

## Annual LTER Information Management Committee Report (2018-2019)

**Date:** May 2019

**Name of Committee:** LTER Communications Committee

**Name and affiliation of the Committee Chair (or co-chairs or Executive Board):**

Clarisse Hart (HFR), Lina DiGregorio (AND)

**Current members:**

Julie Doll (KBS) • Marty Downs (NCO) • Charley Driscoll (HBR) • David Foster (HFR) • Sarah Garlick (HBR) • Peter Groffman (BES) • Sam Norlin (NCO) • Nick Oehm (FCE) • Alexandra Rose (NWT, MCM) • Kristen Weiss (NCO) • Lauren Wood (VCR)

**How membership is determined (identified by sites, voluntary, appointed by the Executive Board, etc)**

Membership on the committee is voluntary. As a committee we seek to recruit members with diverse representation across roles (e.g., PIs, IMs, Education/Outreach Coordinators, site-level communicators, students) and site geography; Co-chairs are elected every 3 years.

**Meeting frequency:**

Every other month via video conference

**Major activities or accomplishments for the year:**

- Support the “LTER Stories” special issue of Ecosphere
  - Member Peter Groffman convened manuscript authorship
  - Member Julie Doll is guest editor for special issue
  - Multiple members are internal reviewers for manuscripts
- Long-term goal: build community of practice for site communicators and others interested in science communication across the Network
  - 2019 action item: in collaboration with Diversity Committee and Higher Ed Working Group, facilitated 2 LTER-wide calls on communication and diversity issues in REU programming
- Worked with NCO and NSF to amplify/populate from the site level multiple LTER multimedia campaigns (e.g. Earth Day [Story Map](#) project, [#LTERlove](#), [#WhyISynthesize](#))
- ASM 2018
  - Led committee meeting (recruited multiple new members)
  - Supported cohort of REUs at ASM
    - With Higher Education Working Group, co-organized two preparatory webinars for REUs attending the meeting (an overview of LTER, and a session on how to communicate well with scientific posters)

- Created & led Arthur C. Schwarzschild student poster contest, with a focus on science communication; worked with ESA to donate student annual memberships as prizes

### **Subcommittees or working groups (WG):**

#### **Planned activities for the coming year:**

- For the special edition of Ecosphere:
  - Contribute reviews of manuscripts
  - Work with NCO and NSF to publicize manuscripts' story points for broad audiences with media outreach, partner outreach, and social media
- To build the LTER community of practice in communication
  - Organize a "book club"-like viewing and discussion of the LTER site applications of a scicomm professional development topic (e.g. from the [Sackler Colloquium](#))
- Work with Higher Ed working group to plan a summer 2019 virtual session (giving an overview of the LTER Network) for REUs at LTER sites
- Work with NCO to amplify outcomes/products from 2018-2019 synthesis working groups
- Contribute as needed to 40-year review
- Goal if leveraged funding can be obtained: create & distribute calendar of LTER imagery for LTER community, funders, and stakeholders

#### **Upcoming changes in leadership, purpose, or process:**

The term of one of our co-chairs, Clarisse Hart, will end in September; the committee will vote in a new co-chair.

We will continue to nimbly adjust the work of this committee to support site-level needs, and to augment the goals and communication capacity of the Network Office.