

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Reflections on the Election

Linda E. Duguay

It was a great sadness for me and I know many others in our society as I watched the election returns with four generations of my family on the evening of 8th November with what I had so hoped would be a history-making election. Instead, the fear and apprehension that I had over the last few weeks was fulfilled that the great glass ceiling would not be shattered and we would not elect our first female President of the U.S. Unfortunately for me that did come true. I was in a deep funk for the remainder of the week—consoling and being consoled by colleagues, students, and staff.

But I do now have hope. As I write this column, it is just over a week after the 8th November great disappointment and I am in Washington, DC at a meeting of the three President's, Directors, and meeting staff of our partners in the Biennial Ocean Sciences Meeting (OSM)—the American Geophysical Union (AGU), The Oceanography Society (TOS), and ASLO—to plan the future of the OSM beyond 2018. The three societies have been jointly meeting in even years since 2006, and prior to that from 1982 to 2002 it was a joint meeting of AGU and ASLO. The OSM meeting has become the go-to Ocean Sciences meeting for the international community—it is now cresting over 5000 attendees; our last one in February in New Orleans had members from 73 countries. The three societies have not had a summit meeting since an MOU was signed in 2004 laying out the terms of agreement for management and financing of the meetings. So it was suggested we all come together to plan out the next 10 yr. For me, it was very ironic that at the meeting the current Presidents are all women ocean scientists (myself for ASLO, Margaret Leinen from UC San Diego/SCRIPPS for AGU and Susan Lozier of Duke University for TOS). We were joined by a few male colleagues—indeed ASLO's President-elect Mike Pace was with us. In fact, in further thinking about the historic disappointment of not breaking that final glass ceiling, I realized that many of the current heads of major science agencies are women scientists—France A. Cordova at NSF, Kathryn D. Sullivan at NOAA, Sally Jewell at Interior, Suzette Kimball at USGS, Gina McCarthy at EPA and indeed the top ceiling

in the sciences was shattered this year at the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) with the appointment of geophysicist/oceanographer Marcia McNutt as President. So with this realization, I was heartened that indeed the ocean/aquatic science and the broader earth/environmental science communities are strong supporters of their female colleagues and believe in diversity in general for all groups. So don't be discouraged or lose hope dear colleagues, especially all you young women out there—it will happen and being the optimist that I am, I still believe we will elect a women President of the U.S.A. in my lifetime.

But what does this historic election of Donald Trump, a businessman with no government experience to speak of, mean to the future of the science endeavor and its funding? What will his policies toward the sciences be and to the aquatic/ocean and earth/environmental sciences in particular? We do know he made promises to create jobs and improve infrastructure. According to the 14 November AIBS Public Policy Report, "The only information about his views on research was provided in response to twenty questions posed by Science Debate" (see www.sciencedebate.org for full responses from all candidates). He has particularly drawn out the importance of freshwater and freshwater infrastructure. In response to a question on water ("If you are elected, what steps will you take to ensure access to clean water for all Americans?"), Trump said "This may be the most important issue we face as a nation for the next generation. Therefore, we must make the investment in our fresh water infrastructure to ensure access to affordable fresh water solutions for everyone." He is supportive of NASA and continuing space programs and further exploration; hopefully, he will be a supporter of the satellite programs that support earth/ocean observations. He really has not had much to say on the oceans—when asked a question on ocean health ("What efforts would your administration make to improve the health of our ocean and coastlines and increase the long term sustainability of ocean fisheries?"), his response was: "My administration will work with Congress to establish priorities for our government and how we will allocate our limited fiscal resources. This approach will assure that the people's voices will be heard on this topic and others." In response to a question about research, President-elect Trump's response was quite reasonable: "The premise of this question is exactly correct—scientific advances do

require long term investment. This is why we must have programs such as a viable space program and institutional research that serve as incubators to innovation and the advancement of science and engineering in a number of fields. We should also bring together stakeholders and examine what the priorities ought to be for the nation. Conservation of resources and finding ways to feed the world beg our strong commitment as do dedicated investment in making the world a healthier place. The nation is best served by a President and administration that have a vision for a greater, better America."

I think we are all a little concerned about EPA and the regulations put in place to protect our environment. Also of major concern is what will be the administration's position on our changing climate, the science supporting it, and the international agreements we have signed to slow it down. In response to a question on Climate Change ("What are your views on climate change and how would your administration act on those views?"), Trump responded "There is still much that needs to be investigated in the field of 'climate change'. Perhaps the best use of our limited financial resources should be in dealing with making sure that every person in the world has clean water. Perhaps we should focus on eliminating lingering diseases around the world like malaria. Perhaps we should focus on efforts to increase food production to keep pace with an ever growing world population. Perhaps we should be focused on developing energy sources and power production that alleviates the need for dependence on fossil fuels. We must decide on how best to proceed so that we can make lives better, safer, and more prosperous." These are big unknowns at the moment that I am writing this, as the Trump administration really did not lay out many policy statements during the campaign and in the first few weeks of his transition to the Presidency. But I do have hope as he is already softening some hard lines—speaking with the New York Times Tuesday, November 22, President-elect Trump appeared to soften his previously expressed stance on climate change. According to a Tweet from Times reporter Mike Grynbaum: "In the meeting, Trump also reportedly said he is considering 'how much it will cost our companies' when it comes to climate change, and that when it comes to withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement," "I'm looking at it very closely. I have an open mind to it." Hopefully his position on these issues will be much clearer and increasingly soften when the *Bulletin* is published in

February and when we meet at the Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Honolulu.

So we are already seeing that many of the harsh/difficult statements made by Mr. Trump on many issues are being rolled back and that some of his cabinet appointments are more moderate individuals with strong government experience. We can only hope that those types of appointments will continue for our Science Agencies (NSF, NOAA, NASA, and USGS) and he will appoint a strong Science Advisor. At the OSM summit, we did discuss how important it is that he appoints a Science Advisor early on. We also discussed the importance of the science community engaging the new administration and offering our service and science experience to move our science forward. Basic government support of science since the 50s has been the important driver of advancement and innovation for the U.S., and we must continue to make the case through our science societies and our institutions that a strong national and collaborative international science enterprise will make the U.S. stronger and create jobs and a more vibrant economy. We must stay engaged and we must work with the administration to ensure a strong and balanced research portfolio. But we must also be vigilant and have a strong voice in denying pseudo and blatantly wrong science arguments. This issue of the *Bulletin* profiles our policy committee, and the ASLO Board will be working closely with them and our sister societies in advancing the science agenda in the new administration. So stay tuned. I am sure there will most likely be joint science policy statements in the coming months and I would imagine discussions, forums, and workshops at our 2017 February Aquatic Sciences Meeting in Hawaii. I would encourage you in the U.S. to be in touch with your elected federal and state representatives and make the case to them yourself or through your institutions with regard to support of the science community and the numerous benefits provided to your state and country through your research and education efforts.

But enough said for now on the election. You will be hearing more in coming President's columns in the *Bulletin*. You will also be hearing more on the great OSM summit meeting that was held in mid-November. It was extremely positive with incredible agreement and collegiality of the participants. I know you will be seeing a stronger, highly collaborative, and more innovative OSM when we meet in 2020 in San Diego. So stay tuned. Planning and programming for OSM 2018 in Portland is already proceeding

along very well, but the new MOU will not be able to be in place or implemented until our 2020 meeting.

I also had some ASLO moments of great joy over the last 2 weeks that we will be sharing with you shortly. As President, it is my duty to call and inform all of our seven awardees for the Redfield, Hutchinson, Martin, Margalef, Patrick, Lindeman, and Yentsch-Schindler awards. It was a bit of a challenge as two of them were at opposite ends of the globe, but I managed to connect with them and they were all so surprised, pleased, and gracious about receiving the award. One said it was the "best thing that had happened to him in a decade." Most of them, I believe, will be able to join us in Honolulu to accept their award and discuss their work. We also made final decisions on the 2017 class of Fellows. There were 16 Sustaining Fellows and 14 Fellows. I did not contact them by phone—that would have been a lot of calls—but I sent them each a personal letter and I have heard back from a number of them how proud they are to be recognized by ASLO. We will be honoring them in February at a reception in Honolulu on the Monday just prior to the business meeting, so please join us in celebrating their achievements—there will be food and adult beverages.

Finally, something you will read about in Teresa Curto's column and will be hearing more about in future notices—we have after a 2 yr effort by Teresa Curto, Paul Kemp, Adrienne Sponberg, and Chris Schneider signed a contract for a new Association Management System (AMS), which will greatly streamline our operations and interface with you, our members, in a much more efficient way with regard to your membership and our conferences. My column, I know, is a bit short and I hope not too personal—it has been a long few months. I do greatly enjoy serving as your President and as always, don't hesitate to be in touch with me if you have questions about ASLO or suggestions on how to advance ASLO and our aquatic science world. I am an email junky, so email away to president@aslo.org!



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ALL HANDS ON DECK

Engaging in Science Policy in the New Political Climate

Britta Voss and Adrienne Sponberg

The election of Donald Trump created a wave of anxiety and uncertainty regarding the integrity of science-based policymaking in the United States and across the globe. Statements made by Trump, his advisors, and Cabinet appointees on topics from climate science to clean water regulations indicate that the new administration will be especially hostile to many issues that are important to ASLO researchers and educators. In this climate, many scientists are becoming increasingly aware of the urgent need for engagement in the policy process and communication across disciplinary and social boundaries in order to maintain scientifically sound policymaking. But many scientists need direction about how best to participate in science policy. To this end, The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) recently hosted a webinar to outline the most urgent issues and opportunities for scientist engagement in the coming months and years.

The webinar, which took place on 07 December 2016, featured UCS President Ken Kimmel, Director of the UCS Center for Science and Democracy Andrew Rosenberg, and UCS Science Network Outreach Specialist Justin Kwasa. Kimmel began the webinar by identifying the threats posed by the Trump administration, based on statements by members of Trump's campaign and transition team, as well as Trump's proposed nominees for federal agency positions. Of primary concern is the United States' commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement (which could entail refusal to enforce the mechanisms which would reduce domestic carbon emissions or, eventually, complete withdrawal from the accord). Regardless of how effective the Trump administration is in achieving its goals of rolling back climate commitments, a loss of U.S. leadership in this global agreement would likely be a significant setback to the goals put forward in December 2015.

Similarly, members of the Trump campaign and transition team have expressed the intention to curtail or eliminate numerous environmental regulations, including the Clean Power Plan, fuel economy standards, and the Waters of the