

AERS NEWS



All the news
that'll fit, and
then some

Volume 2015 Number 2

April 15, 2015

RECAP AERS Spring Meeting, Mar. 14-16 University of North Carolina Coastal Studies Institute, Wanchese NC

The theme for the Spring 2015 AERS Meeting was "Blue Carbon," and addressed the potential for estuarine carbon sequestration to achieve a "carbon neutral future." Estuarine ecosystems sequester blue (seagrasses, marshes and mangroves), green (phytoplankton) and black carbon (product of incomplete combustion or refractory carbon in peat, sediments and mudflats). These estuarine carbon sinks are not included in most carbon storage models, but may be some of the best ways we have to achieve a carbon neutral future. We invited three Keynote Speakers to talk to us about carbon storage in estuaries. **Dr. Hans Paerl** (*UNC-Chapel Hill, Institute of Marine Science*), emphasized the difficulty of making carbon budgets in estuaries due to large perturbations such as hurricanes and floods which can cause large phytoplankton blooms and to many perturbations on small time and space scales which affect the balance between photosynthesis and respiration.



Keynote and Panel speakers (Drs. Robert Twilley, Hans Paerl and Sid Mitra (left to right) Photos: University of Southern Mississippi (HP), and Dave Yozzo (RT and SM).

Dr. Robert Twilley (*Louisiana Sea Grant / LSU*) told us his story of measuring "mangroves and mud" (shoots and roots) for carbon storage, revising methods to measure the carbon in roots (not a constant proportion of shoot carbon and need to dig deeper), and understanding the carbon entering and leaving mangrove systems via uplands and estuaries. **Dr. Sid Mitra** (*East Carolina University*) emphasized that the black carbon pool is probably as substantial as the blue carbon pool. We don't have answers for how much carbon is stored by estuaries by different components, but the framework to answer these questions is being actively pursued. We also arranged a series of contributed sessions: 1) Camp Lejeune, 2) Ecosystems, 3) SAV, Shellfish & Finfish, 4) Carbon & Climate.

Recap Spring Meeting Continued page 2

**Come join us for CERF 2015 in Portland!
November 8-12, 2015
"Grand Challenges in Coastal and
Estuarine Science: Securing our Future"**

**Registration is now open
ABSTRACTS are due May 1, 2015**

Please consider submitting an abstract to present your latest findings. Topics include "traditional scientific, education and management disciplines and encourages interaction among coastal and estuarine scientist and managers. "The Scientific Program Committee includes these Grand Challenges:

- ◆ Managing and mitigating the risks of climate change
- ◆ Synergistic effects of ocean acidification with hypoxia, eutrophication and other conditions
- ◆ Polar estuaries and coasts
- ◆ Making data work
- ◆ Cities by the sea
- ◆ Estuaries under threat
- ◆ Multiple uses of coastal resources

AERS starts CERF Student Travel Fund

At the Spring AERS meeting, we decided to pose another grand challenge to our members. AERS is starting a CERF Student Travel Fund for \$2000 from our General Fund, and will match individual donations for student travel for up to another \$2000. Potentially we could raise \$6000 or more for travel! To donate, please go to www.AERS.info, click on the link [Supporting AERS](#) (left hand side of the page), and select the link to proceed to the [Student Fund Donations](#) site. All student fund donations will go towards the CERF Student Travel Fund until September 15.

Submit application for CERF Travel to Dave Yozzo (dyozzo@greatecology.com) by September 15.

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AERS News – President's Corner

Treda Smith Grayson
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Greetings Fellow AERSians!

Welcome Spring 2015! This past winter was long and cold, so I am quite happy to see spring arrive, even if it comes with indecisive weather, strong winds and lots of pollen! Having our recent Spring meeting down in Wanchese, NC definitely helped me to look forward to sunnier and warmer days, especially when there was a snow storm that paralyzed the much of the Mid-Atlantic coast the week before the meeting!

I hope you all enjoyed the Spring meeting as much as I did. From the beautiful venue in the midst of a breath-taking backdrop, to the informative scientific program and dynamic keynote speakers centered around Blue (and black and green) Carbon, it was an informative and successful meeting. Many thanks go out to entire planning team, including local hosts headed up by Joe Luczkovich and JP Walsh, Treasurer Sam Lake, Program Chair Ben Fertig, Webmaster Chris Heyer, Student Representative CJ Schlick and Endowment Chair David Yozzo. A special thanks also to our Keynote Speakers Hans Paerl, Robert Twilley, and Sid Mitra, as well as our numerous meeting sponsors! This was an especially important meeting as officer elections were held. Congratulations to the new President-elect Danielle Kreeger and Secretary Joe Wood!

This is a CERF conference year, so our next meeting will take place at CERF 2015 in Portland, OR, November 8-12, 2015. We want AERS to have a strong presence at the meeting, so consider submitting an abstract for an oral or poster presentation. There are a number of sessions chaired by your fellow AERSians. The abstract submission deadline is May 1, 2015, so don't delay! Conference registration is open as well, and you receive a discounted registration rate as a CERF member...hint hint- renew your CERF and AERS membership TODAY! I also hope that you also consider making a donation to the Student Travel fund so that we can support a number of our students with travel awards to attend the conference. More details on our student travel fund donation drive can be found in this newsletter.

As the end of the academic semester draws near, I hope your spring and summer is filled with travel to interesting places, successful field work, time to get around to that manuscript you have had on your to-do list, and some time to slow down and relax! Enjoy yourselves until next time!

Treda Grayson

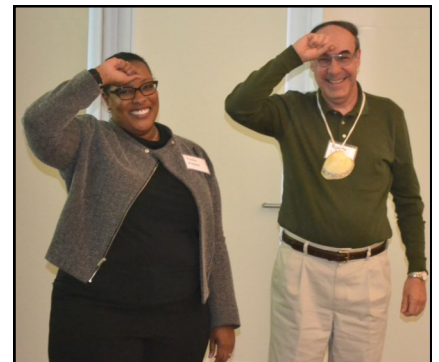


Recap Spring Meeting NC cont'd

This spring, we expanded our Thursday programming with two field trips before the meeting, two workshops, and an evening keynote speaker. Thursday's workshops involved 1) the Mid-Atlantic Coastal Atlas (facilitated by **Tom Allen**, ECU) and 2) Student Employment (organized by **C.J. Schlick**, GMU and facilitated by **Christine Avenarius**, ECU). Another two field trips were scheduled for after the meeting (though unfortunately the weather did not cooperate on Saturday).

The meeting itself had 67 attendees and featured 23 contributed talks (10 by students) and 17 contributed posters (6 by students). Highlights of the meeting included 3 keynote speakers, election of our new Nominations Committee Chair: **Mark Brush** (AERS' former past-President from VIMS), and Secretary, **Joe Wood** (AERS' former Student Representative now at CBF). Long-time AERS member **Roberto Llansó** (AERS Member At Large, from Versar) was recognized with the Venerable Clam.

Treda Grayson
 (AERS President)
 congratulates **Roberto Llansó** on receiving the Venerable Clam.
 Photo: Dave Yozzo.



The Friday evening banquet was held at Pamlico Jack's Pirate Ship Restaurant where a lively Pi-Day fundraiser benefitted the endowment for student travel awards by raising over \$500! Thank you to our good sports **Joe Luczkovich** and **Leila Hamdan**! AERS members, new and long-time, enjoyed browsing and purchasing classic books donated by **Steve Fuller**, which raised \$136 for the student travel endowment as well. Photos from the meeting are on the AERS Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/78046897225/>



Joe Luczkovich takes one for the team.

A heartfelt knuckle salute and 'Thank You!' goes to Joe Luczkovich, Bob Christian, JP Walsh, Robert McClendon, Reide Corbett, Tom Allen, Christine Avenarius, David Kimmel, Hans Vogelsong, and Sid Mitra (Eastern Carolina University), and Mike Piehler (Coastal Studies Institute) for being outstanding **Local Hosts**, and our **generous Sponsors** CERF, Coastal Studies Institute, East Carolina University, North Carolina Sea Grant, Virginia Sea Grant and YSI, and our **Supporting & Contributing Sponsors**: Albermarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership, ECU Dept. of Biology, ECU Institute for Coastal Science and Policy, ECU Office of Diving & Water Safety, and Outer Banks Brewing Station. AERS President **Treda Grayson** provided steadfast leadership and treasurer **Sam Lake** managed meeting finances. Thank you **Chris Heyer** for updating the online registration and abstract submission process.

Ben Fertig, AERS Program Chair, and
 Julie Ambler AERSNews Editor

Student Awards

The meeting had 67 attendees and featured 23 contributed talks (10 by students) and 17 contributed posters (6 by students).

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



Ethan Theuerkauf
(University of North Carolina Chapel Hill-Institute of Marine Sciences)

Best Graduate Oral Presentation.

“Including saltmarsh erosion and barrier-island transgression in blue carbon budgets”

Coauthors: J.D. Stephens, C. White-Nockleby, J.T. Ridge, F.J. Fodrie and A.B. Rodriguez

Sara Blachman
(Virginia Institute of Marine Science)



Best Graduate Poster.

“Modeling Phytoplankton Community Composition of the New River Estuary, North Carolina.”

Coauthor: M.J.Brush

Nine applicants (all graduate students) 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.

Highlights of Spring 2015 Business Meeting, March 13, 2015, Wanchese, NC

The AERS Business Meeting was held on Friday the 13th, keeping with our recent tradition of meeting on spooky days (the fall 2014 meeting was on Halloween). Our esteemed President Treda Grayson ran a very efficient meeting (49 minutes), which allowed more time for the subsequent poster session (and refreshments). Featured topics were the Treasurer's report by Sam Lake, which showed that AERS remains in good financial shape, and the membership report by Treda, which showed that AERS continues to hold steady bucking downward trends in membership of other professional organizations. Ben Fertig presented the program committee report (see other article). Dr. Chris Jones from George Mason University was presented with the Honorary Membership, which was accepted on his behalf by Leila Hamdan. Dr. Roberto J. Llansó was presented with the Venerable Clam, for which he dutifully did the knuckle salute. Mark Brush and Leila Hamdan officiated over elections for President Elect and Secretary, with Danielle Kreeger and Joe Wood coming out on top. Additional topics of discussion were locations for future AERS meetings (nothing certain as yet) and fund-raising ideas for student travel for CERF this fall. All that and additional committee reports – in 49 minutes! Danielle Kreeger, AERS Secretary

A Knuckle Salute & “Thank You” to

East Carolina University
Coastal Studies Institute,
Ann C. Powell Student Travel Endowment
And all of our generous sponsors!



Supporting & Contributing Sponsors:

Albermarle-Pamlico National Estuary Partnership
ECU Department of Biology
ECU Institute for Coastal Science and Policy
ECU Office of Diving and Water Safety
Outer Banks Brewing Station



Dave Yozzo (Endowment Chair) and Treda Grayson (AERS President) with students receiving travel awards: Bianca Rio (University of PA), Sara Blachman (VIMS), Kurt Cheng (Drexel University), Hilde Zenil (ECU), Cecilia Krahforst (ECU), Kathleen Onorevole (UNC), Amanda Sills (GMU), Lucille Zipf (UNC), Julia Chen (Duke University). Photos this page by D. Yozzo.

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Local Host Fall 2014 Mtg.

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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 website. Dues remain a bargain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for students.

Shelley Sullivan, Membership Chair.