

**Annual Report: SETAC North America Awards & Fellowships Committee (SNA AFC)**  
**Submitted by: Kim Fernie and Diane Nacci**

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**Co-chairs: Diane Nacci (Government) and Jennie Gunderson (Government);**  
**SETAC Board of Directors (BoD) Contact (2014 - current): Kim Fernie (Government);**  
**SETAC Office Liason: Laura Swanson**

**Executive Summary**

**The SETAC North America Awards & Fellowships Committee (SNA AFC)** is comprised of several subcommittees that help administer the many award opportunities within SETAC North America. These awards recognize and honor outstanding contributions in the environmental sciences by professionals, and enhance the professional development of students and pre-professionals.

**Organization**

Continuing this year, subcommittee chairs were:

Burton Suedel (Government) - Professional Awards Subcommittee (9 members);  
Jennie Gundersen (Government) - Student Travel & Minority Awards Subcommittee (11 members); and  
Kay Ho (Government), Student Presentation Awards (3 members).

Joan Tell (Industry) will complete her service as the chair of the Research Fellowships Subcommittee (5 members), turning over leadership to Laurel Royer (Industry), who brings in her perspective on recruitment from the *ad hoc* Visibility subcommittee.

**Key activities in 2015**

1. A major activity of the SNA AFC activities is review and recommendation for SNA Awards and Fellowships (A&Fs) to be presented at the SNA annual meeting. A description of the awards and fellowships recommended by SNA AFC and approved by the SNA BoD for 2015 is provided in Table 1.
2. Also in preparation for the annual meeting, Student Travel Awards were evaluated by 12 members of the Applicant Review Subcommittee, including some new volunteers. Each of the 140 applicants was evaluated by 3 different reviewers making for a total of 420 reviews! Specifically, the SNA AFC awarded 108 student travel awards to 10 undergraduates, 36 Masters, and 58 PhD students. These included four awards from the SETAC Minority Travel Fund. Also, from the SETAC North America Endowment Fund, awards were made to a student in each of these categories: undergraduate (Leah Cuscito, University of Winnipeg), a Masters (Sharon Hartzell, University of Maryland, College Park) and a PhD (Bethany DeCourten, University of North Carolina, Wilmington).
3. During this year (2015), the SNA AFC student presentation subcommittee worked with the Program Committee Volunteer Subcommittee to optimize events and processes related to the 2015 SNA annual meeting. For example at this year's meeting, most awards will be presented at the opening and closing ceremonies. This will also provide opportunity to recruit for AFC committee members, student presentation judges, and candidates for the A&Fs, themselves. This year the student presentation subcommittee also worked with the Program Committee and the SNA staff to solicit support from our membership to minimize the number of student entries

for presentation awards that occur late on Thursday - this implemented strategy is expected to help the AFC efficiently and accurately complete student presentation awards in time for the closing ceremony.

4. The AFC became involved in a new project this year with Colgate-Palmolive (C-P). Company representatives contacted the SNA to develop a plan for, (1) a single donation and (2) a planned continuing gift to further training and support for 'Sound Principles of Science in Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry'. After reviewing many alternatives, Colgate-Palmolive, represented by Dr. Marie Capdevielle, will dedicate an initial gift to support:
  - a. A SNA 2105 student seminar/luncheon (see below): Colgate-Palmolive, represented by Dr. Capdevielle, will sponsor Ms. Emily Skor as the workshop leader for the SETAC NA student seminar/luncheon this year. Ms. Skor will be introduced by NASAC leaders, Austin Gray and Blair Paulik, for the discussion topic 'Communicating Risk'.
  - b. A SETAC Europe (EU) 2016 student seminar/luncheon (TBD).
  - c. Student travel awards to each of these SETAC geographic units: Africa, Latin America and Asia/Pacific.
  - d. In addition, C-P will sponsor a student publication award (see below):
    - i. For this year, Colgate-Palmolive will sponsor the existing ET&C best student paper award: Dr. Capdevielle will present this award to the awardee, Francesca Gissi, who has chosen to have this presentation made at the SETAC EU annual meeting in the spring of 2016.
    - ii. In 2016/2017, Colgate-Palmolive will sponsor a new award for the best student paper from both SETAC journals, IEAM and ET&C. The award will replace the existing ET&C best student paper. The award criteria and selection process are being coordinated by the SETAC journal editors and Ecological Risk Assessment Advisory Group (ERAAG), represented by Mark Johnson, who will review the highest rated student papers for their adherence to 'Sound Principles of Science in Ecotoxicology and Environmental Chemistry'.
5. The SNA AFC (in particular, Kay Ho) has also been instrumental in helping to organize a 'recent grad meet-up' at the Salt Lake City SETAC meeting. It is scheduled for Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:15pm in room 151 DE, as an informal gathering where participants can discuss different strategies for improving the connection of recent grads to SETAC. For the inaugural meeting, recent grads are being defined as a broad category to include anyone who has recently graduated with a BS/BA, MS, or PhD, as well as anyone in a multiple post-doc situation.
6. Revisions to SOP (accepted in 2008) continue with the review of existing and evolving processes for SNA Awards and Fellowships (A&Fs). For example, this year the SNA BoD is discussing whether SNA A&Fs should be restricted to the SNA geographic area or unit, itself. Continuing from 2014, the SNA AFC is working with the Chemistry Advisory Group (CAG) on an SOP for their student presentation award (established in 2009) and suggested changes consistent with other award procedures that are being considered by the CAG this year.

#### **Coordination with Other Advisory Groups and Committees**

Throughout 2015, the SNA AFC interacted with the Program Committee, the SETAC Global Awards Committee, and the CAG and ERAAG.

#### **Future Plans**

In place of the *ad hoc* AFC Visibility Subcommittee, the AFC will continue to work within specific subcommittees to identify and resolve possible issues with recruitment of applicants for the SETAC awards. For example, the Fellowship subcommittee is working on new ways to target academia to enhance applicant pool. The SNA AFC will work with the Global Awards Committee on strategies to recruit more women applicants. Review of the Committee's SOP will be completed and sent to the Board of Directors for approval. In 2016, successional plans will be revisited to ensure AFC continuity.

**Business and Planning Meetings; Membership Communications**

The AFC communicates primarily by email, with periodic calls among the AFC members working on specific projects, and the Steering Committee, who helped to establish and further develop specific projects, activities and future directions of the AFC. A face-to-face meeting of attending AFC members occurs each year at SETAC; this year's meeting in Salt Lake City will occur on Wednesday, Nov. 4 at 1 pm.

**Issues/Problems.**

Soliciting volunteers for evaluating award applicants was challenging despite the assistance of appropriate groups/leads. While the SETAC NA staff continues to do an extraordinary job in managing the application process for awards and fellowships, the committee will work closely with SETAC staff to optimize the usefulness of the electronic review process to ensure timely reviews.



**Table 1: SETAC North America Awards and Fellowship Committee awards, 2015**

Awards and Fellowships	Short Description	Approved (2015)
Eugene Kenaga SETAC Membership Award	This member of SETAC has been instrumental in the developing of and working with the Society's membership at either the national or chapter level	Dr. Paul Sibley, School of Environmental Sciences University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
SETAC/Menzie Environmental Education Award	The awardee has made significant contributions to environmental education with other educators or by working with community groups and K-12 programs. The award is alternated between these two categories.	Dr. Kenneth Sajwan, Professor and Director of Environmental Sciences Program, Department of Marine and Environmental Sciences, Savannah State University, Savannah, GA
SETAC/EA Jeff Black Fellowship	This fellowship is given to this outstanding Masters student who has been accepted to or is participating in an environmental science or engineering program at college or university	Mr. Timothy Bock, Biology Department, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI
SETAC/Best Regional Chapter Award	This regional chapter member of SETAC has been consistently contributing to the development or functioning of the Society at the Regional Chapter Level	Dr. David Kent, David Kent Consulting Washington, DC.
SETAC Government Service Award	The awardee has given exemplary dedication and service as a scientist toward promoting the collective applications of environmental toxicology and chemistry to risk assessment in a government function.	Dr. Fengchang Wu, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES), Beijing, China

