

AERS NEWS

The official publication of the Atlantic Estuary Research Society

In Memorium

IRIS ANDERSON

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of long time AERS member, Iris Anderson. Iris was a member of AERS for almost 30 years and received the venerable clam in spring of 2009. She was a known for expertise in shallow water, estuarine, and coastal ecosystem processes. She often brought students to AERS meetings and was known for being a gifted and caring mentor to them and many others in the AERS community. We will greatly miss her presence. If you have memories of Iris you would like to share, we invite you to send them to AERS President Shelley Katsuki (Shelley@vims.edu), as we hope to honor her more in the future.



INSIDE THE ISSUE:

In Memorium.....	1	Graduate Spotlight.....	6
Presidents Remarks.....	2	Open Board Positions.....	7
AERS Spring 2022 Meeting.....	3	Election Results.....	7
AERS Fall 2022 Meeting.....	3	AERS Membership.....	7
CERF Corner.....	4		



PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Shelley Katsuki



I am honored and excited to assume my role as President at the conclusion of the Spring 2022 virtual meeting. I took over at a time when it appears that we are transitioning back to a bit more “normalcy” and are cautiously optimistic about being able to gather again in person in the near future. The past two years have been challenging for all as we dealt with the fallout from Covid-19. Not only were in person meetings canceled, but our sense of comradery and community has diminished as a result. It is to be expected as we suffer from zoom fatigue and other negative effects from dealing with the pandemic, though disappointing for all of us as one of the best things about AERS is our focus on social bonding. I sincerely hope that we are all able to meet in person again soon and plans are actively underway to make our Fall meeting fun and social to enjoy that sense of community once again.

I recently had the pleasure of traveling to Seattle for the CERF board meeting. As I boarded the flight I received notice of the passing of our long time member, Iris Anderson. I remember meeting Iris at AERS as a shy, scared graduate student, terrified of giving my first presentation at a scientific meeting. After my talk, she approached me during the break to ask a question about my statistical analysis; she thought there was something wrong but didn't want to call attention to it in front of everyone. Instead she took the time to talk it through with me to make sure we both understood. She wanted to help and teach, not get attention. Years later, shortly after I started working at VIMS I ran into her in an elevator. “I didn't know you were here now!” was her greeting to me, along with a big smile. That has always stuck with me as I couldn't believe she had remembered me from our short interaction at AERS those years before. Once I arrived at the CERF board meeting, many in attendance expressed sadness to hear of Iris's passing and shared similar stories to mine. The common theme being that everyone was so honored that someone like Iris remembered us and took the time to get to know us and help us grow. I feel Iris really exemplified what AERS is about: warmth and openness, sharing a love of science and encouraging each other to do our best and enjoy it at the same time. Let's continue to honor her memory and what we value in AERS as we move forward as a society and begin to see each other in person again.

AERS Spring 2022 Meeting Summary

Not even a global pandemic could stand in the way of AERS having a Spring 2022 meeting! Out of an abundance of caution the Board decided to hold the meeting virtually March 17-18, 2022. The Fall 2020 (Joint AERS-SEERS) and Spring 2021 (Joint AERS-NEERS) Meetings were virtual so the Program Committee- Treda Grayson, LeeAnn Haff, and Anthony Himes- sprung into action to plan an engaging meeting with the theme "To Infinity and Beyond! AERS Science and the People Who Do It".

The meeting kicked off on March 17 with an AERS Trivia Happy Hour, which proved to be a lot of fun among participants as their knowledge of AERS history and customs was tested. The following morning, President Ben Fertig provided the Welcome, followed by an engaging talk given by Keynote Dr. Jeanette Davis, author of "Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone". Next up was the Business Meeting where Ben handed over the virtual gavel to Shelley Katsuki as AERS President- Congratulations Shelley and thank you for your dutiful service, Ben! After a break for lunch, the meeting reconvened for an afternoon of talks. A combination of 18 regular and ignite talks were given over three sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by meeting participants and highlighted the great science that AERSians conduct.

Kudos go out to the planning team to help make this meeting happen: Ben Fertig, Shelley Katsuki, Elizabeth Lacey, Gulni Ozbay, Treda Grayson, LeeAnn Haaf and Anthony Kimes. A special thanks is extended to Delaware State University for sponsoring the meeting by supplying the Zoom platform.

SAVE THE

date

AERS FALL 2022 MEETING

Mark your calendars for our first in person meeting in almost three years! We are anticipating a fun and educational experience for all who attend.

When:

October 13th-15th

Where:

Washington College
Chestertown, MD



More info to come in the near future. Scan the QR code for the latest details.



CERF CORNER



NEWS FROM OUR FRIENDS AT CERF

Linda Blum

AERS member and CERF President-Elect

The short of the CERF news is that there's lots that has gone on recently and there's lots going on right now that AERSians might find of interest. The 50th anniversary meeting of CERF, CERF 2021, was a virtual success in more ways than one. For the first time ever, the biennial CERF conference went virtual, and it was AERS members that forged the way through some trying times. Conference Chairs, Lora Harris (UMCES) and Mark Brush (VIMS) did an amazing job of making the switch from an in-person to a fully-virtual meeting in only eleven months. The CERF 2021 organizing committee, comprised of many AERSians, did yeoman's work to pull off the nearly record-breaking conference. There were 1,557 attendees which is more than any CERF conference except Providence in 2017 and Portland in 2009. There were 166 international, 580 student, and 795 first-time registrants, and for the first time ever there were 135 classroom registrants (students in who attended the conference as part of a classroom assignment or lecture). AERS should be very proud of the members that made this conference such a tremendous success.

Although CERF 2021 is nearly in the rearview mirror – there is still some booking happening, planning for CERF 2023 is actively underway. Co-chairs, John Rybsck, Martha Sutula, and John Calloway would welcome volunteers to assist with organizing CERF 2023. Please contact them if you would like to be part of the CERF 2023 organizing committee. No experience needed! Just a willingness to help plan a meeting packed with great science and opportunities for social interactions.

If you are a CERF member, you've probably received calls for abstracts and registration for the Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting (JASM) will meet in Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 14-20, 2022. JASM is sponsored by CERF and eight other groups representing various interests within the aquatic sciences. CERF's Executive Director (and AERS member) Susan Park played a pivotal role organizing this effort that aims to bring together multidisciplinary expertise to educate one another and promote solutions about complex problems aquatic environments facing our society and our planet today. Over 3000 abstracts have been accepted for this hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual options for registration). Facilitating collaborative efforts like JASM is an example of CERF's efforts to link science, management, and policy across diverse disciplines.

The CERF Governing Board is in the process of developing a new strategic plan, Visions V. This ongoing effort will be a major focus for the Board for the rest of this year. An important part of the strategic planning process is member involvement. The Governing Board's goal is to reach current and potentially new CERF members alike. The Board will make an effort to survey current CERF members and Affiliate Society members who are not CERF members. If you receive a request to participate in the survey, please help the Board to understand what CERF members value and propose new initiatives to add value to Federation membership. If you would like to provide feedback in addition to the survey, please contact Linda Blum (lkb2e@virginia.edu) or Susan Park (spark@cerf.science).

As way of background for the strategic planning survey, here are some of the ways that CERF provides support to AERS members regardless of membership in CERF. The Governing Board would like to know if these initiatives are valuable to AERS members. For example, CERF supports 50% of the cost of Wild Apricot, the organization that provides AERS with membership services. That's \$1,320 supplement to AERS over two years. CERF provides \$1,000 for speaker fees or other Affiliated Society initiatives. Additionally, CERF piloted meet-up grants. For example, AERS received one of these grants along with the Coastal Society and SEERS to host a virtual career development workshop in November 2020. Another way CERF aids the Affiliate Societies is through funding for regional workshops. These workshops are led by Affiliate Societies to bring together researchers and managers to address a specific management problem. The Rising TIDES Program partnered with two NSF programs which provided support 48 students, 17 near-peer mentors, and 15 professional mentors from the Affiliate Societies. And, CERFs offered support to 2021 Rising TIDES participants to attend there regional Affiliate Society meeting. This spring one participant Rising TIDES participant received funding to attend the AERS meeting.

While the link between CERF and Affiliate Societies has never been stronger, there is still work to be done to make the existing relationship stronger. An aspect of the strategic planning process will be to investigate and prioritize mechanisms to strengthen the relationship between the Affiliate Societies and the Federation. Your participation in the CERF strategic planning effort is crucial whether you are member of only AERS or CERF, or hopefully both AERS and CERF.

Visit the CERF website for the latest information on CERF activities and events:
<https://www.cerf.science/>



LET'S CELEBRATE

HELP US TO CONGRATULATE OUR RECENT GRADUATES!



Jecy Klinkam

Jecy graduated from The College of William & Mary with a major in Biology and minor in Marine Science. After graduation she will be continuing her work in coastal sciences with The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary.

Lydia Pinard

Lydia graduated from the University of New England with a BS in Marine Science - Oceanography, and minors in Applied Mathematics and Climate Change Studies. Her research at UNE surrounded the increased heat content of the Gulf of Maine from 2004-2020. She is pursuing a masters degree in Biological Oceanography at the University of New Hampshire Biological this coming fall.



LeeAnn Haaf

LeeAnn graduated from Drexel University with her Ph. D in environmental science. Her work focused on the effects of climate and coastal flooding on low-lying forests in the Mid Atlantic. She will continue her research with The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary where she has been an integral part of developing the wetlands program for almost a decade.



AERS Happenings

Board Position Open

We are searching for an individual to fill the role of “Member at Large” on the AERS governing board. This is a voting board position and the main duties are to assist the President and provide advice and feedback. It is a great opportunity for AERS members at any point in their scientific career to get involved with the board. Term is one year, with possibility of extension. If you are interested in volunteering for this position or finding out more information, contact Nominations Chair Ben Fertig at BFfertig@stevenson.edu

Election results

It is our pleasure to announce Roberto Llanso as the new Treasurer-Elect for AERS. Roberto has been a long-standing member of both AERS and CERF since the 1980s, and recently served as Member at Large on the AERS Board. Roberto is Senior Scientist at Versar, an environmental consulting firm in Columbia, MD. His expertise is in estuarine ecology and benthos. He has been Co-Principal Investigator of the benthic monitoring and assessment component of the Chesapeake Bay Program since 1999. Roberto will shadow our current Treasurer, Elizabeth Lacey, for 1 year and then take office as Treasurer in Spring of 2023.



AERS membership

A sincere thank you to everyone who is continuing to pay their membership dues to AERS. AERS would not be able to continue without the continued support from 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 GOzbay@desu.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.