The Oceanography Society was founded in 1988 to disseminate knowledge of oceanography and its application through research & education, to promote communication among oceanographers, and to provide a constituency for consensus-building across all disciplines of the field.
Membership as of August 2016

Total = 2426
Regular = 805 (33%)
Life & Sponsoring = 281 (12%)
Students = 1340 (55%) up from 46% in 2015
Oceanography Magazine:

Special Issue research overview focus supported primarily by Federal agencies.
March 2016 Graduate Education in the Ocean Sciences, NASA, NSF support
What’s Right and What’s Wrong with Graduate Education in the Ocean Sciences?

Town Hall at Ocean Sciences Meeting
New Orleans

February 24, 2016
Pre-OSM meeting surveys:

What do students, faculty & non-academic professionals think about

graduate training,
jobs & careers
Number of Respondents and Countries Represented

Student N = 184; Early Career N = 58; Mid Career N = 152
How confident are you about finding your desired type of employment?

How confident are you that recent graduates in ocean sciences will easily find employment in the field of ocean sciences?

G test, frequency variables
Students vs. mid career NS
Students vs. early career pattern is different @ P=0.005347
Rank the level of training you received or are receiving in graduate school.
Rank the level of training you received or are receiving in graduate school
Rank the level of training you received or are receiving in graduate school.
Compare the level of training you would like to receive with the level of training you are receiving in your graduate program

All Gs above P=0.01. Smallest - research; biggest - leadership & networking
For Students: Please indicate your interest in working in the areas shown.

For Early Career: Which areas match your long-term career interests?

For Mid-Career: Which areas do you think students want to pursue?
For Students: Please indicate your interest in working in the areas shown.
For Early Career: Which areas match your long-term career interests?
For Mid-Career: Which areas do you think students want to pursue?
For Students: Please indicate your interest in working in the areas shown.
For Early Career: Which areas match your long-term career interests?
For Mid-Career: Which areas do you think students want to pursue?
For Students: Please indicate your interest in working in the areas shown

For Early Career: Which areas match your long-term career interests?
Do you agree that current graduate students in ocean sciences are receiving the appropriate training for the current job market?
Town Hall
Discussion groups + Questions from President Lozier

• What should stay the same about graduate education?

• What should change?
‘Good things’ about OS graduate education?

Quality, breadth and/or depth of training

Societal and planetary relevance of ocean research

High quality faculty

Transdisciplinary teamwork

International interactions (cruises, workshops, conferences)

TOS
The Oceanography Society
What should change?

Programmatic:

* More individualized mentoring

* More focus on ‘the softer skills’

* More curricular flexibility (‘cross-over’ courses, off-campus workshops, Internet seminars)

* More career path information & guidance (non academic + academic)

* More convergence in communication styles (email vs. social media tools)
What should change?

Systemic questions

*Should MS degree education be funded as well as doctoral?*

*Should there be more fellowships and fewer research assistantships?*

*What is an appropriate balance between grad. student, postdoc and early career support?*
Current Benefits for Students:

Free membership

Career information and topical overviews on website and in Oceanography
Future Benefits for Students:

New Mentoring Program

Expanded Travel Awards
New Mentoring Pilot

MPOWIR model: 5-7 young professionals (students, postdocs, early career) led by 2 senior oceanographers, monthly mentoring teleconferences, 2 year commitment, perceived as highly effective

On-line pilot Jan 2017. 2 student groups + 2 leaders with diverse careers

S. Lozier’s Column: http://dx.doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2016.65
Current Travel Award Program:

Five $500 awards for 2016 OSM

Option under discussion:

$ for non-meeting travel/other support to off campus sites (academic & non-academic)

Similar models:

SAML Student Support Program, Oct. 31 deadline for 2016
NSF GRFP GRIP (Graduate Research Internship Program)
NSF GRFP GROW (Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide)
TOS dedicated Student Webpage... http://tos.org/opportunities
Information on current resources and programs + future opportunities

Stay Tuned!