



EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SECTION

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY ■ STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

American Fisheries Society - Equal Opportunity Section

ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

September 3, 2007, 2:00-2:30p.m.

San Francisco, California

Pacific H Room

1. Welcome (Gwen White / Larry Alade)
2. Introductions
 - a. The luncheon was well attended by at least 65 people, creating a full room and very successful event.
 - b. Luncheon speakers were Lonnie Gonsalves, Lucia Castellanos and Eva Visauta Girbau.
 - c. Present at business meeting:
 - i. Larry Alade
 - ii. Danielle Hawkins
 - iii. Christine Moffitt
 - iv. Brenda Norcross
 - v. Bruce Vondracek
 - vi. Gwen White
 - d. Unanimous consent to lower quorum to those present, per unit bylaws.
3. Announcements
 - a. Hutton Junior Fisheries Biology Program (Danielle Hawkins)
 - i. Summer mentoring program for high school students to stimulate interest in fisheries careers among minorities and women. Track students for 10 years for participation. Jamila Payton received a travel award to the meeting and is a Hutton graduate. Two local Hutton students will be at the Society Business Meeting.
 - ii. Had 36 students this year because financial support for the program has dwindled. Difficult to find support specifically for fisheries, as opposed to all natural resources. Always looking for mentors including US, Canada and Mexico.
 - iii. Many Hutton graduates are going into fisheries. Some students are going into combined fields, such as business administration and environmental studies.

- iv. Have had 271 students since 2001. Will have results of tracking study published in a future issue of Fisheries. Graduate students can be co-mentors with their advisor. Have potential mentors contact Danielle.
 - b. AFS News (Gus Rassam / Mary Fabrizio) – none.
- 4. Treasurer's report (Julie Claussen)
 - a. Have about 90-100 members in the section. Have retained enough members to sustain a vote on the Governing Board, since that was reduced from a requirement of 200 to 50 members.
 - b. Need to let students know that they can join sections and that they can be connected in sections. Makes a huge difference in getting a job that you have been a member of a section and have had leadership positions. Perfect avenue to meet other scientists within the sections. Everyone looks equal in job and graduate school applications, so section activity is a way for someone to stand out.
- 5. Awards
 - a. J. Frances Allen (Tracy Galarowicz)
 - i. Winners
 - 1. Anne Cooper, Univ of Minnesota (winner)
 - 2. Patricia Bigelow, Univ of Wyoming (runner-up)
 - ii. Thanks to Christine Moffitt for volunteering to chair and Shannon Brewer for serving on the committee and possibly chairing in the future.
 - 1. Thanks to Tracy for chairing the committee for a number of years.
 - 2. Should encourage students who won the award to be on the committee in consecutive years.
 - 3. There were only four applicants last year. The application is a lot of work, but worth doing to learn to put proposals together. Have to be far enough along (in the last year of study).
 - 4. Need to advertise better in Fisheries, through the student subunits and their websites.
 - b. Mentoring Award - No Nominees
 - i. Need to resurrect this award.
 - ii. Could let Hutton students know that they could nominate a mentor.
 - c. Travel Award Recipients, Contributors and Luncheon (Gwen White)
 - i. Contributors: all four divisions, several sections and chapters, one student subunit.
 - ii. [Note that we need to submit our 2008 funding request to the Education Section as soon as possible and hope that Bruce Vondracek will be willing to sponsor the request again this year. They have given us several thousand dollars in the past. They welcome a request along those lines again this year.]
 - iii. 11 Recipients:
 - Larry Alade, University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Reginald Black, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Lucia Castellanos, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Mazatlan-Sinaloa
Kathrine Howard, University of Hawaii-Manoa
Lisa Kamin, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Joan Louie, North Carolina State University
Belita Nguluwe, University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Jamila Payton, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff
Jorge Ignacio Sonnenholzner Varas, Universidad Autónoma de Baja California
Sally Upton, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Eva Visauta Girbau, Instituto Nacional de la Pesca, Mazatlan, Mexico

6. Governing Board Report – nothing specific to EOS.
7. Nominations and Elections
 - a. President: Taconya Piper (3rd year)
 - b. President-Elect: Larry Alade
 - c. Secretary-Treasurer: Julie Claussen
 - d. All were nominated by unanimous consent.
 - e. Have several in mind for nominations in the future for President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, Web Master, and Newsletter Editor.
8. New Business
 - a. Travel Award application process
 - i. Gwen White has done this for several years and would welcome a new committee chair in the future.
 - b. EOS Web page – volunteers?
 - i. Bob Wattendorf is maintaining the web page, interested in a replacement
 - ii. Ideas to improve web page? Send comments to Taconya or Larry
 - c. Newsletter – volunteers?
 - i. Forward information to Taconya or Gwen
 - ii. Gwen will have pictures from the meeting and will request comments from each of the travel award recipients to assist in requesting contributions for next year.
 - iii. Should send newsletter to all student subunits.
 - d. Luncheon arrangements for 2008 Ottawa
 - i. Very successful. Encourage continuation with International Fisheries Section if they are interested in doing this again next year.
 - ii. [Gwen checked with Dana Schmidt after the meeting and IFS is very interested in continuing the joint luncheons.]
 - e. Symposia for 2009 Nashville

- i. Diversity in the Fisheries Profession
 1. Will be in the South. Lots of social and science issues. Have opportunity to engage more of the Historically Black Colleges (HBCUs) and 1890s universities, as well as recognizing NOAA's generosity in supporting programs to encourage minority involvement in the profession. Could get people to the meeting.
 2. Invite participation from Student Subunits at universities that are HBCUs (Tennessee Tech; University of Arkansas Pine Bluff; University of Maryland Eastern Shore) and encourage others to develop new Student Subunits
 3. Need to review national statistics on the workforce. Partnership program. There are a lot of women getting PhDs, but not necessarily staying in the field and getting jobs. Need to look at Hispanic, Black and Alaska Native integration in the fisheries science. If the Alaska Natives leave to go to school, they do not return. Alaska Native organizations have jobs available, but difficulty recruiting people into those positions. Very difficult. Good programs at University of Alaska Fairbanks. Trying hard at University of Minnesota, but very difficult. Need to engage them very early stages with internships to expose them to the field through outreach and education.

- ii. Outreach to students through the Annual Meeting
 1. Need to address the three motivators that Lonnie Gonsalves presented.
 2. Critical to work across cultures.
 3. Partner with the Education Section.
 4. Taught a field course on fisheries and oceans for teachers to get at younger people. Teaching the teachers to help them create projects and reach students. Governing Board could focus on teaching teachers with one of their new initiatives on public outreach.
 5. Could have some conference calls among EOS. Member of Ecological Society of America that has a workshop associated with their Annual Meeting (Seeds Program). Very successful model. Takes effort but capitalizes on local environment. Would reduce costs compared to the Hutton, which is difficult at the national level. Need to encourage them beyond preserved science specimens. High school biology teachers are critical in outreach to students.
 6. A lot of students at Univ Alaska Fairbanks volunteer to talk to high school and junior high students. Looks good on the resume and provides outreach. Could use pilot models that exist. Need to have the Governing Board support this as much as possible. Potential way to grow membership. Partner with annual meeting by identifying local schools. Could get boilerplate from ESA. Urban Fishing opportunity that was provided here is an outreach from the

annual meeting. Way to contribute to the local community through the Annual Meeting. Gifted and talented programs are totally integrated, clever teachers with hands-on projects.

7. State agencies with education programs could be encouraged to integrate fisheries professionals.
8. Need to give resources to teachers. Lists of fisheries professionals that they could contact.

f. Other activities or ideas

- i. Lots of resources among the professionals who have supported the section over the past. They are available to the officers and students, as they young professionals take the next steps with the Section.
- ii. Noted that women have increased significantly in the profession over the past few years and that the early resistance when the section was formed has diminished over time. Still need to do more work to encourage African-Americans and other ethnic/racial groups to enter the field of fisheries.

9. Adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gwen White