

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

AERSNews Editors
Julie Ambler, Emily Pirl
and Elizabeth Lacey

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Spring 2021 AERS & NEERS Joint Meeting. A 50th celebration!

Virtual, April 27-30, 2021

12:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (ET)

This Joint AERS & NEERS meeting celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first joint meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) and the newly formed New England Estuarine Research Society (NEERS) in 1971. Together, they forged a new national organization, the Estuarine Research Federation (ERF). Later renamed the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF), this organization advances understanding and wise stewardship of estuarine and coastal ecosystems worldwide. We had originally planned to meet at the same Holiday Inn in Plainview, NY as the first meeting. Due to the pandemic, we will be sharing our most recent advances of the people who make these strides - both established and rising voices. We look forward to sharing this history and future with you in a virtual meeting.

Abstracts and Program coming soon. Click on <https://www.aers.info/> for AERS website and click on image to the NEERS website.

Keynote on April 30: Engaging Diverse Youth in STEM Careers by Justin J. Shaifer, Founder and Executive Director of Fascinate, Inc. dedicated to exciting under represented students about STEM careers. One of Justin's projects for New York City institutions is the Magic Cool Bus Project.

Shark Tank Workshop following keynote on April 30 prepares Scientists and Science Communicators to effectively pitch their ideas for funding.

Meeting Organizers

Mary Alldred, Ph.D.; Department of Environmental Sciences, SUNY Plattsburgh, Plattsburgh, NY

Peter Burn, Ph.D.; Department of Biology, Suffolk University, Boston, MA

STORYCORPS

For the 50th anniversary of AERS and NEERS holding a joint meeting, we are looking to do something similar to Storycorps (<https://storycorps.org/>) and collect stories of you and another AERS member or your mentor/mentee (NEERS is doing a similar effort). Get together virtually with that person who had an influence on your career or just chat with them, and record it for us (here on WebEx you can record your session, but both Google Meet and Zoom have recording capability). We will post them as part of our upcoming joint meeting April 27-30 on WebEx.

Here are some conversation starters and topics:

- * How did you meet?
- * What's a memorable event for you?
- * How has your mentor's advice helped you?
- * What did your mentee bring to your life or teach you (it's a two-way street!)

We can't wait to hear your stories!

Bob Christian, Kim DeMutsert, Joe Luckovich

AERSNews Inside this Issue

Topic	Page
AERS NEERS Spring 2021 Virtual Joint Meeting and STORYCORPS	1
President's Corner, Ben Fertig	2
BIOS for candidates for AERS President-Elect and AERS Secretary	3-5
Recap SEERS AERS Fall Meeting 2020	5
Profiles of Students Presentation Awards, Fall 2020 SEERS-AERS Meeting	6-7
CERF 21 Meeting and Rising Tides	8
Membership Report	8
Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Workshop at AERS-NEERS Meeting	8



AERSNews President's Corner

I've spent the better part of today in the throes of planning for our upcoming joint meeting with NEERS in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the original joint AERS-NEERS meeting that originated ERF, later renamed CERF. It will be a great meeting. I highly encourage you to attend.

This spring's meeting will be bookended by engaging the next generation of coastal and estuarine scientists, managers, educators and advocates. On Tuesday morning before the meeting officially starts, The Coastal Society will again co-host a well-regarded Coastal Career Workshop replete with skill-building breakout sessions. Shamelessly, I use the privilege of this bully pulpit to pitch my own networking skill-build breakout session at 10:40am on Tuesday April 27. On Friday afternoon (April 30th), the rising STEM communications star Justin Shaifer (www.justinshaifer.com) will speak about his work encouraging Black and brown youth to consider STEM careers as well as his own multi-faceted path to the profession. Following his keynote address he will lead a science communication workshop focused on getting funding styled after the popular TV show "Shark Tank". Frankly, I can't wait. Register now, you won't want to miss this. <http://newenglandestuarineresearchsociety.wildapricot.org/MeetingOverview/>

As Julie Ambler recalls from our last meeting, Autumn Oczkowski implored us to "give ourselves grace" as we scrambled to readjust fieldwork and other pursuits to fit the realities of the pandemic. At just over a year out from the main outbreak of COVID-19 in the US this message is no less important even though vaccinations become more available under a president of larger repute than yours truly. My hope is that we continue to give ourselves and each other more grace once this pandemic is relegated to the confines of history. Further, my hope is that we extend this grace to be even more inclusive as a society, but more importantly as a scientific enterprise. I hope we ultimately create comprehensive policies that encourage a sense of belonging in coastal and estuarine sciences through all stages of education and careers.

I recently attended the excellent CERF Webinar presented by my friend and colleague Dr. Anne Thessen, who spoke not only about the present and future of data science in coastal and estuarine science but also the unconventional career path that led her there. She eloquently spoke about her "years in the wilderness" outside the ivory tower in which she grieved her academic career and how later on she returned to research in an unexpected pathway. Honestly, this resonated deeply with me as my own career has not been as expected. Anne reminded her listeners about creating their own

value proposition by focusing on uncommon skills that are of broad benefit to others. This is excellent advice for students and early career professionals, both in and outside the research bubble.

As we look back over the last 50 years we also look forward to the continued strength of our society. We have an important election for President-Elect and for Secretary this meeting. Only current AERS members are able to vote, so if your membership is overdue or lapsed for any reason, please renew it as soon as possible to be sure you can participate.

A knuckle salute for all that you do!

AERS Election for President Elect and Secretary, Nominations Chair

The AERS Spring Election ballot is finalized in [Simply Voting.com](http://SimplyVoting.com). People who are active AERS members (currently paid up dues, from a list provided by Shelley Katuski, membership chair) received an email April 6 providing them with a link to vote and a unique password. Note that there is a provision for a Write-in candidate in each position on the ballot. Members will not receive an email if their dues have not been paid, and should contact Shelley (if they paid via CERF) or pay their dues on Wild Apricot. We will add new voters to the rolls as the members pay their dues while the election is open, or if we get any new members before the meeting. The election will be open until the Business Meeting of the Spring Meeting (on 30 April). Below is the candidate list (a sample Ballot):



Joe Luczkovich
Nominations Chair and Past President of AERS

Description of AERS President-Elect

The President shall preside at all meetings. Three At-Large members and all Committee Chairs shall be appointed by the President. The President or his/her designated representative (e.g. immediate Past President or President-Elect) shall serve on the governing board of CERF, and the President shall direct Society activities of other Directors. The President-Elect will serve a one-year term commencing at the Spring Meeting preceding the Biannual CERF Meeting, followed by a two-year term as President that commences at the Spring Meeting following the Biannual CERF Meeting. The Past President will commence a one-year term as Past-President at the Spring Meeting following the Biannual CERF meeting.

Candidate for President-Elect

Gulni Ozbay

Hello AERS Family!

It has been a pleasure becoming part of this wonderful Society since I started my career as junior faculty in Delaware in 2003. Atlantic Estuarine Research Society Meeting was the first meeting I attended in the fall of 2003. I absolutely love it. Year after year I bring my research interns, graduate students, technicians, post-docs, and students from my Environmental Science class to AERS Meetings. It has been a pleasure seeing many of my colleagues and meeting new ones every year.



I received my Ph.D. in Auburn University, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures Program focusing on environmental quality and treatment strategies for the aquaculture effluents. I was also involved in oyster restoration efforts during my time at Auburn. This was how I established my research and outreach efforts in Delaware - working with oyster gardeners and oyster revitalization efforts to promote restoration of this important keystone species in Delaware. Although my primary research efforts focus on Delaware Inland Bays oyster restoration, I have conducted various ecological studies to increase my understanding of juvenile blue crab population assessment and feeding habits both in Blackbird Creek and Inland Bays in Delaware. My environmental monitoring efforts focus on anthropogenic stressors, land-use practices, and changes to marsh vegetation and aquatic ecosystems.

I have mentored and advised many undergraduate interns and graduate students in their environmental projects since 2003. Many of my students presented their research at AERS Meetings. At my current position as a Professor and Extension Specialist in Natural Resources at Delaware State University, I serve as the Environmental Health and Seafood Safety Lab Director.

As an active member of AERS since 2003, I have served as a Judge for students' presentations, moderated sessions, and co-hosted and assisted with several AERS Meetings. I served as an AERS Member-at-Large for 3 years and served as a Secretary and Treasurer for the U.S. Aquaculture Society for 2 years. I am very humbled to receive 2019 Venerable Clam Award from AERS for my service. I look forward to continuing serving this great Society and promoting AERS at regional and local institutions.

My vision as AERS President is increasing coordinated involvement in emerging environmental issues, assisting our region to utilize sustainable resources, conserve our environment, and foster mutually beneficial regional and national partnerships. Recruiting new members (especially minority students and young professionals) and promoting AERS as an organization among the minority-serving institutions are some of my goals if I am selected as a President-Elect. I also find it rewarding for AERS to offer coordinated efforts to its members with other sister organizations

Candidate for President-Elect

Shelley Katsuki

I am currently the manager of the Kauffman Aquaculture Center, part of the Aquaculture and Genetics Breeding Technology Center (ABC) at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). My work is a combination of selective breeding and genetic research to improve the commercially important traits of the eastern oyster *Crassostrea virginica*. The unique aspect of the Kauffman Aquaculture Center is that we are a polyploid breeding facility and have the most extensive tetraploid breeding program in the country. I take great pride in the work that I have done to improve our hatchery output and operations since my acceptance of this position in 2014. Prior to working with oysters, I spent several years studying diseases of other commercially important shellfish and finfish at VIMS.



I was introduced to AERS during my time as a graduate student at Old Dominion University and have been an active member of the board for well over a decade. I started my tenure on the board as Student Representative in 2007 and facilitated several student/mentor luncheons, helping to further the reputation AERS has as one of the more student-friendly professional organizations. I became Membership Chair in 2010 and have maintained that position since, lobbying for our transition to a new membership database with Wild Apricot that provides easier access to our members. I also pulled double duty for a time, serving in the elected position of Secretary from 2017-2019 while still serving as Membership Chair. As a result of this consistent involvement, I have been able to develop wonderful relationships with not only AERS members, but also many CERF board members as well. This has led to my representing AERS on a national level by serving as Co-Chair of the CERF Ambassadors program for the upcoming meeting this fall.

The collaborative nature and welcoming environment of AERS has been of great importance to me ever since my first meeting, and what drives me to continue to have an active role in the organization. The respect that AERS has for its student members was my initial attraction to the society. As President, I would hope to foster that relationship even further and encourage increased student involvement and representation. Additionally, as we have not been able to gather in person in well over a year, I hope to explore possibilities to rebuild our sense of connection as a society. Until we are able to meet again this could be done virtually through quarterly member seminars followed by discussion, or more socially focused events such as trivia. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing AERS grow and am excited and optimistic for the future of our society. I would be delighted to serve AERS in a new capacity as President.

Secretary of AERS Description

Duties: It shall be the duties of the Secretary to keep minutes of regular meetings of the Board and business meetings of the society, and to distribute notices and send copies of meeting minutes. The Secretary shall submit meeting minutes and other pertinent data to the Historian for placement in the official Repository of the Society. The Secretary shall serve a two-year term commencing at the Spring Meeting preceding a CERF Meeting.

Candidate for Secretary James Vasslides

I currently serve as the Senior Program Scientist at the Barnegat Bay Partnership (BBP), one of the 28 National Estuary Programs across the country. As the senior scientist, I am responsible for overseeing all aspects of the BBP's science activities, including our long-term monitoring programs for 1) juvenile fish and jellyfish, 2) winter eel ingress and 3)



seagrass demographics, among others. I also ensure that the best available science is used in the BBP's deliberations and recommendations. I received my B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolution from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, and have published papers on fish community assemblages, fish feeding interactions, fish and shellfish early life history movements, ecosystem trophic modeling, and seagrass distribution modeling. My research interests include the role of estuaries as nurseries, the restoration of shallow-water habitats, and climate change effects on species distributions and assemblages.

I have been an AERS member for over a decade now, joining when I started my position at the BBP as a way to stay abreast of the best estuarine science happening in our region (in the world, frankly). During that time I've been fortunate to attend many of our meetings, learning from outstanding scientists and bringing that information back to our local estuary. I am now in a position where I can "payback" some of the benefits that I have gained from being a member in the Society by taking an active leadership role. As Secretary I can put the skills I have honed serving as the BBP staff liaison to innumerable committees (meeting logistics, meeting minutes, arm-twisting, wrangling/shepherding) to use in the advancement of the Society's goals and aims. Additionally, for the past 4 years, I have served in the same position for the American Fisheries Society's Estuaries Section and have encouraged that group to explore cross-society opportunities, so serving in a leadership role in both groups (for the next 5 months at least) will strengthen that approach.

Candidate for Secretary April Blakeslee

Qualifications:

- B.A., Biology with a concentration in Marine Science, Boston University, 1994-1998.
- M.A. (thesis-based), Biology, Boston University, 1999-2001. Thesis topic: site-fidelity and reproductive success in a neotropical migrant species, the Ovenbird.
- Ph.D., Dept. of Zoology (Marine Evolutionary Ecology), University of New Hampshire, 2001-2007. Dissertation topic: resolving cryptogenic histories using multiple lines of evidence.
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Marine Invasions Lab, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, Maryland, 2007-2011.
- Assistant Professor, Ecology, Long Island University -Post, Brookville, New York, 2011-2015. Assistant Professor, Conservation Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, 2015-present.



To date, I have published 46 papers in the fields of biodiversity, population genetics, parasite ecology, marine and estuarine ecology, biogeography, and invasion biology. I am on the editorial board of two journals, *BioInvasions Records* (as Deputy Editor-in-Chief) and *Diversity & Distributions* (as Associate Editor). I have been a member of AERS since 2017 and my students have also been members. Two of my students have won awards at AERS meetings: Collin Love (a former undergraduate intern) for his talk, and Tim Lee, a current PhD student, for his poster. Presently, I am mentoring 2 PhD students and 2 MS students. All are doing research in estuarine or saltmarsh systems.

Below is a blurb from my website

(www.blakesleelab.com) that explains more about my research:

Overview of Research Interests: The Blakeslee lab emphasizes marine and estuarine conservation biology and includes a diverse research program involving biodiversity, population genetics, parasite ecology, and biogeography—as well as the unique and integrative insight that can be gained from studying biological invasions. Recently, biological invasions have become recognized as a major contributor to the global (and often disjunct) distributions of many marine and estuarine species as a result of human transport mechanisms. Invasion research is therefore important not only from a conservation perspective but can provide a theoretical and practical understanding of population and community level influences of novel species, and can also serve as an important teaching tool for students and the general public.

Candidate Secretary April Blakeslee, Continued

Biological invasions are a major part of human-induced global change, including population, community, and ecosystem-level shifts in marine biota, genetics, and the environment. We examine many integrative aspects of marine and estuarine invasions, focusing on four major areas: (1) global distribution patterns, biogeography, and conservation biology of free-living and parasite species, (2) invasion histories and vectors, (3) population genetics, population ecology, and evolutionary ecology in native and non-native populations, and (4) biodiversity, community ecology, and host-parasite interactions of native and non-native organisms, including host behavior, physiology, and genetics. We focus our studies primarily on marine invertebrates as they have contributed vast numbers of introductions globally, and they also serve as hosts to parasites, which are a fundamental but often overlooked component of many ecosystems, and which can become cryptic invaders themselves

Thank you for considering me! If I am selected, I would look forward to working with the AERS Board to guide the future of AERS, help plan meetings, take minutes, among other necessary duties.

Are you following AERS on Social Media. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at [@AERSScience](#).



Recap of Fall 2020 Virtual SEERS-AERS Meeting Hosted by Eastern Carolina University

Our joint Atlantic Estuarine Research and Southeastern Estuarine Research Society virtual meeting was moderated by Shannon Dunnis spelling? (SEERS), and AERS members Treda Grayson, Angela Padeletti, and LeeAnn Haaf. Eastern Carolina University handled all the registration transactions (87 members) and provided the virtual meeting platform. The meeting was very professionally done with time for members to ask questions of the speakers and a poster chats for members to communicate with poster presenters.

The meeting started with recorded remarks from CERF President Jim Fourqurean and online display of 15 posters. Tuesday was a “fun task.” The Coastal Society Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Program Workshop took place on Wed. with 12 students participating.

Three Keynote speakers spoke about “Coastal Research during COVID:” Dr. Kari St. Laurent, Delaware Dept. Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Re-

Recap of Fall 2020 AERS Meeting, Continued

search Coordinator for the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve; Dr. Autumn Oczkowski, Systems Ecologist at U.S. EPA’s Atlantic Coastal Environmental Sciences, Narragansett, RI; and Dr. Karen McGlathery, Professor of Environmental Sciences, University of Virginia, and Lead PI for VA Coast Reserve Long Term Ecological Research Program.

Working from home during the COVID lockdown was difficult. Common adjustments to COVID were streamlined fieldwork to fewer stations or some collection cancelled, although remote sampling and some field monitoring could continue. All three speakers focused on how COVID gave them and their students time to test new methods, mine long term data sets to write scientific papers, and plan field work. Dr. Oczkowski reflected that scientists should “give ourselves grace” since we can’t do typical work routines especially if we are taking care of young children.

A wide range of subjects were covered in the Thurs and Fri talks. Several speakers described their creative, hand on projects for K-12 students: floating island Bio-Hut in Baltimore Harbor to measure biodiversity by monitoring fouling of sessile invertebrates, a Smart Microscope for students to view phytoplankton online, and a multisensory approach to understand parasite host interactions with a 3D printer ciguatera toxin molecule. Researchers created living shorelines by planting oyster castles in the most urban estuary on the planet (NY/NJ Harbor), encouraged NC coastal residents to use living vegetated shorelines instead of bulkheads, documented “aquatic heat waves” from historical data, looked at fishery spawning data to see if spawning of spring spawners was earlier and fall spawners was later due to climate change, found that denitrification is higher in oyster castles than sediment, and more!

Judith Weis spoke about working on a New Jersey advisory board to review if New Jersey marshes can keep up with sea level rise due to climate change (New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Science Advisory Board Final Report. The Status and Future of Tidal Marshes in New Jersey faced with Sea Level Rise).

Julie Ambler, Co-Editor AERSNews



AERS Student Presentation Awards Fall 2020 Virtual Meeting

AERS would like to congratulate and recognize the three students who received awards for their outstanding presentations and posters at this past virtual meeting. Caitlin Turner of Stockton University was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation. Kristen Laccetti of the University of South Carolina won for the Best Graduate Oral Presentation. And Mike Wheeler of the University of North Carolina Wilmington took home the award for Best Graduate Poster Presentation. In the following profiles, the winners share more about their research, career goals and hobbies.

Caitlin Turner **Stockton University** **Best Undergraduate Student** **Presentation Award**



Caitlin Turner of Stockton University was awarded Best Undergraduate Presentation at the Fall 2020 AERS meeting for her poster entitled: *Wind effects on estuary exchange flow at a barrier island inlet*. Caitlin first became interested in estuarine circulation and dynamics through her interactions with her advisor, Dr. Anna Pfeiffer-Herbert, at Stockton University. Caitlin stated “[Dr. Pfeiffer-Herbert’s] passion for her research is contagious” and credits her mentor with shaping her passion for estuarine science and equipping her with the necessary tools to continue her career in research. After her AERS presentation, Caitlin graduated from Stockton University in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Science with a concentration in Oceanography and a Minor in Mathematics. Soon after she began her current position as a graduate research assistant at Louisiana State University, under Dr. Matt Hiatt with funding from Louisiana Sea Grant. In this position, Caitlin will continue her work in estuarine science and will focus on how winds, tides, and river discharge from an engineered spillway impact estuarine circulation and create favorable conditions for harmful algal blooms in Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana. The goal of this research is to numerically model how long it takes Lake Pontchartrain to recover and return to normal conditions after these blooms.

Caitlin’s long-term career goals do not diverge from her past work in estuarine science. Her goal is to continue her education to the PhD level, then work in either in academia or industry, to understand how anthropogenic influences change circulation patterns and impact estuaries and .

Wetlands. When asked what her favorite part about conducting research was, Caitlin said, “It is hard to pick one thing!” She enjoys the obvious parts of estuarine research such as being out on a boat during a beautiful day in the summer, but she also shows a true passion for collaboration and made sure to acknowledge her fellow undergraduates who worked on this presentation with her. In line with her love to work with others, Caitlin expresses a desire to not only continue her exciting research but to also engage local community through education and outreach opportunities.

When Caitlin is not out on a research cruise or modeling estuarine dynamics behind her computer, she enjoys activities that keep her active outside. This includes taking her dog, Scout, on hikes and traveling. An interesting note on the start to Caitlin’s research career, is that she used to teach middle school science and math. A particular science fair project by one of her student’s about oil spills peaked Caitlin’s interests in marine science and she decided then to leave teaching to pursue a career in Oceanography.

Kristen Laccetti **University of South Carolina** **Best Graduate Student Oral** **Presentation Award**



Kristen Laccetti of the University of South Carolina was awarded Best Graduate Oral Presentation at the Fall 2020 AERS meeting for her presentation entitled: *Zooplankton community structure within a stormwater detention pond in coastal South Carolina*. Before embarking on her pursuit of a graduate degree from the University of South Carolina, Kristen attended SUNY Cortland in New York where she received a bachelor’s degree in general biology. It was here in which Kristen’s interests in environmental science began and she was able to participate in a unique opportunity to study dolphin behavior. Soon after this, she had an internship which

focused on much smaller organisms for a project looking into the biological carbon pump. This project showed Kristen that plankton communities, despite their small stature, play an integral role in aquatic ecosystem health and community structure. Far too often, “the important little creatures” are overlooked by the public in favor of charismatic megafauna. Through her work on stormwater ponds, Kristen hopes to shine a light on these emerging manufactured ecosystems and the zooplankton communities that inhabit them.

For Kristen, being a student is second nature. She has always had a passion for exploring new topics and her curiosity into the natural world has dictated career path in academia. She truly enjoys the learning process and gets particularly excited to when her experimental results come in and she can make correlations to her original hypotheses. After the completion of her graduate degree, Kristen hopes to continue researching environmental impacts on zooplankton and phytoplankton communities. With the current exponential growth in the human population, Kristen would like to specifically work on projects that investigate how anthropogenic inputs effect aquatic ecosystems in the coastal environment. In the future, she would like to take her talents and research experience to an international environmental organization such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to tackle some of the most pressing environmental research questions.

When Kristen is not conducting research, she is still filling her free time with learning. She loves to read both scientific works as well as non-science pieces when she can find the time. She also spends a lot of time outdoors, visiting new places both above and below the water. She enjoys hiking and scuba diving, of which both activities feed her desire for exploration. Kristen also finds time to engage in and speak out on behalf of other matters that she is most passionate about.

Mike Wheeler
University of North Carolina Wilmington
Best Graduate Student Poster
Presentation Award



Mike Wheeler of the University of North Carolina Wilmington was awarded Best Graduate Presentation at the Fall 2020 AERS meeting for his poster entitled: *Leaf tip morphology does not support species status for Halodule beaudettei in Florida, USA*. Mike grew up on and around the water living in Florida. He would visit family who resided right on Tampa Bay, and would spend countless days combing nearby seagrass and mangroves for exciting fish and invertebrates. Mike recounts this curiosity for the water and its inhabitants that lead him to pursue a career in Marine Science from an early age. Before attending graduate school, Mike studied Marine Science with a focus in Marine Biology at Eckerd College in St Petersburg, FL. After graduation, Mike began working with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the Ecosystem Assessment and Restoration group. Here he worked on a collaborative project that focused on seagrass habitats and was able to travel all over Florida to collect data.

Mike values his current role working with Dr. Jarvis in the Coastal Plant Ecology Lab at UNCW and is excited about continuing this work toward his thesis. After the completion of his degree, he hopes to return home to Florida continue his career in coastal ecology but is not counting out other opportunities that may arise before then. Mike notes that being fully immersed in field work, especially below the surface of the water for seagrass projects, is the best part of doing research. He also enjoys the spirit of debate and inquiry which comes along with scientific research. He fuels this passion in his current work that seeks to inform a decade old debated on the existence of *Halodule beaudettei* in Florida with more quantitative methods and data.

Mike said “grad school turns out to be pretty time consuming” but in his free time, he enjoys creating art, both musically with his piano/keyboard skills and visually with ink and pen. A unique aspiration of Mike’s involves one day applying his technical skills that he uses to visualize his research data, to creating artwork using R statistical computing software. Mike also has a unique characteristic in that he has a stutter. This is something that he has struggled with especially when giving presentations which are “tough for anyone, but then add a stutter on top and it becomes a barrier that’s hard to break through.” Mike is dedicated to his research and is determined to not let any barriers hold him back from pursuing an advanced degree.

Congratulations to all
the winners and we
look forward to hearing
about your work in
the future!

CERF2021, 26th Biennial Meeting, Virtual Meeting

50th Anniversary of CERF

CERF at 50 Celebrating our Past, Charting our Future

Submit an Abstract by May 5, 2021

Register by June 21, 2021



.2021 Rising TIDES Conference Program Announcement

Application Deadline Extended to 13 April 2021 at 11:59 PM ET

CERF is dedicated to broadening participation in coastal and estuarine science and management. Rising TIDES (Toward an Inclusive, Diverse, and Enriched Society) is a comprehensive program for enhancing the diversity and inclusion of our scientific society and CERF conferences. The overall goals of this program are to promote opportunities for individual from groups underrepresented in CERF disciplines and professions while cultivating a culture that actively engages and leverages diversity throughout our organization. View the [Rising TIDES Conference Program page](#) for details and application instructions.

AERS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

A sincere thank you to everyone who is continuing to pay their membership dues to AERS, especially during this trying time. AERS would not be able to continue without the continued support from each and every one of you.

Dues (\$25 regular, \$15 student/retired) can be paid directly via www.aers.info or when renewing your CERF dues. As a reminder, we receive the CERF dues quarterly so there will be a delay in your payment reflecting in the AERS database and your membership might show “lapsed” until we receive that information. To speed up the process, please forward your CERF receipt reflecting your AERS dues payment to Shelley@vims.edu so that I can adjust your membership in a more timely manner. This is especially important as you go to register for the spring meeting! AERS members will always receive a discount to attend our meetings, so be sure you show your support for our society AND get cheaper registration fees by joining AERS today.

Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Workshop at AERS- NEERS Spring Meeting



Tuesday, April 27, 2021; 8 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

This workshop has an additional fee and a separate registration portal. Registration is now open through The Coastal Society's [Eventbrite portal](#).

\$15 for TCS members; \$30 for non-members

The virtual workshop will precede the joint meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society and New England Estuarine Research Society, two of the regional affiliates of the Coastal and Estuarine Federation (CERF). Besides CERF and TCS members, the target audience includes students, recent graduates, and early professionals interested in a coastal, estuarine, or marine career.

This half-day workshop will mirror the highly successful format used in previous workshops – academic and career insights from coastal leaders followed by small group discussions on personal and professional skills such as getting your resume to the right person, virtual interviews, networking, mentors, USA Jobs, and more. Visit www.thecoastalsociety.org and click on the Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Program for information on past workshops and updates on the April 27th event. [Registration is now open](#).

AERS Endowment Report C.J. Schlick, Chair

At the AERS-NEERS Meeting, AERS and NEERS will have separate student awards. AERS will be giving two awards for best oral presentation: one for Best Oral Graduate Student Award and one for Best Undergraduate Student Award.

AERS Code of Conduct

AERS is an inclusive organization and does not discriminate based on an individual's age, ancestry, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, national origin, race, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or veteran status. AERS does not tolerate unwanted verbal, physical, or visual conduct relating to any of those characteristics.

Thank you to our Sponsors for the NEERS AERS Spring 2021 meeting !



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Vacant, President-Elect

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Treda Grayson and LeeAnn Haaf, Program Committee

Shelley Katsuki, Membership

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