

# OP-SETAC

2004 newsletter



## FROM THE BOARD

The following people have been nominated to serve on the Board beginning in February 2005. Please review the sketches and submit your vote via email to Keri Henderson at [hendersk@iastate.edu](mailto:hendersk@iastate.edu). Votes must be received by February 20, 2005.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

### Naomi Cooper

Naomi Cooper is currently a Research Assistant in the Ecotoxicology and Water Quality Research Laboratory at Oklahoma State University. She has worked on a variety of research projects including the genetic effects of heavy metals on marine invertebrates, pesticide and ammonia effects on freshwater bivalves and endocrine disrupter effects on amphibians and reptiles. She also performs standardized toxicity bioassays for clients of the Water Quality Lab. Naomi has a Bachelor of Science from Flinders University in South Australia (1997), a Bachelor of Environmental Toxicology (Honors) from the University of South Australia (2001), and a Masters degree in Natural Science from Southeast Missouri State University (2002). Naomi has been an OP-SETAC and National SETAC member for 2 years and is looking forward to serving OP-SETAC in an administrative capacity.

### Kelsey Prihoda

Currently, Kelsey Prihoda is a M.S. student in Toxicology at Iowa State University. She began her undergraduate education at the University of Wisconsin-Superior (UWS) in September 2000. She was a biology major with a concentration in aquatic ecology, and a minor in chemistry. At the end of her first year, she was hired by the Lake Superior Research Institute (LSRI), located on the UWS campus. LSRI conducts research in aquatic ecology and toxicology, and also provides educational resources for teachers in the sciences. At LSRI, Kelsey was responsible for culturing various aquatic organisms used in sediment toxicity tests; she was also involved in preparation, maintenance, and data collection for these tests. It was this first exposure to the field of toxicology that influenced her decision to pursue a graduate degree in toxicology. After graduating in May 2004, she spent the summer as a biological science technician with the EPA in Duluth, MN. She assisted a group of researchers in the Ecotoxicology Branch with work on the phototoxicity of PAHs in the aquatic environment. She also helped to setup, maintain, and obtain data for sediment toxicity tests that were designed to test the ability of several resins to remove metals from contaminated sediment. She was accepted to the Interdepartmental Toxicology Program at Iowa State University, and joined Joel Coats' lab in August 2004. Her M.S. research will focus on the fate and effects of Bt protein toxins (from transgenic crops) in soil and aquatic environments. Specifically, she will develop methods to evaluate the

potential input of the proteins into aquatic systems, and to determine nontarget effects of the proteins on aquatic invertebrates. In addition to learning how to conduct research in toxicology, Kelsey believes one of the most important outcomes of her graduate degree will be experience in effectively communicating her research results at scientific meetings. Kelsey joined SETAC and the Ozark-Prairie region in 2005. She would like to become a Student Board member for the Ozark-Prairie region because she believes student input is imperative in planning scientific meetings, since graduate students make up a large number of those attending the meetings. Successful collaboration with Student Board members ensures that regional meetings will be valuable for everyone participating.

### Catherine Richter

Dr. Richter, is a Research Molecular Biologist with the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center in Columbia, MO. She has a diverse background in environmental and molecular toxicology, beginning with an undergraduate research project on humic substances and copper toxicity at Miami University, Ohio. She developed a rainbow trout cell bioassay for PCBs and dioxins for her MS in Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, with John Giesy. Cathy completed a PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Missouri with Mark Hannink and Don Tillitt, studying mechanisms of subcellular transport of the dioxin receptor. As a postdoctoral fellow at Missouri, she studied developmental effects of estrogenic endocrine disruptors with Fred vom Saal and

Wade Welshons. In her current position as Research Molecular Biologist at the Columbia Environmental Research Center, she applies molecular methods to problems in environmental toxicology, including biomarker development and investigation of mechanisms of toxicity. Regional SETAC meetings were an important component of her education, in learning to present research results, meeting established scientists, and absorbing a diversity of current toxicology research. Cathy would like to join the OP-SETAC board in order to contribute to the chapter's vital functions in educating students and fostering communication among toxicologists.



#### **Our current Board of Directors:**

Joe Bidwell, President  
Seeking Nominations, Vice President  
Keri Henderson, Secretary, Student Member  
Nile Kemble, Treasurer  
Yue-wern Huang, Board member  
Matt Kern, Board member  
Joel Coats, Ex-officio

#### **2004 IN REVIEW**

##### **Meeting summary:**

The 2004 Annual Chapter Meeting was held March 4-5 at the Radisson Hotel in La Crosse,

WI; it was a joint meeting with the Midwest Chapter. The theme of the meeting was "Large River Resources." Thursday morning began with a plenary presentation by J.G Weiner on mercury contamination in North American rivers. Platforms, including student presentations, rounded out the day's presentations. A poster social was held in the evening. Chris Ingersoll started off Friday's technical program with an update from SETAC-NA, including information about the Portland, OR meeting. Platform presentations rounded out the morning's activities. A raffle and awards presentation ended the meeting. At least 60 participants were in attendance, with Ozark-Prairie having 27 members. Of the 27 members participating, 14 were students. We would like to thank Sue Beach and the rest of the Midwest Chapter for hosting the 2004 meeting.

#### **Student competition winners:**

##### **Platform presentations**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Keri Henderson, ISU  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: Chad Boeckman, OSU  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Marlo Sellin, UNO

##### **Poster presentations**

1<sup>st</sup> place: Jennifer Freeman, UIUC  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: Keri Henderson, ISU  
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Dawn Fallacara, SIU

#### **Summary of 2004 Board meetings:**

This year, the Board worked to update the membership directory. We also discussed the development of an email list service, where Ozark-Prairie members could advertise job openings, available graduate assistantships, and other pertinent announcements; this would be in addition to proposed increased

use of the chapter website. The Board also focused on increased member attendance to regional meetings. Joint meetings have proven valuable for increasing member participation, so the Board voted in favor of another joint regional meeting. The 2005 meeting will be held with the MidSouth Chapter. Details of the upcoming joint regional meeting were the focus of the Chapter meeting during the SETAC World Congress in Portland, OR.

#### **2005 REGIONAL MEETING**

The upcoming joint meeting with the MidSouth Chapter will be held May 16-18, 2005 at the Touch of Nature Environmental Center in Carbondale, IL. To view the meeting site, try <http://www.pso.siu.edu/tonec/?conference>.

The deadline for abstract submission is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's meeting will be "Multiple Stressors." For specific information, please see the meeting announcement at <http://www.aquatictox.com/WHATSNEW.html>. Additional information regarding the meeting will also be made available on the OP website soon.

We look forward to seeing you in Carbondale! It will be a great opportunity to interact with our neighbors in the MidSouth Chapter.



#### **SPONSORS**

Many thanks to the organizations that have continued to support OP-SETAC with financial donations: Monsanto, Bayer Crop Sciences, and ABC Laboratories.

## **EMAIL and WEB INFORMATION**

We are continuing our efforts to update our membership directory. If you have a new email address, or are receiving this newsletter as a hardcopy, please email me so we can add you to the list and update our files. Thanks!  
Keri Henderson, Secretary.

[hendersk@iastate.edu](mailto:hendersk@iastate.edu)

OP-SETAC:

<http://www.waux.cerc.cr.usgs.gov/opsetac>

SETAC: <http://www.setac.org>

Please keep in mind that John Besser is always looking for things to post on our website. If you have articles or job announcements, please let him know. You can contact John at [jbesser@usgs.gov](mailto:jbesser@usgs.gov).

