

Government & Academic Scientists: Bridging the Gap with AAAS Fellows

Abstract

The work of government and academic scientists are often complementary, but the application of this work to policy can sometimes be a controversial and divisive force between the two communities. One means of increasing understanding and cooperation in science policy is via the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowship Program. This prestigious program brings accomplished scientists and engineers into 15 federal agencies to work at the intersections of science and policy. For the first time NOAA is hosting AAAS Fellows: Drs. Eric Toman and Kiki Jenkins. In this seminar they will present their perspectives on how the AAAS fellowship provides an opportunity to bridge the gap between academic and government scientists and address today's increasingly complex science and management challenges. They will be joined by Dan Poux, Associate Director of the Science & Technology Policy Fellowships at AAAS who will provide a brief overview of the fellowship program as well as by former fellows currently employed at NOAA. For more information on the fellowship program see:

<http://fellowships.aaas.org/>

Biographies

Lekelia Jenkins, Ph.D.

AAAS Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Fellow, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service

Lekelia “Kiki” Jenkins is a native of Baltimore, Maryland, where she grew up fishing and crabbing on the Chesapeake Bay. During the summers she prowled the grounds of the Baltimore Zoo as a junior zookeeper, learning about endangered species and conservation. A Meyerhoff Scholar and UNCF/Merck Fellow, she graduated with a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. As a NSF Graduate Fellow, Kiki received her PhD from Duke University by pioneering a new field of study into the invention and adoption of marine conservation technology. Since then, she has worked as an environmental consultant for the Natural Resource Defense Council, while also actively participating in the burgeoning field of Studies in Expertise and Experience. Kiki’s career and research interests center on the rigorous, empirical study of the process of conservation in order to distill conservation theory and codify best practices. Her hobbies include teaching and participating in all forms of dance, mentoring young adults, reading, traveling, eating good food with a view, writing poetry, imagining the possibilities, loving her friends, and loving her life.

Eric Toman, Ph.D.

AAAS Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources Fellow, NOAA, Climate Program Office

Prior to his selection as a AAAS Fellow, Eric completed a post-doctoral appointment in the College of Forestry at Oregon State University. In this role, he served as a co-principal investigator on four national-level research projects, academic advisor for undergraduate students, and instructor for three junior and senior level courses. His research has focused on the interactions of science and social values in environmental management. Specific projects

have addressed communication of scientific and technical information to build understanding and inform behavior, collaboration and community-based environmental management, risk perceptions and planning processes following ecological change, and interdisciplinary approaches to address environmental issues. He received his BS in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Natural Resource Policy from Utah State University, and his MS and PhD in Forest Resources from Oregon State University. Following completion of his fellowship, Eric will join the faculty of the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State University.

Daniel Poux

Associate Director, Science & Technology Policy Fellowships, AAAS

As associate director, Dan Poux oversees the Energy, Environment, Agriculture & Natural Resources Fellowships (EEANR) at the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; and the Health, Education & Human Services Fellowships (HEHS) at the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and the National Science Foundation. Dan manages partnerships and contracts with federal agencies, oversees the selection and successful placement of Fellows, monitors and evaluates fellowship activities, and serves as liaison and guide to Fellows and agency mentors and supervisors.

He also coordinates the year-long professional development program, including skill-building workshops and career enhancement sessions, and manages the overall AAAS Fellowships evaluation process to identify impacts on Fellows and host agencies and assess areas for enhancement. In addition, Dan contributes to policy development and recruitment and outreach activities for all of the fellowships.

He received a bachelor's degree in political psychology and a master's degree in natural resource policy and behavior from the University of Michigan. Dan conducted his master's thesis research on volunteerism and mentoring.