



# SoCal SETAC NEWS

Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry  
Southern California Chapter

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April 2000

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## *President's Corner...*

Our elections are fast approaching! Please don't forget to submit the attached election form.....

We still need volunteers to assist with the upcoming annual meeting. If you plan to be at the meeting and can make the time to help with poster set-up and breakdown, registration, or other meeting activities, please contact any board member. Speaking of which, our next board meeting will be held at the annual meeting itself and will include the transfer of positions to new board members and officers.

As this is my last "corner," I would like to thank those of you who have helped the chapter regain steady footing and solid membership. I do hope that more members will begin to participate in the leadership of the group as well as continue to support the new and continuing officers. No need to wait for election returns for the top slot as one of the posts is set by design when the current Vice President becomes Chapter President. Congratulations to Joe Gully as he takes the helm on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Joe has made a strong commitment to both our local chapter and National SETAC and will no doubt do an outstanding job in the year to come!

*Marilyn J. Schwartz*  
*Chapter President*

## **SoCAL SETAC 2000 MEETING UPDATE** *contributed by Joe Gully*

Registration Form, Short course announcement, schedule of events.....

We need your help to ensure the success of the meeting. We are requesting abstracts for platform or poster presentation at the conference (see first call for papers in this newsletter). Any primary research, case study, monitoring program data, or policy-based papers related to environmental toxicology and chemistry are acceptable. We also encourage presentation of student proposals and research at the meeting by offering a Best Student Paper Award. This meeting is also a great opportunity to present information from the last SETAC Annual Meeting to those who could not attend or prepare for the Nashville meeting. The abstracts

are due May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000 so you have plenty of time to put together a presentation. If you are presenting, please plan on supporting the chapter by attending the meeting. It will surely be a great time and you may learn something in the process. Hope to see you in June.

### **Student Award**

Students are encouraged to present research proposals in poster format at the SoCal SETAC conference June 15. A **\$200** gift will be awarded to support proposed research studies. Please submit abstracts to Joe Gully, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles, 1965 Workman Mill Rd, Whittier, CA, 90601 or by email to [jgully@lacs.org](mailto:jgully@lacs.org). All submitees will receive a free one-year to SoCal SETAC membership.

### **SoCAL SETAC 2000 BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS**

The next few years look very exciting for the Chapter as we continue to broaden our scope and activities in Southern California. Board member involvement is key to the future direction and success of the Chapter. The goal for the overall composition of the SoCal SETAC Board includes two representatives from each of the following categories: (1) Private Sector (2) Public Sector - Gov't (3) Public Sector - Non-Gov't (4) Academia, and (5) Community.

Board member meetings are held quarterly (one is held at the National SETAC Conference for those attending).

We are extending the time to submit nominees. Additional nominees are needed to fulfill the Government and Community sectors. The election is open to all So Cal SETAC members. Please submit your nominations (and don't be afraid to nominate yourself!). Four board positions will be open during the 2000 elections.

Please fill out and Fax or mail the attached election form to Chris Stransky at [bcstransky@oees.com](mailto:bcstransky@oees.com) by June 1. Election results will be announced at the June 15-17 So Cal SETAC Conference in Del Mar, included in the following newsletter, and posted on the web

Following are current nominees for open 2000-2002 positions:

**Karen Rivales (Academia).** Karen is currently a PhD student at the University of California Riverside in Environmental Toxicology. Her current research examines the effects of environmental toxins on the female reproductive system. Previous research as a Master's student in San Diego focused on aquatic toxicity of the Tijuana River. Karen would like to assist the Chapter with newsletter contributions, outreach, or wherever needed.

**Thomas (Tim) Mikel (Private Sector).** Tim has been an aquatic biologist since 1975. He graduated with Bachelors and Masters degrees in aquatic biology from Moss Landing Marine Laboratory and U.C. Santa Barbara, respectively. He is the President and Laboratory Director of Aquatic Bioassay and Consulting Laboratories in Ventura, California. He is the Chair of the Southern California Toxicity Assessment Group (SCTAG), Co-Chair of the Southern California Bight Pilot Project (Bight '98) Toxicity Committee, and is a

Section Chair of the 20<sup>th</sup> Edition of Standard Methods (Mollusk Bioassay Section). Mr. Mikel hopes to contribute to the technical areas of SoCal SETAC by providing a bridge to SCTAG and other technically oriented groups.

**Steve Bay (Public Sector – Non-Government).** Hi, my name is Steven Bay and I am a Principal Scientist with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP), a public agency devoted to studying the effects of human activities on the marine environment. I received a masters degree in Marine Biology from Calif. State University, Long Beach. As head of the toxicology department at SCCWRP, I direct laboratory research into the organismal and biochemical effects of urban runoff and contaminated sediment. I plan to focus on three activities as a board member of our SETAC chapter. First, I would like to broaden our membership to include more representatives of regulatory agencies; second, I will encourage the resurrection of the Southern California Toxicity Assessment Group as a subunit of SoCal SETAC; and third, I will strive to enhance our chapter's education and outreach activities.

**Ian Adam (Academia).** A previous board member up for re-election, Ian is working on his Master's Degree at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB. Ian's graduate study is focusing on environmental risk assessment and environmental management systems. Ian looks forward to increasing student involvement within the chapter and working with the other board members from different agencies and companies.

**DR. ARTURO KELLER (Academia).** Arturo is an assistant professor at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Keller's research and interest focus on environmental fate and transport, remediation, and environmental management.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS...

#### **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETING** *contributed by Steve Bay*

The Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, the City of Los Angeles and the U.S. Geological Survey are co-chairing a day long meeting of the Southern California Academy of Sciences at the University of Southern California on May 19, 1999. The title of our meeting is UNDERSTANDING THE URBAN INFLUENCE ON SANTA MONICA BAY. Most of the seventeen papers to be presented at the meeting present findings from a collaborative study of sediment contamination, sediment transport, and biological processes. Ours is one of six symposia scheduled for the meeting; the others include coastal habitat restoration, ecology of kelp beds, research at public aquaria, new and rare species observed during the last El Nino, and a symposium on the Los Angeles River.

Further information on our meeting and the other symposia is contained in <http://earth.usc.edu/~scas/>

Many of the papers presented at our symposium will be included in a special issue of Marine Environmental Research.

I hope that some of you will be able to attend.

### **Environmental Education**

A Master of Science Program for the Working Professional - The University of San Francisco's Department of Environmental Science is about to add a new dimension to Master of Science in Environmental Management program. For the past 20 years the program has provided postgraduate training for hundreds of environmental professionals primarily from the San Francisco Bay Area, but plans are now in hand to extend its reach to Southern California. Starting this fall the degree will be offered from USF's regional campus located in Orange County in Southern California. The degree is designed to be completed on a part-time basis over a two-year period allowing participants to remain in full-time employment. Classes generally meet on Saturdays and will run concurrently with those in San Francisco. They will combine traditional face-to-face instruction at both institutions with state-of-the-art teleconferencing to allow real-time interaction between students. Related Internet technology will also be used to provide other support. This will offer new and expanded networking opportunities for students as well as a means of broadening perspectives on many environmental issues. Details on courses, program structure as well as other information can be obtained from the web site ([www.usfca.edu/envsci](http://www.usfca.edu/envsci)), or by email from [MSEM@usfca.edu](mailto:MSEM@usfca.edu), or by calling the Department Secretary at 415-422-6553. Rob Toia

### **BOARD MEETING MINUTES - FEBRUARY 2000**

*contributed by Chris Stransky*

On February 17, 2000, a SoCal SETAC Officer and Board of Directors meeting was held at the offices of Ogden Environmental in San Diego, CA.

Lan Wiborg provided the Treasurer's report. She updated our account, expense, and revenue status, and discussed her ongoing efforts to finalize our non-profit status.

Chris Stransky updated the board on website developments and server information. Chapter newsletters, membership application forms, meeting registration forms, email links to board members, and more... are now up our website. Again, our NEW web address is <http://www.wans.net/~socialsetac/>. Board member election activities for the Year 2000 were also discussed (See previous section).

Following officer's reports, the next topic was the planning of our annual meeting. Plenary and session speakers and topics, the Wild Wild WET short course, and social activities were discussed. Please read Joe Gully's detailed review of the meeting status in this issue for an update.

A student award at our annual meeting was decided upon (see above). The award will be voted on by members of the board (Chris Stransky, Scott Steinert, Jerry McGowen, and Phil Markle).

The creation of a Marissa Gaumond Memorial Award was decided upon. A yearly donation of \$200 will be gifted to the Kids at Heart Foundation under the name of the outgoing SoCal SETAC president. A plaque commemorating the service of each president will be permanently displayed at the Kids at Heart Foundation.

*New Business*

A proposal for the SoCal SETAC Chapter to participate in policy review activities was discussed. We are looking for volunteers to coordinate and identify candidate issues. Please contact Marilyn Schwartz [mjschwartz@oees.com](mailto:mjschwartz@oees.com) if you are interested. We believe this would provide a much-needed interactive forum to evaluate and discuss important current issues.

A final decision regarding Chapter meeting locations was made. It was decided that meetings (held quarterly) will rotate between the following regions: (1) South Orange County/San Diego, (2) Los Angeles/Long Beach, (3) Ventura/Santa Barbara, and (4) at the annual National SETAC meeting.

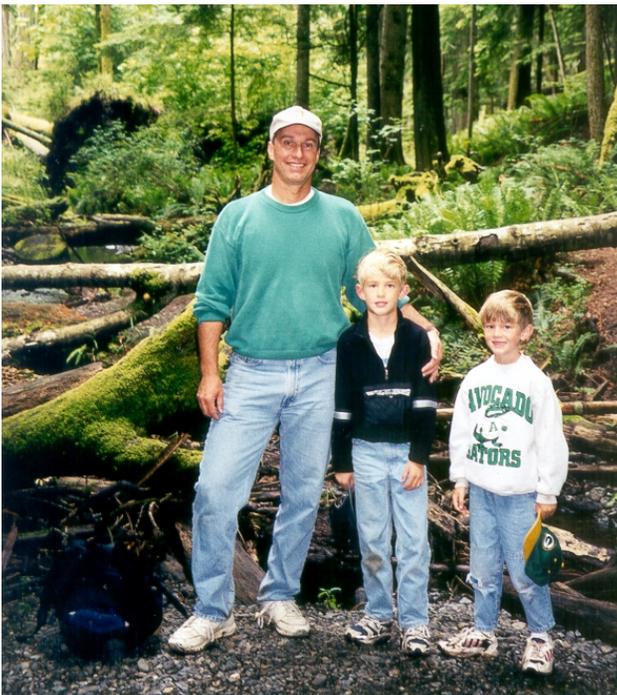
**RENEWAL REMINDER**

SoCal SETAC Membership is fully tax deductible and a great bargain at \$20. Please contact any board member or see our website for an application. And thanks for your continued support of SoCal SETAC.

2000-2001 Memberships run from June 30, 2000 through June 30, 2001.

**MEET YOUR BOARD...**

**SCOTT STEINERT**



Hello SoCal SETAC members. The bottle has stopped spinning and is pointing at me, so it's my turn to fill this column. I've been on the board of directors since 1995 and believe SoCal SETAC is a great organization for linking all of us environmental toxicology and chemistry types here in southern California. I grew up in northern California and literally got my feet wet and gained my great love for the marine environment surfing and diving around the Monterey Bay area in the 60's & 70's. When the time came for college a look at the map drew my attention to San Diego for its warmer waters and close proximity to Baja California. Southern California was indeed a shock to me, there were lifeguards on the beaches, houses lining most of the coast, and so many people. I felt this had to be a temporary move. I attended San Diego State University and received my B.S. in Biology, and Masters degree in Biology. To make ends meet as an under graduate I worked at Scripps Institute of Oceanography for the San Diego State Foundation, investigating thermal effects on marine organisms, and the Naval Ocean Systems Center (NOSC), now

SPAWAR, conducting dredge spoil bioassays. I found growth and mortality endpoints very limiting, in many cases organisms that would be counted as “alive” were showing obvious outward signs of stress. In bivalves this was apparent by their gaping shells. I knew there had to be cellular changes preceding these outward signs of stress. The emphasis in marine biological research at that time (mid to late 70’s) was whole animal or ecological. Along with my other work I participated in studies of the lobster and fish populations in San Diego Bay. You wouldn’t believe the garbage we’d find in water, seen and unseen. But with all that work and all those animals caught and tagged we still had little understanding of the health of those populations or of the individuals in those populations. While finishing up my undergrad work I couldn’t get enough of the new developments in cell biology and biochemistry. New immunological methods were bursting on the scene every day, such as those to create hybridoma cell lines for the production of monoclonal antibodies, as well as biochemical methods, such as polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. These were methods one could use to understand an animals’ internal machinery. Then there were whispers of DNA recombination, pretty heady stuff.

My intentions at that time were to pursue graduate work in immunology away from San Diego. But I was offered the opportunity to study sublethal biochemical changes elicited in bivalves by trace metals with Dr. George Pickwell, at NOSC. This was too good to be true, I could continue working with marine organisms and apply these new methods to monitor contaminant induced biochemical changes. All these new tools and someone was going to pay me to apply them towards the marine environment, pinch me. I stayed in San Diego, got involved in many interesting studies, and received my M.S. The catch phrase then was, “...development of a suite of biochemical indicators of stress.” That has evolved into “biomarkers”, and I’m now examining DNA damage in single cells. It’s still basically the same approach but with somewhat more sophisticated tools that require only tens of thousands of cells, non-destructive to all but the smallest of organisms, compared to large chunks of tissue, destructive to all but the largest of animals. Measuring biochemical responses for environmental assessment is becoming more common, and there are many sublethal biochemical methods presently available. The next step is to link-up with ecological studies to bridge the cellular responses to population effects gap. So there’s still much to be done and it’s always interesting. If it was easy someone would have done it long ago.

Somewhere in there I fell in love, was married, started a family, and became firmly entrenched in southern California. So much for a temporary stay. I have enjoyed and benefited from the many opportunities SoCal SETAC offers to connect with individuals involved in every aspect of environmental regulation and research. I’d like to invite the membership to sit in on and participate in our board meetings, and get involved. Thanks for giving me this opportunity to ramble on, and feel free to drop me a line any time you’d like to know more about my research or SoCal SETAC.

Scott Steinert

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS...** *contributed by Scott Steinert*

APRIL 2000

**ASTM 10<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry.** April 10-12, 2000, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Bruce Greenberg, T: 519 888 4567 x4567: F: 519 746 0614: [greenber@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca](mailto:greenber@sciborg.uwaterloo.ca).

**International Conference on Life Cycle Assessment: Tools for Sustainability.** April 25-27, Arlington, VA. Contact: Mary Ann Curran, [curran.maryann@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:curran.maryann@epamail.epa.gov).

**Ecological Society of America, BES/ESA Meeting.** Orlando, FL. April 2000.  
[esa.sdsc.edu/bes-esa.html](http://esa.sdsc.edu/bes-esa.html)

MAY 2000

**6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Remote Sensing for Marine and Coastal Environments.** May 1-3, Charleston, SC. More information; <http://www.erim-int.com>.

**Remediation of Chlorinated and Recalcitrant Compounds: The Second International Conference** , May 21-24, 2000, Doubletree & Marriott Hotels/Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, California. [www.battelle.org/environment/er/chloconf.html](http://www.battelle.org/environment/er/chloconf.html)

**Global Environmental Issues in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Problems, Causes and Solutions. Third SETAC World Congress** May 21-25, 2000, Brighton, U.K., Contact: SETAC Europe, Brussels, Belgium, T: 32 2 772 72 81; F: 32 2 770 5386; [setac@ping.be](mailto:setac@ping.be).

**Sustainability of Wetlands and Water Resources: How Well Can Riverine Wetlands Continue to Support Society into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?** May 23-25, University of Mississippi, MS. More information; <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/umbfs>.

JUNE 2000

**4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Impacts of the Pulp and Paper Industry.** June 12-15, Helsinki, Finland. Contact; [marja.ruoppa@vyh.fi](mailto:marja.ruoppa@vyh.fi).

**Atlantic Coast Contaminants Workshop: Endocrine Disruptors in the Marine Environment: Impacts on Marine Wildlife and Human Health.** June 22-25, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine. More information; [www.meriresearch.org/workshop.html](http://www.meriresearch.org/workshop.html).

JULY 2000

**The Coastal Society 17th International Conference.** July 9-12, 2000. Portland Marriott, Portland, Oregon. Laurie Jodice, Office Marine Resource Management, College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences, 104 Ocean Admin. Building, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-5503, phone: 541-737-1340, fax: 541-737-2064 [jodicel@oce.orst.edu](mailto:jodicel@oce.orst.edu).

**Coastal and Estuarine Risk Assessment Forum.** July 20-21, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA. More Information; [www.vims.edu](http://www.vims.edu).

**3<sup>rd</sup> European Society of Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry International Conference on Pollutants and Toxic Environmental Factors.** July 24-28, Liege, Belgium. More information; [www.ulg.ac.be/physioan/escpb.htm](http://www.ulg.ac.be/physioan/escpb.htm).

AUGUST 2000

**Ecological Society of America 85th Annual Meeting.** August 6-10 ,2000. Snowbird, UT.

Esa.sdsc.edu/snowbird2000.html.

**Chemical-Biological Interactions in Contaminant Fate-220<sup>th</sup> American Chemical Society National Meeting.** August 20-25, Washington, DC. More information; [www.ese.ogi.edu/tratnyek/chembio/](http://www.ese.ogi.edu/tratnyek/chembio/).

**Metal Speciation in the Aquatic Environment.** August 27-30, Porto Portugal. Contact; [fecs-conf@fc.up.pt](mailto:fecs-conf@fc.up.pt).

SEPTEMBER 2000

**5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium and Exhibition on Environmental Contamination in Central and Eastern Europe.** Sept. 12-14, 2000, Prague, Czech Republic. Contact: <http://www.prague2000.fsu.edu>.

**QSAR 2000. QSARS in Environmental Sciences: Crossroads to the XXI Century.** September 16-20, Bourgas, Bulgaria. More information; [www.setac.org/qsar2000.html](http://www.setac.org/qsar2000.html).

OCTOBER 2000

**27<sup>th</sup> Annual Aquatic Toxicity Workshop.** October 1-4, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Contact; [kpenney@jacqueswhitford.com](mailto:kpenney@jacqueswhitford.com).

**2<sup>nd</sup> EuroEnvironment 2000 Conference.** October 18-20, Aarlberg, Denmark. More information; [www.akkc.dk/environment](http://www.akkc.dk/environment).

**Year 2000 Meeting of the International Society of Exposure Analysis.** October 24-27, Monterey, CA. More information; [www.iseaweb.org](http://www.iseaweb.org).

**4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on EcoBalance.** October 31-November 2, Tsukuba, Japan. More information; [www.sntt.or.jp](http://www.sntt.or.jp).

NOVEMBER 2000

**Water Research Symposium 2000: Advances in Water and Land Monitoring Technologies and Research for Management of Water Resources.** November 8-10, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. More information; [www.vwrrc.vt.edu](http://www.vwrrc.vt.edu).

**SETAC 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting.** November 12-16, Nashville, TN. More information; [www.setac.org](http://www.setac.org).

**8<sup>th</sup> LCA Case Studies Symposium.** November 30, Brussels, Belgium. Contact; [bow@iptdtu.dk](mailto:bow@iptdtu.dk).

**2001**

NOVEMBER 2001

**Envirotox 2001. February 11-14, Canberra, Australia.** Contact; [greg.rippon@ea.gov.au](mailto:greg.rippon@ea.gov.au).

**Ninth International Congress of Toxicology (ICT-IX).** July 8-13, Brisbane, Australia. More information; [www.uq.edu.au/ICT9](http://www.uq.edu.au/ICT9).