AG/Committee Name: Regional Chapters Committee

Submitted by: Ève Gilroy **Date: November 23th, 2016**

Council/Board Liaison: Fernando Martínez-Jerónimo

Organization
Co-Chairs:
David Kent
Ève Gilroy

Activities Summary

- Held two conference calls (Jan. 27, Apr. 28) with Regional Chapters to establish open lines of communication. No calls were held in the summer due to the unavailability of David Kent.
- Further communication was achieved via email, after the development of a **RCC Mailing List**.
- Solicited proposals (first call on Feb. 1st, accepted further funding requests) for SETAC funds to support Short Courses at Annual Chapter Meetings. Provided numerous short course funding awards, summarized in Table 1:

Table 1: Funding awarded to SETAC's Regional Chapters during the 2016 fiscal year.

Chapter	Duration	Amount
Carolinas	Half	$ 400.00
Chesapeake-Potomac	Half	incomplete
Laurentian	Full	$ 400.00
Midwest	Half*	$ 400.00
North Atlantic	Full	$ 400.00
Northern California	Full	$ 400.00
Prairie Northern	Half	$ 150.00
South Central	Half	$ 350.00
Southeastern	Half	$ 200.00
Total		**$ 2,700.00**

- Solicited proposals (first call on Feb. 1st) for SETAC funds to support awards made by Regional Chapters at local Science Fairs. Provided one Science Fair award:
  - $ Laurentian - $400.00
- Maintained and provided continuous list of incoming Regional Chapter Officers
- Facilitated the review of NASAC's Regional Chapters Rep SOP by Regional Chapters
- Maintained outreach and provided support to Regional Chapter Executives regarding a limited number of SETAC initiatives, e.g.,
  - Chapter Liability Coverage
  - Regional Chapters Annual Meeting Registration Services
  - Posters for SETAC Annual Meeting (November 6-10, 2016)
  - **New** SETAC Travel Awards for Regional Chapters (up to $200 USD)

Future Plans

- Continue to provide, encourage and facilitate a friendly and inviting forum for Regional Chapter Electives to communicate, interact and share information
- Continue to inform and provide information about SNA Resources available to the regional chapters
- Continue to encourage participation and submission of proposals for SNA funding (e.g., short courses, Awards for Local Science Fairs, etc.)
- Maintain RCC budget of $3,000 based on 2016 Short Course and Science Fair Support Awards, with addition of a small buffer for greater participation
- Look into the inactivity of the Desert Southwest and Ohio Valley Chapters and facilitate discussions regarding their potential resurrection.

Business and Planning Meetings

Pre-RCC planning calls were held periodically during the year with SETAC staff members (Greg Schiefer, Laura Swanson), or between co-chairs:

- Jan 20, 2016: pre-meeting coordination (D. Kent, È. Gilroy)
- June 8, 2016: discussing and planning the new Regional Chapters Poster space at SNA Annual Meeting
- November 1st, 2016: discussion the inactivity of the Board Liaison and proposing an appropriate course of action (T. Augspurger, È. Gilroy, K. Liber, G. Schiefer)

Face-to-Face RCC meeting to be Held at SNA Annual Meeting, Orlando, Monday, November 7th from 1-2 pm.

Membership Communications

The committee did not hold any conference calls in the late spring/summer due to the unavailability of D. Kent. Instead, further communication was achieved via email, after a Mailing List was developed. We are hopeful this means of communication efficiently replaced the phone calls the committee usually holds.

RC members who attend the in-person meeting in Orlando will be queried on how the RCC can best meet their needs.

Issues/Problems

The Committee has not received any communication from the Board, as we have not been able to receive communication via the Board Liaison. This issue was addressed in early November, with the hope that the addition of a second Board Liaison will successfully resolve the issue for the 2016-2017 year.

Current Steering Committee

As specified below:

No. active members: Approximately 15 – 25 based on participation in Conference Calls.

Total membership: Approximately 33 Regional Chapter Executives, two Co-chairs (David Kent and Ève Gilroy), one council liaison (Fernando Martínez-Jerónimo), two SNA Staff (Laura Swanson and Greg Schiefer).
(Approximate total = 38)

Attachment 1 – RCC Roster (Last Updated November 2016)

Chapter Name	Chapter President	Chapter Vice President / President Elect	Election Month	Annual Meeting Dates, Location, Year	No. Attendees Last Meeting
Carolinas	Pete Key	Ted Valenti	March	Wilmington, NC from May 12th through May 14th	~60
Cheasapeake Potomac	Paula Henry	Darci Ferrer	January	2016: April 17th and 18th, Charlottesville, VA	70
Desert Southwest	**Currently inactive**				
Hudson Delaware	Jennifer Wollenberg	Josh Butler	July	2016: April 26-27 in Sandy Hook, NJ	~60
Laurentian	Rick Frank	Wilson Lau	September	2016: Waterloo, Ontario on Friday, June 24	~100
Mexico	Guadalupe Barrera-Escorcia	Juan Carlos Sánchez Mesa			
Midsouth	Frank Bailey	Kristie Willett	at annual meeting	2016: June 16-18 Murfreesboro, TN	
Midwest	Dawn Perkins	Nadia Carmosini	March/April	2016: Madison, WI, March 14-16	~105
North Atlantic	Lisa McIntosh	Janet Robinson	June	2017: Amherst, MA June 14-16	~80
Northern California (NorCal)	Simone Hasenbein	Lisa Hunt	December	2016: Berkeley, CA, April 26th and 27th	100
Ohio Valley	**Currently inactive**				
Ozark-Prairie	Jon Rhodes	Amber Tompsett-Higley	September	2016: Decatur, IL, May 17-18	~45
Pacific Northwest	Julann Spromberg	Jeff Wirtz	December	2016: June 1-4, Bellingham, WA	
Prairie Northern	Mark Hanson	Jose Luis Rodriguez Gil	June	2016: Winnipeg, MB June 16-17	>90
Quebec (St. Laurent)	Nathalie Paquet	Kim Racine	June	2016: Quebec CIty, QC June 2-3	100
Rocky Mountain	Michael Jones	Dana Winkelman			
South Central	Cindy Howard	Marlo Jeffries	April/May/June (at annual meeting)	2016: April 22-23, Fort Worth, Texas	~70
Southeast	Jeffrey Zuiderveen	Joseph Bisesi		2016: September 22-24th Gainesville, FL	
Southern California (SoCal)	Rachel Adams	Keith Muraya	September	2016: April, San Diego, CA	

Attachment 2 – SurveyMonkey Results of RC Composition and Activities for 2016 (Membership Composition and Annual Meeting).

Chapter	Membership						Annual Meeting		
	Ind	Acad	Gov	Students	Other	Total	Date	Theme	Number
Carolinas	6	21	5	62		94	May 13-14, 2016		74
Chapitre Saint-Laurent	40	25	50	70	10	185	June 2-3, 2016	Twenty years of evolution of environmental analysis tools	145
Chesapeake-Potomac	49	21	27	37	1	135	April 18, 2016	(Climate Change)	59
Hudson-Delaware	100	40	40	20		200	October 18-19, 2016	Evolving Science within the Topics of Environmental Remediation, Risk Assessment and Emerging Contaminants	80
Laurentian	45	30	38	60	7	180	June 24, 2016	Watershed Science Under Multiple Stressors	100
Mexico		60	2	47	1	110	August 1-5, 2016	Ecotoxicology	110
Mid South	18	9	19	10		56	June 16-18, 2015		23
Midwest						146	March 14-16, 2016	Communicating Environmental Science: Research, Tools, and Policy	88
North Atlantic	48	48	24			120	June 13-14, 2016		75
Northern California	30	20	50	20		120	April 26-27, 2016	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE: Bridging the gap between environmental science and social issues	110
Ozark-Prairie	50	32	34	32		149	May 16-18, 2016	Chemistry in the Corn Belt	25
Pacific Northwest	81	18	25	78	4	206	June 1-4, 2016	Environmental Priorities: Then, Now, and in the Future!	74
Prairie Northern	7	14	15	59		95	June 16-17, 2016	Wastewaters: many pipes, many solutions	100
Rocky Mountain						50-100	April 8, 2016		
South Central	16	26	5	36		83	April 22-24, 2016		133
Southeastern	2	13	2	27	1	45	Sept 22-24, 2016		39
Southern California	59	12	40	40		151	April 19-20, 2016	Southern California's Bay and Lagoons	81

Attachment 3 – SurveyMonkey Results of RC Composition and Activities for 2016 (Short Courses).

Chapter	Short Course Theme	Recommended for National	SETAC Funding	Details
Carolinas	Marine Plastics: From Research to Outreach	No	Yes	Date: May 12th. Time: 1 pm - 4 pm. Overview: Members of CSETAC took kayaks out for debris collection with the Plastic Ocean Project (UNCW affiliated non-profit organization). Following the clean-up activity, POP's Director Bonnie Monteleone reflected on her personal experiences pertaining to debris collecting trips from near four of the five gyres (over 10,000 nautical miles). After the lecture, attendees viewed the current art exhibit on display at Expo, which focuses on marine plastics.
Chapitre Saint-Laurent	The environmental risk assessment: what to know	Yes	No	50 participants Date: June 1st Time: 9:00 to 17h00 Location: CEAEQ (Qc, Canada) 7 instructors: - Nathalie Paquet and Mélanie Desrosiers (CEAEQ) - Veronika Varfalvy, Isabelle Guay and Piere Walsh (MDDELCC) - Mario Cormier (ECCC) - Bruno Dupré (GHD)
Chesapeake-Potomac	What you need to know about climate change: Challenges: understanding vulnerability.	Yes	Yes	Dr. Paul Wagner, Senior ecologist at the US Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources and faculty at Virginia Tech Institute for Leadership in Global Sustainability, held a 3 hour workshop starting with the basic definitions and causes of climate change, what is known and not known may happen in the future, and what can be done at the local level and at this time. The information presented helped in preparing the attendees for the next day's keynote speaker, Dr. William Antholis, who presented "A conversation on Science Technology, and Values - what the next President can do in the first year - with an emphasis on the Paris Accords. The participation in terms of questions, comments and discussion from the audience was very active - possibly because there was this smooth transition between workshop and keynote "address". It all seemed to work very well.
Laurentian	Data Quality & Weight of Evidence: Making Your Toxicology Matter	Yes	Yes	The course - Data Quality & Weight of Evidence: Making Your Toxicology Matter - was derived from the outcomes and recommendations of the SETAC Pellston Workshop conducted in Fall 2015 on “Improving the Usability of Ecotoxicology Data in Risk Assessment”. Instructors Drs. Mark Hanson (University of Manitoba), Keith Solomon, and Glen Van Der Kraak (University of Guelph) put together an informative and engaging course that received raving reviews from participants. At 52 attendees, we exceeded our own maximum number of attendees of 50.

Mexico	1. Green chemistry, 2. Biomonitoring with aquatic invertebrates for assessing water quality, 3. Molecular tools for environmental assessment.	No	No	Three courses were held. Titles in spanish: 1. CURSO-TALLER DE QUÍMICA VERDE. Instructors: Dr. René Miranda Ruvalcaba, Dr. Gabriel Arturo Arroyo Razo, Dra. María Olivia Noguez Córdova y Dr. Bernardo Francisco Torres de la Facultad de Estudios Superiores Cuautitlán, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. 6 h. 2. BIOMONITOREO CON MACROINVERTEBRADOS ACUÁTICOS PARA LA EVALUACIÓN DE LA CALIDAD DEL AGUA. Instructors: Dra.Eugenia López López, Dr.Jacinto Elias Sedeño Díaz y Dr. Ricardo Arturo Ruiz Picos de la Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas del Instituto Politécnico Nacional. 12 h. 3. HERRAMIENTAS MOLECULARES PARA LA EVALUACIÓN AMBIENTAL. Instuctor: Dra. Alejandra Serrato de la Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana. 6 h
Mid South	Special Symposium: Impaired Waters, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing	No	No	This wasn't a short course exactly but more like a special symposium including a series of talks by Sherry Wang, David Duhl, Dennis Borders from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Division of Water Resources and Jennifer Bouldin from Arkansas State University followed by a panel discussion
Midwest	Communicating Science - Improv 4 Scientists	Yes	Yes	A 1/2 day short course entitled "Communicating Science - Improv 4 Scientists" was also offered. This course was taught by two instructors, Dr. Amy Zelenski and Clare Haden, both from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and trained at the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science. The course was a huge success with the maximum number of participants enrolled - many of them were students from our Chapter.
North Atlantic	The Causal Analysis Framework: Using Case Studies to Understand the Approach, Applications, and Challenges	Yes	No	With the growing challenge multiple stressors potentially causing environmental harm, the causal analysis framework offers a clear, scientifically defensible and robust path to successful risk management. This course will provide attendees with an understanding of the power of causal analysis and the skills to apply the framework to their own cases by laying a sound foundation in the methods of the framework, exploring the challenges, using examples to demonstrate concepts and working with participants through a hands-on case study. Ted Wickwire, Instructor

Northern California	Permutation tests: never worry about a normal distribution again!	Yes	Yes	Permutation Tests: Never worry about a normal distribution again! See the advantages of more powerful resampling approaches to confidence intervals and group hypothesis tests, without assuming and testing for normality of data. Learn why Karl Pearson stated in 1935 that t-tests and similar methods were “approximations”, and what methods are now available to you to do the exact procedure. Conduct better procedures at no additional cost for testing the skewed data common to environmental studies. Taught by Dennis Helsel, Practical Stats. April 26, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m About Dennis R. Helsel Dennis Helsel (Ph.D. Environmental Science and Engineering, Virginia Tech) is a consultant and trainer on statistical methods for environmental and natural resource scientists through his firm, Practical Stats. He has authored three textbooks including Statistics for Censored Environmental Data using Minitab and R (2012), which presents methods for handling data below detection/reporting limits. He regularly conducts webinars, seminars and courses on topics such as Urban Legends in Environmental Statistics and Statistics for Contaminated Sites. He worked as a hydrologist, geochemist, and statistician for thirty years at the US Geological Survey before starting Practical Stats. For his training courses in applied statistics within and outside North America he received the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2003 from the American Statistical Association’s Section on Statistics and the Environment. Dennis has published in journals spanning a variety of disciplines, including Annals of Occupational Hygiene, Environmental Science and Technology, Chemosphere, Water Resources Research, and Applied Geochemistry. A full list of publications, webinars and courses is available on PracticalStats.com.

Pacific Northwest	Chemical Aquatic Fate and Effects (CAFE) Database and its Usefulness in Assisting Chemical and Oil Spill Response in Aquatic Environments	Yes	No	Every year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) responds to more than a hundred oil and chemical spills in aquatic environments. These spills can severely impact ecosystems by compromising the health of aquatic plants and animals, and their surroundings. NOAA's Emergency Response Division (ERD) developed the Chemical Aquatic Fate and Effects (CAFE) Database, which contains data for hazardous substances, including industrial chemicals, oils, dispersants, and chemically dispersed oils. This tool can aid responders in their assessment of the environmental fate and relative toxicity of the spilled chemical. CAFE gathers existing data from several databases, as well as from peers, peer-review and gray literature, and required a comprehensive review and standardization process to ensure data quality. These data have been integrated into an interactive tool that facilitates on-the-fly queries. This user -friendly tool is composed of two modules: the Aquatic Fate and Aquatic Toxicity modules. The Aquatic Fate module contains data useful in understanding and predicting chemical behavior in aquatic environments; while the Aquatic Toxicity module contains acute toxicity data for a wide variety of aquatic organisms. Toxicity data are summarized in the form of Species Sensitivity Distributions (SSDs), which can be used to characterize the potential risks of the spilled chemical to aquatic communities. CAFE contains fate data for 32,377 chemicals, and toxicity data for 4,498 chemicals, oils, dispersants and chemically dispersed oils. CAFE has been designed to allow for users to query toxicity data under different scenarios (chemical, oil only, dispersant only or dispersant and oil). NOAA scientists have successfully used CAFE to help inform the fate and potential effects of spills in aquatic environments. CAFE released its first version 1.1 in July 2015 and will soon be releasing version 1.2. Attendees will be provided one hour of training using this database and have the rest of the time to work through scenarios.

Prairie Northern	Experimental Design: How not to waste your time!	No	Yes	This afternoon workshop provided a gentle introduction to basic principles of statistical design for toxicologists and environmental professionals. Using a variety of practical examples from toxicology and environmental science, the workshop will answered most of the following questions: • Given specific study questions and objectives, how do I design a sound experiment to address these? • Which design should I use for my experiment for optimum efficiency? • How do I randomize my treatments? • What type of data am I collecting and what distribution does it come from? • What do I do if my data is not from a normal distribution? Do I have to transform my data before analysis? • What is statistical power analysis and how can it be improved? • How many replicates/subjects do I need for my experiment? • How many samples should I collect? • How do I conduct a t-test and an analysis of variance? • What are repeated measures data and how do I analyze them? • How do I present and interpret interactions? • How do I compare model parameters?
South Central	Academia, Industry or Government? Weighing your options, finding your fit and becoming employed	Yes	Yes	The short course was geared towards student members of the Chapter. The workshop featured four speakers - three described life in the academic, industry and government sectors and one provided students with practical information for preparing a resume/CV and basic interview skills. Presentations were followed by a panel discussion featuring 2 experts from each sector. During the panel discussion students had the opportunity to ask targeted questions about finding and applying for jobs within each sector.
Southeastern	RNA Extraction and qPCR	Yes	Yes	Co-taught by Amanda Muerger, Faith Lambert, Joe Bisesi and Candice Lavelle, the course covered the process of evaluating changes in gene expression using qPCR, starting with tissue sample storage through the final analysis of qPCR results. It began by extracting RNA from tissue samples, removing contaminant DNA with DNase, and verifying the quality of RNA using the Agilent Bioanalyzer. They, then, synthesized cDNA, which was used to conduct qPCR via SYBR Green technology. Participants learned how to analyze the data, including reading melt curves and calculating fold change relative to control and to determine what those differences meant.