

# AERS NEWS



All the news  
that'll fit, and  
then some

AERSNews Editors  
Julie Ambler & Elizabeth Lacey

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## AERS Spring Meeting 2020 March 29-29, 2020 Monmouth University Long Branch, New Jersey

“Estuarine Science in a Changing Climate”

**Jason Adolf** and **Tom Herrington** are hosting the AERS Spring Meeting at Wilson Hall on the Monmouth University campus. The facilities and meeting rooms are historic, ornate. The venue is the lobby for posters and breaks and downstairs auditorium that seats 125 for presentations. The banquet will be the mansion’s original dining room.

Monmouth University, in Long Branch, NJ, has a growing undergraduate degree (B.S.) program in Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy and the Urban Coast Institute, as well as access to nearby estuarine Sandy Hook Bay, Navesink and Shrewsbury river estuaries, Barnegat Bay and coastal environments. This campus is also right on the Jersey Shore in the heart of Springsteen Country.

There are field trips planned:

- 1) Trip on Sandy Hook Bay aboard the Monmouth University Research vessel
- 2) Holly Forest/Maritime Forest at Sandy Hook walking/birding tour - an example of a maritime forest in the Gateway National Recreation Area, comedy in Fort Hancock
- 3) Cheesequake State Park/Matawan Creek Shark Attack Tour- a great tour led by Dr. Joe Luczkovich, AERS President, who grew up here and caught his first estuarine organisms in the area. Cheesequake Creek, by JDBeetham - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=62315019>



Wilson Hall, formerly called Shadow Lawn when it was built by the head of the Woolworth’s retail chain, is a Beaux-Arts Neoclassical style structure National Historic Landmark that once served as Woodrow Wilson’s summer home (seen in the 1982 movie “Annie”, it was Daddy Warbucks’ mansion. (continued

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## AERSNews President's Corner

Joseph J. Luczkovich  
Professor of Biology  
East Carolina University

This is my last President's Corner, as I will hand the gavel over to Ben Fertig at the Spring meeting at Monmouth University (26-28 March) in West Long Branch, NJ. I have totally enjoyed my time as AERS President, and I feel confident that AERS will be in good hands after I step down. During my time, along with the assistance of the AERS Board and committee chairs, we held great meetings in Rehoboth, Delaware for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; held a small but fantastic meeting at Stockton University in Galloway NJ; met for a well-attended and long-awaited meeting at the George Mason University Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center in Woodbridge, VA; and conducted a business meeting at the recent CERF meeting in Mobile, AL.

We established the procedure for getting proper Directors and Officers and liability insurance for those and all the future AERS meetings. We held the first-ever electronic voting procedure for AERS officers. We migrated all website, membership, meeting registrations and other business operations to the Wild Apricot platform. Ben and the current officers know how to conduct AERS meetings and operate on Wild Apricot and I have complete confidence in their abilities to keeping it going smoothly. We have set up a slate of meeting locations for them to follow (Fall 2020 joint meeting with SEERS at ECU North Carolina; Spring 2021 joint meeting with NEERS in Long Island, NY; and CERF 2021 in Richmond, VA). So AERS will continue to be in great hands and is fiscally and organizationally sound.

We have largely planned the Spring meeting in Monmouth University, just 1 mile from the beaches along the Atlantic Ocean, but **we need you to submit abstracts and register** for this meeting. It will be in my home area: I grew up in Monmouth County, went to Rutgers University for my MS in Ecology, swam at beaches along that coast and worked for the Sandy Hook NOAA laboratory, took water samples, collected fishes and estuarine animals while studying the ecology of Raritan and Sandy Hook Bays and the NJ coastal Atlantic Ocean, all near Monmouth University.

Here are some Monmouth University meeting highlights:

Monmouth University's Urban Coast Institute and School of Science will host this meeting in Historic Wilson Hall

Theme is "Estuarine Science in a Changing Climate" Keynotes speakers and panel discussion will be John Tiedemann (Monmouth University), Tony Broccoli (Rutgers University Climate Center) and Danielle Kreeger (AERS Past-President and Partnership for Delaware Estuaries)

Don't miss the great social event happening on Thursday evening (with an opening night keynote speech by John Tiedemann "*Estuarine Science in a Changing Climate: Taking Action Come Hell or High Water*" (included in registration costs)

Friday and Saturday Breakfast, coffee breaks, oral presentations (both traditional 15-min and 5-min Ignite talks) Poster sessions will be in historic Wilson Hall Auditorium (included in registration costs)

A Friday luncheon with Danielle Kreeger Keynote address (included in registration costs)

A Friday evening banquet will be held in the with jazz and rock music in the Ocean First Center Varsity Club, and a great buffet dinner and dancing (included in registration costs)

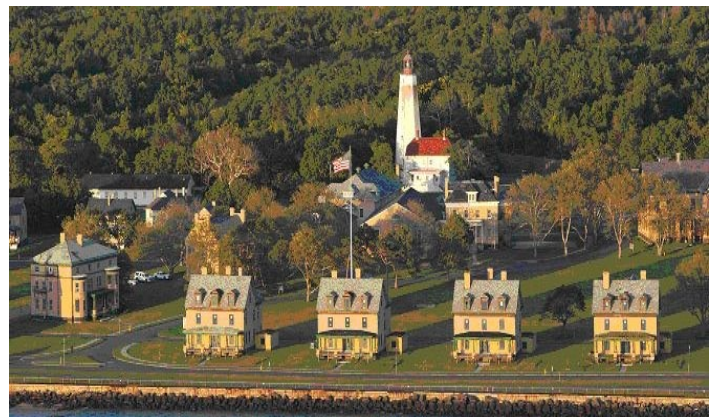
It will be held In Bruce Springsteen Country – Monmouth University has an archive dedicated to Bruce Springsteen memorabilia that we can visit (details to follow)

Field trips to Sandy Hook Gateway National Recreation Area, Monmouth University R/V Skulthorpe trip on Sandy Hook Bay, Matawan Creek Shark Attack History Tour (I am leading this one), Cheesquake State Park hike.

The Spring 2020 AERS meeting at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ will be one that will be memorable, so please join us to present your latest estuarine research there, we are counting upon you.

Finally, we need to elect a new Treasurer (Treasure-elect position) this spring who will be named at the Monmouth meeting. The candidate that wins will train under AERS Treasurer Cassie Gurbitz for one year and eventually take over all AERS accounts and transactions. Please look for a separate email from Danielle Kreeger for an announcement of the slate of candidates, coming very soon.

I hope to see you at Monmouth University. I will offer as incentive a self-guided tour of the area: I'll show you where I worked at Sandy Hook; where I grew up, and the historic estuarine and beach shark attacks in 1916; locations of mass horseshoe crab spawning events; Hurricane Sandy impacts; where concerts were given by Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi, The Grateful Dead, Van Morrison, U2 and others; where Kevin Smith filmed "Clerks" at the Quick Chek near Raritan Bay, where you can visit their "Secret Stash" comic book store, where you can eat a meal at Jon Bon Jovi's Soul Kitchen. It should be a cultural and scientific smorgasbord!



## 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.



## Greetings from President-Elect

Ben Fertig  
Community Outreach &  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Irvine Nature Center  
Owings Mill, MD

My Fellow AERS Members,

It is exciting and humbling to write my inaugural President's Message as I look back at how far AERS has come in the last 71 years. We have traveled all over the Mid-Atlantic region and around the sun together many times and I am proud to call AERS my scientific home, no matter where we gather.

Recently it's been raining here at Irvine Nature Center just northwest of Baltimore ([www.explorenature.org](http://www.explorenature.org)). I wish it would snow so that the kids that come to explore our 85 hectares (211 acres) and 12 km (7.5 miles) of trails could experience forests, meadows, streams and wetlands at the headwaters of the Patapsco River in a winter similar to that of the past. Regardless of what a president of another entity may tweet, the science on climate change is stunningly clear and well-articulated. My personal mission as Community Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator, among other things, is to leverage efforts of citizen scientists and others to educate current and future generations to explore, respect and protect ecosystems. At the headwaters of the Patapsco River that enters Chesapeake Bay we have an idyllic natural laboratory available to the AERS scientific community. I hope you will come visit Irvine!

I am particularly excited to be gathering this *March 26-29 at Monmouth University in Long Branch, NJ*. President **Joe Luczkovich** (*East Carolina University*), and Local Hosts **Jason Adolph** and **Thomas Herrington** (*Monmouth University*) have done a fabulous job of putting together a top-notch venue. **Treda Grayson** (*US EPA*) and **Angela Padeletti** (*Partnership for the Delaware Estuary*) have secured prominent Keynote Speakers in **Anthony Broccoli** (*Rutgers University*), our very own Past-President **Danielle Kreeger** (*Partnership for the Delaware Estuary*) and **John Tiedemann** (*Monmouth University*). They will be speaking to the very timely theme of *Estuarine Science in a Changing Climate*. Thank you also to **Leann Haaf** (*Partnership for the Delaware Estuary*) **Spencer Tassone** (*University of Virginia*) and **Sarah Bouboulis** (*Partnership for the Delaware Estuary*) and **CJ Schlick** (*George Mason University*) for updating AERS' website and social media accounts. **Julie Ambler** (*Millersville University*) and **Z (Elizabeth) Lacey**, *Stockton University*, this AERSnews edition is great. Together, all your teamwork makes being a part of the AERS family a source of professional strength.

For me, regardless of the rapidly changing weather or tumultuous political times, it is the work that we do together uniting students, scientists, managers and educators from the Mid-Atlantic states in discussion and broader interest in estuarine and coastal issues that inspires hope for the future. Every day at Irvine, I am in contact with a pipeline of future coastal and estuarine professors and professionals. This reminds me of the importance of what each AERS member does and says as we interact within our scientific society, other colleagues, and the public.

To paraphrase something attributed to Jimmy Dean, we can't change the direction of the wind, but we can adjust our sails to reach our destination. Looking forward to seeing you in Long Branch.

## Election for AERS Treasurer

AERS members will elect a Treasurer –Elect at the Monmouth Meeting. We have two candidates: Z (Elizabeth) Lacey and Erin Field. Please participate in this election by electronic voting. The Treasurer-Elect position is a three year position. During Year 1, the Treasurer-Elect overlaps with the Treasurer to learn about the job. During Years 2 and 3 the Treasurer-elect becomes the Treasurer and in Year 3 trains the new Treasurer-Elect.

### Z (Elizabeth) Lacey Candidate for Treasurer-Elect



I am currently an Associate Professor and the Program Coordinator of Marine Science at Stockton University. As a coastal ecologist, my research investigates shallow benthic ecosystems and the services these habitats provide to nearshore water quality and commercially and recreationally important species. Most recently I have been partnering within the aquaculture industry to resolve perceived conflicts between

SAV and oyster farming efforts. More information on the Marine Ecosystem Research Lab (MERL) can be found at [www.stockton.edu/merl](http://www.stockton.edu/merl) or by following me on Instagram: @stockton\_merl.

For me, involvement in professional societies is beyond being a member but taking an active role in the different facets of the organization. For that reason, in the 3 years I have been a member I have served as co-Editor of AERSNews and the local host for the Fall 2018 meeting. Through this involvement I have gotten to know many of the members and enjoyed valuable interactions to further my research, my colleagues' research, and the student experience - an important hallmark to the AERS society I would be delighted to serve AERS in an additional capacity as Treasurer.

### Erin Field Candidate for Treasurer-Elect



Dr. Erin Field is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at East Carolina University. She received her Ph.D. in Microbiology at Montana State University and has previously worked at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and the University of Delaware. Her research primarily focuses on metal-microbe interactions in coastal environments and how these interactions affect larger processes including biocorrosion, contaminant mobility, and metal cycling in the environment. Her research combines microbial genomics and metagenomics, laboratory studies, geochemical analyses, and field investigations to answer important questions about how microorganisms' function in the environment. Her research has been funded through NC Sea Grant, NSF, and NOAA.

I have been a member of AERS since I arrived at ECU in 2016 and have thoroughly enjoyed interacting with other AERS researchers, managers, and educators across the Atlantic, many of whom I have developed collaborations with. I particularly enjoy the opportunities for students to participate in this society and its events. I am running for Treasurer-Elect to be a dedicated part of the AERS community and for the opportunity to continue to get to know more of my colleagues in the area.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Keynote Presentation 1  
**“Estuarine Science in a Changing Climate: Taking Action Come Hell or High Water”**

**Mr. John Tiedemann**

**Assistant Dean, Monmouth University School of Science  
 Director, Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Program at Monmouth University**

He currently teaches courses in marine and environmental biology, and policy and coastal zone management.

Mr. Tiedemann received a B.S. in Physics and Planetary Sciences from Upsala College in 1976 and an M.S. in Biological Oceanography from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1980. A lifelong resident of New Jersey, he has been professionally employed in the marine and environmental field since 1979 and has worked in the public and private sectors as well as academia throughout his career.

His work has addressed a breadth of marine and environmental science and management issues in New Jersey's coastal waters including monitoring and management of ocean dumping activities, assessments of the impacts of coastal development on water quality and living marine resources, implementation of best management practices for controlling sources of coastal pollution, preservation of traditional maritime industries, and conservation and management of marine recreational fisheries.

When not at work he can be found surfing or fishing along New Jersey's northern coast.



Keynote Presentation 2  
**“The Mid-Atlantic's Changing Climate”**

**Dr. Anthony Broccoli**

**Professor of Atmospheric Science, Rutgers University  
 Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences  
 Co-Director, Rutgers University Climate Institute**

Dr. Broccoli's primary research interest is climate dynamics, especially the simulation of past climates and climate change. He has recently served as Co-Chief Editor of the Journal of Climate, and he has been a contributor and reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Dr. Broccoli cont'd

Prior to coming to Rutgers, Dr. Broccoli spent 21 years at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, one of the leading climate modeling centers in the world. He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science



Keynote Presentation 3

**“Nature-Based Investments for Climate Resilience: the Ecological Manhattan Project “**

**Dr. Danielle Kreeger  
 Senior Science Director,  
 Partnership for the Delaware Estuary**

Danielle Kreeger is an ecologist with >35 years of experience working as a research scientist and educator. She is the science director for the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, which coordinates the National Estuary Program that protects and restores natural resources in the lower Delaware River Basin. She also serves as associate research professor at Drexel University where she has taught and trained students since 1994. Danielle's research interests are broad, covering climate adaptation, bivalve shellfish, and wetlands.

She previously worked as a scientist for the Plymouth Marine Laboratory in the United Kingdom and associate curator for the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. Her academic training was as a Nittany Lion (B.S., Marine Biology, Penn State), Blue Hen (M.S., Marine Studies, University of Delaware), and Beaver (Ph.D., Fisheries and Wildlife, Oregon State).

<http://www.delawareestuary.org/dr-danielle-kreeger>

<http://drexel.edu/coas/academics/departments-centers/bees/faculty>

**MAD (Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Workshop, March 26, 2020, West Long Branch, NJ**

**Date/Time:** Thursday, March 26, 2020, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**Location:** Monmouth University, NJ

**Cost:** TCS members: \$60 regular; \$40 for students. Non-members: \$70 regular; \$50 students.

**Overview:** This workshop is a part of a series of workshops being offered around the country to honor the late Margaret A. Davidson, an icon who mentored and befriended many of today’s coastal leaders. The workshop, designed by The Coastal Society and its primary partner the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society and supported by a variety of coastal-focused organizations, was developed to benefit our next generation of coastal practitioners, from students to early- and mid-career coastal professionals.

**Preliminary Program Description:** The morning sessions will feature inspirational testimonies from coastal professionals, discussion of career options, employment prospects, and career opportunities in the Mid-Atlantic area and beyond. The afternoon will provide a series of small group discussions about various skills needed to succeed such as career options, resume development, how to successfully engage with a mentor, and networking.



**Thank you to our Full Sponsors for the AERS Spring 2019 meeting !**



**Thursday, March 26**

**10:00 – 5:00 pm** Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Careers Workshop

**3:00 – 6:00 pm** AERS Board Meeting

**6:00 – 9:00 pm** Opening Social and Keynote Speaker #1 (7:00 pm)

**Friday, March 27**

**7:00 – 8:30 am** Registration Opens, Continental Breakfast

**8:30 – 12:00 pm** Oral Papers and Keynote Speaker #2

**12:00 – 1:30 pm** Lunch (provided) and Keynote Speaker #3

**1:45 - 4:45 pm** Oral Papers

**5:00 – 6:00 pm** AERS Business Meeting

**6:00 – 8:00 pm** Poster Session

**8:00 – 10:00 pm** AERS Banquet

**Saturday, March 28**

**8:30 – 11:30 am** Oral Papers

**11:30 – 12:00 pm** Student Awards

**A Sustainability Statement** from the students at Monmouth University will be provided for the Program. We will avoid use of plastics as much as possible (coffee cups provided for breaks, silverware, avoid plastic in swag).



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MarineTraffic.com

R/V NAUVOO, Monmouth University Research Vessel.  
Photo credit: Keith Dutton, MarineTraffic.com



## CERF in Mobile!

For a true Cajun experience, CERFers headed to Mobile, Alabama this November to delight in all things creole with a touch of estuary love. The program included all things Relevant, Responsive, and Ready, but first kicked off with a Mardi Gras style parade! AERS members tossed out blue and orange beads to the attendees, and these beads were later found on many a bartender on Dauphin Street! Eleven pre-conference workshops, two town hall style meetings, two plenaries, and one keynote were presented in addition to the multitude of oral and poster presentations. One interesting Town Hall by Eric Smith was entitled *The End of Statistical Significance?* and drew quite the packed room. Jason Shogren gave an interesting perspective as a socio-economist during the *Environmental Decision Making: How Can Natural and Social Scientists Contribute, and What Can They Expect?* Plenary session.

CERF 2021 brings the party even closer to our door stop – Richmond, VA from 7-11 November 2021 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center!



## Student Travel Grants How to Apply Calling All Students!

AERS has a longstanding tradition of supporting students to attend meetings, and we would like to continue this tradition. Funding is available from AERS to help defray the cost of your travel to future AERS meetings.

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., institutional support), a C.V. and a letter of support from your adviser.

Application materials should be submitted to Dr. David Yozzo, Student Endowment co-Chair, at david.yozzo@purchase.edu. Dr. Yozzo can also be contacted if there are any questions.

Application for funds is very straightforward and we encourage AERS students to take advantage of this opportunity. Those who have not received AERS travel funds in the past will be given priority consideration.

## AERS Instagram TAKE OVER

**C.J. Carroll Schlick and Sarah Bouboulis**  
Social Media Co-Chairs

Do you enjoy posting to social media? Feel like sharing your science, interest, hobbies, cool finds, etc to a larger audience? How about helping AERS stay better connected to our members and community? Then sign up to take over the AERS Instagram account for a week. Our goal is to have more engaging content on the AERS social media in order to garner year-round interest in AERS and to recognize the work that AERS members are doing every day! We want this to be a fun experience where you can post what you are passionate about. Post about your work, your students work, articles you find fascinating and want to share, or other areas of interest that better introduce you to the AERS audience. If you are interested in signing up, please email the AERS social media team with the dates that you are available.

## CERF 2019 Welcomes Second Cohort of Rising TIDES Conference Program

By Treda Grayson



CERF 2019 Rising TIDES Students and Mentors

CERF was pleased to welcome the [second cohort](#) of Rising TIDES (Towards an Inclusive, Diverse and Enriched Society) Conference Program participants at the 25<sup>th</sup> Biennial CERF Conference in Mobile, AL. A total of fourteen underrepresented minority (URM) students from across the nation and their mentors received support to attend and participate in CERF 2019 activities.

[The Rising TIDES Program](#) aims to enhance career development of URM students, ensure that students participating in the program will have sustained mentorship following the conference, help develop a community of practice for CERF members who are engaged in building diversity and inclusion within their own

organizations and across institutions, and involve those who are already mentors of URM students in helping to transform CERF into a broadly inclusive society.

Along with the scientific sessions and other conference activities, program participants attended a workshop to introduce student participants to the CERF community, inspire and motivate continued interest in coastal and estuarine sciences and related fields, and provide them with the resources needed to succeed as students and working professionals in the field. The workshop featured Dr. Regina Easley (National Institute of Standards and Technology), Dr. Kristy Lewis (University of Central Florida), Ms. Maddie Kennedy (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Sea Grant) and key CERF members.

The Rising TIDES Conference Program is part of a comprehensive new initiative to enhance diversity and inclusion in CERF and coastal and estuarine sciences. This initiative is led by the CERF Broadening Participation Council, co-chaired by Treda Grayson ([grayson.treda@epa.gov](mailto:grayson.treda@epa.gov)) and Kristen Wilson Grimes ([kristin.wilson@uvi.edu](mailto:kristin.wilson@uvi.edu)). The 2019 Rising TIDES Conference Program is supported by NSF Award No 1928845 and contributions from CERF.



### Fall 2019 Endowment Report Travel Awards for CERF Fall 2019

We had 6 applicants, with a total request of \$6945.00 (avg. request = \$1158.00). We awarded each applicant \$300. Total expenditure = \$1800.00.

Dave Yozzo & CJ Sclick  
Co-Chairs,  
Endowment Committee

**AERS WAS PLEASED TO SUPPORT STUDENT TRAVEL TO CERF 2019!**



Attendees at the AERS Spring 2020 meeting can take a trip over to the Stone Pony, maybe catch up with Bruce Springsteen?

Are you following AERS on **Social Media**. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at [@AERSScience](https://www.instagram.com/AERSScience).



## AERS Governing Board

Joe Luczkovich, President

Ben Fertig, President – Elect

Danielle Kreeger, Past President

Erin Reilly, Secretary

Cassie Gurbisz, Treasurer

**To be elected at Monmouth Meeting, Treasurer-Elect**

Treda Grayson and Angela Padeletti, Program Committee

Shelley Katsuki, Membership

Danielle Kreeger, Nominations

Spencer Tassone and LeeAnn Haaf, Web Masters

Julie Ambler and Elizabeth Lacey, AERSNews Co-Editors

Frank Reilly, Parliamentarian

Danielle Kreeger, Historian

Judith Stribling, Honorary Members

Kim de Mutsert, Roberto Llanso, Tom Wazniak, Members-at-Large

David Yozzo and CJ Schlick, Student Endowment

Sarah Bouboulis and CJ Schlick, Social Media

LeeAnn Haaf, Student Affairs