

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

Volume 2017 Number 1

Feb. 16, 2017

Recap AERS Fall Meeting 2016, Nov. 17-19 Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville, MD

“Back to Basics: Estuarine Fauna, Flora and Relationships”

Local Hosts: Dave O’Neill (CCBC), Elka Porter (University of Baltimore), Ben Fertig (University of Maryland, College Park), and Anna Davis (University of Maryland, College Park)

We enjoyed a stimulating AERS meeting at CCBC where we focused on current trends and techniques to enhance our knowledge of the basics of circulation, food webs, salt marshes, sediment dynamics and fecal coliform contamination. Seventy one people attended the meeting, with five keynote speakers, 21 contributed talks (seven students), and sixteen posters (thirteen students).

Thursday evening was registration, mixer and a talk by our first keynote speaker,

- Dr. Bill Boicourt (UMCES Horn Pt. Laboratory), who demonstrated how new technology at much smaller time and spatial scales revealed short time intervals of episodic mixing and relaxation in estuaries. These results present a new paradigm to the classical two layered flow estuarine models.
- Dr. Joe Luczkovich (East Carolina University) used food web network modeling to demonstrate the effects of open and closed trawling areas on bycatch, net primary production, and flows to detritus. His climate modelling scenarios showed that loss of seagrasses will affect several key fisheries and increase jellyfish.
- Dr. Linda Blum (University of Virginia) summarized her field work to explain how salt marsh communities migrate inland with sea level rise: wrack deposition facilitates low marsh replacing high marsh, and flooded uplands are replaced by high marsh areas due to osmotic shock.
- Dr. Cindy Palinkas (UMCES Horn Point Lab) encouraged us to become detectives by observing sediment cores to learn how environmental perturbations affect sedimentation rates.

Continued on page 3.

AERS Spring Meeting March 16-18, 2017

St. Mary’s College
47645 College Drive
St. Mary’s City, MD 20686

“Continuing Science in the
Face of Change”

ABSTRACTS due Feb. 24, 2017

Treda Smith Grayson and Kristy Lewis are the local hosts leading on making local arrangements! For details about registration, submitting abstracts and hotel arrangements, please go to **AERS.info/meetings**



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AERS News President's Corner

Danielle Kreeger
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Greetings Fellow AERSians!

I don't know about you, but I'm super excited about the upcoming AERS meeting at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Nothing like turbulent politics to remind us of the importance of our work – and the need to sustain our professional networks!

In fact, the policy-infused theme of our spring meeting will be "*Continuing Science in the Face of Change.*" Key-note speakers will share their thoughts on this topic, including Nicholas DiPasquale, Beth McGee and Kenny Rose. The location of St. Mary's, near Washington, D.C., provides added emphasis. But just in case you're not into that sort of thing, rest assured that we will still have a program chock full of geeky estuary coolness. And if that's not enough, how about some fresh local oysters with donated local beer and wine?

At the meeting, we'll share news about many cool new AERS initiatives, such as a possible website refresh, diversity initiatives, new T-shirts, expanded social media (AERS is now on Twitter), and more.

Looking down the road, please also stay tuned to news about CERF 2017, which will be held in Providence, RI, from November 5-9. The theme will be "*Coastal Science at the Inflection Point: Celebrating Successes & Learning from Challenges.*" Abstracts will be due on May 1.

Despite turbulent times, I predict that the ground hog was wrong, spring is coming early, and 2017 is going to be a banner year for AERS and CERF science!

AERS t-shirt design contest

Spencer Tassone, Student Affairs

The t-shirt design contest was born out of the idea to help increase funding for student travel to AERS/CERF meetings and to increase AERS advertising. The t-shirt design contest was announced at the Fall 2016 AERS meeting and designs were submitted until February 10th. We received 11 design entries from 7 different institutions. Voting is open to all AERSians and takes place February 11-18th on the AERS facebook page, the design with the most likes by the end of February 18th wins the contest. The winner of the design contest will win a free shirt with their design and a year-long membership to AERS and CERF. Shirts of the winning design will be available for sale at the upcoming Spring 2017 meeting at St. Mary's College.



Venerable Clam

David O'Neill sports the Venerable Clam which was given to him during the AERS Business Meeting. Dave has served AERS as Secretary, Constitution Committee Chair, and hosted two AERS meetings at Community College of Baltimore County.

Follow us on Twitter @AERSScience and Facebook

C.J. Schlick, Social Media

Hey everyone! I'm excited to announce that we have decided to increase our social media outreach. We have started an @AERSScience twitter account to increase our ability to disseminate information to members and to draw in potential new members. Rebecca Shell (Doctoral student at Montclair State University) and myself will be posting to our social media accounts (Twitter and Facebook) to share more information about AERS, upcoming meetings, and much more. Information that may be of interest to students (such as potential funding sources, potential internships, etc.) will also be shared on our accounts as we learn of the opportunities. If you see an opportunity or would like other information shared on our account please feel free to email me the information (email located on the AERS website).

We are also following the CERF twitter account (@CERFSscience), other affiliated societies, as well as local research labs, scientists, and organizations to be able to share information provided by them that may be of interest to our members. Follow us and let us know if you would like to see more! Thanks everyone and remember to use #AERS2017 on your posts relating to the AERS Spring 2017 meeting!



Dancing at the Olive Garden Friday night banquet.

Recap CCBC Meeting from p. 1

- Dr. Wolf T. Pecher (University of Baltimore) used new molecular techniques to track sources of fecal coliform bacteria in urban streams to find that in canine coliform bacteria were more significant than human coliform bacteria. Thus human dog care needed changes rather than repair to waste water treatment plants and sewer pipes.

Emily Russ, Jessica Valenti, and Christian Bojorquez won awards for their presentations. See their profiles on page 4.

The meeting was a great success. We especially thank Ben Fertig and Angela Padeletti who arranged the program. The local hosts led by Dave O'Neill provided a wonderful setting including the Friday evening banquet at the Olive Garden with DJ dancing. Thanks to Dave Yozzo and C.J.Schlick for organizing student judging, Thank you to Shelley Katsuki (Membership Chair) and Jesse Jarvis (Treasurer) for greeting and registration at the front desk. Thanks to all who contributed talks and posters!



Top: Mathematic and Science Hall (MASH) where posters session was held. Bottom: Student Services Center where talks were held at CCBC.

SAVE THE DATE !!

**24th BIENNIAL CONFERENCE CERF2017
November 5-9, 2017 Providence, RI**

**"Coastal Science Inflection Point:
Celebrating Successes, Learning from Challenges"**

Key DATES:

Call for Abstracts, Feb. 2017

Registration Opens, March 2017

Abstract Deadline, May 1, 2017

Early Bird Registration Deadline, May 15, 2017

Advance Registration Deadline, Oct. 6, 2017

www.erf.org



AERS Presentation Award Winners

The AERS Board continues our new tradition to include profiles of the student award winners. AERSNews Editor Julie Ambler asked the awardees questions about their research, career goals and hobbies. The following profiles from award winners at the Fall AERS meeting are “in their own words.” Congratulations to our student presentation award winners!



Outstanding Graduate Oral Presentation

Emily Russ, UMCES

“Seasonal– and decadal-scale sediment-vegetation interactions on the subaqueous Susquehanna River Delta, upper Chesapeake Bay”

I received my BS in 2011 from North Carolina State University in Natural Resources with a marine and coastal concentration. I continued on into a MS program at NC State in Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Science, which I completed in 2013. I am currently a doctoral student at UMCES Horn Point Laboratory.

My undergraduate program was interdisciplinary, and I was exposed to topics in biology, chemistry, physics, and geology. I found myself gravitating towards the geology classes for my upper level electives, and became fascinated with coastal geomorphology. I really enjoy the interdisciplinary nature of my research at UMCES because sediment dynamics in the upper Chesapeake Bay is influenced by biophysical interactions, and has important implications for biogeochemistry throughout the estuary. Therefore, I find it really helpful to work with a broad group of scientists to better integrate these disciplines. I have a science blog where I try to post the latest progress I have made in my research. Check it out at http://geronimo.hpl.umces.edu/emilyruss/?page_id=19

I certainly want to keep my career options open, but I have become interested in science outreach, and have an outreach mentor who works for Maryland Sea Grant Extension and helps me identify outreach opportunities that will help my research influence policy decisions or inform public groups who are interested in how Susquehanna River sediment impacts Chesapeake Bay health.



Outstanding Graduate Poster Presentation

Jessica Valenti,
Rutgers University

“Fishes of a Temperate Estuary: Temporal and Subhabitat Influences on Species Composition and Abundance”

In the spring of 2014 I graduated with my B.S. Marine Science and minors in Chemistry and Biology from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey. I am currently a Ph.D. Candidate in the Oceanography Graduate Program at Rutgers University.

My poster at the AERS Fall 2016 Meeting focused on temporal and habitat use patterns of the fishes in Barnegat Bay, NJ. I became interested in this research topic when thinking about my dissertation which focuses on assessing the effects of urbanization on the fishes in Barnegat Bay. In order to understand urbanization effects on fishes, a basic ecological understanding of the fishes residing in the bay is useful. Previous assessments of the fishes in Barnegat Bay have been completed, but were not comprehensive or done in recent years. Since this basic ecological information is important for understanding complex interactions, use in models, etc. I decided to dedicate a chapter in my dissertation to describing the ecology of the fishes within the bay.

I became interested in human impacts on the marine environment while studying at Stockton. At Stockton I was able to participate in hands on research studying the effects of the BP Oil Spill on Louisiana marsh fish assemblages during my Nation Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) internship at the Rutgers University Marine Field Station. In addition, Stockton's field station is located on Nacote Creek which drains into the Mullica River, allowing for easy access to the system for class field trips. The Great Bay - Mullica River estuary system is one of the most pristine in the northeast and potentially one of the most pristine along the east coast of the United States. Occasionally for field trips we would venture into Barnegat Bay which is unlike the Great Bay - Mullica River estuary. Barnegat Bay is highly urbanized with development on land as far as the eye can see. The contrast between these two estuary systems and my NSF REU internship got me interested in studying anthropogenic stressors on the marine environment.

My project is a part of a larger project funded through the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. This larger endeavor encompasses many scientists from varying institutions and specialties with the objective of developing a comprehensive understanding of Barnegat Bay's health. I like the idea that my research may be used to inform policy and management decisions regarding Barnegat Bay.

My long term career goal is to become a college professor at a smaller, mainly undergraduate institution where the focus is on teaching, but faculty still have the opportunity to conduct research. Some of my favorite “free time” activities are fishing, snowboarding, hanging out with friends, and going to the beach.



Outstanding Undergraduate Presentation

Christian Bojorquez,
New Jersey City College

“Seasonal Invertebrate Diversity on an Urban Oyster Reef”

In my junior year of university, I took Dr. Allison Fitzgerald's Invertebrate Zoology course. In this course, she spoke about her amazing research in oyster restoration. Her passion for her research inspired me and I asked her if I could get involved with her lab. Dr. Fitzgerald was so kind to help me get this internship.

What do you like best about your research? I love the fact that every day we experience something new. Whether we explore a new site, find a creature I have never seen before, work with new colleagues, or find spat at our restored oyster reefs, there is always something exciting happening. I would love to continue studying ecology and continue research.

In my free times I enjoy reading, spending time with friends and family, and enjoying the great outdoors.

Something that might surprise us is that I love birds. They are beautiful and diverse creatures. I have been training pet birds since I was a child.



A Knuckle Salute & Thank You to
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AERS Endowment Gives Student Travel Awards

David Yozzo, Endowment Chair

For the Fall AERS 2016 meeting at Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), MD, travel awards not to exceed \$300 of individual requests were given to ten applicants, both graduate and undergraduate students representing seven academic institutions through out the Mid-Atlantic Region from PA, NJ, MD, VA and NC. Congratulations to all our students for your hard work on your research, and commitment to sharing your research with



Students receiving Travel Awards for AERS Fall 2016. Front row: Mary Zawatski (Villanova Univ.), Jessica Valenti (Rutgers Univ.). Second Row: Danielle Kreeger (AERS Pres.), David Yozzo (Student Endowment Co-Chair), Spencer Tassone (VCU), Emily Russ (UMCES), Wenfei Ni (UMCES), Dot Lundberg (UMCES), Amanda Williams (Eastern Mennonite Univ.), Jordan Roose (Salisbury Univ.), Caitlin Bauer (Villanova Univ.), C.J. Schlick (Student Endowment Co-Chair). Madison Jupitz (ECU) not in picture.

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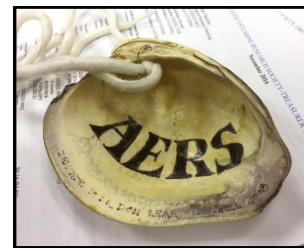
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Membership in AERS

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 you 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 web-site. Dues remain a bargain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for students.

Shelley E. Katsuki, Membership Chair.

AERS the Original Estuarine Research Society