



---

# 2018 NASAC ANNUAL REPORT

---

*Alexander MacLeod, Leah Thornton, David Dreier, Kristie Willett, Sue Robinson*



OCTOBER 1, 2018

## Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>LEADERSHIP</b>  | <b>2</b>  |
| NASAC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  | 2         |
| NASAC MEMBERSHIP   | 2         |
| <b>ANNUAL PROJECTS</b>   | <b>4</b>  |
| 1. DEVELOP ENGAGING SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2018 SETAC NORTH AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING  | 4         |
| <i>Student/mentor dinner</i>   | 4         |
| <i>Early career social</i>   | 4         |
| <i>Exploring career choices</i>  | 4         |
| <i>Student noontime seminar</i>  | 4         |
| <i>Student mixer</i>   | 4         |
| <i>Tweet-up (replacing, Reddit AMA)</i>  | 5         |
| 2. ENGAGE THE SETAC NORTH AMERICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON STUDENT VOTING PRIVILEGES  | 5         |
| 3. INCREASE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WITHIN SCIENTIFIC INTEREST GROUPS   | 5         |
| 4. DEVELOP AN ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE WITHIN NASAC TO FACILITATE YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS MEETINGS  | 6         |
| 5. PROVIDE CONSISTENT AND INFORMATIVE ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS TO INCREASE STUDENT PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT  | 7         |
| <i>SETAC Globe articles</i>  | 7         |
| <i>Outreach website</i>  | 8         |
| <i>Social media</i>  | 9         |
| <i>Facebook</i>  | 9         |
| <i>Twitter</i>   | 9         |
| 6. ENHANCE GLOBAL COMMUNICATION AND COLLABORATION BETWEEN STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCILS  | 9         |
| <b>SELECTED REGIONAL CHAPTER UPDATES</b>   | <b>10</b> |
| SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  | 10        |
| LAURENTIAN   | 10        |
| CHESAPEAKE POTOMAC   | 10        |
| PRAIRIE NORTHERN   | 10        |
| MIDWEST  | 11        |
| OHIO VALLEY  | 11        |
| SOUTH CENTRAL  | 11        |
| <b>ORGANIZATION OF NASAC</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| <i>The North America Student Advisory Council strives to develop consistent and enjoyable opportunities for students to engage with their peers and mentors by thoughtfully organizing our roles (Figure 6). It takes a great deal of cooperation and collaboration between several committees and volunteers to organize these events (Figure 7).</i> | 13        |
| <b>2018 LONG RANGE PLAN PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS</b>   | <b>15</b> |

# 2018 NASAC Annual Report

*Alexander MacLeod, Leah Thornton, David Dreier, Kristie Willett, Sue Robinson*

*October 1, 2018*

## Executive summary

The SETAC North America Student Advisory Council (NASAC) is comprised of three elected leadership positions (Vice chair/Chair/Outgoing chair), Regional Chapter representatives (one student per Chapter), two members-at-large, two SETAC North America (SNA) Board of Directors (BoD) liaisons, and student liaisons to various SETAC Interest Groups and Committees (Figure 1). NASAC works closely with the SETAC BoD and other SETAC Committees to plan student events for the annual meeting and to provide a voice for student members of SETAC. In 2017-2018, NASAC met or exceeded all of its priorities for the year including:

1. Develop engaging scientific and social programming for the 2018 SETAC North America annual meeting in Sacramento, CA
2. Engage the SETAC North America Board of Directors with recommendations from the student voting ad hoc committee
3. Increase student engagement within scientific interest groups
4. Develop an organizational structure within NASAC to facilitate Young Environmental Scientists Meetings and to reduce donor fatigue
5. Provide consistent and informative online communications to increase student participation and development
6. Enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level

## Leadership

### NASAC Executive committee

| Name            | Role (2017-2018)               | Regional Chapter   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Alex MacLeod    | Chair                          | Chesapeake Potomac |
| Leah Thornton   | Vice-chair, RC Rep. (outgoing) | South Central      |
| David Dreier    | Outgoing chair                 | Southeast          |
| Kristie Willett | SETAC NA BoD Liaison           | Mid-South          |
| Sue Robinson    | SETAC NA BoD Liaison           | Pacific Northwest  |

### NASAC Membership

| Name             | Role (2017-2018)                              | Regional Chapter  |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| Amber White      | RC Rep  | Midwest           |
| Amelia Atwell    | RC Rep  | Mid-South         |
| Bryan Hedgpeth   | RC Rep  | Hudson Delaware   |
| Cristina Sanders | RC Rep, NASAC Fundraising subcommittee        | Carolinas         |
| Heather Ikert    | RC Rep, NASAC Student activities subcommittee | Laurentian        |
| Monika Roy       | RC Rep  | North Atlantic    |
| Kendall Scarlett | RC Rep  | Ozark-Prairie     |
| Kristin Carlisle | RC Rep  | Southeast         |
| Lauren Crandon   | RC Rep  | Pacific Northwest |

## NASAC Annual Report 2018

| Name                 | Role (2017-2018)  | Regional Chapter    |
|----------------------|---|---------------------|
| Marco Franco         | RC Rep, NASAC Fundraising subcommittee  | South Central       |
| Mariana Cains        | RC Rep  | Ohio Valley         |
| Rachel Harrison      | RC Rep  | Chesapeake-Potomac  |
| Rachel Leads         | RC Rep (outgoing)   | Carolinas           |
| Melissa Bolotaolo    | RC Rep  | Northern California |
| Scott Coffin         | RC Rep  | Southern California |
| Stephanie Graves     | RC Rep, NASAC Student activities subcommittee   | Prairie Northern    |
| Abby DeBofsky        | Associate member, Liaison to Global science committee                                     | Prairie Northern    |
| Alexis Wormington    | Associate member, 2018 YES Science committee  | Southeast           |
| Amanda Buerger       | Associate member, NASAC Student activities subcommittee                                   | Southeast           |
| Amy Gainer           | Associate member, Liaison to Publication advisory committee                               | Prairie Northern    |
| Bekah Burket         | Associate member, YES 2018 Science committee  | South Central       |
| Derek Green          | Associate member, Liaison to SNA Membership committee, NASAC Fundraising subcommittee     | Prairie Northern    |
| Faith Lambert        | Associate member, NASAC Student activities subcommittee                                   | Southeast           |
| Ifeoluwa Grace Idowu | Associate member, Liaison to SNA Development committee, NASAC Fundraising subcommittee    | Prairie Northern    |
| Jacob Cleary         | Member-at-large   | Southeast           |
| James Feller         | Member-at-large   | Ohio Valley         |
| Karista Hudelson     | Associate member, Liaison to SNA Meetings committee                                       | Laurentian          |
| Kevin Stroski        | Associate member, Liaison to SNA Endowment fund   | Prairie Northern    |
| Latonya Jackson      | Associate member, Liaison to SNA Early career committee                                   | Mid-South           |
| Matt Slattery        | Associate member, Liaison to SNA Endowment fund   | Pacific Northwest   |
| Meaghan Guyader      | Associate member, NASAC Outreach subcommittee   | Rocky Mountain      |
| Niranjana Krishnan   | Associate member, Liaison to Career development committee, NASAC Fundraising subcommittee | Ozark-Prairie       |
| Samreen Siddiqui     | Associate member, NASAC Outreach subcommittee   | South Central       |
| Sivani Baskaran      | Associate member, Liaison to Science committee  | Laurentian          |
| Shira Joudan         | Associate member, Liaison to Chemistry interest group                                     | Laurentian          |
| Tyler Black          | Associate member, NASAC Social media subcommittee   | Prairie Northern    |
| Ulyana Fuchylo       | Associate member, NASAC Student activities subcommittee                                   | Prairie Northern    |
| Liz Miller           | RC Rep (outgoing), 2018 YES Local organizing committee                                    | Midwest             |
| Sara Nason           | Associate member, 2018 YES Science committee  | Midwest             |
| Eilleen Salas        | RC Rep. (outgoing)  | Southern California |
| Gale Beaubien        | RC Rep. (outgoing)  | Mid-South           |
| Rachel Leads         | RC Rep. (outgoing)  | Carolinas           |
| Sarah Stinson        | RC Rep. (outgoing)  | Northern California |



Figure 1: NASAC at the 2017 SETAC North America annual meeting

## **Annual Projects**

### **1. Develop engaging scientific and social programming for the 2018 SETAC North America annual meeting**

NASAC has planned several important events for the 2018 SETAC North America meeting in Sacramento. These efforts were led by the NASAC Student activities subcommittee, chaired by S. Graves. At the Sacramento meeting, there will be several unique student activities including:

#### **Student/mentor dinner**

The student/mentor dinner has been a staple at the SETAC North America meeting for many years. The dinner provides students an opportunity to strengthen their networks within SETAC and discuss scientific topics and career experiences with mentors. NASAC appreciates the support of the SNA Student advocacy committee for their support and organization of the event.

#### **Early career social**

In 2017, SETAC North America formed the Early Career Committee to assist recent graduates and new professionals to navigate scientific and professional opportunities in the society. This committee, led by NASAC past chair B. Paulik, will host the second early career social at the annual meeting. The event will provide an informal chance for students to make new connections during the meeting while enjoying light snacks and beverages. The event will also have optional activities to help students meet and chat with new people and update attendees about upcoming SETAC Early Career Committee activities.

#### **Exploring career choices**

The SETAC North America Student Advisory Council and the Early Career Committee will be hosting the first Exploring Career Choices event, which will provide a forum to hear from and interact with multiple representatives from each sector. Students and early career professionals are encouraged to participate in this unique event. Small groups will get the chance to talk to professionals who are at different stages in their career and from a variety of sectors. The event concludes with an open mixer where you can continue conversations. You will be able to ask questions about what the application and interview process was like for them, their day-to-day activities, what people look for in a candidate, including education levels, and learn about continuing career paths and fields.

#### **Student noontime seminar**

This year's student noontime seminar, sponsored by Colgate-Palmolive, will feature Anne Ackenhusen, JD from the University of Washington. The topic of the seminar will be: "Ethics and Research Misconduct: If Only It Was Black and White – Stories from the Field." In this interactive presentation, Anne will lead a conversation on research misconduct and ethics in research. The discussion will address research misconduct issues that scientists might face in the course of their careers, drawing on Anne's 12 years of experience in the field.

#### **Student mixer**

The student mixer provides an opportunity for students to take a reprieve from the non-stop excitement surrounding the excellent scientific research during the day. Each year NASAC receives feedback on the student mixer and this year it will combine all of the recommendations in a fun, conversational environment. The NASAC Student activities subcommittee settled on the Coin-Op Game Room as the mixer location, known

for an array of classic video games. Similar to previous years, the event is expected to be a major success with drinks, music, dancing, and unlimited game plays. Here, we also acknowledge the NASAC Fundraising subcommittee. This subcommittee, led by L. Thornton and D. Green, has currently raised \$1900 defray costs for the student mixer. While this total is \$600 less than the goal of \$2500, fundraising efforts will continue until October 15, 2018. It should also be noted that given the alignment of interests between NASAC and the ECC, the contact list of potential sponsors was evenly divided amongst NASAC and the ECC this year to raise funds for the Student Mixer and the Early Career Social, respectively.

### **Tweet-up (replacing, Reddit AMA)**

This year SETAC will reach out to the public through a 10-minute Tweet-up taking place every afternoon coffee break and bringing together in-person networking, online engagement, and scientific outreach. A panel will convene in the SETAC Square to answer online and live questions about a specific topic each day. We will be releasing the topical schedule once panelists are confirmed.

## **2. Engage the SETAC North America Board of Directors on student voting privileges**

In 2016, NASAC formed a student voting ad hoc committee to determine whether students valued the ability to vote in SETAC. A comprehensive survey was distributed throughout SETAC North America via regional chapter meetings, email, social media, and personal contacts. Near the end of 2016, the survey results were compiled and there was an overwhelming response supporting: (1) A student vote on the SNA Board of Directors, (2) The ability for students to vote in SNA general elections. Based on these results, NASAC worked with the SETAC North America Board of Directors to further discuss voting privileges in the society. The SETAC North America board, NASAC, and two ad hoc committees gave this matter careful consideration, culminating in the board approving the following motions:

- Full voting privileges for the NASAC chair on the SETAC North America board
- Including the NASAC vice chair on the SETAC North America board as a non-voting member to increase the representation to two student representatives
- NASAC will recommend one or more vice chair candidates to the SETAC North America Nominations Committee annually, and the SETAC North America membership will elect the NASAC vice chair during the general election.

However, for those motions to be implemented the general membership will need to approve of the required constitutional changes during the September 2018 election. As noted in the selected Globe publications, a great deal of effort was taken to educate the SNA membership about student voting privileges. Finally, and possibly most importantly, students now have the right to vote in this general election and thereafter by an approved motion by the SETAC North America board to change how students are categorized in the membership. This vote of support was major milestone for students of SETAC and NASAC.

**Conclusion:** The general membership has voted with a 93.4% approval of SNA constitutional amendments to give student representatives a voice in the future direction of the society! This recognition by the general membership validates the patience, persistence and hard work put in by NASAC, the Board of Directors, and the ad-hoc committees set up along the way. Everyone involved put in great effort analyzing the validity of the topic, the relevance to the membership based on surveys, and communicating frequently and coherently through Globe publications. This is the culmination of several years of dedication and it highlights what can be accomplished when clear goals are set and followed through.

## **3. Increase student engagement within scientific interest groups**

The results of the 2016 Global Membership Survey clearly identified scientific interest groups as a major overlooked opportunity for students in SETAC. In response, A. MacLeod reached out to the SAC leadership from other GUs and have coordinated writing a Globe article co-authored with the Latin America SAC chair, B. Young, the Asia-Pacific Australasia SAC chair, F. Gissi, Europe SAC chair, K. Heye and three NASAC

members, S. Graves and S. Baskaran. This Globe article was expanded to also include information on how to get involved in committees and SACs. As with last year, the “SETAC 101” document will be distributed at the annual meeting. This document provides a brief overview of student opportunities in the society, including interest groups. This annual priority will remain an ongoing effort to engage students in scientific interest groups.

#### 4. Develop an organizational structure within NASAC to facilitate Young Environmental Scientists Meetings

In 2016, the first Young Environmental Scientists (YES) meeting in North America was held at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL. This effort was led, in part, by many individuals in NASAC that also served on the YES local organizing committee (LOC). NASAC is committed to supporting YES meetings and for the second time, the YES meeting was held in North America at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI. The event was the 7th YES meeting between SETAC Europe and North America, themed “Stand up for Science” (Figure 2). The LOC of this meeting was chaired by NASAC members S. Nason and L. Miller, and several additional NASAC members aided with abstract selection, fundraising, chairing sessions and conference organization. We had strong participation with 63 participants, 12 countries represented, and all 5 geographic units (Figure 3). The NASAC Executive committee has also worked with the SETAC North America Board of Directors to provide additional support for the meeting. NASAC is excited to continually support this event and we are looking forward to the next YES meeting held in North America in 2020.



Figure 2: YES 2018 Meeting logo

**Best Practices:** Looking back on the two YES meetings held in North America, it is paramount that the LOC must be comprised of dedicated students and supported by NASAC members. Organizing and hosting a conference while being a graduate student is a feat, and when possible, the location of the conference should coincide with a strong cohort of dedicated environmental toxicologists/chemists, similarly located, to host a successful meeting. Tasks needing to be completed include connecting one or more past or present YES LOC fundraising chairs with the Development Committee to explore external funding/grant opportunities for students that plan and facilitate their own conferences. If that doesn't work out, at least the two groups will be connected so that any asks can be coordinated through the Development Committee and the SETAC office to prevent donor fatigue. In addition it is clear that SETAC staff need to be committed to assist with organizing future YES meetings.

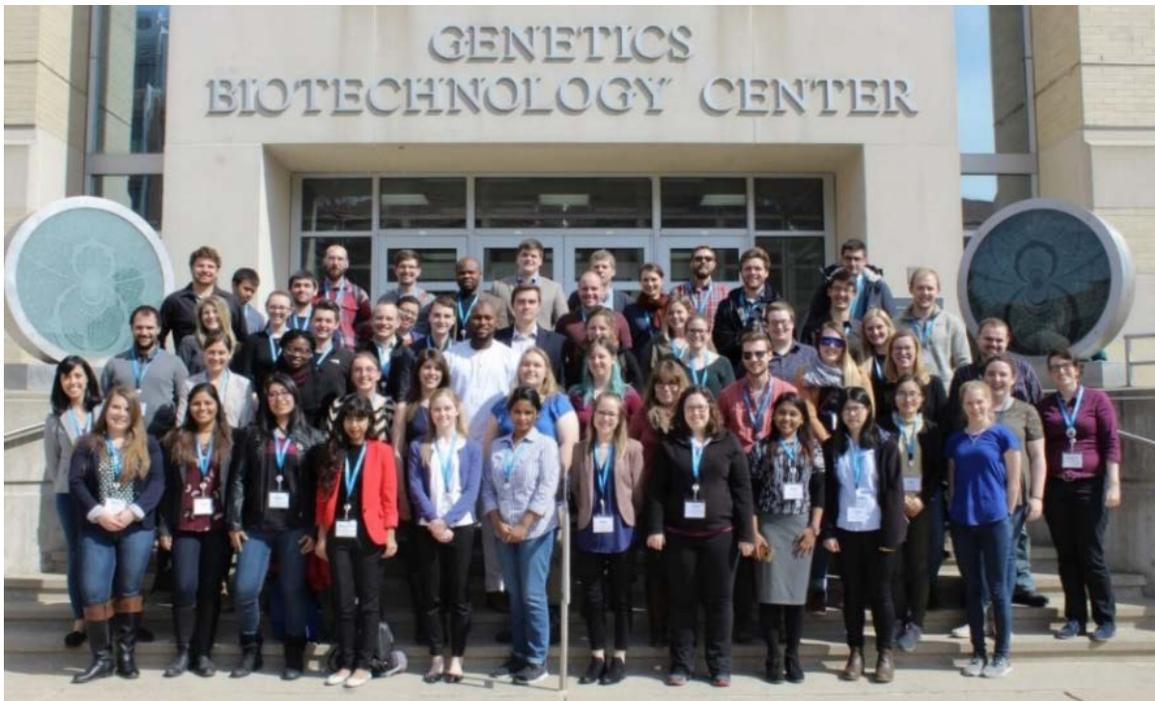


Figure 3: Attendees of the 7<sup>th</sup> Young Environmental Scientists meeting, at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI

## **5. Provide consistent and informative online communications to increase student participation and development**

The social media and outreach subcommittees in NASAC (led by T. Black and M. Guyader/N. Krishnan, respectively) have been active in facilitating online communications throughout the year. A review of these communications is provided below:

### **SETAC Globe articles**

#### **October 2018**

*Global Student Guide for SETAC Annual Conferences 2018*

Submitted for publication September 20, 2018

#### **August 2018**

*Exciting Student Activities Lined Up for SETAC Minneapolis*

<https://globe.setac.org/exciting-student-activities-lined-up-for-setac-sacramento/>

*Strengthening the Voice of Student Members in North America – From the Students' Perspective*

<https://globe.setac.org/strengthening-the-voice-of-student-members-in-north-america-the-students-perspective/>

*SETAC Sacramento: Connecting SETAC to Local Communities*

<https://globe.setac.org/setac-sacramento-connecting-setac-to-local-communities/>

**July 2018**

*Strengthening the Voice of Student Members in North America – A Deliberative Process*

<https://globe.setac.org/strengthening-students-2/>

**June 2018**

*YES 2018 - “Stand up for Science!”*

<https://globe.setac.org/yes-2018/>

*Strengthening the Voice of Student Members in North America*

<https://globe.setac.org/strengthening-students/>

**Outreach website**

The *Students of SETAC* Outreach website includes a research/outreach blog, regional chapter updates, and student profiles. In an effort to increase the number and frequency of articles, the Outreach subcommittee designed a flyer that was posted on social media (Figure 4).

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



Figure 4: Flyer developed to encourage participation among students of SETAC

## Social media

### Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/studentsofSETAC/>

### Twitter

<https://twitter.com/studentsofsetac?lang=en>

## 6. Enhance global communication and collaboration between student advisory councils

Throughout the year, several of the GU SACs maintained communication and transparency by corresponding with SAC leadership from each GU in our regular communication, resulting in stronger collaboration and sharing of documents (SAC agendas, YES meeting planning documents, governance documents). It is a serious challenge to attend conference calls for each GU although communication is growing. This priority was set after the 2016 SETAC World Congress meeting in Orlando, where student advisory council representatives attended from every SETAC geographic unit. This year, leadership from each GU collaborated on a Globe article detailing the many opportunities that SETAC offers for students to get involved such as, joining interest groups and committees. This is a global effort to increase awareness and interest in the excellent groups that meet throughout the year. We co-authored a Globe article with leadership of student advisory councils in the other geographic units to focus on educating and encouraging students to get involved in interest groups and committees.



Figure 5: Student advisory council leaders representing three Geographic Units at SETAC Rome! From left to right: K. Heye (Europe Chair), A. Ogungbemi (Africa Chair), and A. MacLeod (North America Chair)

Communication between student advisory councils (SAC) in 2018 was supported, in part, by SNA students traveling to meetings in the SETAC Europe. This year, A. MacLeod (NASAC Chair) attended the SETAC Europe 2018 meeting in Rome, Italy to experience the European meeting and share ideas (Figure 5). A. MacLeod participated in several SETAC Europe SAC meetings and events. A. MacLeod also participated in several Europe SAC calls throughout the year to maintain strong communication between geographic units. Communication is maintained via email, sharing conference call information and agendas clearly detailing the focus for the call, it is important that we stay informed. Similarly, the SAC Europe Chair, K. Heye was supported to attend the 2017 annual SETAC North America meeting in Minneapolis. This year the incoming SAC Europe Chair, M. Castro will attend the 2018 annual meeting in Sacramento, CA this November.

## **Selected regional chapter updates**

### **Southern California**

*Scott Coffin*

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern California SETAC (SoCal SETAC) regional chapter was held on April 12 and 13th at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. Session topics included “sediment quality”, “passive sampling” and “microplastics and marine debris”. The Best Undergraduate Student Presentation award winner was Samantha Geier from Loyola Marymount University, and the Best Graduate Student Presentation award winner was Kara Wiggin, a master’s student at California State University Long Beach. In 2016, the SoCal SETAC RC unanimously approved the new SOP, but was unable to implement it fully until 2018 due to idiosyncratic chapter considerations. Since then, a (student-only) summer vote occurred in summer 2017 to elect the new NASAC rep (Scott Coffin) for the summer 2018-2019 term, following the 2017-2018 term from student board member Eileen Salas.

### **Laurentian**

*Heather Ikert*

The Laurentian-SETAC 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at Queen’s University in Kingston, ON (with a short course at QUBS; the Queens University Biological Station) on June 8. There were 55 attendees, with the majority being students, but with representation from the three sectors. Out of the 14 platform presentations and 8 poster presentations, 57% were student platforms, and 38% were student posters, with the remainder being spread out among people from industry and government positions. Awards were presented for best platform and poster presentations in Masters and PhD categories. The Maria Colavecchia-Pfuetzner Memorial Travel Awards were presented to Sarah Wallace (Queens University) and Heather Ikert (University of Waterloo). This award supports student travel to the SETAC North America meeting. The NASAC updates were presented at the AGM (regarding updates to the voting and the upcoming NASAC events and initiatives). The position of student representative was advertised and we will be electing a representative for this role in the fall. Overall the chapter has continued to very active with regular pub nights (invited speakers with dinner) in Ottawa, Burlington, Guelph, and the newest location, Toronto. Also, a student speaker pub night was successfully run in Ottawa this past year. The Laurentian chapter is looking forward to offering a short course in the fall and continuing to engage its members through various community events.

### **Chesapeake Potomac**

*Rachel Harrison*

The Chesapeake Potomac Regional Chapter (CPRC) celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year! The Annual Spring Meeting was held in April at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. The first day of the meeting featured an informative Risk Assessment workshop led by Timothy Iannuzzi of Arcadis, followed by an evening social. The following day included a full schedule of platform and poster presentations, with over 50 students and professionals in attendance. Our keynote speaker was Dr. Barnett Rattner from the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. His engaging presentation highlighted the history of CPRC as well as the field of ecotoxicology.

### **Prairie Northern**

*Stephanie Graves*

This year the students of the Prairie Northern Chapter (PNC) elected Tyler Black from the University of Manitoba as the new student representative to the PNC board and will also represent students of PNC in NASAC. The 9th Annual PNC meeting and conference was held from June 4-5 in Edmonton, Canada. The conference theme was “Breaking the Ice: Toxicology in Cold Climates” and had over 60 attendees

representing academia, government and industry. The meeting kicked off with a short course on Biotic Ligand Models attended by 20 individuals and was followed the next day by three plenary speakers along with 12 researchers and students giving platform presentations on a variety of environmental toxicology issues. The platforms were preceded by a poster session with 20 student participants from institutions across the PNC region. The meeting was a success and planning is now in progress for the 10th annual meeting which will be in Lethbridge, Alberta.

## Midwest

### *Amber White*

This year the Midwest regional chapter held their annual meeting April 9th-11th at Loyola University Chicago. This year they elected a new student representative, Amber White who will replace outgoing student rep Liz Miller. They also awarded first prize and runner-up awards for both poster and platform presentations. The first place winners also received a scholarship to attend the 2018 national SETAC in Sacramento.

## Ohio Valley

### *Mariana Cains*

After a three year hiatus, the Ohio Valley Regional Chapter held its regional meeting on April 20, 2018 at the Ohio State University Museum of Biological Diversity in Columbus, OH. The meeting was well attended by academia and government entities. The majority of platform and poster presentations were given by graduate and undergraduate students, respectively. The Marian Vinegar SETAC Travel Award for best overall student presentation was awarded to PhD student Alison Pecquet of the University of Cincinnati. Additional awards were presented for best graduate and undergraduate student platform and poster presentations. NASAC student outreach at the regional meeting resulted in PhD student James Feller of the Ohio State University becoming a NASAC Member-at-large for 2018-2019. To further establish the chapter's revitalized presence, the chapter's Board of Directors have requested that Mariana Cains remains the Ohio Valley Regional Chapter's NASAC representative for 2018-2019.

## South Central

### *Marco Franco*

The 2018 South Central SETAC Regional Chapter annual meeting was held at the Texas Tech University Center in Junction, Texas from April 26<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. Registration and informal social time took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> in preparation for platforms and poster presentations the next day. A total of 40 attendees were present at the meeting, including students, faculty and industry/government members. Twelve student platform presentations were held, and three presentations were given by new faculty in the region. Additionally, fourteen posters were presented during afternoon and evening sessions.

Winners of student presentation awards were as follows:

#### Platforms:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Kyle Roush – Texas Christian University
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Kelsey Thompson – Texas Tech University
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Olushola Awoyemi – Texas Tech University

#### Posters:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Leah Thornton – University of North Texas  
Cassandra Schmitt – Texas Tech University
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Lea Lovin – Baylor University

The executive board business meeting and student meeting were held on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Highlights included the election of new board members for the 2018-2019 period, and the selection of the location and potential

## NASAC Annual Report 2018

dates for the annual meetings in 2019 (Baylor University) and 2020 (Texas A&M University Corpus Christi). Additionally, an *ad hoc* committee was set in place to organize and conduct a virtual poster competition aiming to obtain feedback before the 2018 SETAC North America national meeting in Sacramento, CA. Ongoing discussion will address the possibility of conducting another virtual poster competition for the regional meeting next year.

### 2018-2019 SETAC-SC Officers:

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| President:                | Jeremy Conkle   |
| Vice-president:           | Cole Matson     |
| Treasurer:                | Jordan Crago    |
| Secretary:                | Jim Dobberstine |
| Immediate past president: | Marlo Jeffries  |
| Student Representative:   | Marco Franco    |

## Organization of NASAC

The North America Student Advisory Council strives to develop consistent and enjoyable opportunities for students to engage with their peers and mentors by thoughtfully organizing our roles (Figure 6). It takes a great deal of cooperation and collaboration between several committees and volunteers to organize these events (Figure 7).

### Sacramento Student Activities Organization @ NASAC



Figure 6: All aspects of student events are organized and shared among NASAC

## Sacramento Student Activities Organization @ NASAC

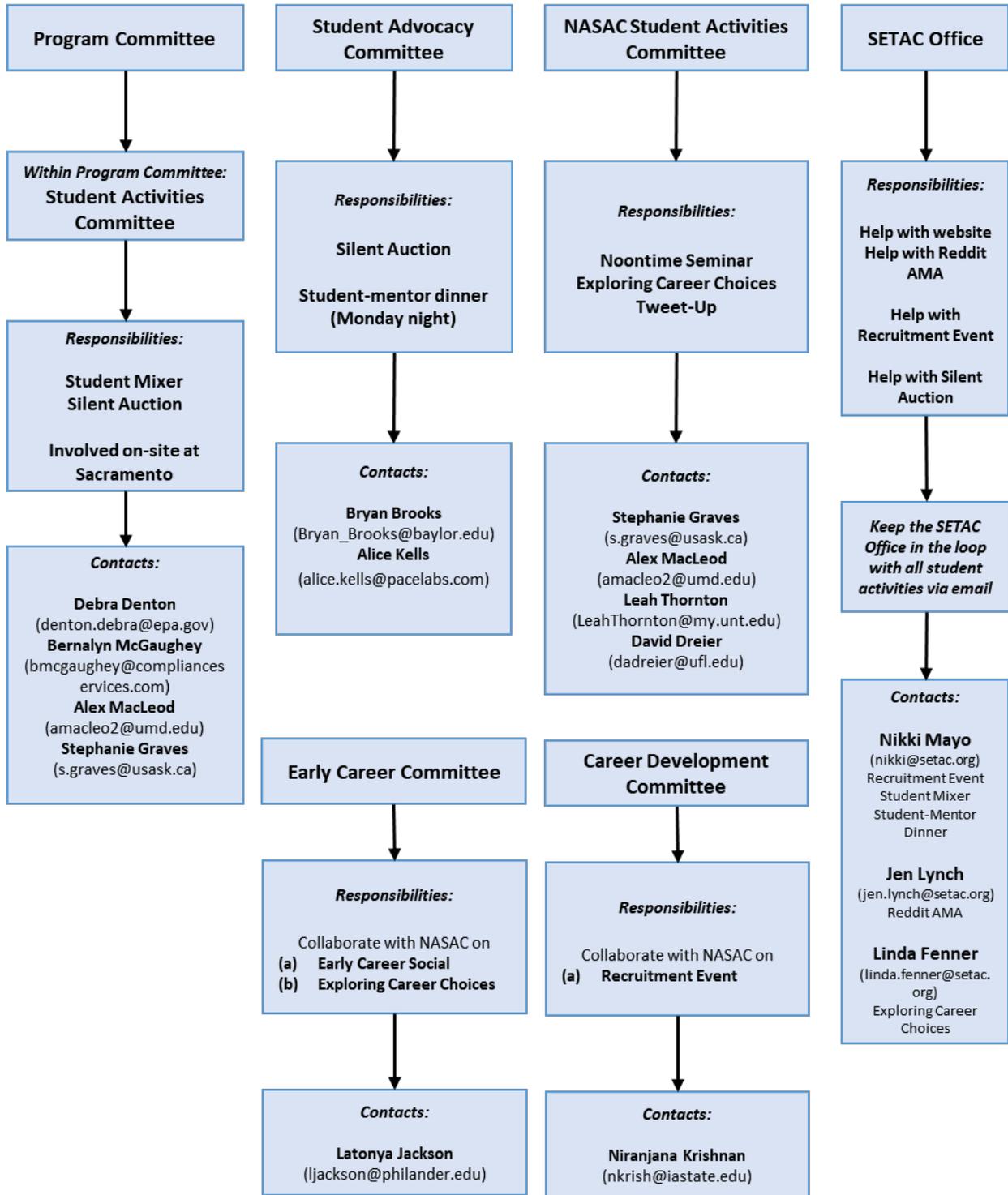


Figure 7: All student focused events are executed by using a detailed flow-chart

## **2018 LONG RANGE PLAN PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

The North America Student Advisory Council (NASAC) has areas of improvement although it should be recognized that NASAC has a litany of responsibilities pertaining to organizing events, writing articles, and facilitating communication. Considering that the council experiences high turnover and are comprised of graduate students, the “projects” identified may require additional support from other committees, the Board of Directors, and the SNA office staff. The NASAC leadership chose issues that can be considered “projects” and prepared “Long Range Plan Project Descriptions” as requested by the Board of Directors. The Projects identified by NASAC for 2018 - 2019 are as follows:

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

**Committee/IG Action Plan – 2018-2019**

**Committee/IG name:** North America Student Advisory Council

**Chairperson:** Leah Thornton

**Steering committee members:** Leah Thornton, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair

**SNA Board liaison(s):** Sue Robinson

Committee/IG nexus to SNA long-range plan (***bold italics*** indicate which of the four pillars of the LRP is the *principal focus* of the Committee/IG's activities in 2018-2019):

1. Enhance Recognition & Advancement
  2. ***Maximize Relevance & Impact***
  3. Promote Interdisciplinary, Tripartite Problem Solving
  4. ***Expand Member Services & Revenue Streams***
- 

**Committee/IG project name: Develop an organized structure within NASAC to facilitate Young Environmental Scientist (YES) Meetings**

**Project manager:** Leah Thornton, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair, 2018 & 2020 YES Program Committees

**Milestones (products and dates):**

- **Identify current challenges facing YES Program Committees by seeking targeted feedback from immediate past YES Program Committees (YES 2018, 2016) and the current YES Program Committee (YES 2020). January 2019.**
- **Address current challenges facing YES Program Committees:**
  - **1) Update YES SOP to provide possible solutions to identified challenges. May 2019.**
  - **2) Generate organized repository of guidance documents for current and future YES Program Committees. Documents may be included in SOP. May 2019/Ongoing.**
  - **3) Implement updates to SOP in the planning of YES 2020. May 2019/Ongoing.**
- **Collect feedback from YES 2020 Program Committee on the success of implemented updates and changes. April 2020.**

**What support is the Committee/IG seeking 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 the project support the implementation of SNA's LRP?** This project will ensure that knowledge gained by previous YES Program Committees will not be lost following the YES meeting. This project will also ensure the success of future YES meetings by ensuring that "lessons learned" by previous YES Program Committees will be effectively implemented at subsequent meetings. In addition, the effective organization and dissemination of knowledge, expertise and useful materials to the Program Committee will reduce frustration and fatigue of the current Program Committee and enhance the quality of the meeting. This will in turn attract more students and early career scientists to the YES meeting each year ultimately

enhancing the quality of science presented at YES meetings as well as increasing student and early career member engagement within SETAC.

---

**Committee/IG project name: Develop a fundraising strategy to support student activities at the annual SETAC North America meeting and the Young Environmental Scientists (YES) Meeting to reduce donor fatigue and student frustration.**

**Project manager(s):** Leah Thornton, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair, NASAC Fundraising Committee

**Milestones (products and dates):**

- **Identify current challenges facing NASAC/YES Fundraising Committees by seeking targeted feedback from immediate past Fundraising Committee members. January 2019.**
- **Seek feedback and advice from SETAC Office and other Committee(s)/IG(s) that also regularly fundraise to support activities and meetings. January 2019.**
- **Develop organizational structure to coordinate fundraising with SETAC Office. January 2019.**
- **Develop strategy to effectively identify potential donors for both SETAC NA student activities and YES meeting. May 2019.**
- **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. May 2019.**
- **Create Fundraising Best Practices Guide for use by Fundraising Committees. May 2019.**
- **Liaise with the SETAC Communications team to improve messaging associated with fundraising and sponsor recognition.**

**What support is the Committee/IG seeking from the SNA Board?** Any advice that the members of the BoD may offer based on their experience with other IGs, committees or the SETAC office is most welcome. NASAC is seeking to revise current fundraising strategies to increase efficiency and effectiveness while reducing donor fatigue.

**What (if any) other Committee(s)/IG(s) are collaborating on the project?** NASAC will seek to communicate regularly with past and current Program Committees as well as the Development Committee to gain advice as well as avoid contacting potential donors that may have already been contacted by another group within SETAC.

**How will the project support the implementation of SNA's LRP?** Fundraising for both student activities as well as the YES meeting has been a challenge for NASAC in previous years. Though these events have always been successful due to the continued support of SETAC NA and the Board of Directors. NASAC will seek to revise and enhance current fundraising strategies to increase the amount of funds raised and, as a result, enhance the quality of the programming provided for students at the annual NA meeting and YES meeting. Through this effort, NASAC hopes to expand services for student members as well as reduce donor fatigue and student frustration.

---

**Committee/IG project name: Provide consistent and informative communications to increase student participation and development.**

**Project manager(s):** Leah Thornton, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair, NASAC Social Media Committee

**Milestones (products and dates):**

- **Seek feedback from the SETAC student membership at large to determine general knowledge and awareness of student activities and visibility of NASAC. January 2019.**
- **Identify benchmarks to increase NASAC presence on social media by increasing number of posts, improving content and gaining followers. January 2019.**
- **Increase the visibility and accessibility of NASAC members at national and regional meetings to encourage student participation in NASAC activities. Ongoing.**

**What support is the Committee/IG seeking from the SNA Board?** None at this time.

**What (if any) other Committee(s)/IG(s) are collaborating on the project?** NASAC will seek the assistance of the SETAC office in possibly surveying students regarding the knowledge and awareness of student activities and visibility of NASAC.

**How will the project support the implementation of SNA's LRP?** NASAC will seek to enhance its visibility to student members of SETAC to increase student participation in NASAC activities. In this manner, NASAC hopes to increase the quality of student membership within SETAC, helping to ensure member participation and the future of the society. It is also anticipated that increased student participation will also provide a diverse number of perspectives that NASAC may consider when advocating for students and planning student activities. This will also contribute to the increased an increase in the quality of student activities in addition to a more meaningful member experience.

**Committee/IG project name: Enhance communication between student advisory councils at the global level**

**Project manager(s):** Leah Thornton, Incoming NASAC Vice Chair

**Milestones (products and dates):**

- **Regularly participate in SETAC World Congress conference calls with student representatives from other GUs. Ongoing.**
- **Schedule regular communication between student representatives from other GUs by frequent contact (e.g. email, conference calls, meetings). Ongoing.**
- **Seek informal input and information/document sharing between student representatives from other GUs (e.g. sharing of agendas and minutes). Ongoing.**

**What support is the Committee/IG seeking 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 the project support the implementation of SNA's LRP?** NASAC will promote student connections at a global level by facilitating frequent communication between student representatives of different GUs. Regular communication will promote the sharing of information and ideas between GUs regarding various student activities. This upcoming year, NASAC plans to update and revise strategies for both YES meeting planning and fundraising (Long Range Projects 1,2). It is likely that the student advisory committees of other GUs have valuable input regarding these efforts. Therefore, increasing student

communication between GUs will allow for effective and useful information sharing as well as the strengthening of relationships between GUs.