



## North American Student Advisory Council (NASAC)

### Annual Report 2019

15 October 2019

**Leah Thornton Hampton** | Chair

**Derek Green** | Vice Chair

**Alex MacLeod** | Outgoing Chair

**Sue Robinson** | Advisor

**Susanne Brander** | Advisor

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Membership.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Executive Committee .....	1
Regional Chapter Student Representatives .....	2
Subcommittees, Liaisons and Members at Large.....	3
Associate Members .....	3
<b>NASAC Restructuring and Standard Operating Procedure Updates .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Student Activities at North American Annual Meeting .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Exploring Career Choices .....	4
Student Mixer .....	5
Student Noontime Seminar .....	5
Student Corner.....	6
Student Guide .....	6
<b>Student Communication and Outreach .....</b>	<b>6</b>
Outreach Blog.....	6
Social Media.....	7
Globe Publications .....	7
<b>Young Environmental Scientists (YES) Meeting .....</b>	<b>7</b>
Program Evaluation.....	7
Proposal Approval.....	8
Meeting Planning Update .....	8
<b>Assessment of 2019 Goals and Priorities .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Develop an organized structure within NASAC to facilitate Young Environmental Scientist (YES) meetings .....	10
Develop a fundraising strategy to support activities at the annual SETAC North America meeting and the Young Environmental Scientists (YES) meeting to reduce donor fatigue and student frustration.....	11
Provide consistent and informative communications to increase student participation and development .....	13
Enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level.....	13
<b>Goals and Priorities for 2020 .....</b>	<b>14</b>

NASAC Annual Report 2019

Enhance the involvement and investment of RC representatives by formalizing their role within the structure of NASAC and appointing new annual outreach duties to their role.....14

Create dedicated travel grants for “People’s Choice” RC platform and/or poster presenters to attend the SNA annual meeting, where they will present in a new “RC Best of” session .....16

Implement “NASAC Slackers”, a NASAC Slack channel to encourage scientific discussion and collaboration and communication among students .....17

Continue to enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level ....17

**Appendix: Selected Regional Chapter Reports**.....19

## 1. Executive Summary

The North American Student Advisory Council (NASAC) serves to promote the interests of student members of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC). The NASAC chair and vice chair serve as a voting and *ex officio*, non-voting member of the SETAC Board of the Directors (BoD), respectively. The outgoing chair serves in as an advisor to the present chair and vice chair. NASAC is comprised of the executive committee (chair, vice chair, outgoing chair), Regional Chapter student representatives, two members-at-large, two SETAC North America (SNA) BoD liaisons, student subcommittee chairs and student liaisons to various SETAC Interest Groups and Committees. NASAC works closely with the SETAC BoD and other SETAC Committees to execute its duties each year. In 2018-2019, NASAC sought to achieve the following priorities and goals:

- Develop an organized structure within NASAC to facilitate Young Environmental Scientist (YES) meetings.
- Develop a fundraising strategy to support activities at the annual SETAC North America meeting and the Young Environmental Scientists (YES) meeting to reduce donor fatigue and student frustration.
- Provide consistent and informative communications to increase student participation and development.
- Enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level.

## 2. Membership

### 2.1 Executive Committee

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Regional Chapter</b>
Leah Thornton Hampton	Chair	South Central
Derek Green	Vice Chair	Prairie Northern
Alex MacLeod	Outgoing Chair	Chesapeake Potomac
Sue Robinson	BoD Liaison	
Susanne Brander	BoD Liaison	

*2.2 Regional Chapter Student Representatives*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Regional Chapter</b>
Maggie Carson	Carolinas
Sarah Lansa	Chesapeake Potomac
Farshad Ebrahimi	Hudson Delaware
Heather Ikert	Laurentian
Amelia Atwell	Midsouth
Amber White	Midwest
Monika Roy/Emma Shipley	North Atlantic
Nicholas Santiago	Northern California
Tyler Firkus	Ohio Valley
Justin Scott	Ozark Prairie
Tyler Black/Lauren Zink	Prairie Northern
Chris Kotalik/Jazmin Kaufman	Rocky Mountain
Sarah Wallace	Saint-Laurent
Armando Elizalde	South Central
Alexis Wormington	Southeastern
Nicol Parker	Southern California

2.3 *Subcommittees, Liaisons and Members at Large*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Regional Chapter</b>
James Feller	Student Noontime Seminar Chair	Ohio Valley
Opeyemi Ojekunle	Subcommittee Member	South Central
Ifeoluwa Idowu	Student Mixer Chair	Prairie Northern
Tyler Black	Subcommittee Member	Prairie Northern
Tim Rodgers	Subcommittee Member	
Lauren Zink	Student Corner Chair	Prairie Northern
Heather Ikert	Student Guide Chair	Laurentian
Kendall Scarlett	Exploring Career Choices Chair	South Central
Niranjana Krishnan	Outreach Blog Chair	Ozark-Prairie
Rebecca Eldridge	Social Media Chair	Prairie Northern
Monika Roy	Subcommittee Member	North Atlantic
Amber White	Subcommittee Member	Midwest
Tim Rodgers	Fundraising Chair	
Kevin Stroski	Endowment Fund Liaison	South Central
Alexandra Folcik	Meetings Committee Liaison	South Central
Ulyana Fuchylo	Membership Committee Liaison	Prairie Northern
Sivani Baskaran	Science Committee Liaison	Laurentian
Ifeoluwa Idowu	Development Committee Liaison	Prairie Northern
Ifeoluwa Idowu	Early Career Committee Liaison	Prairie Northern
Shira Joudan	Chemistry Interest Group Liaison	Laurentian
Bekah Burket	YES Local Organizing Committee	South Central
Marco Franco	YES Local Organizing Committee	South Central
Kendall Scarlett	YES Local Organizing Committee	South Central
James Feller	Member at Large	Ohio Valley
Ulyana Fuchylo	Member at Large	Prairie Northern

2.4 *Associate Members*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Regional Chapter</b>
Adebamilce Adekunle	South Central
Alana Weber	
Alex Smith	South Central
Anna Lewis	
Annie Krueger	
Daniel Lucas	Desert Southwest
Emma Owens	Southeast
Folasade Adedoyin	South Central
Joseph Belsky	
Lea Lovin	South Central
Maura Hall	Ozark-Prairie

### 3. NASAC Restructuring and Standard Operating Procedure Updates

Prior to the initiation of activities for the year, a modified restructuring of NASAC was proposed to the members of NASAC by the executive committee (Figure 1). The purpose of this new organization was to simplify roles and clarify duties. Subcommittees were organized around deliverables and projects for the year. Task lists for each subcommittee were created and shared with all NASAC members to provide transparency, accountability and communication amongst members.

The NASAC standard operating procedure (SOP) was revised and updated to reflect the changes in student voting rights, specifically the vote of the NASAC chair on the BoD. Revisions made by the executive committee were reviewed and approved by both NASAC and the BoD.

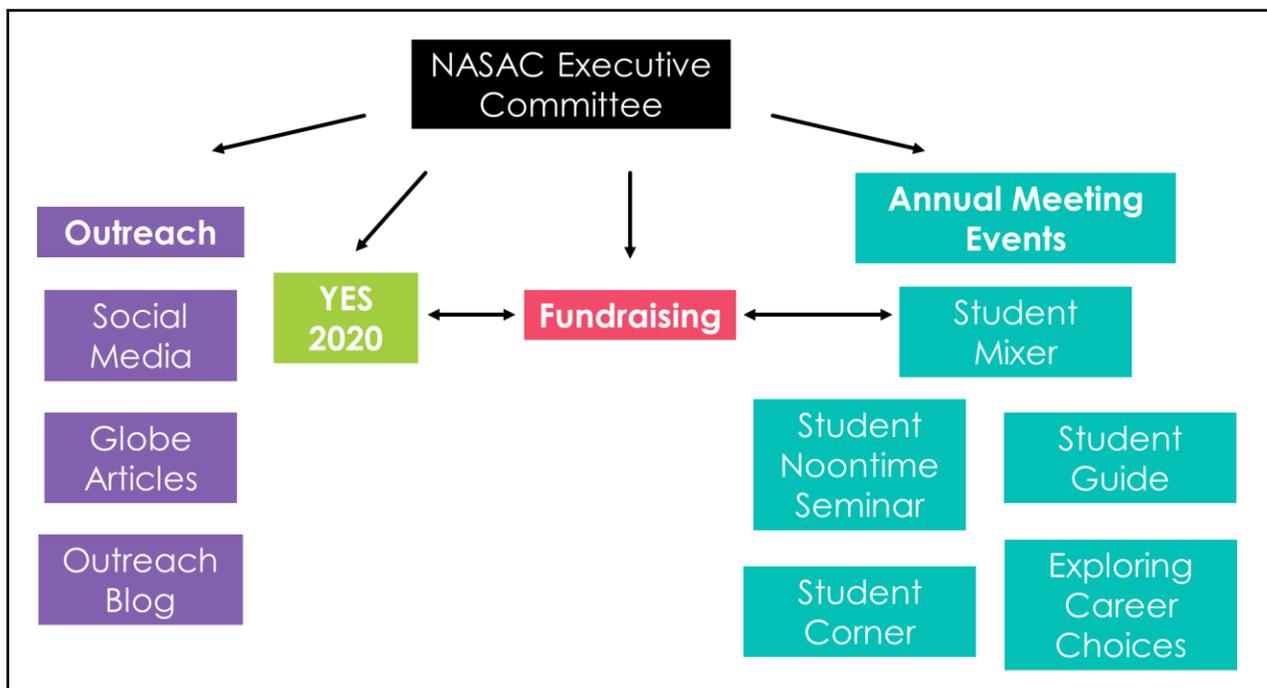


Figure 1. Graphical representation of the organization of North American Student Advisory Committee (NASAC) for 2019.

### 4. Student Activities at North American Annual Meeting

#### 4.1 Exploring Career Choices

Due to the success of last year, the Exploring Career Choices event will be held a second time at the annual meeting. The goal of this event is to provide students with an opportunity to rapidly compare career options by interacting with a diverse set of scientists in an intimate, casual setting. At this event, 16 individuals have graciously volunteered their time to serve as career

representatives, and 63 students have registered to attend. Interest for this event is high as the event is currently sold out.

The event will be organized so that career representatives will be positioned at cocktail tables organized by sector (*i.e.* government, academia, industry) with ~2 individuals at each table. Students will be randomly assigned to tables with 7-8 students per table. At the start of the event, career representatives will briefly introduce themselves to the room. Students will then rotate around the room in intervals of 8 minutes. Students will visit 5-6 different tables and therefore may interact with 10-12 unique career representatives throughout the event. To facilitate conversation, cards with “ice breaker” questions and topics will be distributed amongst tables. After all rotations are complete, approximately 15 minutes will remain for unstructured socializing.

#### *4.2 Student Mixer*

The goal of the Student Mixer is to provide students with a setting in which they may interact with their peers in a casual, relaxed setting. This year’s Student Mixer will be held at Toronto’s Hockey Hall of Fame. Purchase of each ticket (\$30 USD) includes admittance to the museum as well as two drink tickets and light hors d’oeuvres. Attendees may explore the lower levels of the museum which features many exhibits and interactive games (Figure 2). Finally, a dance floor will also be arranged in the center of the museum.

Fundraising for this event was highly successful. Due to this year’s location and the requirement of catering, the fundraising goal was substantially higher than previous years (~\$5,500 USD). A total of \$5,900 USD was raised for this year’s Student Mixer, exceeding the goal by \$400 USD. As of 10/1/19, a total of 180 tickets have been sold.



Figure 2. Hockey Hall of Fame logo and example of interactive game that will be available during the Student Mixer.

#### *4.3 Student Noontime Seminar*

The goal of the Student Noontime Seminar is to provide students with engaging, student-centered content during the annual meeting. This year’s seminar will feature Dr. Samantha Yammine, also known as “Science Sam.” Dr. Yammine is a neuroscientist, digital content creator and science communicator who is passionate about making science accessible to everyone. She is best known for her presence on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) as “Science Sam.” Her presentation for this event will begin with a data-based introduction on the importance of scientific communication followed by

a practical session on storytelling. There continues to be high level of interest the Student Noontime Seminar as this event is currently sold out with 100 tickets being sold. As in previous years, this event is free for students due to the continued support of Colgate-Palmolive.

#### *4.4 Student Corner*

The purpose of the Student Corner is to offer a space where meeting attendees, particularly students, may learn more about SETAC student activities both at the annual meeting and beyond. This year the Student Corner has undergone major improvements. The Student Corner will be positioned at the front of the poster hall and feature a large banner, making it easier to locate. There will be colorful posters detailing student activities throughout the meeting, and free bookmarks with a QR code for this year's Student Guide (section 4.5) will be available. An electronic charging station and several games (*e.g.* card games, corn hole) will also be provided to make the area more inviting and comfortable. Following the opening ceremony and during each evening poster social, NASAC representatives will be posted in the Student Corner to answer questions and provide more information about student activities. Representatives will wear rainbow leis so that they may be easily identified.

#### *4.5 Student Guide*

The purpose of the Student Guide is to consolidate and distribute information about the annual meeting to both new and veteran students. The guide contains general meeting information such as poster and platform presentation guidelines, tips for networking and the schedule for student activities. There is also information that is specific to this year's annual meeting such as how to take the train from the airport to downtown Toronto. Student guides will be distributed prior to the meeting via email. In addition, bookmarks with a QR code to the Student Guide will be distributed in the Student Corner. The Student Guide may be viewed [here](#).

### **5. Student Communications and Outreach**

#### *5.1 Outreach Blog*

The Students of SETAC Outreach blog is designed to showcase student research. In previous years, the blog featured full length blog articles from individual students. However, it was difficult to motivate students to submit blog entries due to the high workload and time commitment required for a full-length entry. To encourage the submission of blog entries, a shortened format has been adopted. This format includes a photo of the student (ideally performing their research) as well as the answers to the following simple questions:

1. Who is [X]?
2. What is their research about?
3. Why is this research important?
4. What is the most fun/rewarding part of your research?

In addition to these questions, students may choose to include links to their publications or lab website. Each blog post is also shared on the Students of SETAC Twitter and Facebook accounts. Previous blog entries may be viewed [here](#).

## 5.2 Social Media

The Students of SETAC [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) remain valuable tools for disseminating information to students and advertising student activities or opportunities. This year, NASAC was continued to engage students via Social Media.

## 5.3 Globe Publications

NASAC has published three articles this year. The first article titled, “[NASAC 101](#),” explains how NASAC works in simple, straightforward terms. This article was intended to provide clarity to all SETAC members, particularly students. The end of the article welcomes all students to get involved in NASAC and provides specific details on how to do so. The second article titled, “[New Times, New Science: Towards the 9th SETAC Young Environmental Scientists Meeting](#),” announced the 9<sup>th</sup> YES meeting to be held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. This article provides meeting details and invites all SETAC student and early career members to submit abstracts. Finally, “[Discover What’s In-Store for Students in Toronto](#)” is a summary of all the student activities to be held in Toronto at SNA and will be featured in the October issue of The Globe.

## 6. Young Environmental Scientists Meeting

### 6.1 Program Evaluation

A program evaluation of the YES meeting was conducted by an ad-hoc group including members of the SETAC North American and European offices, previous and future YES meeting organizers, as well as the NASAC Chair and Vice Chair (Table 1). The goal of this program evaluation was to assess the degree to which the YES meeting was meeting its goals, as well as if and how the program may be adjusted to optimize its impact.

Table 1. Young Environmental Scientists (YES) program evaluation members.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Leah Thornton Hampton	NASAC Executive Committee
Derek Green	NASAC Executive Committee
Marco Franco	YES 2020 Program Committee
Samuel Moeris	YES 2019
Tamar Schlekat	SETAC North America Office
Laura Swanson	SETAC North America Office
Terresa Murdoch	SETAC North America Office
Rebecca Bundschuh	SETAC Europe Office
Sarah Bowman	BoD and former YES organizer

To reach this goal, the committee collected and reviewed previous YES meeting materials and data (e.g. attendance records, budgets) as well as the current YES SOP. The initial findings were as follows:

- The meeting is popular and successful and is worth supporting.

- The meeting goals and benefits could be stated more clearly.
- Fundraising guidelines should be expanded in SOP.
- Guidelines for travel awards should be developed.
- A meeting budget should be developed understanding that a set budget for travel grants should be identified as early as possible during meeting planning, and with consideration for the need for geographic diversity.

As such, the program evaluation committee has edited and revised current YES meeting materials, particularly the SOP. Some of the highlighted changes include, but are not limited to:

- The goals, benefits, and benefactors of the YES meeting are explicitly stated in the revised SOP as well as the future proposals.
- The budget is based upon realistic fundraising goals based on data from previous YES meetings, leading to dramatic decreases in estimated expenditures.
- The procedure for the allocation and awarding of travel grants is well-defined. Travel grants will be awarded in set amounts based on the Geographical Unit (GU) of the attendee. Grants will be equally distributed amongst GUs to promote international component of the meeting while maintaining the budget.
- A small (~\$30) registration fee will be implemented to ensure base meeting income.
- The amount of requested SETAC support, both monetary and logistical, is clearly defined.

The revisions to the YES SOP were completed and implemented in the proposal for the YES 2020 meeting. NASAC will seek the approval of the YES SOP by SETAC World Council in October or November pending suggested revisions.

### *6.2 Proposal Approval*

Immediately following the program evaluation, NASAC put forth a proposal to hold the YES meeting at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, March 9-11, 2020. The proposal reflected the previously outlined changes to the YES SOP and was approved by the SNA BoD in June.

It is anticipated that approximately 70 students will attend the YES meeting. The goal is to include student representation from all GUs through the allocation of travel grants. Students traveling from the host GU (North America) will be eligible to apply for \$200 grants whereas students travelling from all other GUs may apply for \$600 travel grants. The total expenditures are estimated to total \$13,175. This cost is anticipated to be covered by funds acquired from registration fees (\$1,440) and fundraising (\$15,440). Fundraising goals were estimated from previous fundraising efforts, and it is anticipated that this year's fundraising will show marked improvement over previous years as there are plans to provide sponsors with more detail regarding the benefits of their donations.

### *6.3 Meeting Planning Update*

Planning for the YES meeting is progressing on schedule. Thus far, the following major items have been completed:

- Meeting theme selected: “New Times, New Science.”
- Meeting logo designed (Figure 3).
- Promotional materials (*e.g.* buttons, flyers, etc.) are complete and ready for distribution.
- Venues for all meeting and social events have been secured.
- Poster boards for poster social have been secured.
- Short course instructors for the statistics and the writing short courses have been confirmed.
- All session chairs have been selected.
- [Meeting website](#) has been launched and updated.
- Abstract submission is open.
- YES meeting t-shirts have been designed and are [available for purchase in the SETAC store](#).
- Fundraising strategy and materials are complete (Figure 4).
- The first wave of fundraising solicitations has been distributed.

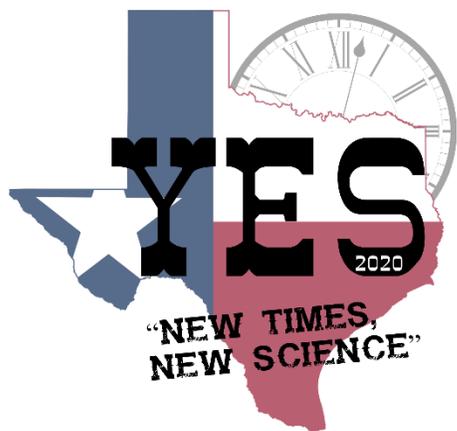


Figure 3. Young Environmental Scientists (YES) Meeting logo.

Fundraising efforts are currently the focus of YES meeting planning and will continue over the course of the next 2-4 months. Abstract submission and travel grant applications are due November 10, 2020. Abstracts and travel grant applications will be assessed simultaneously. Applicants will be notified of abstract acceptance and travel awards in January.

Why Support YES?

Gain access to students and early-career scientists seeking careers in environmental science

Support the next generation of scientists within SETAC

Promote your organization's visibility within SETAC

Sponsorship Options

- **Bronze (\$100 USD)**
  - Logo on YES website
  - Logo in YES program book
  - Commemorative YES photo
- **Silver (\$250 USD)**
  - Logo on YES website
  - Logo in YES program book
  - Commemorative YES photo
  - Career Fair booth
- **Gold (\$500+ USD)**
  - Logo on YES website
  - Logo in YES program book
  - Commemorative YES photo
  - Career Fair booth
  - Student Mini-Biographies

---

**Commemorative YES Photo**

Show off your support for students with a personalized photo of meeting attendees posing with your logo!

**Career Fair**

Send a representative to interact with students and early-career scientists who are eager to learn about your organization and will soon be looking for the next step in their career!

**Student Mini-Biographies**

Receive short biographies of selected meeting attendees including name, university, area of study and a short description of research and career interests.

Wish List

**Want to know exactly what your contribution will support?**

Select an item from our wish list to fund! Full sponsorship of an item(\*) will include naming rights. Donor benefits will be awarded based on the donation amount. Once an item is sponsored, it will be removed from the list on the YES website. Additional items will be added to the Wish List on the meeting website.

Item	Amount
<b>Travel Awards</b>	
North America*	\$200 per award (10 total)
International*	\$600 per award (12 total)
<b>Dining</b>	
Coffee Breaks*	\$420
Lunch*	\$700 per day (3 total)
BBQ Social*	\$500
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Name Tag	\$35
Lanyards	

Note: (\*) available for naming (ex. The [Organization Name] International Student Travel

To sponsor YES 2020 visit  
[yes.2020.setac.org/  
become-a-sponsor](http://yes.2020.setac.org/become-a-sponsor)

For questions and other options for how you might to participate in or support the YES meeting, please contact us  
[setac.yes2020@gmail.com](mailto:setac.yes2020@gmail.com)



Figure 4. Sponsorship options for the Young Environmental Scientists (YES) Meeting.

## 7. Assessment of 2019 Goals and Priorities

The following sections are listed so that the goals and milestones outlined in the NASAC 2018 Annual report are presented in italics. Results for each goal and/or milestone are presented as bulleted lists.

### *7.1 Develop an organized structure within NASAC to facilitate Young Environmental Scientist (YES) meetings.*

Following the 2018 YES meeting, it was apparent that current YES meeting structure and planning strategy needed revision to provide additional guidance to meeting organizers and ensure that the goals of the meeting were being met. As such, the following milestones were detailed and completed this year:

#### 7.1.1 Identify current challenges facing YES Program Committees by seeking targeted feedback from immediate past YES Program Committees and the current YES Program Committee.

- At the North American SETAC Meeting in Sacramento, a meeting to identify challenges associated with the YES meeting was held. Members of the NASAC executive committee, the SETAC North American office and YES meeting organizers for the 2018 and 2020

meetings were present. From this meeting, a list of issues was generated. Possible solutions to current challenges were also documented.

- At the face to face BoD meeting in February, it was decided that a program evaluation of the YES meeting would be conducted to determine the degree to which the YES meeting was meeting its goals, as well as if and how the program may be adjusted to optimize its impact. The program evaluation was conducted by members of both the Europe and North American SETAC offices, the NASAC executive committee and members of both the 2019 and 2020 YES program committees. A summary of the program evaluation findings and outcomes may be found in section 6.1 of this document.

#### 7.1.2 Address current challenges facing the YES Program Committee:

- *Update YES SOP to provide possible solutions to identified challenges.*
  - The YES SOP was heavily revised by the members of the program evaluation. Highlighted changes to the SOP are described in section 6.1 of this document. The YES SOP is slated to be presented to the SETAC World Council in October for approval.
- *Generate organized repository of guidance documents for current and future YES Program Committees. Documents may be included in YES SOP.*
  - Appendices of example proposals, fundraising materials, budgets, etc. were included in YES SOP revisions.
- *Implement updates to SOP in the planning of YES 2020.*
  - Changes detailed in the revised YES SOP have been implemented in the planning of YES 2020. This was greatly facilitated by the involvement of YES 2020 Program Committee members in the program evaluation.
- *Collect feedback from YES 2020 Program Committee on the success of the implemented updates and changes.*
  - Ongoing communication between the NASAC Executive Committee and the YES 2020 Program Committee provides feedback on the implemented changes to YES meeting planning. NASAC will plan to debrief YES 2020 Program Committee members following the meeting to continuously improve the meeting planning process.

#### 7.2 Develop a fundraising strategy to support activities at the annual SETAC North America meeting and the Young Environmental Scientists (YES) meeting to reduce donor fatigue and student frustration.

NASAC fundraises for the Student Mixer annually and the YES meeting semi-annually. To effectively meet the fundraising demands of both events, the NASAC fundraising subcommittee must efficiently and effectively solicit and acquire funds from potential sponsors.

##### 7.2.1 Identify current challenges facing NASAC/YES Fundraising Committees by seeking targeted feedback from immediate past Fundraising Committee members.

- In previous years, fundraising for the Student Mixer and the YES meeting was not coordinated. Though fundraising for the Student Mixer had been typically successful in meeting fundraising goals, fundraising for the YES meeting had not. This was partially due to unrealistic budgeting and lack of access to fundraising materials. YES meeting budgeting has been remediated through revisions to the YES SOP as recommended budgets have been based on historical fundraising efforts. The NASAC fundraising subcommittee is now responsible for leading the fundraising efforts for both events, allowing for the pooling of resources.

7.2.2 Seek feedback and advice from SETAC Office and other Committee(s)/IG(s) that also regularly fundraise to support activities and meetings.

- Prior to the February face to face BoD meeting, a fundraising strategy was devised. This strategy pooled all fundraising lists used in previous years by NASAC. Potential local sponsors were added to the list (*e.g.* University of Toronto to support the Student Mixer), and each sponsor was targeted for either the Student Mixer or the YES meeting. Both major changes were intended to reduce donor fatigue and maximize donation amounts. This plan was positively received by the SNA BoD in February.

7.2.3 Develop organizational structure to coordinate fundraising with SETAC Office.

- The NASAC fundraising subcommittee coordinated with the SETAC office on how donors should make donations through the SETAC website.

7.2.4 Develop strategy to effectively identify potential donors for both SETAC NA student activities and YES meeting.

- Prior to the start of fundraising this year, all potential sponsors were delegated to either the Student Mixer or the YES meeting. Decisions were made based on donation history (*e.g.* Has this sponsor donated to this event before?) and locality (*e.g.* Is this sponsor considered local to this event?).

7.2.5 Generate organized repository of guidance documents for current and future Fundraising Committees. Repository should include historical data including contact list, previous donations made, letters to potential donors, timelines, best practices etc.

- A master fundraising list has been generated and curated by the NASAC fundraising subcommittee. Template letters to potential sponsors have been collected and stored on the NASAC Google drive.

7.2.6 Create Fundraising Best Practices Guide for use by Fundraising Committees.

- Following the conclusion of the YES meeting, NASAC plans to compose a brief best practices document for future NASAC fundraising subcommittees. In addition, NASAC hopes to recruit new fundraising subcommittee members to work under current, veteran members to avoid knowledge loss during turnover.

7.2.7 Liaise with the SETAC Communications team to improve messaging associated with fundraising and sponsor recognition.

- Though NASAC has not formally worked with the SETAC Communications team to develop fundraising materials, there has been meaningful communication and feedback from the SNA BoD and the SETAC Office. These efforts will likely continue in 2020.

*7.3 Provide consistent and informative communications to increase student participation and development.*

7.3.1 Seek feedback from the SETAC student membership at large to determine general knowledge and awareness of student activities and visibility of NASAC.

- Informal conversations amongst students and other SETAC members at regional and national SETAC meetings revealed that the organization and transparency of NASAC could be improved. To streamline the activities of NASAC, a new structure was proposed and implemented (Section 3). In addition, a Globe article, titled “NASAC 101,” was published to provide a simplistic, unintimidating introduction to NASAC (Section 5.3).

7.3.2 Identify benchmarks to increase NASAC presence on social media by increasing number of posts, improving content and gaining followers.

- Students of SETAC has gained ~130 more followers on Facebook. Students of SETAC has 1443 followers on Twitter.

7.3.3 Increase the visibility and accessibility of NASAC members at national and regional meetings to encourage student participation in NASAC activities.

- At this year’s national meeting, NASAC will use the Student Corner to increase the visibility and accessibility of NASAC members. Specifically, NASAC representatives will be present and identifiable (*i.e.* wearing rainbow leis) during peak hours in the poster hall (*e.g.* poster social). All SETAC members, especially students, are encouraged to visit the Student Corner to learn more about NASAC and general student activities within SETAC.

*7.4 Enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level.*

7.4.1 Regularly participate in SETAC World Congress conference calls with student representatives from other Geographical Units (GUs).

- Last year, the student representatives from each GU were invited to join monthly SETAC World Congress Conference calls. While the inclusion of students in these calls is very much appreciated, it has been difficult to consistently join and participate in calls given the number of other responsibilities of the NASAC chair.

7.4.2 Schedule regular communication between student representatives from other GUs by frequent contact (*e.g.* email, conference calls, meetings).

- Regular communication between student representatives from other GUs has been ongoing as in previous years. All student chairs are invited to NASAC calls and receive NASAC communications. The NASAC chair is also invited to SAC calls.
- Communication between the GUs was extremely helpful during the program evaluation meeting. For example, one of the major changes to the YES SOP was to recommend set amounts for travel awards to allow for improved, predictable budgeting. Prior to setting these amounts, NASAC was able to gain input from other GUs by contacting student representatives.

7.4.3 Seek informal input and information/document sharing between student representatives from other GUs (e.g. sharing of agendas and minutes).

- Regular communication between student representatives from other GUs has been ongoing as in previous years. All student chairs are invited to NASAC calls and receive NASAC communications. The NASAC chair is also invited to SAC calls.

## 8. Goals and Priorities for 2020

Thanks to the efforts of previous NASAC chairs, the past few years have seen marked improvements in the representation and cohesion of student involvement in SNA. The voting rights recently granted to the NASAC chair have served to enhance the student voice and influence within SETAC, and the delineation and slight restructuring of NASAC have helped to clarify NASAC member roles and responsibilities, making it easier for NASAC to coordinate its voice and effectively utilize its vote through the Chair. The current long-range plans for NASAC intend to build upon these successes and bolster student member involvement and retention by formalizing and enhancing regional chapter (RC) representative roles within the NASAC structure, and to improve SETAC student member involvement, onboarding, and retention, by enhancing outreach and student member opportunities. The specific goals are as follows, and the practical strategies intended to realize these goals are outlined in sections 8.1-8.4.

1. Enhance the involvement and investment of RC representatives by formalizing their role within the structure of NASAC and appointing new annual outreach duties to their role.
2. Create dedicated travel grants for “People’s Choice” RC platform and/or poster presenters to attend the SNA annual meeting, where they will present in a new “RC Best of” session.
3. Implement “NASAC Slackers”, a NASAC/SNA Slack channel to encourage scientific discussion and collaboration and communication among students.
4. Continue to enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level.

*8.1 Enhance the involvement and investment of RC representatives by formalizing their role within the structure of NASAC and appointing new annual duties to their role.*

**Projection manager:** Derek Green, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair, RC Representatives, NASAC Outreach Committee.

**Project purpose and plan:**

Regional chapter representatives are one of the least-utilized resources within NASAC, and their participation in NASAC activities can be lackluster. Further, regional chapters represent one of the best resources for “bottom up” student on-boarding, and initiation of student involvement at this level presents an early opportunity to foster student investment in NASAC and SNA. This project aims to reform the roles of RC representatives to encourage their increased involvement in NASAC, assist existing NASAC activities, and to enhance student SNA student membership growth, activities which will predominantly occur through social media and interpersonal interactions. As social media outreach tends to require a critical mass of activity before developing organic engagement, regional chapter representatives will be formally integrated into the current NASAC structure between the Executive Council and the Outreach committee and will have specific duties to aid in NASAC outreach efforts in order to help breach this critical engagement threshold. These reformations will be formally updated in the NASAC SOP, though these revisions will include explicit mention that RC representatives can still, and are encouraged to, fill simultaneous roles in other SNA committees. The specific additional duties include duties to both the NASAC Outreach Committee and Executive, and are as follows:

1. RC Representative obligations to the NASAC Outreach Committee:
  - a. Provide at least one “Eminently Employable Individual” (EEI) from their region per year to be promoted through the Outreach Committee. The EEI will be a student nearing graduation, and the materials provided will include a twitter-friendly bio and research synopsis. As this notion is derived from the SETAC-Laurentian RC’s “Very Employable Person” outreach postings, the RC representatives from this chapter will be consulted and asked to participate in the implementation of this initiative.
  - b. Provide a monthly social media post about ongoing RC research activities to the Outreach committee.
  - c. Provide two articles per year to the Students of SETAC Photoblog, with each article encouraged to highlight a different RC member.
  - d. Follow all NASAC social media accounts and boost all NASAC posts in the appropriate manner given the platform, with the expectation that the NASAC Outreach Committee will respond in kind.
2. RC Representative obligations to the NASAC Executive:
  - a. In addition to the duties outline in the SOP, RC representatives will be encouraged to find two new students per year in their RC and encourage their involvement in activities of either their RC and/or NASAC.

**Timeline:**

Revisions to the NASAC SOP to include the above will be provide for review by December, 2019.

**Support required from the SNA board?:**

None at this time.

**What (if any) other Committee(s)/IG(s) are collaborating on the project?:**

None at this time.

**How will this project support the SNA LRP?:**

This project will enhance student involvement in NASAC while simultaneously bolstering its social media presence. The mutual purpose of both of these efforts is to increase students' personal investment in SETAC, thereby increasing the likelihood of student member retention both during and after their studies.

*8.2 Create dedicated travel grants for "People's Choice" RC platform and/or poster presenters to attend the SNA annual meeting, where they will present in a new "RC Best of" session.*

**Projection manager:** Derek Green, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair, RC Representatives, SNA Board.

**Project purpose and plan:**

This project aims to enhance RC involvement in and excitement for the SNA annual meeting by ear-marking travel awards for a "People's Choice" platform and/or poster presentation as determined by popular vote at each RC's annual meeting. The recipients of these awards will then be automatically included in a new SNA platform and/or poster sessions dedicated to, and including only, the recipients of these awards. An additional benefit of this project is the concentration of notable student presentation into discrete sessions that will allow interested supervisors and/or potential employers to become acquainted with some of the best students that SNA has to offer in a more convenient fashion. In this way, this project will provide value to both the student and professional members of SNA.

**Timeline:**

The formal proposal for this project will be submitted by December, 2019, so that it will be possible to implement for the SNA 2020 meeting.

**Support required from the SNA board?:**

The funds for this project are intended to be diverted from the current funds used for general SNA student travel awards. As such, no additional funds will be required, but SNA office support will be required in order to ensure that these funds are available, pending project approval.

**What (if any) other Committee(s)/IG(s) are collaborating on the project?:**

None at this time, though collaboration will be required from SNA RC boards.

**How will this project support the SNA LRP?:**

This project will enhance the value of SNA for both student and professional members by offering additional recognition for students and a convenient means by which professionals can encounter some of the best students SNA has to offer. By increasing the value to both groups in this fashion this project enhances the likelihood of membership retention from both groups.

*8.3 Implement “NASAC Slackers”, a NASAC slack channel to encourage scientific discussion and collaboration among students.*

**Projection manager:** Derek Green, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair, NASAC Social Media Committee

**Project purpose and plan:**

The purpose of this project is to create a Slack channel for NASAC students or the explicit purpose of scientific communication and discussion. Proposed topics of discussion would include but not be limited to bioinformatic/R/Python-based programming, modeling and statistical analysis, experimental design, and general discussion of toxicological literature and research. Inclusion in the channel would be open to all SETAC members, though participation would be voluntary. It is further proposed that as channels devoted to specific topics develop, moderators or lead voices be selected from SNA student and professional leadership to help coordinate conversation.

**Timeline:**

The formal proposal for this project will be submitted by October 2019 so that the possibility of this channel could be advertised at the SNA 2019 meeting.

**Support required from the SNA board?:**

None at this time.

**What (if any) other Committee(s)/IG(s) are collaborating on the project?:**

None at this time. However, if SNA IGs were interested in shifting their inter-meeting communications to this platform this could become a new format for SNA IGs to communicate, with the added benefit of making the conversation more accessible and enticing to students.

**How will this project support the SNA LRP?:**

This project will enhance the scientific acumen of NASAC members and therefore SNA at-large. It will also help ensure that SNA is seen as an open and collaborative scientific environment where cutting-edge scientific knowledge can be rapidly attained and disseminated.

*8.4 Continue to enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level.*

**Projection manager:** Derek Green, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair

**Project purpose and plan:**

The purpose of this project is to continue to encourage communication and collaboration between the student advisory councils of SETAC’s GUs. This will be done continuing the efforts described in 7.4 of this report.

**Timeline:**

Ongoing.

**Support required from the SNA board?:**

None at this time.

**What (if any) other Committee(s)/IG(s) are collaborating on the project?:**

None at this time.

**How will this project support the SNA LRP?:**

Ecotoxicological concerns vary across regions of the globe, and the student advisory councils of the GUs face both similar and novel challenges. By keeping active communication across the student advisory councils the students of SETAC will be kept apprised of global ecotoxicological concerns and be able to share approaches for fostering student development across GUs. This will help SNA America stay current and efficient with regards to addressing global concerns, and ensure it remains to be seen as a leading scientific authority.

## **Appendix: Selected Regional Chapter Reports**

### *Carolinas*

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Carolinas Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) Meeting was held March 13-15, 2019 in Charleston, SC. There were 65 total attendees, representing 22 government (federal and state), industry, and academic partners. There were 15 platform presentations and 11 poster presentations.

Distinguished Dr. Stephen J. Klaine Platform Presentation Winners:

- 1st - Sam Putnam - University of South Carolina
- 2nd - Sarah Kell - College of Charleston
- 3rd - Cristina Sanders - Appalachian State University

Poster Presentation Winners:

- 1st - Danielle Beers - College of Charleston
- 2nd - Edwina Mathis - College of Charleston
- 3rd - Cassandra Horton - University of South Carolina

Approximately 40 people attended the *Harmful Algal Blooms and Associated Toxins* short course. Speakers included Dr. Geoffrey Scott and Dr. John Ferry (USC), Dr. Bryan Brooks (Baylor University), Dr. Tod Leighfield and Dr. Steve Morton (NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science)

### **Meeting sponsors:**

SC Dept. of Natural Resources Marine Resources Research Institute  
NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science  
Syngenta  
Xylem/YSI  
CSS, Inc.  
BASF  
SC Sea Grant Consortium  
NIEHS Center for Oceans and Human Health & Climate Change Interactions (USC)  
SETAC NA

### *Chesapeake-Potomac*

Chesapeake Potomac Regional Chapter-SETAC 2019 Annual Spring Meeting was held at Canaan Valley Resorts and Conference Center in West Virginia on April 8th. There were 45 attendees, of them 9 platform presentation, 12 poster presentations led by a mix of student and industry members. Out of the 21 total presentation 70% were students who participated in the Student Presentation Award Competition. Travel awards were presented to Caitlin Weible (Towson University) and Meredith Seeley (VIMS) for best student poster and platform presentations. This award supports student travel to the annual SEATC-North America meeting in Toronto Canada. Dr. Peter Tango presented the keynote speaker; his presentation was titled What happened to

*Pfiesteria hystera*? Chesapeake Bay Harmful Algal Blooms 20 Years after the “Cell from Hell”. Student and non-student members attended a mentor lunch allowing for the students to network with industry, governmental and academic members. CPRC welcomed their new president Jennifer Flippin. Overall the chapter is working toward increasing student membership and planning their 2020 Spring joint Spring Meeting with the Hudson-Delaware Chapter.

### *Laurentian*

The Laurentian-SETAC 2019 Annual General Meeting was held at the University of Ottawa on June 7th. The theme this year was ‘Bridging Environmental Science & Policymaking in the 21st Century’, and we had plenary talks by Dr. Magali Houde, a research scientist from Environment & Climate Change Canada and Dr. Angelika Zidek, a senior manager at Health Canada. This year we had 19 presenters, with approximately 75% being students. Awards were presented for best platform (1st Ms. Rebecca Osborne, University of Guelph; 2nd Ms. Sarah Graetz; University of Guelph; 3rd Ms. Kirsten Smythe, University of Ottawa) and poster presentations (1st Mr. Brian Atkinson, University of Guelph; 2nd Ms. Melody Gavel, University of Ottawa; 3rd Mr. Kevin Matten, University of Guelph). The Maria Colavecchia-Pfuetzner Memorial Travel Award was presented to Ms. Rebecca Osborne (University of Guelph). This award supports student travel to the SETAC North America meeting. The position of student representative was advertised, and we will be electing a representative for this role in the fall.

Throughout the year, the chapter has continued to very active with regular pub nights (invited speakers with dinner/discussion) in Ottawa, Burlington, Guelph, and the GTA. Also, another very successful student speaker pub night was run in Ottawa this year. Graduate students were encouraged to submit abstracts, and of the nine submissions, five students were selected to present. A panel of judges selected Ms. Cynthia Cheney (University of Ottawa) as this year’s winner.

Over the course of the year, Laurentian SETAC has organized and participated in many other events. In October 2018, Laurentian SETAC organized a one-day Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) field assistant course led by Tim Pascoe and Tana McDaniel from Environment and Climate Change Canada. In February 2019, Laurentian SETAC held a Diversity in Science workshop at Robert Bateman High School (Burlington, ON) and was very active on Twitter promoting many scientists during International Day of Women and Girls in Science. The chapter has celebrated this day yearly (Feb 11) since it was first announced in December 2015. Laurentian SETAC members also helped judge the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair science fair and provide awards for the junior and senior project on March 29, 2019. In the spring, Laurentian SETAC members participated in the Earth Day tree planting at Guelph Lake for the 12th year in a row. The chapter’s most recent event was the short course associated with our AGM. This year, the topic was Adverse Outcome Pathways – Principles and Best Practices which was taught by Dr. Jason O’Brien. All in all, it has been a great year and we are looking forward to the North American meeting in Toronto this fall!

### *MidSouth/Ozark Prairie*

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the MidSouth SETAC regional chapter was held in conjunction with the Ozark Prairie (OP) SETAC from May 13 to 15th at Baylor Crop Science in St. Louis, Missouri.

The meeting's theme was "Conservation and Ecology of Native Pollinators" and attendees were from academia, government, and industry. The Best Student Platform Presentation award winner was Amelia Atwell from Arkansas State University, and the Best Student Poster Presentation award winner was Andressa Alves Augusto from Arkansas State University. The meeting was successful, and plans are to have another joint MidSouth/OP SETAC conference next year at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

*Midwest*

The Midwest Chapter held their [annual meeting](#) March 21-23, 2019 at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. The meeting was well attended and had over 80 attendees, a large portion of which was students. Four awards were given out for best and runner-up platform and poster presentations. The top two presentations (one platform and one poster) each received a travel award to attend the national meeting in Toronto this November. Five new board positions were filled including: President, Vice President, and three general member positions. Additionally, the creation of a new award was announced with the first presentation of this award to happen in 2020. Plans for the 2020 annual meeting are still being made, but there will be a Midwest Chapter meeting at the 2019 SETAC North America meeting in Toronto.

Link: <https://globe.setac.org/midwest-setac-chapter-meeting-la-crosse/>

*North Atlantic*

MEETING DATE: April 8-9, 2019

VENUE: University of Massachusetts, Boston

# ATTENDEES: ~60

Meeting highlights:

- New board members: Our bylaws state the limit is in the teens so we are not close to that (~10 altogether currently). New president for 2019-2020 is Chris McCarthy. Amy Rosenstein was elected as vice president. Emma Shipley will join me as an incoming student rep this year while I am outgoing over the next year.
- Meeting content: Short course (half day) was on passive sampling. The general meeting was a day and a half and with sessions/talks on emerging contaminants, regulatory updates, microplastics, PFAS, and more, with a good mix of student and non-student presenters.
- Awards: We did awards for best undergraduate poster (Aleice Goodman, Smith), best undergraduate platform (Haleigh Guzofski, UMass Boston), best graduate poster (Monika Roy, UMass Amherst), and best graduate platform (Dounia Elkhathib, University of Rhode Island). North Atlantic Chapter supports both graduate student winners with up to \$700 travel funds to go to the National Meeting.

- Notes on venue and meeting next year: Not bad but layout could have been better for presenting. Next year will be at UConn. We did a good job this year with professor outreach and had some new faces. Could do a government outreach for next year.

### *Ohio Valley*

The Ohio Valley Regional SETAC Chapter hosted an annual meeting on April 5th and 6th, 2019 at the United States Army Corp of Engineers Romano Mazzoli Federal Building in Louisville, Kentucky. With 65 people in attendance, the meeting attracted a diverse group of experts from academia, industry, and government under the theme “Emerging Contaminants: Impacts, Challenges, and Advances”. John Bock and Jade Young provided an overview of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mission and Water Quality Program. Karen Keil gave a plenary titled “The Manhattan Project's Environmental Legacy and Associated Emerging Contaminants: We're still cleaning up some 75 years later”, Judy Strawhecker provided a plenary titled “Emerging Contaminants and the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program”, Susan Glassmeyer presented a plenary titled “Contaminants of Emerging Concern During De Facto Water Reuse”, and Jim Lazorchak delivered a plenary titled “What are Contaminants of Emerging Concern – Examples of biological and chemistry approaches to their detection, exposure, and effects.” During the two day meeting, eleven platform presentations were given by students and professionals in addition to 12 poster presentations. A wide array of interdisciplinary topics were discussed which focused on various aspects of evaluation, research, and regulations associated with emerging contaminants. The staff at the Falls of Ohio State Park graciously gave attendees a tour of Devonian fossil beds found at the State Park and provided their facility for an evening networking mixer. Cory White and Will Clabaugh presented “Getting into the workforce and improving your resume” to students over lunch on both days of the meeting. In total, the OVC awarded \$950 in student presentation awards.

Awards winners at the meeting include the following:

- Alexandra Steele, a Ph.D. Student at Bowling Green State University, was awarded the Marian Vinegar Award, given to the best overall student presentation, for her talk titled “Is shyness strength? Individuals expressing bold personalities display increased behavioral sensitivity to dynamic exposure to atrazine”.
- Kristi Weighman, a Master’s student at Bowling Green State University, received the Best Graduate Student Platform Presentation Award for her talk titled “Mapping dynamic exposure in artificial streams”.
- Eva Stebel, an undergraduate student at the College of Wooster, was presented the Best Undergraduate Student Platform Presentation Award for her talk titled “Adsorption of Perfluoroalkyl Substances to Modified Organosilica Adsorbents”. She was also awarded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers best overall undergraduate presentation.
- James Feller, a PhD Candidate at the Ohio State University, was awarded the Best Graduate Student Poster Award for his presentation titled “Quantifying Ecosystem Responses to Stress: An Environmental DNA (eDNA) Approach”.

- Tawni Riker, an undergraduate student at Northern Kentucky University, was presented the Best Undergraduate Student Poster Award for her poster titled “Sex-specific Gene Expression Associated with Zinc Homeostasis in Squirrelfish”.

- Stuart Lichtenberg, a PhD Candidate at the University of Kentucky, was awarded the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers best overall graduate student presentation award.

- Angela Schmidt was awarded an Outstanding Member Award for her exceptional effort in organizing the 2019 meeting.

The OVC appreciates the generous support of the following sponsors which made this meeting possible: Great Lakes Environmental Center, The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DiaPharma, and GEI consultants.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2020 meeting which will be hosted by the University of Cincinnati and will focus on environmental engineering and remediation technologies.

### *Prairie Northern*

A total of 66 attendees from academia, industry, and government came together at the University of Lethbridge for the Prairie Northern Regional Chapter’s annual meeting on June 10-11, 2019. The meeting consisted of a short-course focussed on utilizing R for data analysis and visualization, taught by Dr. Patrick Gauthier, and included plenary speakers Dr. Claudia Sheedy (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and Dr. Marcus Kim (Agilent Technologies). The evening activities remained lively with discussion lead by Dr. Vince Palace about career choices and changes from academia, to industry, to pseudo-science. Students from many universities presented their research through both platforms and posters while competing for prizes. This meeting boasted a high attendance of undergraduate students, allowing us to create an awards category specifically for undergraduates.

### *South Central*

The 2019 South Central SETAC Regional Chapter annual meeting was held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas from May 3<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>. Registration and informal social time took place on the 3<sup>th</sup> in preparation for platforms and poster presentations the next day. Nineteen student platform presentations were held, and twenty-nine posters were presented during afternoon and evening sessions.

Winners of student presentation awards were as follows:

#### Platforms:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place: | Madeline Hannappel – Texas Christian University          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place: | Alexandra Folcik – Texas A&M University, College Station |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> place: | April Tran – Texas Christian University                  |

#### Posters:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> place: | Marina Mulenios – Baylor University        |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> place: | Miranda Finch – Texas Christian University |

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Jaylen Sims – Baylor University

The executive board business meeting and student meeting were held on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

Highlights included the election of new board members for the 2019-2020 period, and the selection of the location for the next regional annual meeting in 2020 Texas A&M University Corpus Christi.

#### 2018-2019 SETAC-SC Officers:

- President: Cole Matson (Baylor University)
- Vice-president: Edward Mager (University North Texas)
- Treasurer: Jordan Crago (Texas Tech University)
- Secretary: Marlo Jeffrey (Texas Christian University)
- Immediate past president: Jeremy Conkle (Texas A&M University Corpus Christi)
- Student Representative: Armando Elizalde Velazquez (Texas Tech University)
- Newsletter Coordinator: Nicole Dennis (Texas Tech University)
- Social media coordinator: Kendall Scarlett (Baylor University)

#### YES Meeting

During the student meeting we discuss the 2020 YES meeting. Baylor will submit the proposal in May to the SETAC board directors. Thus, South Central chapter students should be heavily involved in the planning of YES. Bekah Burket, Kendall Scarlett and Marco Franco from Baylor will organize the YES meeting along with the NASAC executive board. Marco started to call for North America session's chairs for the YES meeting.

#### Virtual Poster Competition

After the first attempt to establish a virtual poster competition in the South Central region was unsuccessful, the event was further discussed during the regional meeting with the goal of suggesting new ideas that could exhort students to participate in the competition.

One of the ideas was to submit a virtual poster immediately after the annual North America meeting in sight of the next regional meeting. This will avoid the issue of deadline and not having enough time to get a poster ready for its revision prior to the national meeting. Rewards for the winner could go from a ribbon that will be placed next to a poster during the regional meeting to a small travel award to attend the regional meeting – given the expenses are usually significantly lower than attending a national meeting. The possibility of providing monetary awards should be further discussed with the regional chapter executive board.

Additional to the virtual poster competition, students suggested an abstract competition in sight of the north America annual meeting. In this case, students would submit their ACCEPTED abstracts from the national meeting to south central region reviewers. The best abstracts will also obtain a physical or digital ribbon, or similar object that will identify the poster/platform as a winner of the South Central abstract competition during the North America meeting.

These ideas should be further discussed with the chapter's executive board and members.

*St Laurent*

The Chapitre Saint-Laurent (SETAC) 2019 annual meeting was held at Hotel Cheribourg in Magog-Orford, Qc on 13 and 14th of June, held jointly with the network EcotoQ. The overall theme was "Citizen science in the major environmental challenges of today and tomorrow". There were 51 oral presentations and 19 posters under the themes "New Environmental Study Tools", "Metals", "Contaminants of Emerging Interest", "Water Quality", "Pesticides", "Hydrocarbons", and "Quality of the environment". There were 119 attendees, with 35% students. The Prize of Excellence for doctoral thesis was awarded to Mathilde Jutras (McGill) and for Master's thesis to Charbel Hanna (UQAM). First place for best student oral presentation was tied by Camille Berthod (UQAR) and Roxanne Berube (INRS) with second place by Carla Mahé (UQAM). First place for best student poster was awarded to Cassandra Guérette (Université de Sherbrooke) with second place to Valérie Boucher (Université de Sherbrooke). A short course was held on June 12th called "Integrating omics into biological systems: Towards a deeper understanding of responses to environmental disrupters" including presentations given by various speakers specialized in the field of environmental DNA, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics. To increase the student participation this year, a \$200 USD grant was awarded from SETAC NA to lower the cost for student registration. There were 25 student and 13 professional workshop attendees. After the short course, there was a social activity and discussion between students and professionals. Next year we will try to advertise the social activity more prominently to encourage students to attend. We are also working towards establishing the student representative as a permanent position on the Board of Directors.