
AERS NEWS



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

Volume 2001 Number 1

January, 2001

Fall AERS Meeting A Success—Jerry Williams Honored



Jerry Williams is presented with an engraved Secchi Disk by AERS President, Stan Hales at the Fall AERS Banquet in his honor.

(AERS News photo)

The Fall AERS meeting was a resounding success. The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) hosted our Fall 2000 meeting at their excellent meeting facilities in Edgewater, Maryland near Annapolis. Nearly 100 attended the technical and social sessions which began with a meeting of Society of African-American Marine and Estuarine Scientists (see more about SAAMES on page 3), a board meeting, and the traditional beverage consumption event on Thursday evening the 9th of November. Technical sessions covered a broad range of topics and showcased some of the best student presentations seen at an AERS meeting in recent history. (See "Student Awards" page 4 for more.) The technical presentations held to the usual AERS format, of

(Continued on page 4)

**Spring Meeting
Meeting Scheduled for April, 5-
7 2001 at Clarion's Hotel James
Madison, Norfolk**

The spring meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society will be held from 5-7 April, 2001 at Clarion's Hotel James Madison, the "finest upscale boutique hotel in downtown Norfolk." The hotel is locally renowned for its turn-of-the-century décor, provides deluxe accommodations, offers extensive business and other deluxe services, and is located on Granby Street in the heart of Norfolk's historic, retail, and financial districts. The hotel is within walking distance of several tall ships, a variety of maritime and other museums, numerous restaurants, historic homes and other buildings, and the Waterside Marketplace. Hopefully, discriminating and sophisticated AERS meeting attendees will not track mud through the lobby!

(Continued on page 6)

Inside This Issue

Stan's Musings	Page 2
Call for Abstracts	Page 5
Student Travel Award Changes	Page 6
SAAMES Meets with AERS	Page 3
Student Award Winners	Page 4
Spring Meeting Pre-registration Form	Page 2
Call for Nominations	Page 5
AERS Poster Contest Winner	Page 7



To me, there were a number of reasons why the fall, 2000 meeting of AERS at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center was especially notable. As always, there were the usual reasons: the scientific presentations were exceptional, the supply of cold beverages was adequate to satisfy even a VIMSian thirst, and our hosts made us feel right at home. However, the reasons don't stop there. To me, our society embraced its past, present and future in some novel and important ways.

First, we recognized and thanked in our own special way Jerry Williams, who has enriched AERS and its members for many years. I'd like to thank Kent Mountford, Mario Vieira, Mike Castagna, Joy Bartholomew, and Pat and Frank Reilly for their thoughtful and creative contributions to our celebration. Jerry has expressed his heartfelt thanks to me for the unique way in which we honored him, and suggested some others that we should thank in future meetings...

Second, I hope that AERS and SERC have begun a close and lasting relationship. Tuck Hynes and his SERC colleagues did everything to make sure that things went smoothly at the fall meeting. Several meeting attendees commented not only on how smoothly the meeting progressed, but also shared their excitement with me about the many different research activities and people working at SERC. I am certain everyone looks forward to the participation of SERC scientists in future AERS meetings.

*The future of AERS
appears strong as our society
(Continued on page 3)*

Pre-Registration Form

In order to help us plan for this meeting, and avoid financial ruin from catering costs, AERS has decided to require pre-registration for this meeting. You can pre-register on-line - the **preferred** method - at (<http://www.vims.edu/aers/spring2001registration.htm>) or use this form and snail mail. Send the form to:

Elizabeth Hinchey
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
College of William and Mary
Gloucester Point, VA 23062

First Name and M.I.: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State or Province: _____ Zip or Postal Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ FAX Number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Are you a student? Yes No If so, what kind? _____

(Undergraduate, MS level or PhD level)

Registration includes both technical and social events, breaks, and banquet.

Full Registration (members \$45.00) _____ (Non-members \$65.00) _____

Student Registration (\$35.00) _____ (Non-members \$45.00) _____

Extra Banquet tickets/Social Registration (\$20.00) _____

Musings*(Continued from page 2)*

continues to change. Many people mentioned they had a hard time recalling such an outstanding collection of student papers about such a diversity of topics. We continue to look for ways to attract students and support their participation. A project initiated several years ago with those goals will be unveiled at the spring meeting.

As we go to press and web-page, Dan Dauer is also working on some millennium-year promotional deals for students planning to attend the meeting in Norfolk. So students, make your reservations by the deadline, but keep your eyes on the web-page about the upcoming meeting!

Finally, Kelly Clark's efforts to get minority scientists involved in AERS deserve special mention and our thanks. Kelly indicated the fall AERS meeting was the first scientific meeting he had attended where the proportion of minority attendees approached that of the national population. Let's find some ways to make this the usual situation at future AERS meetings. Don't forget to pre-register and/or submit your abstract on the website, and make your hotel reservation by the appropriate time. See you in Norfolk!!

AERS NEWS Deadline

Any submissions for the next issue are due to Frank Reilly by March 5th -

Don't make me call you!

New Organization Holds Its First Meeting At AERS Conference



SAAMES members (Photo Kelton Clark)

On November 9th, a meeting of African-American graduate students was held at the fall meeting of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Edgewater, Maryland. Organized by the Society of African-American Marine and Estuarine Scientists (SAAMES), the students were provided with an informal forum to meet and share ideas.

Though very short notice prevented many who wanted to attend, there was still a strong

turnout. Meeting participants included Jai Cole and Taconya Piper from University of Maryland Eastern Shore; Tish Roberts from Rutgers; Reggie Graves, Eric Davenport and Al Prioleau from Morgan State University; Kelton Clark and Tone Rawlings from University of Maryland College Park; and Landon Ward from Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Also at the meeting were Eric Wooden with VIMS and Maurice Crawford from NOAA.

By all accounts, the meeting was a success. People who participate in video classes through the University of Maryland's Marine Estuarine and Environmental Science program were able to meet for the first time. We even found two people with family ties. Mostly, people at the meeting made new connections, get-

(Continued on page 5)

Don't be a dues deadbeat!!

Most of us are a little lazy when it comes to our AERS dues. After all, it is only \$10.00. I, for one, wait until the Spring Meeting, when they're due, to pay. Well, this year many of us neither went to the Spring Meeting NOR REMEMBERED TO PAY OUR DUES. Look at your mailing label. It has the year you joined/followed by the last year you were current with your dues. If you don't come to the meeting and pay, send Steve Fuller a check. Don't let the current "Tax and Spend" Executive Board raise our dues!! -**AGAIN!!**

Tentative Spring 2001 Meeting Schedule

Thurs. 4/5 Board Meeting	6-7 PM, Jefferson Room
Thurs. 4/5 Reception	7-9 PM, Presidential Ballroom
Fri., 4/6 Continental Breakfast	8-8:30 AM, Pres. Ballroom
Fri., 4/6 Meeting presentations	8:30 AM-5 PM, Pres. Ballroom
Fri., 4/6 Dinner	7-10 PM, Pres. Ballroom
Sat., 4/7 Continental Breakfast	8-8:30 AM, Pres. Ballroom
Sat., 4/7 Meeting presentations	8:30 AM-12 PM, Pres. Ballroom

Student Awards

AERS is very committed to student development. Over the years the number of student awards has risen from one to the current four special student awards. The best undergraduate, Master's level, and Doctoral level presenters and the best poster presentation are awarded. The judges agreed that the quality of this particular meeting's group of presentations and posters made it exceedingly hard to select the winners.

Jim Hagy of the UMCES Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Solomons, MD gave the best Doctoral level presentation with his work, "*Hypoxia in Chesapeake Bay, 1950-1999: Progressive Development and River Flow Effects.*" The best Master's level presentation and the best Undergraduate level presentations came back to back at the meeting. R.L. Arenson of VIMS was the best Master's level presentation with her work entitled, "*Hydric Soils Temperatures, the growing Season, and Implications for Wetland Delineation in Southeast Virginia.*" While O.A. Glahn of Salisbury State University gave the best Under-



Student Award Winners (AERS News photo)

graduate presentation entitled, "*Spatial Variability in Porewater Biogeochemistry of Two Chesapeake Bay Marshes.*" As stated elsewhere in this issue, Helen Woods of VIMS gave the best poster presentation entitled, "*Using 19th and Early 20th Century Navigational and Special Purpose Charts to Reconstruct the Demise of the Oyster Reefs in the Lower James River, Virginia, USA.*"

Jerry Tribute

(Continued from page 1)

a full day of 17 presentations on Friday and a half day with 10 presentations on Saturday morning. They were held in Schmidt Conference Center. Friday evening a poster session was also the scene of over 7 poster presentations including one deemed by Helen Woods as "the best poster presentation ever."

The remote nature of the SERC facility made things a little difficult for the local arrangements committee of Chris Swarth and Steve Storms, but they came through with flying colors. The social events were all held at the new Reed Center on the edge of the Rhode River. It was as picturesque as any AERS meeting site has ever been. The Thursday evening Beverage Consumption Event

was not well attended, and consequently, Steve Storms is watering many of his gardens with leftover golden beverages! Luncheon was also served at the Reed Center and the picnic grounds that adjoined. Many attendees walked through the woods to the Reed Center and were treated to a tour conducted by SERCian Paul Fofonoff. Few who heard the story will ever forget why cherry trees seem to grow in a straight line in the woods. Some of the ODU grad students were quite taken with the common names of some of the taller marsh grasses that Paul pointed out on the tour.

Friday evening the festivities began with a social hour centered around the excellent poster session. After the posters, and a buffet, the main event of the evening was a se-

ries of presentations and tributes to Jerry Williams. As you read in the last newsletter, Jerry Williams, our past AERS News Editor, has a very checkered past which was memorialized. The event was called to order by President Stan Hales. Joy Bartholomew, the Executive Director of ERF, gave a short speech about Jerry's limited activities with ERF. Mike Castagna, early ERF organizer and previous victim of the "Creature from the Black Lagoon," gave a brief presentation of Jerry's early work in helping to get ERF organized, and Jerry's years as ERF's first Executive Director. Kent Mountford then regaled all present with his account of Jerry's long involvement with the science of optical clarity, culminating with the presentation of, and the truly unfortu-

(Continued on page 7)

SAAMES*(Continued from page 3)*

ting to know each other and their work. The evening was about making those important connections that build support groups, essential to academic and professional success.

SAAMES, founded by Kelton Clark, is a new organization that is dedicated to increasing African-American involvement in the Marine Sciences. Its goals are to increase the interest, knowledge, and visibility of the marine sciences in the African-American community.

To provide a forum for African-American scientists, SAAMES has recently launched the "E. E. Just" listserv. The response to the listserv was surprisingly strong. SAAMES decided to take advantage of the upcoming AERS meeting by holding a forum for the graduate students to meet.

AERS agreed to host the meeting and Tuck Hines Assistant Director of SERC provided on-site housing for participants, meeting facilities, and refreshments.

SAAMES would like to thank Stan Hales and Beth Hinchey who agreed to co-host this meeting at their conference and helped with outreach to African-American students. Special thanks goes to Tuck Hines, Midge Kramer, Rob Andrews and Alicia Young-Williams from SERC, without their help this meeting would not have taken place. We are also grateful to our good friend Dr. Maurice Crawford for his help in organization, facilitation, and buying liquid refreshments.

Next Steps

While all appreciated the informal

setting, some expressed a desire to find out more about each other's research. Another meeting is planned for students at AERS' spring meeting in Norfolk. This meeting will include a structured format that will allow the participants to learn more about each other's research and funding sources.

Other things in the works for SAAMES

- A national meeting for both students and professionals
- Meetings on the other side of the Appalachians
- A web site, possibly hosted by Morgan State University

SAAMES founder, Kelton Clark, provided information on this meeting. For more information about SAAMES or to subscribe to the listserv, please email Kelly at kc99@umail.

The Nominations Committee Needs YOUR Help.

AERS is your society. Its care and its future are YOUR responsibility. Recently, the Nominations Committee had a good deal of trouble finding a candidate for the office of Treasurer. Steve Fuller agreed to serve a second term as Treasurer, but this proved to be forbidden by our Constitution. Now AERS has Steve to do all the work, but we don't actually have a Treasurer who can vote at board meetings. Take an interest in YOUR association. Volunteer or find a volunteer and nominate them for office. Iris Anderson is the Chair of the Nominating Committee. She has worked diligently to get some candidates, but a full slate of officers is needed for the spring elections. At this Spring Meeting AERS must elect a new

*(Continued on page 6)****Call for Abstracts***

Abstracts are being solicited for the spring meeting, and must be submitted by **February 22, 2001**. Electronic submission of abstracts is strongly encouraged. The preferred form for submission is using the form for abstract submission available at the following address: <http://www.vims.edu/aers/spring2001registration.htm>. Please follow the submission instructions included at the site. If you cannot access this website, abstracts may be e-mailed to Beth Hinchey, the AERS Program Chair, at ehinchey@vims.edu. As a last resort, a diskette copy of the abstract file can be submitted in a text file to Beth Hinchey, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, Gloucester Point, VA 23062. Please label the diskette with author, title, and software used. Abstracts should begin with the title, names and affiliations of the author(s), and be followed by the text (250 words or less). If there is a preference, please specify if the presentation is a poster or oral presentation. If coauthored, identify the name of the presenter. If the presenter is a student, please identify the student's status as undergraduate, MS or PhD in parentheses in the abstract. Due to anticipated attendance at the meeting, all presenters are strongly encouraged to submit their abstracts early. Please include an email address and/or phone number with all abstract submissions to facilitate communication in the event of any problems.

Missing Persons Report

The members listed below have moved and not left any forwarding information that we could get from the US Post Office. If they still would like to receive their *AERS News* we need updated address information:

Chris Irwin last heard from in Annapolis

Steve Roberts last heard from in the equatorial jungle.

Sharon Soppe last heard from somewhere near Key Largo (I wouldn't come back either!)

Julie Thompson last heard from near UMES

Jerome Williams last heard from at 513 Coover Road, Annapolis, MD 21401-6921

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Nominations

(Continued from page 5)

Secretary and a President-Elect. The Secretary begins a two-year term immediately, while the President-Elect begins a one-year term as President-Elect, followed by two years as President, followed by a fourth year as Past-President. These officers are the ones who make our Society work on a day-to-day basis. Contact Iris with your nominations or to volunteer yourself at:

Iris Anderson

School of Marine Science
Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
(804) 642-7242
FAX:(804) 642-7293
iris@vims.edu

Spring Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

The meeting is being sponsored jointly by Old Dominion University, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, and Christopher Newport University. Dan Dauer has done a superb job of making the local arrangements for the meeting. Rumors also abound that Dan will be providing some of the entertainment as well. So come early and stay late so you can enjoy Dan's entire musical repertoire!

To receive the special conference rate of \$73, hotel reservations must be made by March 5 by calling the hotel (888-402-6682, 757-622-6682) and requesting the special group rate for the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society. All conference attendees are *strongly* encouraged to stay at the James Madison, so that we meet our room block and receive all of the meeting rooms at no cost. (Get it? No room block, no free meeting rooms, and we pay more next time to make up what we lose this time!) The special rate includes free parking; staying at other hotels will likely result in additional parking fees (about \$10 per day). So stay at the James Madison and enjoy the meeting!

For additional information about the hotel see "Directions," next column.

Student Travel Awards

As always AERS will try very hard to bring students to our meetings. We have set up a Student Travel Award Fund to give financial assistance to stu-

dents attending our meetings. Due to the hotel expense for the Spring Meeting, we hope to be able to offset the student registration fee currently set at \$35.00. We will not know about any discounts until the time of the meeting, so students should pre-register. For more information about obtaining student travel awards for the Spring Meeting, contact R. Chris Jones AERS Endowment Committee Chair, Biology Department MSN 3E1, George Mason University Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 993-1127 FAX: (703) 993-1046 rcjones@gmu.edu.

Spring Meeting Directions

Visit the hotel website www.clarionhotel.com/hotel/va332! The hotel is located downtown on 345 Granby Street.

From the Bay Bridge Tunnel:

Take 13 South (Northampton Blvd.) to I-64 East.

Take Exit 284A off of I-64 and get onto I-264 West (Downtown Norfolk).

After 4 miles, take Exit 9 (Waterside Dr.).

Go through 8 stoplights. Turn right onto Freemason Street.

Enter the hotel parking lot on the left-hand side of Freemason St.

From Northwest of Norfolk:

Take I-64 east towards Norfolk.

Take Exit 284A off of I-64 and follow the directions as above.

From Southwest of Norfolk:

Take Highway 58 East from Emporia to I-264. Continue through the Portsmouth Tunnel (left lane!) to downtown Norfolk.

Bear left after the tunnel, take the exit for St. Paul's Blvd. and City Hall Ave. Go straight through the stoplight.

At the MacArthur Parking Deck, bear right and turn right onto Freemason St.

Go past the James Madison Hotel on Granby Street corner to the parking area.

Jerry Tribute

(Continued from page 4)

nate destruction of the original Secchi disk on loan from the Papal Institute in Rome. Due to their part in the accidental destruction of the original Secchi disk, the Pope has barred both Beth Hinchey and Janet Nestlerode from the Vatican City in perpetuity.

Mario Vieira read a poem that he had written especially for the occasion. Mario is a true poet in that he can think of words that rhyme with both Jerome and Nantucket. AERS also presented Jerry with a hand-thrown (literally) Secchi Disk inscribed with the words "AERS thanks Jerry Williams for making things clear for us Editor, AERS News, 1992 - 2000". In true Three Stooges form, Stan Hales slipped in a puddle of golden beverage, and this Secchi met the same fate as the one on loan from the Vatican. (After this demonstration, we understand why Stan was never offered a basketball scholarship at Duke.) Perhaps it was Divine Intervention, but on hand was another stoneware disc, which was presented to Jerry Williams at the meeting. A replica of the stoneware disc has been ensconced in the Pier side Lab of the US Naval Academy's Oceanography Department.

Jerry took the floor to make a statement. He thanked his wife Lee, and (rightfully) gave her credit for most of his accomplishments.

Alas, his longwinded and somniferous speech effectively ended the festivities even before the beverages were finished. This led to the predicament of excess beverages previously unheard of in AERS annals. The ECU contingent along with their mascot (a three-toed sloth) came to the rescue (of the excess beverage). Realizing that it may be impossible to avoid any waste, minimization was attempted, and finally mitigation resulted in more irrigation at the Steve Storms garden beds.

Saturday morning the platform presentations continued through noon. At the conclusion of the meeting the winners of the best student awards were made (see "Student Awards" on page 4).

For Sale!

T-Shirts and Can Huggers

T-shirts feature the AERS poster design; AERS clam logo appears on the huggers. Both make great gifts for your department heads!

To order or for details, go to the web site.

AERS Poster Design

VIMS Grad Students Win Contest

The design contest for an AERS recruiting poster has been won by VIMS grad students Beth Hinchey and Janet Nestlerode. The poster will be sent to colleges and laboratories throughout the AERS region. Their submission, which appears below, features the states that comprise the core AERS membership area as well as some of the icons that represent our various study interests. An emergent plant, killifish and polychaete, a Secchi disk (of course), and a persistent organic contaminant (generic PCB for you worm and fish folks) are included. Attractive as it is in black and white, the poster is even more stunning in color! The poster also gives some information about our organization and how to join.

Any comments or input are welcomed by Stan Hales or Judy Heath. Congratulations and thanks



Become an AERS member:

It's the perfect forum to present your research and get feedback from prominent estuarine scientists!

The Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (AERS) brings together students, scientists, managers, and educators from Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia to discuss estuarine and coastal environmental research, issues, and policies.

AERS has been meeting since 1949 to foster a broader interest in our environment by increasing public awareness of current topics in estuarine and coastal habitats.

AERS, an affiliate of the Estuarine Research Federation, hosts regional meetings twice a year.

AERS is a fun and friendly professional society that is always looking for energetic new members - especially students!

Becoming a member is easy and membership dues are only \$25 (\$10 for students) per year!



est. 1949

To join, please contact:

Tim Morris, Membership Chair
Core Corporation
10200 Broaden Rd.
Lusby, MD 20657
tmorris@chESAPEAKE.net

Please visit our web site for more details.....

www.vims.edu/aers

