

# AERS NEWS



*All the news  
that'll fit, and  
then some*

Volume 2014 Number 2

Dec. 15, 2014

## AERS Fall 2014 Meeting. Oct. 30-Nov. 1, Stockton College, NJ

Sponsored by Pete Straub (Richard Stockton College), Mike DeLuca (Rutgers Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences).

The Fall AERS meeting at Richard Stockton College in Galloway, NJ was an intimate success. The timing and venue of this Fall AERS meeting appropriately linked to its theme, "*Sandy and Superlative Storms: Resilience, Recovery, Restoration*" and welcomed oral and poster presentations from all areas of estuarine and coastal science. **Drs. Michael Kennish** (Rutgers University), **Neil Ganju**, (USGS Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center), and **Stewart Farrell** (Richard Stockton Coastal Research Center) gave stellar keynote presentations and joined in an interesting and powerful Discussion Panel that addressed storms in terms of resilience, recovery, and restoration, in the broadest sense of each of these terms.

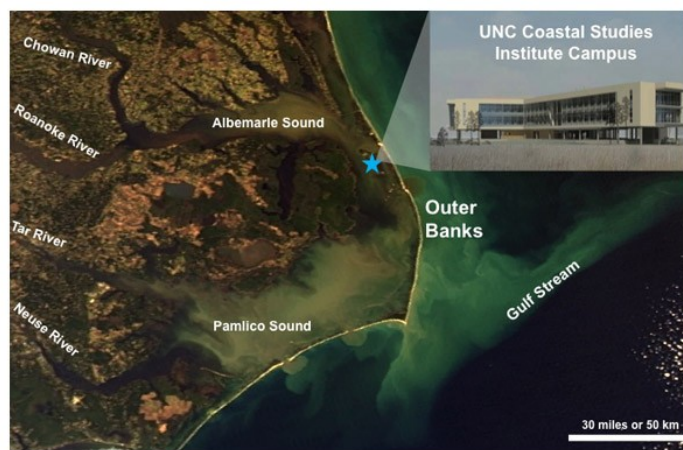


Program Chair Ben Fertig moderates the panel discussion as the panel speakers (Drs. Kennish, Farrell, and Ganju (left to right) answer questions from the audience. Photo: Dave Yozzo.

The speakers reviewed the destruction by Superstorm Sandy and contributed scientific, engineering, and community solutions to protect coastal areas. Dr. Kennish emphasized the need to make beaches and primary dunes wider, and to protect the back bays from storm surges. For vegetation to dampen or slow down the flooding from storm surges, the height of plants and water must be considered (Dr. Ganju). Dr. Stewart focused on communication between community stake holders for preparation for future storms.

## Save the Date! Spring Meeting March 12-14, 2015 at the University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute in Manteo, NC.

Joe Luczkovich has graciously invited us to the UNC Coastal Studies Institute of North Carolina (UNC-CSI) on Roanoke Island for the Spring 2015 meeting. The oral and poster sessions will be held at the Coastal Studies Institute where there are awesome views of Roanoke and Croatan Sounds. There are many local field trip opportunities on Albemarle and Pamlico Sounds and the Outer Banks. A workshop will be offered by Professor Tom Allen of ECU using the CSI facilities to demonstrate a hands-on session with GIS and the new NC Coastal Atlas. A graduate student/employer workshop/speed dating session will be offered. Joe is working on the arrangements for the hotels and banquet. For views of the new building, CSI researcher activity, and programs click here: <http://csi.northcarolina.edu/>



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## AERS News – President's Corner

Treda Smith Grayson  
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Season's Greetings Fellow AERSians!

So here we are, approaching the end of 2014! What a jam-packed year this has been. In the midst of hustle and bustle of the holiday season, I hope that you find a few moments to sit back and reflect on your accomplishments for the year and what you want to achieve in 2015. Rest on your 2014 laurels but continue to strive for greatness in the year to come!

One particular highlight of 2014 for me was convening a successful Fall meeting in October at Stockton College! The program committee did a stellar job planning and executing an interesting and engaging scientific program, with a host of notable talks and three impressive keynote speakers. At the close of the business meeting, folks went off to change for the banquet and Halloween costume contest. This was fitting as the meeting and banquet fell on October 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Don't ever say that AERSians are not a creative bunch...I was blown away by the costume ideas that people came up with! I was even more astonished by member generosity in participating in the Halloween Costume Contest, which raised a total of \$515 to support AERS Student Travel! I definitely think that we should consider costume contests for future fall meetings that take place near Halloween!

As the fall meeting drew to a close, I was elated that the location for the spring meeting was agreed upon and set. Joe Luczkovich and colleagues from East Carolina University and University of North Carolina have graciously agreed to host the Spring 2015 at the UNC Coastal Studies Institute in Manteo, NC! There are already plans underway for workshops, student-oriented activities and amazing field trips. I look forward to seeing you in the southern extent of our range March 12-14, 2015. Stay tuned for more details on conference theme, abstract submission, and registration and lodging information. Remember, as an AERS member you received a reduced registration rate; the same holds true for CERF members registering for 2015 conference! If you are already a member, don't forget to renew both your AERS and CERF memberships. If you are not yet a member, what are you waiting for?! Encourage your colleagues to become and remain active members.

That is all for now. I hope that each and every one of you enjoy this festive and reflective time of year with family and friends old and new! I look forward to what 2015 brings for all of us and AERS! It's going to be another banner year for our society- I can feel it! Until then, stay warm! Happy Holidays!

Treda



## Fall Mtg. Stockton cont'd.

*There were a total of 43 presentations (talks and posters) which addressed topics presented by the keynote speakers and topics in estuarine science in general. Students contributed 24 of these presentations. There were talks by 2 Undergraduates, 4 Masters Students, and 1 Doctoral Candidate. There were posters by 6 Undergraduates, 6 Masters Students, and 5 Doctoral Candidates.*

**Awards for Best Student Presentations** were given to the following three students, who each received a one-year membership to the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation and a lovely certificate! Congratulations!

**Jenny Paterno** (Rutgers University)

**Best Graduate Oral Presentation.** Assessment of Fish Utilization on a Sub-tidal Restoration Area in a Mid-Atlantic Estuary.

**Alexander Soranno** (Montclair State University)

**Best Graduate Poster.** Settlement Preferences of *Chrysaora quinquecirrha* (Atlantic sea nettle) on Vinyl Bulkhead Material vs. Oyster Shell in Barnegat Bay NJ.

**Casey Pehrson** (George Mason University)

**Best Undergraduate Presentation.** Presence of River Herring (*Alosa pseudoharengus* and *Alosa aestivalis* Spawning Populations in Urbanized Potomac River Tributaries.



AERS President Treda Grayson (left) presents awards to Jenny Paterno (Best Graduate Oral Presentation), Casey Pehrson (Best Undergraduate Presentation), and Alexander Soranno (Best graduate Poster), left to right.



The Clam (Curt Cheng) and the Black Cat (Priscilla Cole) from the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary "danced by the light of the moon." Photos by D.Yozzo.



Eight applicants (5 undergraduate and 3 graduate) received AERS Student Travel fund awards of up to \$400.00 each to help defray travel and lodging expenses. These awards were generously funded by the Ann C. Powell Student Travel Endowment and the AERS Student Travel Fund



Treda Grayson (AERS President) with students receiving travel awards: C.J. Schlick (George Mason Univ.), Gabby King (Waynesburg Univ.), Amanda Sills (GMU), Adam Wood (Old Dominion University), Michael Echevarria (ODU), Casey Pehrson (GMU), Zuzy Abdala (GMU). Not in picture, Matthew Mattesini (Bloomsburg Univ.). Photos this page by D. Yozzo.

The Friday Banquet was well attended and **Cassie Gurbisz** organized a **Halloween Costume Contest** raising **\$515** for Student Travel to AERS and/or CERF meetings!



Leila Hamdan (Sea Legs and Identity Thief) and Ben Fertig (M&M, prize for funniest costume) contemplate the Halloween



Gabby King (Pirate) and Jessica Caban (Performer) enjoy the banquet.

This meeting we experimented with adding a pre-meeting activity on Thursday; in this case with a vendor exhibition. Keep an eye out in the spring for new and exciting pre-meeting AERS activities on the Thursday of the meeting as we continue to try out workshops and other formats.

A heartfelt knuckle salute and 'Thank You!' goes to our newest Venerable Clam recipient **Peter Straub** for being the outstanding Local Host with help from **Mike DeLuca**. AERS President **Treda Grayson** provided steadfast leadership and treasurer **Sam Lake** managed meeting finances. Thank you to **Chris Heyer** for updating the online registration and abstract submission process.



Treda Grayson (AERS President) congratulates Local Host Pete Straub on receiving the Venerable Clam.

*If you are interested in volunteering your time to help with AERS committees, please let President Treda Grayson know.*

*We hope you had a fun-filled and intellectually stimulating meeting and enjoyed your stay at the Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club!*

See you in the Spring!

Ben Fertig and Cassie Gurbisz,  
AERS Program Committee



Forest Edge Forsythe Refuge, NJ. Photo: John Ambler

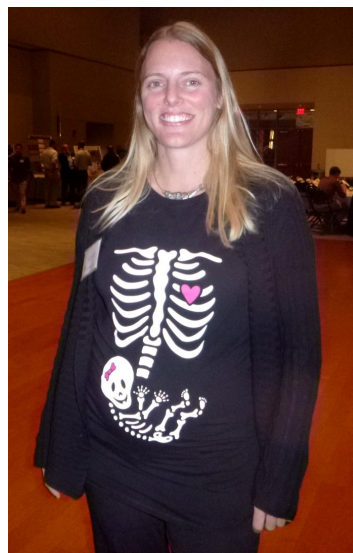


## Judith Weis has published a new book!

### **Marine Pollution: What Everyone Needs to Know<sup>®</sup> Oxford University Press, 2015**

Drawing on her research and location in New Jersey, Judith Weis (Professor Emerita, Rutgers University) has answers for all your questions about marine pollution. She has aimed this book for the general public which includes “policymakers, naturalists, environmentalists, students, and scientists,” which includes us. She makes no assumptions about what the reader knows by first defining terms such as the marine environment, food webs, point and nonpoint pollution, and some brief history about marine pollution such as stating how people once believed the ocean was too vast to pollute. We later read that pollutants such as mercury can travel far distances through air pollution and then be biomagnified to dangerous levels in top predators such as seals, and the Inuits who eat them. Judith describes the state of current knowledge in eight of the eleven chapters, which cover well known pollutants such as nutrients and heavy metals to noise pollution, climate change and biological pollution (invasive species). The author weaves basic science and interactions of pollutants with marine organisms and their environment with how the public can protect the environment and even themselves from pollutants. Read about why low dissolved oxygen can prevent pollutants from escaping from sediments and what is the best way to cook fish to reduce PCBs accumulated in fat (good news for the grillers among us). I found **Marine Pollution** an enjoyable read because I could just open up the book in any chapter to find a captivating question and answer, or I could go to the index to see what is covered about endocrine disruptors or harmful algal blooms, or I could start with the Table of Contents. **Marine Pollution** is a great tutorial as well as a great source for the general public.

Review by Julie Ambler, AERSNews Editor



Clockwise from top left: Cassie Gurbisz, Gabby King and Dave Yozzo, Treda Grayson, Pete Straub, and Bob Christian and Dave Yozzo. Photos by Dave Yozzo and Leila Hamdan.



#### Membership in 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](http://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 Sullivan**, Membership Chair.

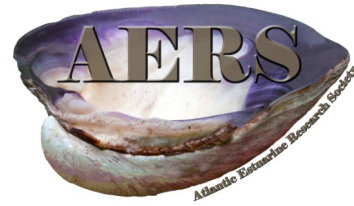


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***Local Host Fall 2014 Mtg.***

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Post Banquet: (left to right): Algal Bloom (Kaitlyn Smith and Val Whalon from HDR), Treda Grayson (EPA), Neil Ganju (USGS Woods Hole Coastal and Marine Science Center), Kim De Mutsert (GMU) and Joe Luczkovich, Psychedelic Statistician (ECU).