

The News Reel

The Education Section of the American Fisheries Society Newsletter



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President's Line



Greetings, Education Section!

By now, the AFS Annual Meeting is a distant memory, and we're barreling toward the holidays. As I look back to my first section meeting as president, I smile. After the challenges around the Baltimore 2021 meeting, it was wonderful to see a packed room (and hit quorum!) at Spokane. Of course, we had great food and adult beverages, as usual (thank you, Marty!). We were fortunate to have a past-president of the National Association of University Fish and Wildlife Programs (NAUFWP), Selina Happel, to talk about the AFS-NAUFWP

memorandum of understanding. I look forward to working with NAUFWP as a section. The rest of our meeting was filled with educator and student recognitions and rousing discussions of what we could do as a section. Be sure to read all about this in our meeting minutes (thank you again, Marty!).

The next day, we had a small, but mighty symposium on rising to the challenges of teaching in the time of COVID and how that might inform education moving forward. A huge hank you to our other speakers – Kyler Hecke, Don Orth, and Brittany Palm-Flawd – for sharing your experiences and generating some great discussions! If you have not had a chance to watch their recorded presentations from the Spokane meeting website, I highly recommend! Look for a summary of the symposium later in the newsletter and in the December issue of *Fisheries* magazine.

Now, on to Year 2 in my office! This year, we'll be building our momentum from last year and welcoming some new faces to our leadership team, particularly in our Division Representatives. Thank you to Henry Hershey, representing the Southern Division, and Joe Zydlewski, representing the Northeastern Division! And thank you to all of our returning leaders in 2023. This section isn't able to do the good work that it does without your time and efforts.

I will be working with our leaders on efforts like articles for *Fisheries*, new social media accounts to communicate with our members and students, and updates to our website. And we're always looking for more ideas and help to keep our section thriving. Share those with me at any time.

I also want to challenge each of you to encourage your students – undergrad and grad – to

President's Line (continued)

apply for an Education Section Award, whether that be the Skinner Memorial Award, the Best Student Presentation/Poster, the Student Writing Contest, etc., in 2023. We have lots to celebrate in our future professionals, so let's get those submissions numbers up!

I hope you enjoy the rest of fall and cheers to 2023!

Sincerely,

Melissa

Stay in the current like a fish and follow on social media!!



@AFS_Students



Facebook

Or bookmark it:



students.fisheries.org



education.fisheries.org

Spokane Symposium Summary!

Experiences with and Views of Online Learning in the Aftermath Campus Shutdowns

Symposium Organizer: [Melissa Wuellner](#) | August 22nd, 2022

The Education Section sponsored a small but awesome symposium addressing what we learned from the rapid shift to online learning in spring 2020. Three in-person and one virtual speaker presented on various topics. Melissa Wuellner from the University of Nebraska at Kearney presented survey data on instructor and student attitudes toward the online shift in 2020. Kyler Hecke from Arkansas Tech University described some of the lessons learned from taking a traditional field-based course from the University of Tennessee where he was a teaching assistant to an online format quickly. Brittany Palm-Flawd from Bellingham Technical College presented on flipping courses in an aquaculture program in order to adapt to restrictions to in-person teaching. Don Orth from Virginia Polytechnic University provided 10 lessons learned from online teaching that apply to the future of fish conservation and management. Following all live presentations, the speakers and audience engaged in further discussions on lessons learned from the pandemic that can be applied to teaching and education moving forward. Special thanks are extended to all of our presenters and for our active and engaged audience for an excellent conversation!



**EDUCATION SECTION
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY**

*Annual Business Meeting
Sunday, August 21, 2022; 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Local Time
Davenport Grand Maple Ballroom*

- I. Welcome – 3:35 start time
- II. Introduction of Guests – Melissa acknowledged past presidents. Selina Heppell from NAUFWP provided a couple minutes to talk about the organization. Talked about the creation of the MOU, which should establish a partnership with the society. In the future, the organization will be working on housing for students, reduced rates, etc. Will have a booth at the tradeshow.
- III. Comments by AFS Officers in attendance
 - a. Brian Murphy – Provided comments from Leanne Roulson. The Hutton Summit – all Hutton scholars went to Bozeman. Participants (22 of 30 total) were there for 3 days and got to visit with federal biologists and faculty from Montana State.
 - i. Revising of the procedural manual will be occurring in the upcoming year – if you are attached to some form of administration, you will be hearing from Leanne in the coming year.
- IV. Determination of a Quorum – 35 members
- V. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Joe Margraff motioned; Steve Lochman seconded. Motion passed
- VI. Approval of Minutes from 2021 Business Meeting
 - a. Kyle motioned; Mark Fincel seconded. Motion passed
- VII. Treasurer’s Report (Marty Hamel)- No motion needed, but the report was accepted.
- VIII. Division Representative Reports:
 - i. No reps were present at the meeting. Melissa talked about a document that the reps Vaskar Nepal and Lisa Eby put together about what we can do if someone from the section passes away. We currently do not have anything in our procedures on how to navigate this. Three options were presented in the document and discussed in the meeting.
 - ii. Questions:
 1. Can all three options be adopted? It kind of depends on the person and the role that they had in their professional position.
 2. Mark Fincel commented that we do not make a formal document
 3. Christine Moffit – If the awards have no constraints, it would function better.
 4. Selina Heppell – think about what is best for our current awards and then think about what is most valuable to the family of the deceased.
 - b. Northeastern (Randy Jackson)
 - c. North Central (Andrew Hafs)
 - d. Southern Division (Vaskar Nepal)
 - e. Western (Lisa Eby)
- IX. Committee Reports
 - a) Newsletter (Hadley Boehm and Sara Mueller)

- a. Hadley was not present. Melissa gave the report – Hadley and Sara are working to revitalize the newsletter. The editors wanted us to ask what folks want out of the newsletter.
 - i. Kyle Hartman said we should do a survey to gauge what type of information they like
 - ii. What is being done in the Education scene and how is it impacting me as a student, faculty member, etc.
 - iii. Kyler, student highlight, early career professional highlight – interviews/bios
 - iv. Innovation corner
 - v. Jeff Jolley – subunit updates are good (doesn't have to be all inclusive)
 - vi. Chapter newsletter info can be inserted
 - vii. Education content across all the levels of AFS
 - b) Web Page (Bryan Minihan)
 - i. No report
 - c) Excellence in Fisheries Education Award (Dan Hayes)
 - i. Dan – not present
 - 1. It is a society level award administered by AFS. This year's winner is Dr. Derek Ogle.
 - 2. New award – early career excellence in fish education. This was administered by the Education Section.
 - a. The winner (Josh Perkin) was not able to attend. Melissa read part of the award nomination.
 - d) Skinner Award (John Hargrove)
 - i. There were 6 professionals that reviewed applications. Only had 17 applicants from 14 universities and 2 different countries. The 10 winners and 5 honorable mentions were announced.
 - ii. There was discussion about the merits of the award. Joe Margraff said he doesn't like to nominate students who have the means to go, but then several people indicated that the award is more than just travel. The Skinner Award is merit based and encourages participation with AFS.
 - e) Best Student Paper-Poster 2021 Awardees (Dan Shoup, Kyle Hartman, and Marty Hamel)
 - i. Information on previous winners were announced.
 - f) Best Student Paper-Poster 2022 Symposia (Dan Shoup, Kyle Hartman, and Marty Hamel)
 - i. Talked about the number of applicants for this year's award.
 - ii. Melissa talked about the new format how it has gone virtually so that students can also participate at the meeting in whatever symposium they choose. The competition has run this way since 2020, and the number of applicants remains low. Additional work to promote the award and application process were discussed.
 - g) Early Career Professional Awardees (Dan Weaver, Mike Lawrence)
 - i. No report, not present.
 - h) Membership & Early Career Professional Committee (Dan Weaver, Mike Lawrence)
 - i. No report, not present
 - i) Undergraduate Travel Award (Mike Lawrence)
 - i. Not present, but Cortney Brown presented a report. She told us that the committee awarded 4 students for the Undergraduate Travel Award.
 - j) Nominating (Trent Sutton)
-

- i. Northeast and North Central division reps will be rotating off. NE will be filled by Joe Last name? and NCD will be Vaskar Nepal; therefore, SD will be filled by Hank Hershey.
 - ii. Next year, will be looking for Western division and NCD reps.
 - iii. For the executive committee, Trent will be rotating off this next year and Marty will roll into president. Will need new president-elect and secretary/treasurer nominees.
 - k) Experiential Learning Committee (Amanda Rosenberger, Allison Coulter)
 - i. Not present – Ad hoc committee formed a few years ago. Previous committee members were tasked to write an article about internship experiences in Fisheries. They submitted it and got comments back, but then got stalled out. Allison and Amanda are currently revising the manuscript to be resubmitted.
 - l) Education Section Sponsored Webinar Series (Kiah Wright, Andrew Carlson)
 - i. Not present – A few years ago, they surveyed to gauge interest in topics for Education Sponsored webinars. Kiah and Andrew revisited the topics to see what seminars haven't been addressed yet. If you have any suggestions for seminar topics, email the committee chairs.
 - m) AFS Student Writing Contest (Trent Sutton)
 - i. Opportunity for undergrad and grad students to write 700 words describing their research. Applications are in the spring. No submission this year, despite several people writing to ask questions about the contest. Need to think about some new ways to market/communicate the opportunity.
 - 1. Questions/comments:
 - a. This opportunity could be paired with the Science and Communication section.
 - b. Does the writing have to be about the research? Expand about their education experience as a student. Maybe get more interesting essays and more participants.
 - c. What is the purpose of the award? Is it to reward writing, or communication of our research?
 - d. Is this advertised on social media? It has not because we haven't had a strong social media presence (from the Ed Section).
 - e. The Section should do additional outreach to the academic advisors. Also, we could increase communication with the student subunits to get this information out.
 - f. We need to do a better job of active recruiting. Can't rely on post and pray.
- X. Additional Reports
- a) Student Subsection (Mike Lawrence)
 - a. Cortney Brown – had a symposium at AFS but had to be cancelled. They supported some of the Western Division efforts to organize the student events. Victor (recipient of the undergraduate travel award) – been working with him to start a chapter in Nigeria. President will be stepping down and Taylor will be the incoming president. Have been trying to advertise these events with their social media channels – and more of that in the future.
 - b) Social Media (Amanda Bevans, Amber Staples, and Macey Rowan)
 - a. Melissa mentioned earlier that they are developing a plan as part of the communications team to get our word out about opportunities, updates, etc.
- XI. Out-going Division Representatives and Officers (Trent Sutton, Melissa Wuellner)
- i. Trent already talked about who's terms are expiring.
- XII. President Comments and new Division Representatives Installment (Melissa Wuellner)

- i. Melissa provided her plan of work last year and talked about how we have been making good strides. Melissa talked about our good financial state and how it is important to keep the progress going. Talked about the potential for growth in recruiting students.

XVI. Funding Requests

- a) Update on IFMNA4 (Mike Quist)
 - i. No funding requests from this year
 - ii. Mike Quist – update from last year. Foresee some big changes in this edition. They have identified a steering committee made up of Ed and Fish Management section member, academics, and state employees. Have done a survey to decipher topics – had about 250 responses. This fall, come up with a structure for the book (identify authors). Have outlines by summer/spring. Next year, drafts done, revisions. Funds from the Ed. Section will be going to graphic artists. Different price points for students vs. professionals.

XVII. Other Business

- a) Discussion of Education Section Financial Information and Planning
 - i. Marty Hamel provided an update on the financial status of the Section. Talked about investment strategies and financial planning for the future. 0
- b) Posthumous Honoring Policies
 - i. See above
- c) AFS Student Recruitment/Support Inventory

XVIII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 5:35 PM

Interested in getting involved with the Education Section?!

Click [HERE](#) for more information about standing committee chairs and contact information.

2022-23 ES EX COMM

President

Melissa Wuellner

President-Elect

Marty Hamel

Past President

Trent Sutton

Secretary-Treasurer

Marty Hamel

Division Representatives

North-Central—Jon Spurgeon

Northeastern—Joe Zydlewski

Southern—Henry Hershey

Western—Andy Seitz

Don't forget to renew your AFS Membership!!



Don't Miss Out — Renew Today!

Renew your AFS Membership today to continue enjoying the plethora of resources that help members **Connect, Advance, and Save** in their careers as a fisheries professional!

American Fisheries Society | www.fisheries.org | membership@fisheries.org | 301-897-8616



Student & Early Career Professionals (SECP) Subsection Update

Submitted by the Taylor Heckman, SECP President

The Student and Early Career Professionals (SECP) Subsection is gearing up for 2023! Over the past year, the SECP community worked to incorporate and navigate the changes that the pandemic brought. Despite restrictions on travel, the hybrid format of the AFS Annual Meeting offered a different option for students to attend from afar, and the Undergraduate Travel Assistance Award (UTAA) helped to support virtual or in-person attendance to four talented individuals from different regions of the United States and Nigeria – K Wolf, Andrea Casey, Mariaguadalupe Vilchez, and Victor Awugo. We are looking forward to even stronger representation in Grand Rapids next year, with additional career development and networking events. There has also been significant effort by our regional representatives to check in with our widespread AFS student subsections and chapters. Local chapters are keystones in the

growing AFS student and professional network. The SECP has been compiling an updated list of active units and contacts, so students can find out if they have a local chapter or be able to start their own. Keep an eye out on our website <https://students.fisheries.org/> for the results! With the help of the Education Section, we are also planning to update our Resources Page with the many awards geared towards student and early career members of the AFS. We aim to increase communication of these and other opportunities in 2023 so that our members get the best out of what AFS has to offer. If you are interested in contributing to these efforts, please reach out even if you would like to participate as a non-officer! Don't hesitate to email afsstudent@gmail.com with any questions about getting involved, or to share your thoughts and ideas. We are here to act on behalf of all students and early career

professionals. officer, please reach out to your division representative below to help us complete this task and improve future communications!

President

[Taylor Heckman](#)

President-Elect

VOTE!

Past President

[Mike Lawrence](#)

Secretary-Treasurer

VOTE!

VOTING IS UNDERWAY FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT, SECRETARY/TREASURER AND ALL DIVISION REPS

CANDIDATE BIOS

CAST YOUR BALLET BY JANUARY 5TH, 2023!

Upcoming Meetings

Midwestern Fish and Wildlife Conference

February 12-15, 2023 | Overland Park, KS



Southern Division of the AFS Annual Meeting

February 2-5, 2023 | Norfolk, VA

Joint Meeting of the Northeast Division of the AFS and the Southern New England Chapter

January 8-10, 2023 | Boston, MA



Southern New England Chapter

of the American Fisheries Society



Western Division of the AFS Annual Meeting

May 8-11, 2023 | Boise, ID



WESTERN DIVISION
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY
MANAGING AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS AND SHIFTING BASELINES
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
BOISE, ID 2023



SECP Secretary-Treasurer Cortney Brown (left) presented four UTAA to undergraduate students (left to right): Andrea Casey, K Wolf, Mariaguadalupe Vilchez, and Victor Awugo (not pictured) at the ES business meeting in Spokane.



John Hargrove (right) presented Skinner awards to Taylor Cabbage (left) and Susan Frawley (center) at the ES business meeting. Additional 2022 Skinner award winners included: Hadley Boehm, Michael Curtis, Logan Cutler, Matea Djokic, Aaron Gray, Hanna Mulligan, Katrina Zarrella-Smith, and Ryan Tharp.

Comments or suggestions are always welcome! Please feel free to contact us at any time.

We encourage submissions and ideas for future issues of the newsletter.


Meet the Editors



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