatives into NASAC. The document aims to standardize how NASAC representatives are elected throughout all 19 regional chapters. The SOP was distributed to the Regional Chapters Committee. NASAC Chair Austin Gray will meet with the RCC in Salt Lake City.

The next step for NASAC was revising our own SOP to include plans we had not yet documented. One new item was defining associate members. Associate members are student members of SNA that wish to fill a position in NASAC aside from Chair, VC, RC Reps, or Members at Large. Associate members can serve as liaisons to committees within SNA and serve as chair of subcommittees within NASAC (fundraising, newsletter, outreach, and social media). Associate members do not have voting privileges within NASAC.

Within the SOP there was also a quorum established in regards to voting within NASAC. Any vote that is conducted must have two-thirds majority vote by voting members of NASAC before an action is approved or implemented.

In the case of a NASAC rep that is not fulfilling its duties there is also a "Breach of Duties" section to address the issue. The updated guidelines for voting regional chapter reps are included within

NASACs SOP as well. NASAC hopes to present the final version for BoD approval at winter Face to Face meeting.

NASAC has done a great job of maintaining relatively the same amount of members for each of our conference calls. Email communication has been consistent throughout the year. Social media sites continue to grow, particularly the Facebook and Twitter accounts. We steadily gain members each week and continually reach more students of SETAC. One lingering issue is reaching those students of SETAC that do not have social media accounts. One idea is to have regional chapters have listserv email accounts for just students. This will help with distributing information to all students. This will ensure the students we have are active members of SETAC as well as keeping track of those that transition into recent graduates and young professionals.

One new development that has been brought to our attention this year is from post-docs and recent graduates within SNA. These individuals feel they have limited representation within SETAC in regards to travel grants, awards, etc. NASAC, along with the Career Development Committee and Membership Committee, are working collectively to assist this group within SNA. We plan to have a face to face meeting at the annual meeting to talk and brainstorm ideas.

### Current Steering Committee

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role (2014-2015)</b>	<b>Regional Chapter</b>
Sarah Bowman	Outgoing Chair	Ohio Valley
Austin Gray	Chair	Carolinas
Blair Paulik	Vice Chair	Pacific Northwest
Karsten Liber	SNA BoD Liaison	Prairie Northern

### Current Membership

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role (2014-2015)</b>	<b>Regional Chapter</b>
Meagan Harris	NASAC RC Rep	Pacific Northwest
Jordan Thorngren	NASAC RC Rep	Ozark Prairie
Alex McLeod	NASAC RC Rep; Membership Committee Liaison	Chesapeake-Potomac
Katie Albanese	NASAC RC Rep; Chemistry Advisory Group Liaison; Art and Song Contest Subcommittee Chair	Ohio Valley
Mandy McDougall	Annual Meetings Subcommittee Chair	Pacific Northwest
Adric Olson	NASAC RC Rep	South Central
Louise Stevenson	NASAC RC Rep; Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair	South California
Namrata Sengupta	NASAC RC Rep; Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair	Carolinas
Jose Luis Rodriguez Gil	NASAC Rep, Social Media Subcommittee	Laurentian
Cody Smith	NASAC RC Rep; Fundraising Subcommittee Chair	South Eastern
Jared Bozich	NASAC RC Rep	Midwest
Sarah Vogt	NASAC RC Rep	Mid-South
Alistair Brown	NASAC RC Rep	Prairie Northern
Dan Millemann	NASAC RC Rep	Hudson Delaware
Ahmed Abdel-moniem	Associate Member; Science Committee Liaison	Ohio Valley Chapter
Sarah Crawford	Associate Member	Prairie Northern
Erica Brockmeier	Associate Member	South Eastern
Lidwinda Bertrand	Associate Member, Lead of SETAC Argentina	SETAC Argentina
Holly Dixon	Associate Member, Endowment Fund Liaison	Pacific Northwest
Rhys Cartilidge	Associate Member; SETAC Australia Liaison	Australia SETAC
Dragan Jevnic	Associate Member, Past SAC Europe Chair	SETAC Europe
Rhys Cartilidge	Associate Member, SETAC Australia Liaison	Australia
Tomica Misljenovic	Associate Member, SAC Europe Chair	SETAC Europe
David Drierer	Member at Large	South Eastern
Melanie Raby	NASAC RC Rep (incoming)	Laurentian

Fan Wu	NASAC RC Rep (incoming)	Pacific Northwest
Sarah Stinson	NASAC Rep (incoming)	North California
Vacant	NASAC Member at Large	
Vacant	NASAC RC Rep	Mexico
Vacant	NASAC RC Rep	Rocky Mountain
Vacant	NASAC RC Rep	Desert Southwest
Vacant	NASAC RC Rep	North Atlantic

### Members finishing during 2014-2015

Name	Role (2014-2015)	Regional Chapter
Jose Luis Rodriguez Gil	NASAC RC Rep; Social Media Chair	Laurentin
Bekah Burket	NASAC RC Rep; Newsletter SC Chair	Mid-South
Sarah Bowman	NASAC Outgoing Chair	Ohio Valley
Sarah Vogt	NASAC Rep	Mid South
Louise Stevenson	NASAC Rep, Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair	Southern California
Namrata Sengupta	NASAC Rep, Outreach Subcommittee Co-Chair	Carolinas
Meagan Harris	NASAC Rep	Pacific Northwest

**No. active members (based on meeting participation and email exchanges): 16**  
**Total membership: 26**

### Full activity updates from Subcommittee Chairs

#### NASAC Globe Articles

*Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

This year NASAC was featured in three editions of the *Globe*. In January an article was featured that highlighted the student perspective of the annual meeting in Vancouver. The next article featured in the April edition highlighted the 4<sup>th</sup> YES meeting in Petnica, Serbia and included reflections from several NASAC members that traveled to the meeting. In October, the *Globe* featured an article highlighting student activities that will be taking place at the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual SETAC meeting in Salt Lake City (short course, student-mentor lunch, CP workshop/luncheon, NASAC Student Assembly, Reddit AMA, Career Navigation Fair, and the Student Mixer). The article was composed by NASAC Chair Austin Gray and Vice Chair Blair Paulik.

#### Newsletter: SETAC Student News

*Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

In 2015 NASAC published a summer newsletter. The newsletter included messages from the Chair, Vice Chair, Outgoing Chair and Board of Directors Liaison for NASAC. The newsletter also included short bios from new NASAC members. We included updates from regional chapters with highlights of regional chapter meetings. Usually NASAC releases a fall newsletter before the annual meeting, but this year NASAC will release a winter newsletter after the annual meeting to highlight the annual meeting in Salt Lake City. The winter newsletter will also include information about the new NASAC members and highlight activities for the 2016 YES Meeting.

Social media subcommittee updates

Jose Luis Rodriguez Gil, Associate Member, Past Subcommittee Chair

NASAC, through its social media subcommittee, has the responsibility of managing all North America-related social media activity through the global “Students of SETAC” umbrella.

It has been three years since the creation of this committee and the launch of our main “Students of SETAC” social media effort. This third year has seen a continued growth in our main social media platforms. The number of Twitter followers nearly doubled from 159 in September 2014 to 367 in September 2015 (Figure 1), and the number of “Likes” to our Facebook page beat that increase by going from 231 to 521 in the same period of time (Figure 2).

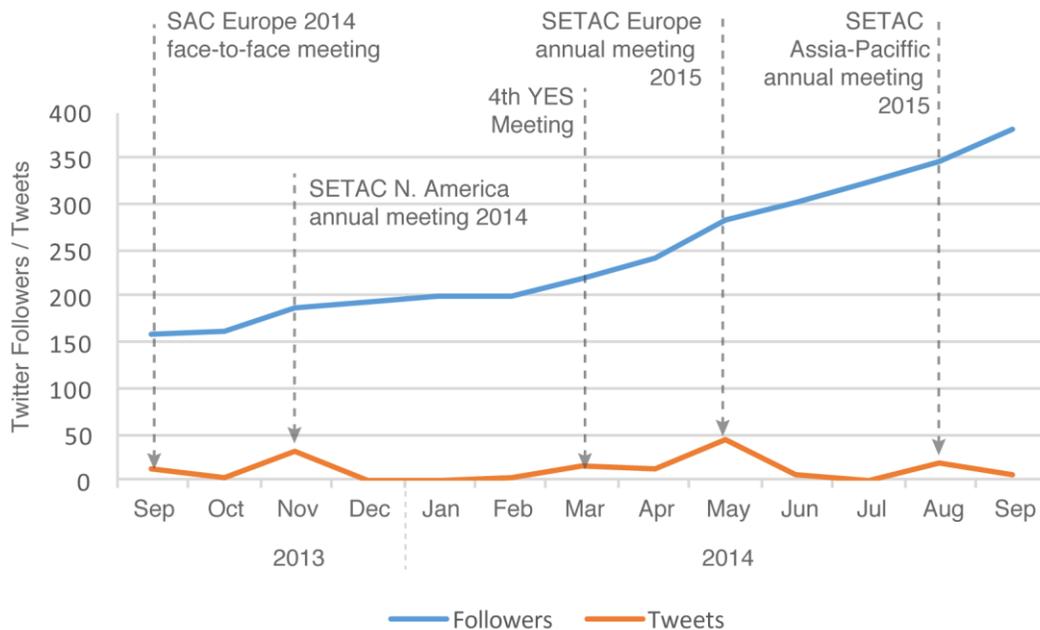


Figure 1: Number of individual followers of the @studentsofSETAC Twitter account (Blue line) and individual Tweets posted from it (orange line). Relevant events during the 2014-2015 period are marked.

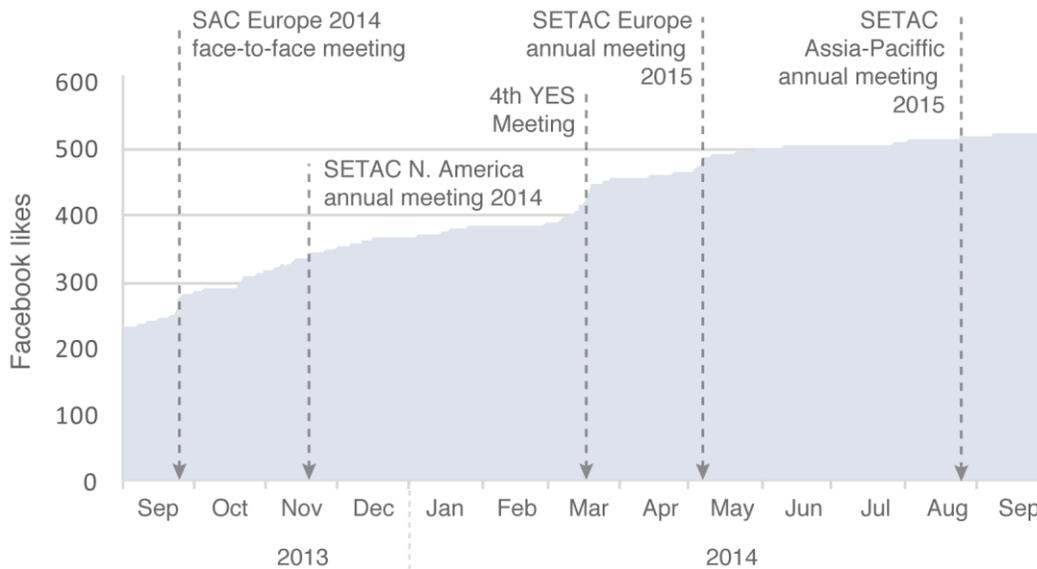


Figure 2: Number of individual likes to the "Students of SETAC" Facebook page. Relevant events during the 2014-2015 period are marked.

Like in previous years, these increases were highly associated with the main events of the Society (Annual meetings of the Society's geographical areas) as well as Student-oriented events, such as the in-person meeting of SAC-Europe in the fall of 2014 or the 4<sup>th</sup> YES meeting in the spring of 2015 (Figures 1 and 2). These peaks in likes/followers during these special events could indicate fresh exposure of new SETAC members to the available social media outlets, or could be related to increased content generation, engagement and further reach of our content during those events.

Growth during this period was not only measured in the net number of likes/followers, user engagement increased during the past year as well. Our @StudentsofSETAC twitter profile was visited an average of 262 times a month from September 2014 to September 2015. Out Tweets (average of 12 a month) generated an average of 3728 monthly impressions (number of individual twitter accounts reached by a particular tweet). External engagement also increased; with the @StudentsofSETAC profile being mentioned an average of 18 times a month in tweets from other twitter profiles. Average daily reach of content posted by our Facebook page was 118 (Number of people who were served any activity from our Page), compared to 62 the previous year.

Unfortunately, like in previous years, user engagement through our LinkedIn group page has remained low. The nature of this platform, where content is crowd-sourced by the group members through a "board" system, puts the success of the platform in the hands of the actual users. Attempts to catalyze conversation were performed by our administrator team by posting conversation-starter pieces with questions or comments on popular topics, however these attempts failed at actively engaging the audience. For the coming years, new approaches to user engagements should be evaluated if LinkedIn is to remain as a viable social media platform for "Students of SETAC".

"Students of SETAC" global presence has remained one of the distinctive characteristics of the group. As of today, we have active administrators and/or content creators in all geographic units

and over the last year, Students of SETAC live-covered all the main meetings of the geographic areas. Local engagement (regional chapters/branches), initiated during the previous year, has remained low during this past period. High-resolution coverage requires a larger team of content creators, which can be a limited resource.

The hard work of our team over the last couple of years has been noticed by third-party organizations, and just recently, an invited manuscript was accepted in the journal *Environmental Sciences Europe*, where members of "Student of SETAC" presented their experience in scientific communication thorough social media, using the leanings from our platforms as a case study.

But in an ever-changing digital world, there is still a lot of work to be done in the coming years.

#### Annual Meeting Subcommittee

*Mandy McDougall, Subcommittee Chair &  
Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

The Salt Lake City Programming Committee along with NASAC has worked diligently this past year to ensure student activities at this year's annual meeting are of a benefit to the students and help foster relationships that will extend past the annual meeting.

Sunday afternoon prior to the opening ceremony, there is a student short course on science communication. The topic will be "Using improve skills to communicate science to everyday people". This will be a great opportunity to learn communication skills that students can take back to their institutions as well as apply at the annual meeting.

The student mentor lunch will be held on Monday, November 2nd. NASAC will help to create a survey that will be distributed to student mentor lunch attendees. The survey will be used to identify ways to improve the luncheon so we can plan effectively for next year's luncheon.

The noon-time seminar will be replaced by a Colgate-Palmolive sponsored student workshop, and it will focus on communicating science via Twitter and other social media outlets. Students will have the opportunity to learn effective communication of their research and research interests via social media from guest speaker Emily Skor. We truly are appreciative of Colgate-Palmolive for donating their time and talents to the students of SETAC. We look to future collaborations towards increasing student involvement within SETAC.

The Student Corner will continue at the Salt Lake City meeting since its name change in Vancouver last year from the NASAC Booth to Student Corner. This year the Student Corner will be bigger than last year, located in a high traffic area. The Student Corner will have a NASAC organization chart so that student members can find the contact information of their regional student representative. The Student Corner will also have information providing an overview of NASAC, and 'Students of SETAC' Social Media outlets and connections.

In addition, NASAC members will be part of a social media event, a Reddit AMA. NASAC members will be present to moderate the event, professionals from respective fields will be available to answer questions about a wide range of topics they specialize in. Will take place on Monday from 10am-6:30pm. On Wednesday there will be a Career Navigation Fair from 9-11am. This event was led by Blair Paulik and will feature select vendors that will be present at the annual meeting and providing feedback to students about what employers are looking for in a prospective applicant.

NASAC will be continuing our Student Mixer, the mixer first took place at the North American conference for the first time last year in Vancouver. The student mixer will take place on Wednesday, November 4th at Club Elevate in Salt Lake City. The purpose of the student mixer is to

foster further student interaction and networking. Tickets for the student party will be available during registration and include two drink tickets. At this time, ticket sales are open to everyone interested in attending.

The annual Student Assembly (open to all students) will take place on Wednesday, November 4th from 1 to 2pm. This will follow the CP workshop. The purpose of the Student Assembly is to provide an overview of NASAC activities over the past year, present opportunities for students to get involved in SETAC (including YES 2016), and talk about what lies ahead for the students of SETAC.

NASAC will also hold our closed face-to-face meeting on Tuesday, November 3rd. NASAC will be voting for new subcommittee chairs, members at large, and also discussing new initiatives and events for next year's annual meeting.

#### Fundraising Subcommittee

*Austin Gray, Chair of NASAC*

*Cody Smith, Subcommittee Chair*

NASAC has worked along with the Program Committee for Salt Lake City. Together we have raised \$1805 towards the student mixer. Raising these funds will help to keep the student mixer at a low cost to encourage more students to attend and interact with one another. NASAC has also worked this past year with Colgate-Palmolive to create a sponsored student workshop/luncheon. This event is of no cost to students and is open to post-docs as well. The event will host over 150 students and post-docs. NASAC hopes to continue working with Colgate-Palmolive to work towards sponsored student travel to meetings in other GU's.

The YES 2016 Planning Committee is ramping up its fundraising efforts to build on the generous \$5,000 donation from SETAC North America. The chair of the Fundraising Subcommittee has compiled fundraising letters targeting industry, government, and academic contacts as well as NASAC Advisory Groups and Regional Chapters. The planning committee is currently compiling a list of potential academic sponsors at institutions across North America to whom letters will be sent prior to the SETAC North America Annual Meeting. Fundraising letters will be distributed to industry and NASAC Advisory Group and Regional Chapter contacts made at the SETAC North America Meeting in Salt Lake City.

#### Outreach Subcommittee

*Louise Stevenson and Namrata Sengupta, Subcommittee Co-Chairs*

The goals of the Outreach Subcommittee are to facilitate connections between fellow graduate students in SETAC and encourage graduate students to connect with the public. To this end, our subcommittee has developed an interactive blog geared towards high school and college students to give students the opportunity to interact with research scientists. This project is a hybrid of a traditional blog and a collection of graduate student profiles to encourage connections between graduate students on the blog and between graduate student researchers and website visitors. The blog has two main parts: the "Students of SETAC" which houses graduate student profiles and the "Research and Outreach blog". Along with these two parts, the blog also features an "About SETAC" page which gives a short background on SETAC for website visitors. A prototype of the blog is up and running here:

<https://studentsofsetacoutreach.wordpress.com/>

The Students of SETAC portion of the blog currently has 14 blog profiles (mostly of NASAC members) from around the country. The blog includes a variety of media—every profile has a picture of the graduate student and some profiles include videos on his or her research. Every profile also includes a section for students to ask the scientist a question (which will email the question directly to the graduate student). Each graduate profile includes "tags" that describe that student's research and links blogs together, encouraging connections between SETAC graduate

students. These tags vary from broad (the most popular tags are "ecology", "toxicology", "ecotoxicology" and "biology") to specific ("Daphnia" and even "Daphnia magna"; "nano-" related tags are also popular) and are visually presented as a "Tag cloud" on a side banner on the webpage. While the broader tags may help younger students discover specific research projects within the fields they are interested in, the more specific tags may serve to link graduate students to other researchers across the country conducting similar work. The front page of the blog includes a link to a Google form in which any graduate student in SETAC can submit his or her information for a profile. To our knowledge, this blog has been shared within the NASAC in the US and also within the European SAC (Student Advisory Council). We hope to foster more collaborations with our European counterpart as this blog gains momentum.

The Research and Outreach portion acts as a more traditional blog and gives graduate students the opportunity to write posts about outreach activities they are engaged in or posts in which they can discuss their research more informally or focus on certain areas of their research they find most interesting. Two graduate students (members of the Outreach Subcommittee) have written great blog posts about outreach activities they are involved in, and we are excited for this effort to gain steam as more students author posts.

To facilitate the growth of both parts of the blog, we will be showing off our webpage protocol during the North American SETAC meeting in Salt Lake City and will encourage graduate students to submit their information for a new profile and propose outreach or research blog posts they would like to write.

The goal of this online platform is to engage and link together students of all ages and at different academic stages. We hope high school and college students will feel engaged with the graduate student researchers, but another goal of this blog is for SETAC graduate students that become involved with this online platform to forge new connections with each other. We hope that this format will engage a wider audience both within SETAC and in the greater academic community.

#### Art and Song Contest Subcommittee

*Katie Albanese, Subcommittee Chair*

The NASAC Art competition has been an ongoing annual event to showcase student talents at the SETAC North America Meeting. It was decided to switch the contest back to an art and song contest, with three submission categories: original artwork, song/music video, and photography. The contest allows for students to submit a piece to one of the three contest categories, given that the piece follow the Salt Lake City theme of "Buzzing with Science: Cross-Pollination for Environmental Progress." Submissions must also contain a paragraph explaining how the piece follows this theme. Voting will occur at the NASAC table in Salt Lake City, and winners will be announced at the end of the meeting.

#### Interactions between NASAC and the Chemistry Advisory Group (CAG)

*Katie Albanese, CAG Student Steering Committee Member, SETAC OVC Student Board Member*

In 2014 NASAC and the SETAC NA Chemistry Advisory Group (CAG) began collaborating to encourage the involvement of students in both groups, and in a larger picture in SETAC as a whole. Through this collaboration the CAG raised money to support student travel awards to the 2015 Young Environmental Scientists (YES) meeting, held at the Petnica Science Center in Serbia. The CAG also plans to sponsor travel awards and short courses at the 2016 YES meeting in Gainesville, Florida. This collaboration was made easier by having a student on the CAG steering committee who also served on NASAC. This was a direct result of NASAC's request to AGs in 2013 to add students to steering committees. We hope that the CAG will serve as a shining example of student involvement in AGs and that other AGs will begin to involve students.

#### Interactions between the membership committee and NASAC

*Alex McLeod, Membership Committee Student Member and NASAC RC Rep*

In recent years, the membership committee (MC) has focused on facilitating and coordinating efforts within sub-committees and with other SETAC-NA committees, to develop initiatives to lead the way in the development of new outreach tools. The interests are not to simply to advocate the benefits of being part of the society but to improve SETAC for everyone by developing new strategies to incorporate all interests; currently emphasizing support for early professional development in students, recent graduates, and early career scientists. This audience was targeted because of voices from the students and recent graduates of SETAC along with volunteered effort and ideas from the associated committees. This group of early scientists are not only the future leaders and contributors to the society but also face a multitude of challenges as they transition to the work environment. It is exciting to experience the integration of this diverse assemblage of committees, it is these scientists who are devoted to the cause, being a collaborative and innovative community working together to protect and ensure the pursuit of investigating the possibilities. In the past year that I have served as liaison between the MC and NASAC I have witnessed a substantial rise in effort and communication within the committee and almost more importantly, with other committees over the last several months; all of these collaborations have gained momentum and are propelling us forward, it will be exciting to see all the hard work materialize and come to fruition in SLC.

The collaboration and cooperation to develop the activities and outreach tools was made possible by the efforts of the liaisons whom serve to disseminate key points and relevant ideas from their respective group; Wendy Hillwalker (Career Development Committee & Board Liaison), Scott Lynn (Science Committee), Tom Augspurgen (Board of Directors), Kerry Mierau (Career Development Committee & Senior Resource Group), Charles Wong (Chemistry Advisory Group), and Alex MacLeod (NASAC). The MC realizes how important it is to connect with all members of our society and put forth an initiative to improve communication by developing a series of emails and letters directed towards specific groups within the SETAC-NA membership. This resulted in the documents tailored towards the members of the society.

#### **These outreach tools include:**

- **Contacting lapsed members.**
- **Welcome letter to Committee Members.**
- **Renewed focus on outreach and interactions with other SETAC NA Committees:**
- **Recruited new committee members:** The committee needed some new leadership and new active members to boost our productivity. Dr. Ted Valenti was recruited to provide a boost to leadership. Ashley Parks and Bryan Clark have also been recruited. They are young members of SETAC and have stepped up to help the Membership Committee. Specifically they will work to develop ways to increase leadership training, networking opportunities, and job pursuit opportunities for this Early Career Professionals. Continued recruitment remains a top priority in the future.
- **Buddy system.** The Membership Committee and the Career Develop Committee collaborated in past years to develop the Buddy System. Members of the Membership Committee are actively involved with this effort which has been a huge success and continues to grow.
- **New communications with membership.** We continue to work with SETAC NA to develop ways to contact new members, get them involved with SETAC, and try to develop networks for these individuals. This action item will continue into 2016

#### **Future Plans**

- **Communications.** The Membership Committee will focus on communicating the benefits of SETAC to new and recent members and encourage these groups to participate in committees and workshops with emphasis on building networks to further develop their careers.

- **Recent Graduate/Early Career Subcommittee.** The Membership Committee, Career Development Committee, and NA Student Advisory Council will work together to develop strategies for retaining members as they go through career transitions. Opportunities to gain leadership skills and strengthen networks to aid in career advancement will be focal points of these activities.
- **Renew contacting lapsed members.** Here we will develop a subcommittee that will develop emails for SETAC NA to distribute to lapsed members. A focus on establishing a network and highlighting the advantages and opportunities SETAC membership offers.
- **Invigorating established membership involvement.** We will focus on developing these members as our best ambassadors and recruiters for SETAC.
- **Continue our outreach with other committees.** We are planning to continue working closely with the Career Development Committee, Science and Regional Chapters Committees by attending their regular conference calls and inviting them to ours, and by participating in mutual activities. We are also going to determine if we need to coordinate with other SETAC NA committees.
- **Further promote SETAC benefits among members and prospective members.** We will develop written materials to further communicate the benefits of belonging to the Society. In addition we will promote more active participation of members in the different groups and committees to support the Society, but also to increase their network.

**Plan for MC leadership succession.** Dr. Valenti is the future leader of this committee in 2017. Dr. Schmidt will sit as Out-going Chair in 2017. We still need to recruit a Secretary to step into the role of Vice-Chair in 2017. Elin M. Ulrich has been invited to become the secretary of the MC. She is currently considering the position.

#### Interactions between NASAC and the Student Activities Committee (SAC)

*Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

Austin Gray, NASAC Chair served as a student representative and liaison between NASAC and the SAC from 2014-2015. NASAC and the SAC worked together to plan the student mentor lunch in Salt Lake City (see annual meetings section). Along with the changes made to the SOP in 2013-2014 NASAC has also increased its representative to the SAC. Mandy McDougal was selected to serve in this capacity. NASAC is still looking to have another fill the third position as a member at large position. SAC chair Sue Beach has been active in the plans of NASAC this year. The SAC has been working on the silent-auction. The silent auction is a fundraising event that benefits student members and student activities. The auction begins during the opening reception on Sunday evening and ends during the poster social on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

#### Interactions between the NA science committee and NASAC

*Ahmed Abdel-moneim, Science Committee Student Member and Associate Member*

In August of 2015, Ahmed Abdel-moneim; the student liaison at SETAC NA Science Committee joined NASAC as a non-voting (associated) member. Since then, Ahmed has been participating in calls for both committees. Through this connection, we are hoping to establish more collaboration between the two committees, providing assistance to NA Science Committee in communicating emerging science and technical issues to SETAC North America student members and offer students prospective on different focused topics and research areas of particular interest to them.

#### Joint Initiatives between NASAC and Europe Student Advisory Council (SAC Europe)

*Erica Brockmeier, NASAC Associate member*

*Dragan Jevtić, SAC Europe Outgoing Chair*

*Tomica Mišljenović, SAC Europe Chair*

*Blair Paulik, NASAC Vice Chair*

## **YES 2015: More than a conference!**

In March 2015, SAC Europe hosted the 4th SETAC Young Environmental scientists (YES) meeting. The meeting was held at Petnica Science Center in Valjevo, Serbia and over 100 SETAC student participants from 26 countries attended the meeting. The YES meeting featured an opening workshop by PhD comics author Jorge Cham, three career talks focused on perspectives from working in government, industry, and NGOs, platform and poster presentations for each attendee, poster corner and poster spotlight presentations, and a selection of laboratory and soft skills short courses available to all participants. There were no registration fees charged and all participants received free room and board, and students who requested travel support were also able to receive travel grants.

The 4th YES meeting was a success both in terms of participant feedback as well as by funds raised by the SAC Europe members which made this conference such a success. The final meeting budget was over 50,000 EUR, with over 30,000 EUR funded by direct sponsorship from external companies and organizations, as well as support from SETAC and several companies providing in-kind donations. Participants rated all activities as very good and with numerous positive comments coming from our post-meeting survey, including "This is the best conference I've ever been to! EVERYTHING was organized so well. I would definitely come again and tell my friends about it." SAC Europe members as well as the SETAC Europe office are very pleased with the outcome of this event.

NASAC members contributed to the 2015 YES meeting by serving as session chairs, fundraising, and promoting the event in SETAC North America. These NASAC members are now involved with the organization of the 2016 YES meeting, due to their experience at the previous YES meeting and their knowledge of how this meeting looks like. In addition, SAC Europe members will assist with the 2016 YES meeting by advertising the event to SETAC Europe students as well as by providing guidance and ideas for fundraising strategies. An overview of the 2015 YES meeting and perspectives of NASAC attendees was also featured in the Globe:  
<http://globe.setac.org/2015/may/yes-meeting.html>.

Student activities at SETAC Barcelona and interaction with other SETAC regional chapters  
At the 25th SETAC Europe anniversary meeting, the NASAC Vice Chair Blair Paulik was present and worked to continue the interactions and collaborations between NASAC and SAC Europe. Activities at this year's meeting included the student-mentor luncheon, 'what can SETAC do for you' tweet-up, and the student assembly. In addition to answering questions during the tweet-up, Blair presented the YES 2016 meeting at both the student assembly as well as the closing ceremony. Blair also met with the student representative for the SETAC Argentina branch and will continue to work on more developed interactions between NASAC and SETAC Latin America students.

## Joint Initiatives between NASAC and Latin America and Australasia Student Representatives *Austin Gray, NASAC Chair*

NASAC has maintained communication with Australia's student representatives (Rhys Cartlidge and Francesca Gilli) and also SETAC Argentina lead Lidwinda Bertrand, all of which are associate members of NASAC. We have not had communication with Latin American (Brian Jonathon Young) SETAC student representative during the latter part of this year. We will work this upcoming year to amend our communications and remain proactive throughout the global units of SETAC. Australia student leadership used the Students of SETAC social media sites to provide updates and

highlights of their annual meeting. We hope to expand this into our LinkedIn Students of SETAC account and WordPress outreach blog.

#### NASAC interaction with the Career Development Committee

*Sarah Bowman, NASAC Outgoing Chair and CDC/NASAC Liaison*

For 2015, NASAC and the CDC established a liaison position to provide communication and collaboration between the two committees. The two committees worked together on the following activities and initiatives:

- Buddy System: NASAC helped the CDC with recruiting students to serve as meeting guides and helped with advertising for the buddy system.
- CDC Annual Meeting Activities Advertisement: NASAC helped the CDC advertise their annual meeting events to students through the NASAC newsletter, social media accounts, and through NASAC calls.
- Recent Grads: The CDC, Membership Committee, NASAC, and a grass-roots group of recent grads have been collaborating on a path forward to better understand and serve the recent grads and early career SETAC members. We have planned an informal meet-and-greet at SLC and have been organizing teleconferences. This group is also working with Meg Harris and the SETAC office on putting together a survey of recent grads.

The CDC found this NASAC liaison position very important and would like to continue collaboration for 2016. Sarah Bowman will be stepping down from the liaison position in January (she will transition to Vice Chair of the CDC then). NASAC will solicit nominations and vote on the liaison position at the NASAC face-to-face meeting in Salt Lake City.