

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

Volume 2018 Number 2

July 2018

AERS Fall Meeting

**Stockton University
Oct. 11 –13, 2018**

The power of framing your message: It's not what you say, it's how you say it!

This fall come visit AERS in the Pinelands of New Jersey as we challenge each of our speakers to present their data, then discuss the strategy of framing their message for stakeholders, the general public and other non-scientists. Are you saying what you think you are? *(Continued inside)*

Recap AERS 70th Anniversary Spring Meeting Apr. 5-7, 2018

Atlantic Sands Hotel, Rehoboth Beach, DE

“AERS at 70 Bridging Past to Future”

Local Hosts: Danielle Kreeger (Partnership for the Delaware Estuary), Alison Rogerson (Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection), Gulnihal Ozbay (Delaware State University), Susan Guiteras (USFWS) and Marianne Walch (Delaware Center for Inland Bays).

Past President Danielle Kreeger, Treda Smith-Grayson and Angela Padeletti, Program Co-Chairs and Local Hosts went all out in planning the 70th AERS Anniversary celebration for the 2018 spring meeting. New presentation formats were introduced to involve more students: Upgoer posters and 10 minute ignite talks. We started celebrating Thursday evening at the Chesapeake and Main Restaurant where AERS Historian Bob Christian highlighted “70 years of Memories” with photos and notes by members. Six keynote speakers included historical progress in scientific studies and current issues. *Continued p. 6, Recap AERS 70th*

AERSNews Inside this Issue

AERS Fall Meeting, Stockton University	Pages 1,3
Recap AERS Sp. Mtg, 70th Anniversary	Page 1, 6
President's Corner, Joe Luczkovich	Page 2
Profiles for Students Receiving Awards	Page 3,4
AERS Treasurer-Elect: Cassie Gurbitz	Page 4
Honorary Member Dan Dauer	Page 5
Venerable Clam JJ (Bob) Orth	Page 6
Endowment Report: Student Travel Awards	Page 6
AERS 70th Spring Mtg SPONSORS	Page 8
AERS Membership Corner	Page 9
Officers & Committee Chairs	Page 9





AERSNews President's Corner

Joe Luczkovich
Professor of Biology,
East Carolina University

It was a busy spring semester for us all, culminating with the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of our society. The spring meeting in Rehoboth, Delaware was a huge success, thanks to you! We really appreciated all the hard work by the planning committee (co-chairs **Angela Padeletti and Tre-da Grayson**, and our **Past-President Danielle Kreeger**), our sponsors, and the AERS membership who volunteered time and donations of books, jewelry, objects d'art for the silent auction. We set records in student attendance, number of sponsors, and funding raised. The scientific meeting was filled with great estuarine science, and the advent of the concise "Ignite"-style talks and "Upgoer"-style posters were a huge hit with the members. **Dan Dauer (Old Dominion University)** was recognized as an AERS Honorary Membership at the Spring 2018 meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Also, **Robert "J.J." Orth (Virginia Institute of Marine Science)** was awarded the Venerable Clam at the Spring meeting! Congratulations, JJ! What great banquet party with the **CERF-Tones** providing the beat for dancing! Please check out the video and photos of that event at the AERS.info website. And please read my full report (a three-page spread) about the event in the current issue (Vo. 44.2) of CERF's Up! <https://t.co/1RKML1cJSn>

But, we are still celebrating! The 70th anniversary party (it takes at least a year to celebrate such an event) will be moving just up the coast to my home state of New Jersey, to Stockton University, for the fall AERS meeting to be held 11-13 October 2018. The meeting planning is moving along nicely. And we are getting ready to open up the call for abstracts on 11 July 2018! <https://aers.info/Next-Meeting>

If you missed the Delaware meeting in Spring, we hope you will join us in Galloway, NJ (Stockton University and the historic Sea View Hotel and Golf Course located near Atlantic City <https://aers.info/Location>) for the fall meeting. The theme for this meeting is "The power of framing your message: It's not what you say, it's how you say it!" **Elizabeth Lacey** from Stockton University is heading up the local committee planning the meeting.

AERS the Original Estuarine Research Society

Some new highlights and developments for AERS:

- AERS now has a **job board**, so if you are looking for a new job or need to hire someone, now we have a venue to members to interact. See the AERS.info website and log in as a member.
- **Wild Apricot** has been very helpful in the running of the membership dues and meeting registration. If you have not renewed your membership with AERS, you will receive a reminder from our website and **Shelly Katsuki**, Membership Chair.
- We now have a Treasurer-elect, **Cassie Gurbitz**, who is learning the ropes from Treasurer **Jessie Jarvis**. Welcome, Cassie!
- The new AERS website is being updated, and still under construction in parts. Thanks to **Erin Reilly** and **LeeAnn Haaf** for keeping up with all the changes. We will soon have a section on past and present Honorary AERS Members, which is being prepared by **Judith Stribling**. We need some more contributions for the **Student Spotlight page**. Students in AERS are doing great work in our estuaries, and we are soliciting your input. Don't be shy! Please send these following instructions listed here: <https://aers.info/Student-Spotlight>
- We are planning for the next AERS meeting in Spring 2019 to be held at **George Mason University** (details will be given at the next meeting).
- The Fall 2019 meeting with CERF will be in **Mobile, Alabama**. This meeting will set records and will have a Mobile Mardi-Gras theme to it (AERS member **Leila Hamden** is on the planning committee). Check out the CERF webpage for details.

Finally, AERS does not prosper unless we all participate. We are financially sound, and we are taking steps to ensure the success of all future meetings. Please consider helping out in the leadership of the oldest scientific society dedicated to the study of estuaries in some way as we approach the 71st year and next set of AERS meetings. You can recruit some promising young scientist to join us. Please raise your hand to volunteer for a position on the AERS board or as an officer (we need a new Social media person and Historian, for example). Social media is a big part of the future of AERS so you can tweet and post about estuarine ecology and your own research. I hope to see you all in New Jersey at Stockton University for a really great event this fall. Let us continue the 70th anniversary celebration!

AERS Fall Meeting: Framing Your Message

What is framing? A person's mindset is their frame of reference and how they make sense of situations in relationship to their relative importance or value for various options. In a typical conversation, decisions and opinions always emerge from a certain way each participant is looking at the problem. When you change the problem's definition (the frame in which the other person places the topic), you open up the possibility of escaping from the standard back-and-forth. The other person no longer needs to defend his or her viewpoint, because you've changed the "frame." For instance, in trying to relay your estuarine science research, you encounter a coastal homeowner who asks: "Why are you looking at climate change in marshes? You should be doing something helpful like reducing all the flooding that keeps happening on my street." Our instinct as scientists is to educate and link the fact that climate change on marshes and the relative health of these systems is what leads to flooding. When we listen and adapt our message by reflecting some words (flooding) and ignoring others (the now politically charged 'climate change') we can invite a better understanding, increased participation and even collaboration. In an attempt to re-frame the message, we might say instead: "I agree with you, flooding is a serious problem. Luckily there is an all-natural way to help the problem using and protecting plants living on salt marshes that we are trying to understand with our work." While an oversimplified example we look forward to hearing from each of you on the arguments, historical context and misconceptions typically surrounding your work and how you (re)frame your message to increase stakeholder involvement. More info at <https://aers.info/>

Student Profile: Melanie Jackson University of Maryland Center for Env. Science AERS Spring '18 Best Graduate Talk

Melanie attributes her time as an AmeriCorps Watershed Ambassador in the Hackensack River watershed in New Jersey as the guiding force to her academic career path and research focus. During her time at Horn Point Laboratory, she learned that oysters could help remediate the nitrogen pollution that causes algal blooms via denitrification. Focusing on water quality, Melanie is working to uncover information that will help determine whether the application of oyster restoration and aquaculture can facilitate nitrogen removal in the Chesapeake Bay. She also takes an active interest in outreach and the incorporation of stakeholder values into policy, which will be helpful for her future goals of a career in environmental management. When she is not out collecting oysters for her experiments, you can find Melanie singing along with CERFTones and enjoying a pint or two from RAR Brewing, where her husband is lead brewer.



Student Profile: Tim Lee, East Carolina University AERS Spring '18 Best Graduate Poster

Tim is a graduate student at East Carolina University and was drawn to his current studies on coastal ecosystems after spending a childhood curious about the coasts, further directed in the aquatic realm after successfully completing work during his undergraduate degree at UC Berkeley in freshwater aquatic ecosystems. His more recent interests include bioinvasions and parasitology of the coastal habitats as they constantly face rapid urban growth and development, which make them vulnerable to both invasive species and non-native parasites. It is by knowing the patterns of these two biotic components, Tim believes, that we can understand how the coastal ecosystems will be shaped in long-term from the macro and micro-level perspective. When he is not analyzing data or searching for postdoctoral fellowship opportunities, Tim can be found long-distance running and playing the classical violin, perhaps not at the same time.

Welcome to AERS Treasurer-Elect: Cassie Gurbitz



Dr. Gurbitz is currently an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at St. Mary's College of Maryland. She received her PhD in 2016 in Marine, Estuarine, and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Horn Point Laboratory. After graduating, she worked as a postdoc for a year at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) in Annapolis, after which she joined the faculty at St. Mary's. As a coastal systems ecologist, her research broadly investigates the processes underlying the restoration and resilience of coastal ecosystems with a focus on foundation species, such as submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) and marshes. Cassie is excited to be the new AERS Treasurer-Elect and is eager to contribute to the society in a meaningful and substantive way. Cassie is no stranger to AERS, and has been involved in the AERS program committee since she attended her first meeting as a graduate student.

Student Profile: Emily Russ, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science AERS Spring '18 Best Upgoer Poster

(Emily was awarded the Best Graduate Oral Presentation at AERS Fall Meeting 2016. As a second time awardee, I asked her if she would like to write about making an Upgoer poster. Editor Julie.)

I began my PhD in 2014 at the UMCES, Horn Point Laboratory, studying sediment connectivity between the lower Susquehanna River and the upper Chesapeake Bay. At previous AERS meetings, I presented findings from my first chapter on sediment-vegetation interactions in a large submersed aquatic vegetation (SAV) bed at the head of Chesapeake Bay. At the 2017 CERF meeting, I presented later thesis chapters about quantifying sediment sources in the upper Chesapeake Bay. We hope this work will inform coastal managers on ways to optimize sediment management efforts.



I love presenting at AERS meetings because it is such a friendly and supportive community, but I did not have many new results since CERF. So I did an upgoer style poster. I found it challenging using such a limited vocabulary, but I also felt that it helped me explore creative ways to explain more difficult concepts. I was surprised to learn that certain words were not so common, such as river, but discovered that I could use other phrases, such as "moving water street", to tell my story. I am interested in pursuing a career in extension, and feel like my experiences at AERS conferences have helped me develop new skills for reaching different audiences.

Continued: Collin Love Profile. My managerial position at SML opened my eyes to the field of Science Communication, and I can see myself in a position that helps bridge the gap between scientists, the public, and policy. I spend my down time tinkering with my camera, painting a new landscape, weight lifting, or hiking a new trail. I use to grow and propagate my own corals, and I would sell them to local aquarists, fellow students, and teachers.



Student Profile: Colin Love Michigan State University AERS Spring '18 Best Undergrad Presentation

This spring I received my B.S. from MSU in Fisheries and Wildlife, with a concentration on Water Science and minor in Marine Ecosystem Management. I did undergrad research in labs studying predator-prey interactions in freshwater ecosystems. My wish to expand these experiments to marine sciences appeared when Dr. Blakeslee advertised a Parasite Ecology Internship at Shoals Marine Lab, Appledore Island, NH. When I mentioned studying impacts parasitism has on predator-prey interactions of *C. maenas* (European Green Crab) and gull predators: Dr. Blakeslee's excited response assured me that we were both geeked about the potential project! From my undergrad research experience I learned the importance of taking initiative, the value of resource management, and meticulous attention to detail. At Shoals Marine Lab, I quickly realized how unpredictable science is, and the benefits of thinking critically and creatively. It challenged me to ask questions, and to not fear being wrong!

Currently I am Island Coordinator at Shoals Marine Laboratory and plan to continue until Fall 2019, when I hope to pursue a Masters in marine sciences.

Honorary Member: Dan Dauer



The AERS Honorary Membership is awarded to individuals who have made substantial and meaningful contributions to estuarine science and to AERS. Dan Dauer, Professor and Eminent Scholar Emeritus of Biological Sciences at Old Dominion University, received this award at the spring meeting. One of his excellent former graduate students, Shelley Katsuki, gave special tribute to Dan before the award was presented.

Dan received his Ph.D. in Biology in 1974 from the University of South Florida, and his B.S. in Biology in 1970 from Old Dominion University. He is a Marine and Estuarine Benthic Ecologist, specializing in the study of polychaetes.

Dan's important work as Principal Investigator for Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Monitoring Program, Associate Director of the Applied Marine Laboratory, President of the International Polychaetology Association, and numerous other contributions to the field, as well as his outstanding mentorship of graduate students and service as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences of Old Dominion University, are part of why he is such an outstanding estuarine scientist. Dan has also made tremendous contributions to AERS, as Member of the Executive Committee for several years, chair of the Nominations Committee, and host for two different meetings, as well as serving as Secretary of ERF from 2005-2007 and a member of the organizing committee for the 18th Biennial ERF Conference in 2005 in Norfolk, Virginia. He will also always be remembered for his warm sense of humor.

This award represents well-deserved recognition of Dan Dauer as a true AERS luminary.

Calling for #AERSpubs!

If you are a member of AERS and have published a paper in the last year, we would like to highlight your research. Please send at least the citation of the publication to CJ Schlick at cjschlick@gmail.com. If you have a pdf of the citation that we can upload, please send it as well. Any peer-reviewed publications are welcome by current members (make sure your dues are paid).

Are you following AERS on Social Media?



Benefits of following AERS on Social Media

Get Real Time Reminders of Events

Increase Networking Engage Year Round

#StudentSpotlight #AERSpubs

Keep up with meetings through hashtags (#)

Honorary Member Information Sought

I am preparing a segment on this group (listed below) for our website and needs photos and biographical information on the following folks. Please send to jmstribling@salisbury.edu.

Thanks!
Judith Stribling, Honorary Membership Chair

Chestnut, F.A.	McHugh, J.
Vernberg, John	Mihursky, Joseph
Williams, Richard	Lippson, Alice J.
McDermott, John	Cross, Ford

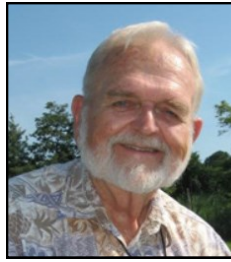
AERS SPRING 2019!

AERS Spring 2019 will be held at George Mason University, more details to follow at AERS Fall 2018!



Continued Recap AERS 70th

Dr. Jack Gallagher, Professor Emeritus at Univ. of Delaware, spoke about “Maintaining Economic and Ecological Function of Land Impacted by Sea-level Rise.” Currently agricultural fields inundated by rising sea level become *Phragmites* wetlands. Dr. Gallagher has experimented with planting brackish seashore mallow and *Salicornia* in corn fields prone to flooding. The halophytes seashore mallow and *Salicornia* thrived in these fields and prevented *Phragmites* growth. Seashore mallow was harvested for its seeds, flowers and stalks. *Salicornia* is an edible vegetable. Thus the economic value of the agricultural lands was maintained and detrimental effects of *Phragmites* wetlands were prevented.



Dr. Brandon Jones, Program Director for the Education and Diversity Efforts in the National Science Foundation’s (NSF) Geosciences Directorate, spoke about “It’s All Good: The Reciprocity of Diversity in STEM.” Dr. Jones states that diversity is a “vital priority that promotes innovation and strengthens the (scientific) community.” By providing support for under-represented communities in the scientific workforce, potential scientists gain rewarding careers and the scientific community gains new perspectives and ideas.



Dr. Daphne Munroe, Assistant Professor in Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, spoke about “Shellfish and Larval Estuarine Ecology: Reckoning Progress over the Past Half Century.” In the past seventy years scientists have characterized the life cycles of benthic invertebrates that have planktonic larvae, but questions remain about how physical forces affect planktonic larvae and contribute to the population dynamics of their settlement and growth as benthic adults.



Dr. Robert Orth, Chair, of Marine Science in the Department of Biological Sciences at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), College of William and Mary, spoke about “Seagrasses: A half-century along the path from obscurity to mainstream.” During his career Dr. Orth experienced the expansion of seagrass studies from obscurity to their prominence today as indicators of water quality, habitat changes and global warming in coasts and estuaries.



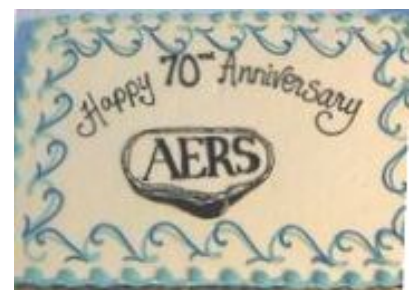
Dr. Kim de Mutsert, Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University, and Associate Director of Research at the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center spoke about “Finding Beauty in an Urban Estuary,” the freshwater tidal portion of the Potomac River. Reduction of point source N and P in the 1970s has brought back sea grasses indicating a healthy ecosystem. Although non-point loads of N and P are still considered a problem, Dr. de Mutsert found fish species which indicate that the freshwater tidal Potomac River is relatively healthy.



Dr. Leila Hamdan, Associate Professor of Marine Microbial Ecology in the School of Ocean Science and Technology at the University of Southern Mississippi, spoke about “Venerable, Vizzini, and a Volunteer.” Venerable as used in “Venerable Clam” is not necessarily an old clam but a highly esteemed member of AERS. AERS depends on volunteers, but members greatly benefit from volunteering, and Leila urges us to all raise our hand to volunteer. Vizzini is for you to figure out.



AERS at 70: Bridging Past to Future



How to sign into your AERS account and update your information:

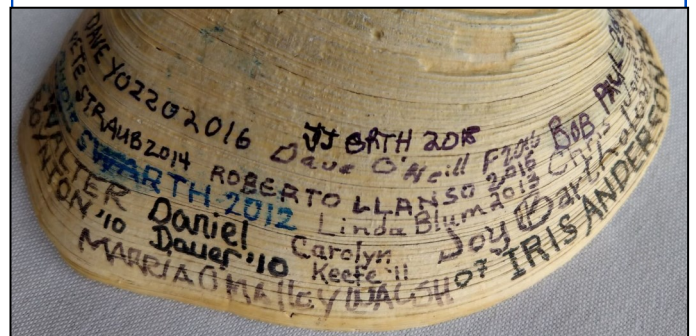
1. Go to <https://aers.info>
2. Click the person in the top right corner where it says Login
3. If you have logged in before enter your e-mail and password. If you have never logged in, Click Forgot Password and follow instructions
4. Click View Profile
5. Click Edit Profile
6. Update your information and **CLICK SAVE**

Your login is the same to register for conferences or to pay dues! We hope to add more Members Only functions soon.



JJ (Robert) Orth receives Venerable Clam

JJ Orth was honored with the Venerable Clam at the AERS 70th Anniversary Meeting. He is Professor and Chair at the Department of Biology at VIMS, and is known for his long term studies of seagrass restoration in Chesapeake Bay. He was a Keynote Speaker at this meeting, see page 6. A Knuckle Salute to JJ!



AERS Endowment Gives Student Travel Awards

David Yozzo and C.J. Schlick, Endowment Co-Chairs

AERS provided travel support (up to \$150.00 each) to 30 graduate and undergraduate student presenters, representing a total of 13 academic institutions, at the 70th Anniversary Spring 2018 meeting in Rehoboth Beach, DE. Thanks to all the generous meeting sponsors for help in supporting student travel and congratulations to all the student presenters for your hard work, and commitment to sharing your research with AERS.



Student Travel Award recipients: Rebecca Barnard, Christofer Brothers, Tim Lee, Chris Moore, Collin Love, Henry Raab, Kate Walker (East Carolina University); Caitlin Bauer, Emily Geoghegan, Charles Hyde, Elise Rodriguez (Villanova University); Charles Blackburn (Chowan University); Charlotte Brown, Bonnie Ertel (University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill); Jessica Flester, Victoria Long, Katherine Spady (University of Virginia); Margaret Giiter, Emma Green (St. Mary's College); Zachary Gotthardt, Hannah Morrisette (University of Maryland); Jennifer Laske, Paige Weber (Bryn Mawr College); Emily Manuel (University of North Carolina - Wilmington); Nikelene McLean (Morgan State University); Jessie Melton (George Mason University) Stephanie Peart, Mark Pfander, Sarah Plummer (Stockton University); Serena Wittingham (Virginia Institute of Marine Science). Photo credit Erin Reilly.

AERS gives a big THANK YOU to all our sponsors who made possible our celebration of the 70th Anniversary Meeting of AERS at Rehobeth Beach, Delaware during our Spring 2018 Meeting!

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AERS Fall Meeting Student Travel

Award amounts will be based on need and the number of applications received. To qualify for an award a student must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Member in good standing (all dues paid) of AERS.
- 2) If you have applied to present a paper at the conference, you must submit a copy of the presentation abstract.
- 3) Include a letter of application identifying estimated meeting costs and any other support (e.g., student volunteer, institutional support), a C.V. and a letter of support from your advisor.

Further information on the application and deadlines are available at: <https://aers.info/Travel-Grants>

David Yozzo and CJ Schlick, Student Endowment

Membership in AERS

AERS Membership Corner. Thank you to all for your continuing support of AERS. Remember there are three ways to pay your dues. The easiest is to select and pay for your AERS dues when renewing with CERF. The second is to follow the link from www.aers.info to pay your dues by PayPal. The third is to write a check at the meeting or send it to our Treasurer at the address provided on the website. Dues remain a bargain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for students.

Shelley E. Katsuki, Membership Chair.