



MAKING WAVES

October 11, 2011

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Autumn, 2011

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OCE Division Director's Message

I am pleased to share the second issue of the OCE electronic newsletter—*Making Waves*. In this issue, you will find updates on the budget, program solicitations, ocean policy news, staff changes, and other topics.

I want to highlight OCE's two new program solicitations focused on both early-career researchers and broadening participation. The [Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships: Broadening Participation](#) program is intended to support individual fellows' research and increase the diversity of the U.S. ocean sciences research community. The [Ocean Sciences Research Initiation Grants: Broadening Participation](#) program provides start up funding for researchers who have been recently appointed to tenure track (or equivalent) positions, with the twin goals of enhancing the development of their research careers and broadening the participation of under-represented groups in ocean sciences. Both programs have a proposal target date of January 13, 2012.

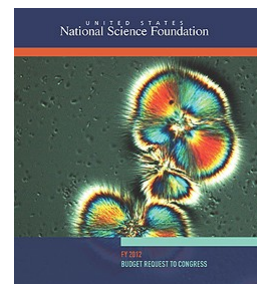
I also want to highlight our search for a new Head of the Ocean Section in OCE. The Ocean Section consists of the core programs in Physical, Biological, and Chemical Oceanography as well as a variety of programs in targeted special areas and those involving collaborations with other NSF directorates and other federal agencies. The Ocean Section Head position, previously occupied by Phil Taylor, is an extremely important part of the administrative team of OCE, as well as providing a highly visible connection to the national and international ocean sciences communities. We are actively seeking applications and nominations. See the [position description](#) and, if interested or you want to recommend a colleague, please contact me at dconover@nsf.gov. The deadline for applications is Oct 28.



**David Conover, Director
Division of Ocean Sciences**

Budget Update

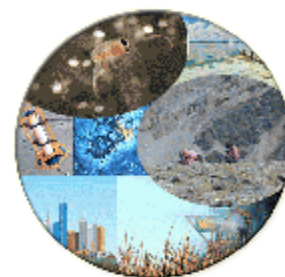
For federal government agencies, the 2011 fiscal year ended on September 30. We are under a continuing resolution that will initially enable NSF to continue operations through November 18. While [OCE's FY 2012 budget request](#) of \$385 million represents a 10% increase over the Division's \$352 million FY 2011 enacted level, the complicated budget environment makes it difficult to predict the final outcome.



FY 2012 Budget

SEES—Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability

We reported on the SEES investment area in the June newsletter and pointed to the [SEES website](#) for information updates. There are several SEES-related proposal deadlines over the next several months, including the following programs:



SEES

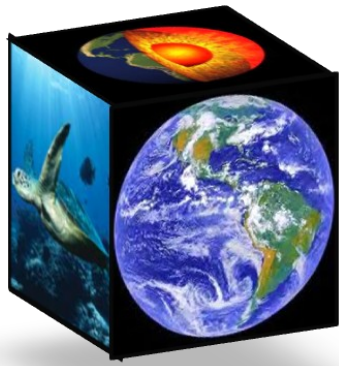
- [Partnerships for International Research and Education \(PIRE\)](#) (NSF 11-564): The FY 2012 PIRE competition will be focused exclusively on SEES. The deadline for preliminary proposals is October 19, 2011.
- [Water Sustainability and Climate \(WSC\)](#) (NSF 11-551): the next proposal deadline is October 19, 2011.
- [Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems \(CNH\)](#) (NSF 10-612): The CNH program encourages submission of SEES-relevant proposals. The next deadline is November 15, 2011.
- [Sustainability Research Networks Competition \(SRN\)](#) (NSF 11-574): The solicitation for this new program was released in August, and the first deadline for preliminary proposals is December 1, 2011. The goal of the SRN competition is to support the development and coalescence of entities to advance collaborative research that addresses questions and challenges in sustainability science, engineering, and education. SRNs will link scientists, engineers, and educators, at existing institutions, centers, networks, and also develop new research efforts and collaborations.
- [NSF Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability Fellows \(NSF SEES Fellows\)](#) (NSF 11-575): The solicitation for this new program was released in August, and the first deadline for proposals is December 5, 2011. The SEES Fellows program supports researchers entering the postgraduate workforce to contribute to our understanding of global sustainability.
- [Sustainable Energy Pathways \(SEP\)](#) (NSF 11-590): The solicitation for this new program was just released in September, and the first proposal deadline is February 1, 2012. The SEP solicitation considers scalable approaches for sustainable energy conversion to useful forms, as well as its storage, transmission, distribution, and use.
- [Research Coordination Networks \(RCN\)](#) (NSF 11-531): The next deadline for SEES track RCN proposals is February 3, 2012. General (non-SEES track) RCN proposals to OCE should be discussed with relevant program officers and submitted to the August 15 or February 15 Division target dates. The Biological Oceanography Program has identified [three broad themes](#) of interest for RCN proposals.
- [Ocean Acidification \(OA\)](#) (NSF 12-500): The deadline is January 6, 2012.

Several additional SEES-related solicitations are being updated. See the linked webpages for the general thrust of each program, and watch for the new solicitations as they are released: [Decadal and Regional Climate Prediction using Earth System Models \(EaSM\)](#), [Climate Change Education Partnership Program](#), and [Dimensions of Biodiversity](#).

EarthCube

As a follow up to our note on EarthCube in the June newsletter, we are sharing a message from the NSF EarthCube Team.

NSF seeks to facilitate the conduct of geosciences research by supporting community-based cyber-infrastructure in an effort called EarthCube. The EarthCube website, <http://earthcube.ning.com>, is a forum to enable broad participation from across the community and to solicit comments and white paper submissions to the EarthCube process. This dialog is critical to preparing the community for the focusing activities of the EarthCube Design Charrette, November 1-4, 2011.



EarthCube

This is an unprecedented opportunity for the geosciences to come together and share ideas on geosciences requirements, innovative technology solutions, and vision and design approaches for an integrated knowledge management system. Further information on the EarthCube and Charrette process, as it becomes available, will be posted on the website. We invite you to register to participate in the EarthCube forums and groups. We also recommend that you encourage colleagues, postdocs and students to participate.

NSF also recognizes that user requirements are required to build a knowledge management system that is useful to and used by geoscientists. Thus, we encourage you to participate in an effort to gather geosciences requirements (available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GeoSciRequirements>). The survey is intended to query geoscientists about their scientific and related cyberinfrastructure needs, so that common issues and goals across the geosciences can be found and discussed in the EarthCube forums and Charrette. Answering any of these questions is voluntary, and responses may be made available in the EarthCube forums. However, we encourage you to answer as many of these questions as you can on or before October 15. The feedback you provide here will be integral to shaping EarthCube in both the short and long term.

NSF-U.S. Agency for International Development Partnership

In July, NSF and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) [launched the Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research \(PEER\) program](#). The National Academies has been contracted by USAID to administer PEER, and [program details are on their website](#).

Areas targeted for support include:

- Food security topics such as agricultural development, fisheries, and plant genomics
- Global health issues such as ecology of infectious disease, biomedical engineering, and natural/human system interactions
- Climate change impacts such as water sustainability, hydrology, ocean acidification, climate process and modeling, and environmental engineering
- Other development topics including disaster mitigation, biodiversity, water, and renewable energy

PEER is designed to leverage NSF funds awarded to U.S. researchers with funds from USAID that can be distributed to developing country researchers so that both sides have the resources they need to work together productively. PEER is a competitive grants program that allows developing country scientists to apply for funds to support research and capacity building activities in partnership with NSF-funded U.S. collaborators.

Awards are anticipated to range in size from \$30,000 to \$50,000 per year for one to three years. A few larger and more complex projects may receive up to \$100,000 per year for up to three years. The deadline for developing country partner PIs to submit proposals to the National Academies is November 30, 2011.



PEER



Upcoming Solicitation Due Dates

OCE programs continue to have 2 target dates per year for unsolicited proposals: February 15 and August 15.

In addition, under the [Oceanographic Centers, Facilities and Equipment](#) umbrella, the published target dates are October 15 for Oceanographic Instrumentation, November 1 for the Ship Operations Program, November 15 for Oceanographic Technical Services, and December 1 for Shipboard Scientific Support Equipment. The next review panel for Oceanographic Centers, Facilities and Equipment proposals will be in February 2012, and the submission “target” dates allow for a little flexibility. Anyone considering submission of a proposal after the target dates should communicate with the cognizant Oceanographic Centers, Facilities and Equipment program manager before doing so.

Please see the list of funding opportunities on the [OCE homepage](#). In addition to opportunities referenced elsewhere in the Newsletter, we'd like to highlight the following, with their next proposal due dates:



Credit: P. Dayton

- [Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation](#) (NSF 11-543) October 7, 2011
- [Geoscience Education](#) (NSF 10-512) October 12, 2011
- [Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change](#) (NSF 10-574) October 18, 2011
- [Arctic Research Opportunities](#) (NSF 10-597) October 18, 2011
- [Postdoctoral Fellowships in Polar Regions Research](#) (NSF 09-612) October 18, 2011
- [Advancing Digitization of Biological Collections](#) (NSF 11-567) October 31, 2011
- [EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Track-1](#) (NSF 11-565) November 4, 2011
- [East Asia and Pacific Summer Institutes for U.S. Graduate Students](#) (NSF 10-591) November 9, 2011
- [NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#) (NSF 11-582) November 16, 2011 (for Geosciences)
- [Small Business Innovation Research Program Phase I](#) (NSF 11-577) December 2, 2011
- [Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases](#) (NSF 11-580) December 7, 2011 (See the [Biological Oceanography webpage](#) for a marine oriented perspective on the program.)
- [Innovation Corps Program](#) (NSF 11-560) December 15, 2011
- [Petrology and Geochemistry](#) (NSF 09-543) January 6, 2012
- [Informal Science Education](#) (NSF 11-546) January 11, 2012 (This solicitation also describes Connecting Researchers and Public Audiences projects, for which there is no proposal deadline.)
- [Ocean Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships: Broadening Participation](#) (NSF 11-586) January 13, 2012
- [Ocean Sciences Research Initiation Grants: Broadening Participation](#) (NSF 11-578) January 13, 2012
- [Pan-American Advanced Studies Institutes Program](#) (NSF 10-517) January 15, 2012
- [Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology](#) (NSF 09-560) January 16, 2012
- [Major Research Instrumentation Program](#) (NSF 11-503) January 26, 2012

In addition, the National Institutes of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and NSF have just released two program announcements soliciting proposals to conduct innovative research in the general area of “Oceans and Human Health”. One announcement (P01) is a call for proposals for establish “Centers for Oceans and Human Health”, an initiative pioneered jointly by the two agencies in 2004. The second announcement (R01), “Oceans, Great Lakes and Human Health” calls for proposals to study specific OHH-related phenomena. In both cases, proposals must make a strong case for creating an environment conducive to interdisciplinary and reciprocally beneficial collaborations between biomedical scientists and marine scientists.

For further information, please refer to the following NIH web pages:

For P01: RFA-ES-11-012: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-11-012.html>

For R01: RFA-ES-11-013: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-11-013.html>

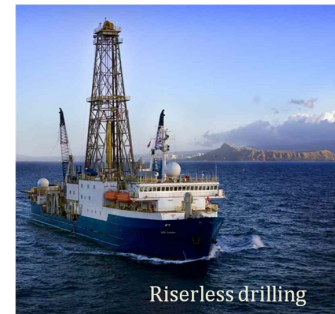
Agency Science/Research Contacts:

Frederick L. Tyson, PhD, Division of Extramural Research & Training, NIEHS. Email: tyson2@niehs.nih.gov

Donald L. Rice, PhD, MPH, Division of Ocean Sciences, NSF. Email: drice@nsf.gov

Integrated Ocean Drilling Program (IODP) Update

The NSF Geosciences Directorate and the NSF Ocean Sciences Division [recently announced a new model](#) for supporting international science drilling aboard the JOIDES Resolution in anticipation of the possibility of renewal after the current Integrated Ocean Drilling Program concludes September 30, 2013. Reviews of IODP and the future science program are currently underway (see below). While we await the outcome of the review process, however, we recognize that a viable financial operating plan for the potential new program must be urgently developed. Should a new drilling program be recommended and authorized by the National Science Board (NSB), NSF will operate the JR as a platform provider, soliciting financial contributions from international partners to help pay operational costs, with a goal of full year operations. Together with its partners, NSF will establish a new Science Advisory Structure in FY2014 optimized for JR planning but which is also open to other platforms. It is expected to closely follow the structure of the new IODP SAS that starts this fall. In the meantime, the IODP SAS will continue to provide drilling priorities for future JR drilling.



JOIDES Resolution

This new announcement highlights full-year operations of the JR as a top priority assuming NSF continues to invest in an ocean drilling program beyond 2013. NSF will work hard to ensure continued international access to all three IODP drilling platforms in a simpler, less expensive manner that maximizes JR operational efficiency. In this light, please see the [message from Dr. Liz Screaton](#), Chair of the United States Advisory Committee, urging continued submission of ocean drilling science proposals to IODP-MI to ensure international scientific drilling continuity.

Be on the lookout for an upcoming National Academies' report on scientific ocean drilling scheduled to be released on or about October 17th. This NSF-funded report, led by an ad hoc committee appointed by the [National Research Council](#), reviews the scientific accomplishments of U.S.-supported scientific ocean drilling and assesses the potential for future transformative scientific discoveries.

Policy Reports Related to Ocean Science

NSF held a workshop in November 2010 titled "*Changing the Conduct of Science in the Information Age*" to promote international cooperation in such policy areas as the promotion of data access, the development of technical solutions for open data platforms, and attribution for research contributions. The recently released [workshop report](#) describes the discussions, findings, and suggestions generated by the distinguished group of international workshop participants.



The Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry Program released a [report in July of the March 22-24, 2011 Ocean Acidification Principal Investigators' Meeting](#). Representatives from ocean acidification related research projects supported by NSF, NASA, NOAA, USGS, EPA, and other federal agencies participated in the meeting which was organized around six broad goals: 1) Strengthen scientific collaborations and minimize duplication of efforts, 2) Build capacity for improving OA research, 3) Identify short- and long-term research goals, 4) Promote effective data management, 5) Enhance communication with the public, and 6) Solicit feedback from the scientific community to guide future OCB activities.

The National Academies released a report in July on "[Assessing Requirements for Sustained Ocean Color Research and Operations](#)." The report notes that "All current sensors (for ocean color measurements) are beyond their design life" and recommends a data-centric planning effort involving multiple agencies, input from the academic research community, and international collaboration.

OCE Research in the News

Dear OCE PIs,
By way of introduction for those I've not yet met, I'm the science information officer for geosciences and environmental research at NSF (marine scientist by training). I'm writing to ask for your help with communicating OCE-funded accomplishments to a wide audience, including journalists, legislators, and the public-at-large.

If you have papers that cite NSF as a funding source coming out in journals, or are giving talks on NSF-supported results at conferences, for example, please let me know. It would be helpful to highlight them in articles, slideshows, or other features that report on recent findings. Also, please let me know if you are receiving an NSF RAPID award, which because of their nature often involve events that are or soon will be in the news.

For examples of recent communications, please see the [NSF website](#). The following is a small sampling of OCE-related project activities:

- [NSF Ocean Observatories Initiative Streams Live Video of Undersea Volcano](#)
- [Newly Discovered Icelandic Current Could Change Climate Picture](#)
- [On 'Earth Week,' World is No Longer Our Oyster](#)
- [Species Large and Small Follow Same Rule in Ecosystems](#)
- [Loss of Large Predators Caused Widespread Disruption of Ecosystems](#)
- [Chemical Make-up of Gulf of Mexico Plume Determined.](#)

Please let me know if you have questions, or have ideas you'd like to explore.

For those attending the [Ocean Sciences Meeting in February in Salt Lake City, Utah](#), I will look forward to seeing you there. At that meeting, I'll be organizing a science journalism workshop—From Ship to Shore to the News Media: Science Journalism in the Digital Age--date and time TBD. I will provide further details in the next newsletter, or in the interim to those interested.

With many thanks in advance, and wishing you all the best with your research.

Cheryl Lyn Dybas
Office phone: 703/292-7734
E-mail: cdybas@nsf.gov

Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program

The GEO Directorate is encouraging PI's to consider proposal submissions to the [CAREER program](#). GEO CAREER program officers have organized a session at the [AGU Fall Meeting in San Francisco](#) that will highlight previous CAREER awards ([Session ED30: Impacts of Over a Decade of CAREER Awards](#)). We encourage anyone thinking about submitting a CAREER proposal in July 2012 to attend. PI's can also contact the OCE CAREER program officer, Dr. Michelle Hall, at mihall@nsf.gov or 703-292-8475.



Credit: Coastal Ocean Observation Lab, Rutgers University, Institute of Marine Coastal Sciences



How to Read Proposal Reviews

This article is based on my personal experiences of reading reviews of my (mostly declined) proposals over the past 20+ years as a soft money researcher, and my current experience as an NSF Program Manager in Biological Oceanography. Receiving reviews, especially for a declined proposal, can be a traumatic event. You have put a lot of your time, energy, and a piece of yourself into the proposal and to read the comments and critiques by the ad hoc reviewers, panelists, and Program Managers is usually an emotional experience. Think about how you might deal with these feelings and decide whom you want to talk to or be with after you read the reviews. For example, some people might find it best not to read the reviews late on a Friday before a weekend with family and friends—for others that might be the best time. Some may want to share the experience with professional collaborators, colleagues, or students (there is nothing wrong with commiseration!). Some people will just want to read the reviews privately and think first without talking to anyone.



However you choose to read the reviews, remember that there are usually three different kinds of feedback: the ad hoc mail reviews, the panel summary, and the Program Officer (PO) comments. You should read them and weight them in the reverse of that order.

Start with the PO comments. These should indicate whether the program recommends a revision and resubmission or not. This is the single most important piece of information. One of the most difficult things for Program Managers to do is to recommend that a proposal not be revised. Sometimes this is stated indirectly. If it is not clear to you, call or email the Program Manager. If revision is suggested, the PO comments should contain the most salient things that should be changed in the proposal. These comments, when substantive, should be weighted the highest, as it is a synthetic response to the mail reviews, the panel discussion and program perspective.

The next most important comments are summarized in the panel summary. Some reviewer comments might have been discounted or been given more influence in the panel discussion. The summary should also help identify the most important issues with the proposal leading to the decision.

Some proposals to Ocean Science programs are not brought to panel for discussion. These are identified as ND (Not Discussed) proposals. For those proposals, it was judged that the ad hoc reviews were adequate and informative, that the proposal was unlikely to be recommended for funding, and that an extended panel discussion would be unlikely to provide more information back to the PI. The panel must be unanimous in the decision to not discuss a proposal and this decision can be changed at any time during the panel week of discussion. Up to 30-40% of proposals may fall in this category, depending on proposal load. These will have a *pro forma* Panel Summary stating that the proposal was not discussed. This does not mean the proposal is irredeemable, just that further panel discussion would not provide more information for improving the proposal.

The mail reviews are from your peers who will be most familiar with your particular specialty. These reviews often contain comments regarding methodology and proposal structure, the strength of the science questions, and the PI expertise and productivity. Often the mail review scores are wide-ranging. Sometimes reviewer criticisms result from incomplete reading of the proposal or from a misunderstanding of what you have written. In those cases, try to improve the clarity of your revised proposal. If reviewers missed a major point, make sure that point is emphasized and repeated in your revised proposal. Reviewers may point out major omissions or raise important points you did not think of. Do not give equal weight to all reviewer comments. You are the person most intimate with your proposal, which means you should know the proposal weaknesses better than anyone. Focus on reviewer comments that honestly ring true to you. Just reacting to all reviewer comments does not create a fundable proposal (neither does ignoring the reviewer comments!). Focusing on particular, unconstructive reviewer comments is natural, but these will distract you from what you should be thinking about.

Some proposals end up in a cycle that some Program Managers call “Very Good Purgatory”. In most ways the proposals are well written, and have good methods. They hover just below the funded category for successive revisions and panel rounds. Often the science questions in these cases are just not compelling enough to panelists to motivate them to say “YES, fund this!” Remember, all panelists are not likely to be experts in your particular field, so your proposal must appeal to smart, educated scientists in adjacent, related fields; not just your specialty. “Very Good Purgatory” proposals might not be recommended for further revision.

In the current competitive climate, quality proposal writing is more important than ever. Most funded proposals are resubmissions, but the merit review system is under stress. Do not use the review system to proofread a “rough draft” of your proposal. I hope that these comments will help you to improve a proposal and make it into the “award” category!

Mike Sieracki
OCE Program Director



Ocean Observatories Initiative—Key Project Milestones Achieved

The OOI project achieved two significant milestones this summer. The cable that will bring the OOI regional and coastal data to shore was successfully deployed. The cable landing took place in mid-July. The OOI project team also deployed three test moorings off the coast of Martha's Vineyard in the Pioneer Array region. These moorings will demonstrate the technically challenging design features of the coast and global arrays. The test will last for approximately 6 months. Congratulations to the project team for their fine efforts in supporting these significant project milestones. Please visit the OOI project website for additional details and updates on the project: www.oceanobservatories.org.

The Pioneer Array workshop (February 2011) white paper is posted on the Ocean Observing Science Committee website. Many thanks to the workshop organizers and participants for their efforts. Please read the white paper and see the OOSC members at the website: <http://www.unols.org/committees/oosc/index.html>.

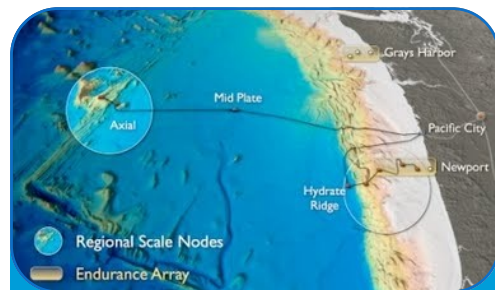
A second NSF funded workshop is planned for October 5-7. It will focus on the science of the Axial Seamount site and will ask for community input to the OOI regional observatory node locations that will be deployed next summer. See the website: <https://sites.google.com/site/axialrnsnscienceworkshop/>.



OOI Cable Landing



Coastal Surface Buoy at Sea



Cable on West Coast

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Principal Investigator One Year Update Workshop

The National Science and Technology Council's (NSTC) Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology (SOST) is hosting the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Oil Spill Principal Investigator's One Year Update Workshop. This conference brings together scientific investigators from academia, private research institutes, and agencies actively conducting DWH oil spill related research, monitoring, and sampling, as well as representatives from the NSTC SOST agencies. This is an opportunity to foster new collaborations, compare initial results, interact with federal agencies, and discuss recommendations for longer term research activities. The input gathered from researchers at the conference will be used to help the NSTC SOST federal agencies identify information needs and plan short and long term research directions.

The conference will be hosted by the University of South Florida at the Sirata Resort and Conference Center in St. Petersburg on October 25-26, 2011. Please see the conference website for more information: <http://www.marine.usf.edu/conferences/fio/NSTC-SOST-PI-2011/>.

Recent OCE Staff Changes

Rose Dufour: Rose joined OCE's Integrative Programs Section in September as the Program Director for Ship Operations. After graduating from the University of California, San Diego, Rose spent 25 years as the Ship Scheduler and Foreign Clearance Officer for Scripps Institution of Oceanography. She has served two terms as Chair of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS) Ship Scheduling Committee and Member of the UNOLS Council. Rose's background and experience are highlighted in a [feature article in *Women Oceanographers*](#).



Rose Dufour

Leonard Pace: Leonard joined OCE in July as a Science Assistant in the Ocean Drilling Program group. He comes to NSF after having supported several agencies in the DC area, including the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Environment and Energy Division, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea Grant Program, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Wildlife Refuges Office. His Master's research focused on sandbar shark osmoregulatory abilities coupled with their habitat utilization.



Leonard Pace

Catherine (Cat) Wolner: Cat joined OCE in August as a Science Assistant in the Marine Geology and Geophysics group. She has an MS in Environmental Sciences from University of Virginia and a BA in Geology from Oberlin College.

Linda Goad: Linda, who served as the Program Director for Ship Operations for 10 years, retired in July. Many thanks Linda for your dedicated service, and best wishes in your next adventures.

William (Ian) Ridley: Ian, who served as a Program Director in the Ocean Drilling Program, returned home to Denver in September to take up a new challenge as Director of the Mineral and Environmental Resources Science Center at the U.S. Geological Survey. Many thanks Ian for your outstanding contributions.



Catherine Wolner

Erik Hankin: Erik will be leaving NSF in early October to further his career in geoscience policy. During his 2-year term in OCE, Erik acted as the Science Assistant for the Marine Geology and Geophysics Program and the Co-Executive Secretary for the Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology, and was heavily involved in OCE's RAPID award response to the BP oil spill.

Sarah Menassian: Sarah, who was a Science Assistant in the Ocean Drilling Program, left NSF in August. She has moved to France as part of her new PhD program in volcanology at Michigan Tech which involves studying volcanoes in both the US and Europe.

Priscilla Viana: Priscilla, who came to OCE as a Knauss Sea Grant fellow, left NSF in July. Among other things, she assisted with the Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases and Ocean Acidification programs. Priscilla will be completing her PhD on heavy metal fate in contaminated sediments and sediment remediation at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Priscilla Viana



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN OCE

Join Us—Become a Rotator at NSF

OCE has about 2 dozen full-time Program Directors. About ¼ of the Program Directors (plus the Division Director) are rotators who generally come to NSF for 2-3 years. Qualifications of a successful rotator candidate include a Ph.D. degree or equivalent and an established record of research and education in a field appropriate for the position. The Division is regularly looking for new rotators. Share in the discovery by being an OCE rotator! To learn more, go to the [Career Opportunities – Rotators](#) section of the NSF Homepage or communicate with an OCE Program Director.

Recognition Awards

- Nominations/applications are being received for the following (with submission deadlines):
- [Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring](#) (October 5, 2011): Recognizes outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation and retention of individuals (including persons with disabilities, women and minorities) who might not otherwise have considered or had access to opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.
 - [Alan T. Waterman Award](#) (October 31, 2011): Recognizes the talent, creativity, and influence of a singular young researcher.
 - [Vannevar Bush Award](#) (November 2, 2011): Honors truly exceptional lifelong leaders in science and technology who have made substantial contributions to the welfare of the Nation through public service activities in science, technology, and public policy.
 - [Public Service Award](#) (November 2, 2011): Honors individuals and groups that have made substantial contributions to increasing public understanding of science and engineering in the United States.



Opportunities to Learn about NSF

If you would like to meet directly with NSF administrators and program officers, including representatives from OCE, plan to attend an [NSF Regional Grants Conference](#) when it is held in your area. The next such conference will be October 17-18, 2011, hosted by the University of Texas at Austin, and registration is available on the [conference website](#).

National Science Foundation (NSF)

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NSF Headquarters

This newsletter is designed to share timely information about the National Science Foundation's Division of Ocean Sciences. If you have comments or questions, please communicate with the relevant OCE program officer, or with Larry Weber (lweber@nsf.gov), who serves as newsletter editor. The newsletter will be distributed by email and posted on the [OCE homepage](#). Please feel free to forward to colleagues.

If you would like to subscribe to the OCE Newsletter, please follow the instructions below:

- 1) Send an email to: listserv@listserv.nsf.gov.
- 2) In the text of the message, put the following command:
subscribe ocenewsletter your name
Example: subscribe ocenewsletter John Doe
- 3) You will receive instructions via email on how to proceed.

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You can also contact Margarida Yuan (myuan@nsf.gov) for assistance.

