

## **Annual LTER Committee Report for 2011-2012**

**Today's Date:** April 24, 2012

**Committee:** Graduate Students

**Chair/Co-chairs:** Sally Koerner and Kim La Pierre

**Current committee composition and changes in 2010-11:** 1-2 representatives per site (see appendix below)

**Frequency / Number of times met in 2010-11 (since May 2010):** 1

**Activities / accomplishments since May 2010:**

- At ESA August 2011, the LTER graduate student committee met with all available members. At this meeting we began a discussion to plan for ASM 2012, and the co-chairs surveyed the available members of the committee on a variety of topics, including how each individual LTER site ran their graduate student organization, how student involvement and community building were encouraged, and any concerns the students had. We also spoke about opportunities that site representatives would have to get more involved with the Graduate Student Committee during the following year.
- Over the course of the year we have been preparing for the Graduate Student Symposium (GSS) at ASM in Estes Park, CO.
  - We have organized our Keynote Speaker (Nancy Grimm) and a panel of scientists (Nik Heynen, Dave Gutzler, Trina McMahon, Sandra Henderson) to address our theme of “Cross-discipline ecology: Integrating additional sciences into ecological research within the LTER network”.
  - LTER Graduate Student Site Representatives were encouraged to submit suggestions for the keynote speaker, panel speakers, and for the graduate student presentations at GSS at ASM.
  - We sent out a call for proposals for graduate student lead working groups for the GSS at ASM.
- We organized and submitted an LTER graduate student sponsored ESA Organized Oral Session, titled “Nutrient additions alter community and ecosystem processes: Lessons learned from the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network.” The proposal was accepted (see below).

**Plans for leadership transitions, if any:** We will be hosting elections for a new co-chair during the summer of 2012, as Sally Koerner will be rotating out of her position immediately following ASM.

**Plans for 2011-12:**

- The GS Committee is sponsoring an Organized Oral Session at this year's 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecological Society Meeting in Portland. The session, entitled "Nutrient Additions Alter Community and Ecosystem Processes: Lessons Learned from the Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network," will be held Wednesday morning, August 8<sup>th</sup>. The session is comprised of a mix of graduate students and PIs presenting on a wide variety of ecosystems from at least 8 different LTER sites.
- We plan to host a meeting of the LTER graduate student representatives at ESA 2012 to continue discussion and work out details of the GSS at ASM 2012.
- We will host the GSS at ASM 2012.
- As outlined in the LTER SIP, we are continuing to work on communication; this objective still needs work. We have and will continue to write articles for the LTER newsletter. In addition, the LTER Graduate Students need a website that is open to the public, in which we can display the great work being done by students within the network. We plan to discuss this at the GSS in order to get a sense of what the graduate student community needs and desires from a website, to create a committee to spearhead the effort, and to devise a timeframe for the project complete with milestones.

**Other information pertinent to Committee activities:**

The next All Scientist Meeting is approaching quickly, and after the success of the last meeting's Graduate Student Symposium, we plan to do it again. Planning and hosting the Graduate Student Symposium will consume the majority of the committee's time in the months to come and will be our major objective for the coming year. In addition, after the meeting we will continue to promote collaboration across sites and encourage the working groups from the GSS at ASM to continue working on their projects.

**APPENDIX: Committee Membership**

Sarah Frey (AND)

Julia Larouche (ARC)

Anna Johnson (BES)  
Rebecca Hewitt (BNZ)  
Eric Chapman (CAP)  
Randie Bundy (CCE)  
Heather Whittington (CDR)  
Robert Northington (CWT)  
Rebecca Garvoille (FCE)  
Christine Hladik (GCE)  
Colin Fuss (HBR)  
Alix Contosta (HFR)  
Darroc Goolsby (JRN)  
Dan Carter (KNZ)  
Omar Perez-Reyes (LUQ)  
Deb Leslie (MCM)  
Sammy Davis (MCR)  
Jordan Read (NTL)  
Anthony Darrouzet-nardi (NWT)  
Kristen Gorman (PAL)  
Nat Morse (PIE)  
Dan Okamoto (SBC)  
Laura Ladwig (SEV)  
Karie Cherwin (SGS)  
Jill Greiner (VCR)

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