

# AERS NEWS



All the news  
that'll fit, and  
then some

AERSNews Editors  
Julie Ambler & Elizabeth Lacey

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## Preparations for AERS Spring Meeting In Full Swing!

Kim de Mutsert

Associate Director, Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, Virginia for the Spring 2019 AERS meeting from April 4-6. We are truly excited to be hosting the meeting this spring! As some of you may know, we have been waiting to show off our brand-new facility to you for a while now. We also have an exciting scientific program planned with keynote topics ranging from

physics to fish, covering systems from fresh-water tidal to salty coasts. With our theme: "From the head of the tide to the edge of the shelf" we hope to showcase the breadth of research of the AERS membership. There is lots of room in the schedule to catch up with colleagues and friends before and after talks, perhaps while lounging on the patio of the Harbour Grille, admiring a student poster with a glass of wine in hand, or ordering from one of the food trucks that will come to our building during lunchtime. After the scientific program is over, we hope you stick around for a cruise on the Potomac River on the Miss Rivershore, a kayak paddle on the Occoquan river, or a hike in the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge. If you have more time, I recommend checking out historic Occoquan, or seeing the sights in nearby Washington, D.C. See you in April!



## We Were Framed!

The Fall meeting took place at Stockton University October 11—13, with the theme: *The power of framing your message: It's not what you say, it's how you say it!* Attendees enjoyed a diversity of speakers discussing methods and advantages to framing your research in a way that reaches multiple audiences. Keynote speakers included including, Dr. Naz Onel, Assistant Professor of Business Studies, speaking on marketing and the message of sustainability, Ms. Susan Allen, Stockton Public Relations, speaking on the power of social media and Dr. Skylar Bayer, discussing the importance of communicating with your personal voice. The meeting kicked off with a Thursday social at Oyster Creek Inn and what followed were 43 oral and poster presentations from students, faculty and professionals. Highlights included the R/V Petrel field trip and Seaview banquet.

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## AERSNews President's Corner

Joe Luczkovich  
Professor of Biology,  
East Carolina University

I started writing this note as I crossed the Delaware Bay on my way back from a trip to visit my family on the shores of the Raritan estuary in New Jersey, my home state, returning to my current home in North Carolina. I passed over many familiar estuaries (Raritan Bay, Matawan Creek, Sandy Hook Bay) where I started on this career as I traveled south on the Garden State Parkway. I passed by Barnegat Bay, Great Bay, the Mullica River and Stockton University (where we had the Fall AERS 2018 meeting). I passed by the Wetlands Institute at Stone Harbor (where I had my first marine science course), and finally reached Cape May where I caught the ferry across the Delaware Bay. I then passed by Rehoboth Beach, the location of the AERS Spring 2018 meeting, one year ago, celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AERS. I continued on the Delmarva peninsula across the mighty Chesapeake Bay (passing over and under the bay using the Bridge-Tunnel), then into North Carolina passing over the Perquimans and Chowan Rivers and by Albemarle Sound. This trip home caused me to think that AERS is very fortunate to have so many of the world's great estuaries at our doorstep and membership from the world's best estuarine science laboratories. It was a rewarding trip through the AERS region. I was thinking all the way about the estuarine studies reported at various AERS meetings I have attended, and all the friends and colleagues I have met along the way that have worked in these estuaries. I am truly grateful to have been part of AERS for so long, learning about the wonderful estuarine life that feeds us and attracts us to the coast. We are without a doubt the finest group of scientists studying the best estuaries in the world. I give you all a "knuckle salute" for your past and continuing efforts!

I'll have to take a more inland route to the Spring meeting on the Potomac River in Woodbridge, Virginia. The Spring meeting will be held at the Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center and is being hosted by George Mason University. Meeting plans are well underway with the theme "From the head of the tide to the edge of the shelf". We currently have just over 100 registered attendees and about 80 talks, 22 from students, perfect size for the meeting overlooking the Potomac. We hope to see all of you there, but you must act fast to register.

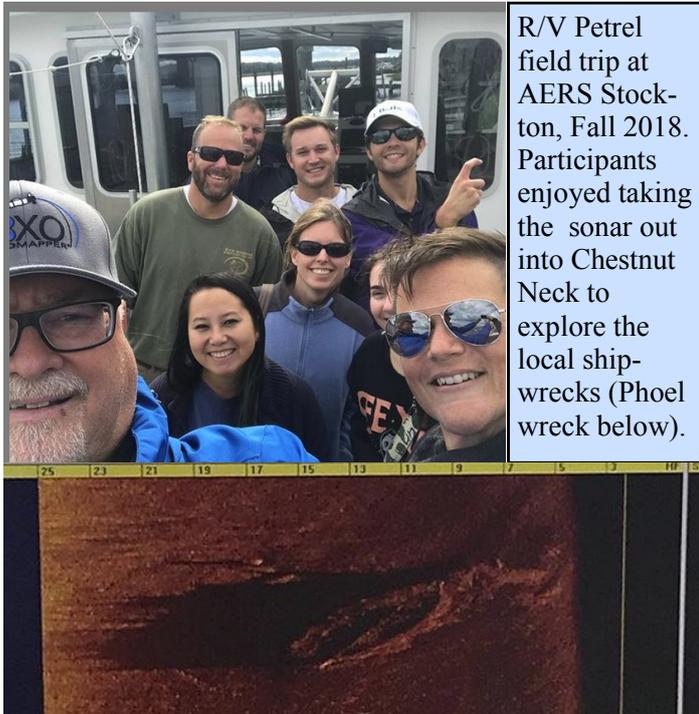
At this same meeting, AERS and The Coastal Society are partnering on hosting the Margaret A. Davidson Career workshop on 4 April 2019. There is still time to register for this special event, but you must register with the Coastal Society via the AERS website. This is a very exciting opportunity for the students and young professionals looking for work and wanting to take a non-traditional path in coastal and estuarine science.

I would like to take a moment to provide an update on our website and registration for these meetings. Wild Apricot has been working well for dues payments and meeting registration fees. However, we are still learning how to control it, and we experience a Rick Perry "oops!" moment occasionally. One example is when your AERS renewal dues payment is made via CERF, your membership status needs to be manually updated in our Wild Apricot accounts. Because there has been a delay in communicating this dues payment from CERF to AERS, much confusion arose this past month (flagging multiple long-time members non-payment, who always pay on time, but via CERF). I would like to offer my sincerest apologies to these members and ask for their forgiveness as we work through this problem with CERF.

A note about the impending AERS elections. Please look very soon for an announcement on the election of a new AERS President and Secretary. We are still accepting Nominations for President and Secretary. Voting begins in March *for the first time in electronic format using Wild Apricot. Voting will continue until the Spring meeting. Be sure to vote!*

The Fall 2019 AERS business meeting will be at CERF in Mobile, AL. Mobile has a Mardi Gras celebration that is older than the one in New Orleans. Accordingly, it has been decided by the CERF Governing Board that we will have a Mardi-Gras style parade to open the Fall 2019 CERF meeting, with each of the affiliate societies organizing their "krewe" for the parade. The parade will be indoors at the Mobile convention center and will just involve the CERF attendees, but it should be a lot of fun! We all need to start thinking about costumes to wear (an estuarine-themed mask would suffice) and "throws" for the AERS krewe: "The Mystick Krewe of Venerable Venus". Think of ancient clams. We can decide these issues at the Spring business meeting.

Get ready to develop your career, present your estuarine and coastal science results, and have a great time at the next two meetings of AERS and CERF at the Potomac Science Center in Woodbridge, VA and in Mobile, AL.



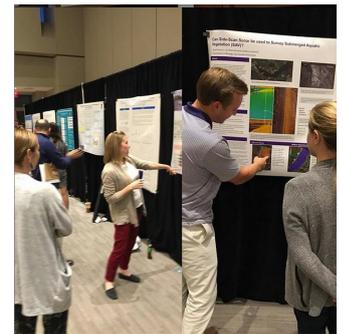
R/V Petrel field trip at AERS Stockton, Fall 2018. Participants enjoyed taking the sonar out into Chestnut Neck to explore the local shipwrecks (Phoel wreck below).



A Second Thank You to our Fall Meeting Sponsors

Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve

Turner Designs



### Membership Update

**Shelley Katsuki, Membership Director**

AERS currently boasts 220 active members, with more joining each day as we approach the spring meeting. Stay tuned for a full membership update at the spring meeting.



If you receive an invoice from AERS requesting a dues payment and you renew through CERF, please disregard that notification. Our renewal update from CERF is on a quarterly basis, and thus may not reflect recent payments via CERF. Rest assured that your membership will be updated to reflect payments via CERF at the time of the next report. If you wish to expedite the update, feel free to forward your CERF invoice reflecting your AERS affiliate dues to [Shelley@vims.edu](mailto:Shelley@vims.edu)

### Julie Ambler receives Venerable Clam

Julie Ambler was honored with the Venerable Clam at the Fall AERS meeting. She is a Professor Emerita at Millersville University. Her research focuses on zooplankton spatial and seasonal distributions, and citizen science of stream water quality. She has brought numerous students to AERS meetings and been involved on the Board as Secretary in 2006 and AERSNews Editor since 2010. Considering the AERS Board must vote on the next recipient, it was a bit of a bait-and-switch to pull this surprise off!



A knuckle salute to Julie and her years of dedication to AERS!



## AERS Student Presentation Awards at Fall 2018 Stockton Meeting

At the Fall 2018 Meeting, Mark Pfander, an undergraduate student at Stockton University, was awarded the Best Student Oral Presentation award for “An In-depth Analysis of Differences in Tides, Pressure, and Current Velocities in the Little Egg Inlet Before and After Dredging.” Alexandra Blanchet and Sadie Gramuglia undergraduate students at Stockton University, received the Best Student Poster award for “Early Life History Dynamics of Oyster and Scallop Populations in a Connected System in Southern NJ.” Congratulations to these promising early career marine scientists! A special thanks goes out to Jessica Valenti, for helping out with student judging tasks! AERSNews Co-Editor Julie Ambler asked awardees about their research, career goals and hobbies. The following profiles from award winners are “in their own words.”

### Sadie Gramuglia (Stockton University) Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation Award

I just completed my undergraduate degree at Stockton University from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. I majored in Marine Science with a concentration in marine biology. I became interested in research during Spring 2018, when I took an invertebrate zoology course with Dr. Christine Thompson, and instantly fell in love with the topic. Towards the end of the semester Dr. Thompson said she was looking for research assistants and I was offered a position as a student worker in her lab. Throughout the summer I got more involved and became a member in her core research group. From there I spent time in the lab, at the field station, and going to community outreach events and ever since I've been hooked on oysters (except eating them!). My favorite part about doing research is that you're doing something different every day; some days you're out in the field collecting samples, some days you're in the lab processing, some days you're just staring at a computer entering data, and some days you're out teaching the public about why you're doing what you do. Even when there are bad days – getting rained out of the field or our samples being full of sediment – my partner Alex and I were always having fun.

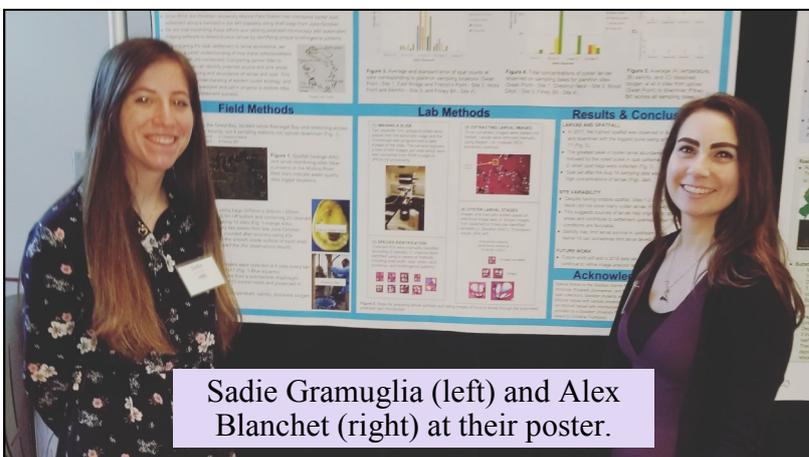
Since finishing my degree, I have decided to go straight into the work force. I am looking to expand my knowledge about oysters and venture into larval rearing, spawning, and bloodstock management. I feel like when I was in school the only thing I did was course work and research! I do spend a lot of time volunteering; I spent most of my senior year volunteering with Habitat for Humanity and the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Since graduating my time has been spent reconnecting with old friends and cuddling with my pets. Yesterday Alex was surprised to find out I have an iguana: her name is Iggy, she's 23 years old, and she loves when you wrap her in a towel and hold her like a baby!

### Alex Blanchet (Stockton University) Undergraduate Student Poster Presentation Award

I received my bachelor's degree this past December from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Stockton University in marine science, with a concentration in marine biology. I became interested in my research topic after working with my professor Dr. Christine Thompson during the summer of 2017. I learned so much about oysters and their importance to our area, and helped in community outreach and oyster restoration which furthered my interest in oysters and other shellfish. I enjoy doing fieldwork, and then later analyzing the data collected. For my project, I saw

which factors play a role in how many larvae are in a particular sample at different dates and locations. We would often times see patterns after comparing the amount of larvae to how much oyster spat was on the shells a week or two later. It's really enjoyable to see how these organisms work and to try and figure out more about their populations through our research.

I am currently a caretaker at the Rutgers Marine Field Station and I will be working in March as a field technician for APAIS (Access Point Angler Intercept Survey with New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife) doing dockside surveys of recreational anglers' efforts and success at catching fish. I would eventually like to work in a shellfish hatchery or farm and then eventually go back to school to receive my master's degree and work more with shellfisheries. In my free time, I enjoy petting dogs, reading, exploring new things to do around where I live, and hanging out at the beach. It might be surprising for you to know that I love oysters, but I refuse to eat them because I do not like the texture of them! Also, I have a beekeeping certification, but I do not keep bees... yet!



Sadie Gramuglia (left) and Alex Blanchet (right) at their poster.

## Mark Pfander (Stockton University) Undergraduate Student Oral Presentation Award

I will be receiving my bachelor's degree this spring in Marine Science with a concentration in Oceanography from the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Stockton University. My interest in my research topic came from Dr. PH (Dr. Anna Pfeiffer-Herbert). On one of the first days of her Introduction to Oceanography course, I walked up to her after class and asked her what more could I do besides taking the required classes. She told me that learning MatLab would be a great way to start. So about once a week I would meet with her. She would give me old data sets to practice with. Then I took her Data Methods in Marine Science course which really helped develop my skills in MatLab. I worked for her as a research assistant and continued the research through an independent study. I would like to say that my favorite part about research is figuring out the code and having it run smoothly. That is very rewarding. Getting answers to the questions being asked feels pretty good as well!

My plans now after graduation are to find a job and I'm open to anything. My hobbies basically include anything with the water. My two favorite things to do in life are fishing and surfing. But other than that I like sea glass hunting and collecting driftwood to make art. A surprising fact about me is that I make the best cheesesteaks East of the Mississippi at Hamburger Construction Company, 1020 Boardwalk, Ocean City, New Jersey. Come in this summer and try them out!



### Lighter Moments

Alex inspects a horseshoe crab.

Mark catches a yellowfin tuna.



### AERS Endowment Provides Student Travel Awards for Fall 2018 Meeting

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

AERS provided travel support (up to \$200.00 each) to two graduate students (Emma Cronin, UVA and Jessica Valenti, Rutgers University) to attend the Fall 2018 meeting at Stockton University, in Galloway, NJ. Thanks to all the generous meeting sponsors for help in supporting student travel and congratulations to all of the student presenters for your hard work, and commitment to sharing your research with AERS.



Student Travel Award recipients Jessica Valenti (left) and Emma Cronin (right) with AERS President, Joe Luczkovich.

## Events for Students at AERS Spring 2019 Meeting Includes Career Development Workshop

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

Turn out of students to the Spring 2019 Meeting is looking to be outstanding. Numerous students have applied for the student travel grant and submitted abstracts to present at the meeting. The abstracts provided show the level of student research is as exceptional as we have seen from students at previous meetings and has us excited to see the presentations.

On Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>, The Coastal Society (TCS) will be cohosting a "Margaret A. Davidson Coastal Career Development Program with AERS. The workshop will be held at the Potomac Science Center at George Mason University from 8:00 am to 5 pm. It is designed for students and early career scientists and will provide a morning of keynote talks on career options, employment prospects, successful pathways toward local opportunities and opportunities around the nation, as well as inspirational testimonies from coastal professionals. For more information about the workshop see <https://aers.info/Career-Workshop>.

Are you following AERS on Social Media. Check us out on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @AERSScience.



## Launching AERS Instagram TAKE OVER

CJ 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.



## Honorary Membership Update

Judith Stribling, Honorary Membership Chair

Honorary memberships are awarded to members who have made a substantial contribution both to AERS and to estuarine science as a whole. Any member may make a nomination for this award; please communicate with Judith Stribling if there is someone you feel is deserving of this honor. The HM committee is also in need of a chair; if you are interested in serving, please let Joe Luczkovich know.

## AERS Needs YOU! To nominate someone or yourself as Treasurer and President-Elect.



Contact Danielle Kreeger

### 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.