

SETAC North America Awards & Fellowships Committee (SNA AFC) Annual Report for 2018

Outgoing Chair: Ryan Prosser (Academia)

SETAC Board of Directors (BOD) Liaison: Teresa Norberg-King (Government)

SETAC Office Liaison: Laura Swanson

Organization

The SETAC North America Awards & Fellowships Committee (SNA AFC) is comprised of several subcommittees that help administer the many award opportunities within SETAC North America. These awards recognize and honor outstanding contributions in the environmental sciences by professionals and enhance the professional development of students and pre-professionals.

Continuing this year, sub=committee chairs were:

Burton Suedel (Government) - Professional Awards Subcommittee (5 members);
Loretta Fernandez (Academia) - Student Travel & Minority Awards Subcommittee (40 members);

Ryan Prosser (Academia) – Recent Graduates Travel Awards Subcommittee (19 members);

Rene Falconer (Academia) - Student Presentation Awards (3 members);

Laurel Royer (Industry) – Fellowships (4 members).

Activities Summary

1. The SNA AFC updated and streamlined the instructions for preparing a nomination package for the Professional Awards. Before the update, the requirements for a nomination package varied slightly between the awards and/or were not clearly laid out. The new instructions make it clear that for all four Professional Awards, a nomination package consists of three letters of recommendation and a curriculum vitae from the nominee. The updated webpage for the Steven Klaine Environmental Education Award outlines the different requirements of a nomination package for an individual and a nomination package for an organization or program. These updates were made to the setac.org webpage for each award in January of 2018.
2. The SNA AFC collaborated with the SETAC office to increase awareness of the SETAC NA Professional Awards. In the past, these awards have received few nominations. In some cases, only a single nomination has been submitted for an award. Laura Swanson at the SETAC office distributed an email to the entire SETAC NA membership that ask they provide names of other members that they think are deserving of a nomination for one of the SETAC NA Professional Awards. In parallel, Laura Swanson, Diane Nacci (former SNA AFC chair), Kay Ho (former SNA AFC Student Presentation Award sub-committee chair), and Ryan Prosser (current SNA AFC chair) personally emailed the chairs of all SETAC NA committees and Interest Groups and the executive of all SETAC NA Regional Chapters to request they identify potential members for Professional

Award nomination. If members identified potential nominees, Laura, Kay, Diane, and Ryan helped the nominator to get a nomination package assembled. These efforts resulted in a considerable increase in the number of nominations for the SETAC NA Professional Awards this year. The number of nominations for each award in 2018 are listed below. The chair of the Professional Awards sub-committee, Burton Suedel, noted that there were more nominations this year than any of the twelve years that he has been leading the Professional Awards reviewing. This would indicate that the SNA AFC's efforts were fruitful, and they will continue next year.

3. The SNA AFC recruited a new chair for the Student Travel Award sub-committee. Loretta Fernandez from Northeastern University agreed to assume the chair position. Laura and Ryan worked with Loretta this year to bring her up to speed on the process and timing of reviews for the Student Travel Awards. Loretta did a phenomenal job with the sub-committee this year.
4. A major activity of the SNA AFC activities is the review and recommendation for SNA Awards and Fellowship to be presented at the SNA annual meeting. A description of the awards and fellowship winners recommended by SNA AFC and approved by the SNA BOD for 2018 is provided below:

Outstanding Regional Chapter Member Award

- Three nominations
- Suggested recipient: Joseph Bisesi, University of Florida
- Quality candidate. Quite active in the SE chapter. CV does not address full chapter accomplishments relevant to the award, but letters make up for that. Dr. Bisesi has taken on a major leadership role in the Southeast (SE) regional chapter. During his tenure on the executive SE-SETAC committee, Dr. Bisesi has made substantial contributions, leading a revitalization of the regional chapter by markedly expanding meeting attendance, activities (e.g., short courses/workshops), and enhancing the overall impact of the organization. He is an outstanding member of the SE-SETAC regional chapter who has gone "above and beyond." It is this revitalization of the SE-SETAC chapter that raises him to the top of a quality group of candidates for the chapter award this year. Superior candidate very worthy of the award.

Government Service Award

- Five nominations
- Suggested recipient: Daniel Villeneuve, USEPA
- Very strong and lengthy list of USEPA awards, accomplishments, and publication record. Long SETAC membership tenure. Dr. Villeneuve is an outstanding scientist who has contributed immensely to the area of fish toxicology and risk assessment in the 21st century. Since 2010 he has taken a lead in systems toxicology and has applied novel molecular tools to better understand how a wide variety of chemicals may cause harm. More importantly he has become one of

the principle drivers of the concept of the Adverse Outcome Pathway (AOP) for ecotoxicology. He was a coauthor on the manuscript that first described the theory and he has been one of the best advocates for promoting its use in practice. This strategy is now being used for human toxicology. Quality candidate worthy of the award.

Klaine Environmental Education Award

- Five nominations
- Suggested recipient: Orange County Water District (OCWD)
- The Orange County Water District (OCWD) Children's Water Education Festival is the centerpiece of this nomination. It is the largest event of its kind in the nation - a day-long field trip serving up to 7,500 elementary school students annually. The Festival is provided at no cost to Orange County schools—public, private and home schools. It presents a unique opportunity to educate third, fourth and fifth grade students, helping them to understand local water issues, how they can protect and enhance water supplies and many ways to safeguard their environment. The event just celebrated its 22nd anniversary. Since inception, more than 129,000 students have experienced the Festival. The Festival teaches children about water and the environment through hands-on educational activities and videos. Topics include water reuse, watersheds, wildlife and natural habitats, engineering, biology, chemistry, sea and space exploration, and recycling. The breadth of their program is substantial, and they focus on the public and K-12 audiences, highly relevant for 2017, an odd year. Strong candidate worthy of the award.

Eugene Kenega Membership Award

- One nomination
- Suggested recipient: Doris Vidal-Dorsch, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project
- Dr. Vidal-Dorsch's CV notes her many SETAC membership activities, but her package strength is in the letters. She has been a SETAC member since 2002 and active in SETAC since 2005 when she joined the Membership Committee. Doris has made significant contributions to membership services and growth every year since 2005. Her key contributions in the Membership Committee are numerous and address all three of the award factors: 1) Improving the types of services SETAC offers members; 2) Enhancing the growth of SETAC membership; and 3) Providing leadership for members at either the chapter or the national level. The Professional Award sub-committee thought that Dr. Vidal-Dorsch is an excellent candidate and is worthy of the award.

Jeff Black Fellowship

- Two nominations
- Suggested recipient: Corie Fulton, Southern Illinois University

- Reviewers thought that Corie's research proposal was ambitious and novel. Her CV, cover letter, transcripts and statement of interest indicated he was an excellent candidate for the award.
- 5. In preparation for the annual meeting, Student Travel Awards were evaluated by 40 members of the Student Travel Awards Subcommittee, including a number of new volunteers. Each of the 237 applicants was evaluated by at least 3 different reviewers making for a total of over 711 reviews! Specifically, the SNA AFC awarded 140 student travel awards to 9 undergraduates, 50 Masters, and 71 PhD students. These included 10 awards from the SETAC Minority Travel Fund. The SETAC Meeting Management System was used to review all nominations. The reviewing process was completed efficiently with little negative feedback from reviewers.
- 6. The Recent Graduate Travel Award initiated last year (2017) in collaboration with the Early Career Members Committee and the SETAC NA Endowment Fund Committee continued this year (2018). There were 20 applicants for the award. Of the 20 applicants, 14 were from academia, 3 were from government and 3 were from industry.

The Awards Management System (AMS) was used to review the Recent Graduate Travel Awards for the first time this year. For the most part, the AMS worked well and made nomination and reviewing a simpler process. One issue that was identified was that once an applicant began their nomination they could not save their nomination and return to complete their nomination later. Once they started their nomination, it had to be completed and submitted, or all the data they input would be lost. The SNA AFC is working with the AMS developer to remedy this issue.

All applicants were accomplished and deserving of the award, but the following received the highest scores from reviewers due to their plan for taking advantage for all that is offered at a SETAC NA meeting, along with their explanation on how attendance at the SETAC NA meeting relates to their short- and long-term career goals. The financial needs of the applicants were considered but did not play a factor in the decision for the six winners below. All six winners would not be able to attend without the travel award.

Academia

- Kristin Bridges, University of North Texas
- Anson Main, University of Missouri

Industry

- Katie Albanese, Battelle
- Staci Capozzi, Geosyntec Consultants

Government

- Jessica Brandt, USGS
 - Sharon Hartzell, USEPA
 - Note: Sharon Hartzell was unable to attend the meeting so the award was given to the government recent graduate member with the next highest score, Daniel Millemann, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
7. During this year (2018), this year the student presentation subcommittee continued to work with the Program Committee and the SNA staff to improve the processes by which student presentations are judged and winners are selected. This year's annual meeting will include 253 student presentation competitors, requiring 759 judging events! We are in the process of recruiting judges for the meeting. As was done last year, judges will be entered into a drawing to win next year's registration fees (thanks to Greg Schiefer for implementing this program.) The student presentation awards committee continues to solicit support from our membership to minimize the number of student entries for presentation awards that occur late on Thursday - this implemented strategy is expected to help the AFC efficiently and accurately complete student presentation awards in time for the closing ceremony.

Business and Planning Meetings

Membership Communications

Issues/Problems

- 1) The Awards Management System (AMS) was used to submit and review nominations for the Professional Awards and Fellowship and the Recent Graduate Travel Award. There were a number of setbacks that needed to be overcome with using the AMS to nominate and review for Professional Awards and Fellowship. The issues identified with the AMS this year are outlined below:

Nominations:

- a) If the nominators do not have letters to upload to the AMS for the nomination package, they can send email requests to potential letter writers and the letter writers can then upload the letter to the AMS. It was not clear to nominators how to send letters of recommendation requests to multiple email addresses.
- b) As mentioned above, when completing an application for the Recent Graduate Travel Award, the applicant had to complete and submit the application in a single login. If the applicant logged out, all of the data they had entered would be lost and they would have to start the application from

the beginning. Applicants needs to be able to save the progress on their application, so they can return and complete the application later.

Reviewing:

- a) The split screen feature of the AMS creates a number of issues for reviewers. The split screen feature was designed to allow the reviewers to view the documents of nomination package and the scoring criteria simultaneously. However, when using the split screen, the reviewers were not able to review all of the documents that were part of the nomination package. Also, instructions to reviewers were truncated when using the split screen feature. The split screen feature is not helpful to reviewers in the current state.

On a positive note, much less troubleshooting with the software designer was required to ensure that all reviewers could login to the system. All reviewers were able to login into the AMS, which was not the case last year. A greater number of nomination packages were submitted using the AMS this year compared to its first year of use (2017). In 2017, Laura Swanson manually input the majority of the nomination packages into the AMS. This indicates that members are open to submit their nomination packages directly to the AMS.

- 2) A new chair and vice chair need to be recruited for the AFC.

Current Committee Membership

The members of the SNA AFC do not have a defined term. Continued turnover of the members of the sub-committees would place a large burden on the SNA AFC chair and sub-committee chairs to find a potentially large number of replacements, which has traditionally been challenging. We want to avoid increasing the burden on chairs when they are regularly trying find additional members for their sub-committees to review applications, without members of their sub-committees rotating off the committees. The chairs approach their sub-committee members each year to ask if they are available to review award applications. If a few members are not available to review in a particular year, they can remain on the sub-committee to review in future years. This helps to maintain the list of potential reviewers and reduces the annual recruiting required by each chair.

Professional Awards Sub-Committee

Burton	Suedel	US ACE
Glen	Van Der Kraak	University of Guelph
Rong	Li	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Cheryl	Murphy	Michigan State University
Philip	Clifford	Volunteer State Community College

Jeff Black Fellowship Sub-Committee

Laurel	Royer	Exponent
Michael	Chanov	EA Engineering
Stacey	Robinson	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Jessica	Vestel	Merck & Company

Student Travel Award Sub-Committee

Loretta	Fernandez	Northeastern University
Natacha	Hogan	University of Saskatchewan
Heather	Henson-Ramsey	Lewis-Clark State College
Jinxia	Liu	McGill University
Scott	Teed	Intrinsik Environment Sciences Inc.
Christian	Schlekat	NiPERA
Keri	Hornbuckle	University of Iowa
Som	Niyogi	University of Saskatchewan
Gosia	Korbas	Canadian Light Source
Joanna	Matos	Eastern Washington University
Vic	Albright	Dow Chemical
Scott	Weir	University of Georgia
Marie	DeLorenzo	NOAA
Karen	Watanabe	Arizona State University
Jennie	Gunderson	USEPA
Lynn	Weber	University of Saskatchewan
Elin	Ulrich	USEPA
Ben	de Jourdan	Huntsman Marine Science Centre
Alan	Samel	Dupont
Veronica	McNew	Environmental Enterprises
Ryan	Prosser	University of Guelph
Matt	Lambert	USEPA
Amy	Mueller	Northeastern University
Desiree	Plata	Yale
Phil	Larese-Casanova	Northeastern University
Teresa	Norberg-King	USEPA
Katie	Hill	Health Canada
Oana	Birceanu	Wilfrid Laurier University
Melanie	Raby	University of Guelph
Yamini	Gopalapillai	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Charles	Wong	University of Winnipeg

Erin	Leonard	McMaster University
Tamzin	Blewett	University of Alberta
Shari	Dahmer	Toronto Regional Conservation Authority
Donald	Tillitt	US Geological Survey
Zacharias	Pandelides	University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Gerald	Tetreault	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Trudy	Watson-Leung	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
Adrienne	Bartlett	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Magali	Houde	Environment and Climate Change Canada

Recent Graduate Travel Award Sub-Committee

Ryan	Prosser	University of Guelph
Blair	Paulik	Maul Foster Longi
Latonya	Jackson	Philander Smith College
Erin	Ussery	University of Ontario Institute of Technology
Jon	Judy	University of Florida
Maria	Rodgers	University of Southern Mississippi
Meagan	Harris	Whatcom Conservation District
Markus	Brinkmann	University of Saskatchewan
C Warren	Davis	
Rebecca	Dalton	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Roman	Lanno	Ohio State University
Kurt	Maier	Eastern Tennessee State University
Ruth	Hull	Intrinsic
Sarah	Bowman	Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
David	Ownby	Towson University
Yodi	Melnikov	Yale University
Larry	Kapustka	LK Consultancy
Mason	King	Simon Fraser University
Peter	Rose	Pace Analytical

Student Presentation Award

Falconer	Renee	Colorado School of Mines
Prosser	Ryan	University of Guelph
Ho	Kay	USEPA