

# SETAC Student News

Notes and Updates from the

SETAC North America Student Advisory Council

Volume 3, No. 2. December 2009



## Message from the NASAC Chair

Well, another year is coming to a close and we are ready to welcome 2010! And what a year this was! I hope that most of you had the chance to come celebrate SETAC North America's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in New Orleans. The annual meeting was packed with presentations from across many disciplines and it was great to see so many people networking – catching up with old friends or making some new ones along the way. Check out our newsletter that highlights the winners of our art contest and the request for your input on our survey (did you know you have a chance to win an iPod Shuffle (2GB) if you fill out the survey?); the deadline has been extended to January 31, 2010. Something new to our newsletter – an introduction to a few of SETAC's committees. We are highlighting the Student Activities Committee and Membership Committee who are looking for student volunteers to help out.

I really want to thank all of the members of NASAC that helped out with organizing some of the fun activities we've had – the art contest and meeting and greeting the students by our NASAC booth. It just goes to show you that the many successes we've shared throughout this year have come from the hard-work and dedication that our members provide to us and SETAC as a whole. If you are interested in helping us with student initiatives, contact any of our members!

With the New Year just around the corner, we are already planning for our next SETAC meeting and student activities! If you have any suggestions for the next meeting, please pass them on to us – we want to know!

Wishing you and your friends and family a Happy New Year!

Juliska Princz, NASAC Chairperson

## Student Art Contest Captures Images of Dynamic Systems

Submitted by: Barbara Beckingham, Chesapeake-Potomac Student Board Member



The theme of SETAC North America's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in New Orleans held this past November was "Human-Environmental Interactions: Understanding Change in Dynamic Systems". NASAC challenged student members of SETAC to channel their perspective on this years' theme into a creative work of art. Winners were announced and artwork displayed at the NASAC/Student Activities Council booth in

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# NASAC Art Contest Winners

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New Orleans, and cash prizes awarded for the following participants:

**1<sup>st</sup> place** \$75 prize: Jia Guo, Rutgers University

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** \$50 prize: Josh Stout, Fairleigh Dickinson University

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** \$25 prize: Stephan van der Heijden, Utrecht University

The winning submission was a photograph of human influence on the landscape taken by Jia Guo during a transcontinental flight as the plane descended outside of San Diego, CA.



*How Far Can We Go?*

The second prize winner, Josh Stout, submitted a photograph of a spartina salt marsh near the Rutgers University Marine Field Station in Little Egg Harbor Township New Jersey. Josh describes salt marsh tidal estuaries as one of the most dynamic ecosystems.



Stephan van der Heijden received third prize for a digital image he created exploring the task of investigating and problem-solving in dynamic environmental systems. Contest organizers thank all participants and look forward to holding the contest as an annual event.

## SETAC On-line Communities

Do you want to connect with other SETAC student members or committees or advisory groups? How about find out the latest on upcoming events? The SETAC Communities Portal is a great on-line tool to help you stay connected! Go to <http://www.setac.org/node/156> to learn how to get connected, and visit <http://communities.setac.net> to log on!

To help get you started:

Click on the **Communities** link on SETAC's home page (<http://www.setac.org>)

Click on the "**HERE**" directly under **SETAC Communities** (i.e., "**Click HERE to go directly to SETAC Communities.**")

Log-in using your Username (e.g., last name) and Password (e.g., your SETAC membership number)

Locate the advisory group, regional chapter, upcoming meetings, technical area or open communities that interest you to start learning about and interacting with forum of your interest!

## SETAC Student Awards

Did you know there are a number of awards for SETAC student members that you are eligible for? Check out <http://www.setac.org/node/80> for more information!

Congratulations to the many SETAC student members who were awarded travel awards to help support their attendance at this year's meeting. Congratulations are also in order for the graduate students awarded best platform and poster presentations; you can find the award recipients posted here: <http://www.setac.org/node/83>.

**Remember – check out the possible awards that you could be eligible for at next year's meeting! You can find the student awards on the SETAC website here: <http://www.setac.org/node/68>.**

### SETAC-ACS ENVR Student Exchange Program

SETAC and the American Chemical Society (ACS) Environmental Division have developed a **Graduate Student Exchange Program** to expand the professional and scientific interactions of student members of both organizations, and to promote networking between the ACS and SETAC. **One annual award will be issued to an eligible SETAC student member in the amount of \$1,000 for attendance at the Fall ACS meeting** that is held in the calendar year following the SETAC North America Annual meeting at which the award is judged. For 2009, two awards will be issued – one for the Spring 2010 ACS meeting in San Francisco, and the other for the Fall 2010 ACS meeting in Boston. **Did you miss the deadline this year? Check out <http://www.setac.org/node/335> for the deadline so that you don't miss this opportunity next year!**

Congratulations to Usman Khan, a graduate student at McGill University (Quebec, Canada), who was the recipient of the exchange award from ACS ENVR to attend the SETAC NA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. He provided a platform presentation entitled "Measurements versus modelling for predicting environmental risks posed by the presence of pharmaceutically active compounds: A Canadian case study."

## Get to Know SETAC's Committees

This section is new to the Newsletter. In order to help you get to know your SETAC community better, we are highlighting some committees that you might be interested in joining. First up – here are two committees that are looking for student representation! What a better way to network with SETAC members and help make a difference!

### Membership Committee

The SETAC North America Membership Committee is inviting a student member to join their group. This member would act as a representative for membership issues related to students. The committee recognizes that student members lay important groundwork for a strong society and is interested in receiving greater input from student members. The duties of the Membership Committee include recommending criteria for membership, coordinating new member solicitation and acting as liaison between the membership and the Board on matters relating to membership status and dues. The time commitment includes attending 5 conference calls during the year (for 1 hour each), plus a face-to-face meeting at the SETAC NA Annual Meeting. Some of the priorities for 2010 include:

*Outreach to Regional Chapters (as a source of new members, students, profs, etc.)*

*Outreach to Mexico (assisting with planning a Focused Topic Meeting for Mexico in 2011)*

*Reviewing options for group memberships*

*Outreach to chemists*

*Outreach to human health risk assessors*

Are you interested? Please contact either Ruth Hull ([rhull@intrinsikscience.com](mailto:rhull@intrinsikscience.com)) or Juliska Princz ([Juliska.Princz@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Juliska.Princz@ec.gc.ca)).

### Student Activities Committee

The Student Activities Committee is looking for student volunteers to participate on the committee. Get involved and work alongside members from the NASAC to enhance student participation as

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## SETAC Committees

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well as to plan and coordinate the student program for SETAC NA Annual Meetings. This is your chance to provide input on what type of activities (lunchtime seminars, social activities, etc.) you would like to see at SETAC NA Annual Meetings. Participation on the committee is a great way to share your ideas on how to make SETAC NA better for students, to meet professionals in environmental toxicology and chemistry and to gain valuable volunteer experience. SETAC NA wants your input! Contact Cindy Howard, SAC Chair ([howardc@uhcl.edu](mailto:howardc@uhcl.edu)) or Juliska Princz, NASAC Chair ([Juliska.Princz@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Juliska.Princz@ec.gc.ca)) for more information. To learn more about the Student Activities Committee and other SETAC NA committees, visit <http://www.setac.org/node/130>.

## Upcoming Events in SETAC

Check [www.setac.org](http://www.setac.org) for more information on the meetings listed below:

### **20<sup>th</sup> SETAC Europe Annual Meeting**

Science and Technology for Environmental Protection

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Seville, Spain

### **SETAC Asia/Pacific Annual Meeting**

Balance between Economic Growth and Environmental Protection: Sustainability through Better Science

June 4<sup>th</sup> – June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Guangzhou, China

### **31<sup>st</sup> SETAC North America Annual Meeting**

Bridging Science with Communities

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> – Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Portland, Oregon

## Regional Chapter News

### **Various Toxicological Issues Interest Laurentian Chapter**

Submitted by: Rebecca Dalton, Laurentian Chapter NASAC Board Member



The Laurentian Chapter of SETAC has been hard at work! We are pleased to bring you an update on our latest activities.

#### **2009 Annual General Meeting:**

14<sup>th</sup> AGM and Conference- June 19 2009, Ottawa

- *Theme:* Integrating Past, Present and Future Issues in Environmental Toxicology

- *Plenary Speakers:*

**Rob Letcher** (Environment Canada) - *Is there a case of thyroid hormone-related effect in wildlife exposed to persistent organohalogen contaminants or metabolites?*

**Roland Hosein** (GE Canada) - *Nanomaterials Toxicity: how much do we know?*

**Miriam Diamond** (Univ. of Toronto) - *The science, art and politics of “chemicals management”*

- *Tours:* Univ. of Ottawa’s Aquatic Care Facility & Lab. for the Analysis of Natural & Commercial Environmental Toxins

- *Awards:*

**Travel Awards:** Dana Moore, Univ. of Manitoba (Minnow Environmental), Erin Leonard, McMaster Univ. (SENES Consultants), Benjamin de Jourdan, Univ. of Guelph (Ontario Ministry of the Environment)

**Best Poster Awards:** Honours - Dana Moore, Univ. of Manitoba (Intrinsic Environmental), MSc - Jessica Rahn, Univ. of Guelph (Aquatox Testing)

**Best Oral Presentation Awards:** MSc - Tim Seabert, Univ. of Ottawa (Dillon Consulting), PhD - Jan Mennigen, Univ. of Ottawa (Intrinsic Environmental)

Stayed tuned for details regarding our 15<sup>th</sup> AGM

## Toxicology education is a priority for Llano Estacado Student Chapter of South Central Region

Submitted by: Jennifer Cole



The Llano Estacado Student Chapter (LE-SETAC), part of the South Central Region, has significantly contributed to toxicology education as part of their chapter's service activities this spring and fall. Part of this initiative involved primary education outreach. We wanted to develop a program for first graders to enhance their environmental literacy and show how they, even as first graders, have an impact on the environment. We began this outreach endeavor for Earth Day celebrations last spring and continued it by teaching this fall. We taught environmental toxicology to over 150 first graders of Northridge Elementary in Lubbock, Texas! We gave a brief presentation, followed by mock experiments showing them their impact on the environment and how they can make a difference. The demonstrations were a great success and the teachers are excited to have us come back in the spring and continue this next year!

The Llano Estacado Student Chapter of SETAC would like to issue a challenge to other student organizations to educate our future generations of environmentalists, toxicologists and others to provide an awareness of the impacts we have on our environment. Featured below is a collage of photos from our outreach. LE-SETAC member participants were: *Sandy Wiggins, Kim Wooten, Greg Zychowski, Anna Hoffarth, Kaylyn Germ, Dave Kimberly, Nikitha Gutha, Babina Shrestha, Morgan Willming, Nina Dacko, Anjan Dani and Jennifer Cole.*



## Environment is both theme and fun for Ozark-Prairie Chapter

Submitted by: Ashley Jessick, Ozark-Prairie NASAC Board Member



On July 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> we held our annual regional chapter meeting at Shaw Nature Reserve in Gray Summit, MO. This was such a great place to enjoy nature and talk science we decided to host here again, but this time with the theme of Multiple Stressors in Urban and Agricultural Environments. The meeting was well attended with 26 people from 5 states encompassing a wide variety of sectors and interests. The student award winners were:

### Poster Session:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Craig Stanley, Oklahoma State University

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – David Dimitrie, Southern Illinois University

### MS Student Platform Session:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ashley Jessick, Iowa State University

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Ian Murphy, Iowa State University

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## Laurentian Chapter Update

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and Conference to be held June 4<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Southern Ontario!

### **Short Courses:**

June 18- Ottawa- *Radioactivity in the Environment: An Ecotoxicological Approach*

Led by **Dr. Dave Rodgers** (Consultant) with presentations by **Dr. Bliss Tracy** (Health Canada) & **Dr. Steve Mihok** (Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission), with over 60 participants.

Sept. 18- Etobicoke- *Ecotoxicological Risk Assessment*

Taught by **Professor Keith. R. Solomon, Ph.D.**, University of Guelph, over 50 participants attended.

Our next short course will focus on issues surrounding Nanomaterials and will be held in Ottawa during the Fall 2010.

## Upcoming Regional Chapter Meetings

### Midwest Regional Chapter

3M Customer Innovation Center St. Paul, MN  
March 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### North Atlantic Regional Chapter

Village Inn Resort & Conference Center,  
Narragansett, RI – June 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### Northern California Regional Chapter

UC Berkeley Clark-Kerr Campus – Berkeley, CA  
May 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### Ozark-Prairie Regional Chapter

CERC & Stephens Park – Columbia, MO,  
May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2010

### Pacific Northwest Regional Chapter

Fort Worden State Park Conference Center  
Port Townsend, WA – Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### Rocky Mountain Regional Chapter

Apr. 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Abstracts due Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

### South Central Regional Chapter

Texas Tech University at Junction  
Llano River Field Station  
Lubbock, TX – 2010

## NASAC Member Updates

### New NASAC Board Additions for 2009

Barbara Beckingham – Chesapeake-Potomac

Gina Richardson – Ohio Valley

Rebecca Dalton - Laurentian

Pravin Punamiya – Hudson Delaware

Kristin Shirey – South Eastern

Ma del Carmen Guzman Mtz – Mexico



### New NASAC Members at Large for 2009

Paul Messing – Canada Prairies

Reginald Adiele – North Atlantic

Debra Joseph – Chesapeake-Potomac



### Retiring NASAC Board Members for 2009

Moira McKernan – Chesapeake-Potomac

Nicole Knezevich – Laurentian

Annie Jacob – Ohio Valley

Jonathan Bernier – Quebec / St. Laurent

Sean Bugel – Hudson Delaware

Suzy Baird – South Eastern

**The SETAC North America  
Student Advisory Council  
wishes you all the best  
for the coming New Year!**