

# AERS NEWS



All the news  
that'll fit, and  
then some

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## AERS Fall 2010 meeting to be held in Kitty Hawk, NC

By Mark Brush, Juliette Giordano, and Jeremy Testa,  
AERS Program Committee

The Fall 2010 AERS meeting will be held November 4-6 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Kitty Hawk, NC. The meeting is being hosted by Joe Luczkovich and sponsored by CERF, YSI, The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, and several units of East Carolina University, including the Department of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and Institute for Coastal Science and Policy. The ECU Coastal Resources Management PhD program, ECU Chapter of the Coastal Society, and UNC Coastal Studies Institute are providing support for meeting logistics.

The meeting will kick off with the AERS Board meeting, on-site registration, and the opening social on Thursday night (time TBD). Friday will begin with a keynote panel entitled:

### “Lessons from the Gulf: the role of the coastal scientist when disaster strikes”

with presentations from Drs. William Boicourt, (UMCES), Robert Diaz (VIMS), David Kimmel (ECU), Janis Kurtz (EPA), Siddhartha Mitra (ECU), and Robert Twilley (LSU). Contributed talks will take place following the panel on Friday through lunch on Saturday, with a poster session and banquet Friday evening.

Pre-registration and abstract submittal are now open online at [www.aers.info](http://www.aers.info) à Meetings à Fall 2010, with a deadline of October 8. This is also the deadline to apply for student travel awards (see the website for details). The website also has links for making hotel reservations and will be updated with more information in the weeks to come, including the final conference program and field trips making hotel reservations and will be updated with more information in the weeks to come, including the final conference program and field trips.



Hilton Garden Inn, Kitty Hawk, NC,



Bob Christian (CERF past President) and Mark Brinson, both from ECU, at the Ocean.

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## President Pete's Corner

President Pete Straub

Dear AERSians:

I cannot be more excited to extend an invitation to you all (y'all) to join us on the fabled dunes in Kitty Hawk for the Fall 2010 meeting. Like most of you, I followed with increasing horror the unfolding events in the Gulf of Mexico, especially the loss of 11 lives at the outset, over the spring and through the summer of 2010. Again and again as the magnitude of the spill became apparent, it was clear that no one really had any idea of when the spill would be over, how much oil would ultimately be released and what would be the ecological consequences of this disaster. Despite checking the flow in late July, only now in late September is the leaking well finally (bottom) killed.

Through the incipient disaster, our sister scientific institutions in and out of the Gulf region (Universities, EPA, NOAA, USGS, NSF) rallied to provide expertise, rapid funding and platforms to gauge the extent of the potential and actual mounting ecological cataclysm. Of all the tragedies of the Gulf, the failure to plan for the possibility of such an event is among the greatest; that of lost opportunity.

As we come together and hear these first hand reports of scientists on the frontline of the Gulf incident it is my hope that we can learn the lessons of this tragedy and how the best protection of our fragile coasts and estuaries must include good baseline data, scientific advocacy and realistic contingency planning.

Coupled with this outstanding scientific panel topic, I look forward to many interesting and thought provoking reports by colleagues, students and friends on our remarkable coasts. My thanks to the AERS Board and the Program committee for making this one of the most anticipated meetings in recent years.

See you in Kitty Hawk, Pete

## AERS Fall Meeting Agenda (Tentative)

						
	<b>November 4</b> <b>Thursday PM</b> 4:00 - 6:00 Executive Board Meeting 6:00 - 9:00 Registration 7:00 - 9:00 Evening Social					
	<b>November 5</b> <b>Friday AM</b> (Registration continues all day) 8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast 8:30 - 8:45 Opening Remarks and Introduction 8:45 - 9:30 Keynote Address 9:30 - 12:15 Panel Presentations/ Discussion and Technical Presentations					
	<b>Friday PM</b> 1:00 - 4:30 Technical Presentations 4:30 - 5:30 Business Meeting 5:30 - 7:00 Poster Session and Happy Hour 7:00 - 9:00 Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn					
	<b>November 6</b> <b>Saturday AM</b> 8:00 - 12:00 Technical Presentations 12:00 Student Awards					
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## Student Presentations: Notes on Judging

By Dave Yozzo

### A note to student presenters

The judging of student presentations is a long-standing tradition at AERS meetings. Typically separate awards are given for oral and poster presentations. Often, awards are also separated by graduate and undergraduate standing. The judging process provides valuable feedback on presentation quality, and may advance professional development. Receipt of an award is an important recognition, and can assist with applications to graduate schools or procuring employment. Should you have any questions regarding student judging feel free to contact Dave Yozzo ([dyozzo@hdrinc.com](mailto:dyozzo@hdrinc.com))

### Please volunteer to be a judge

We encourage non-student AERS participants to serve as judges for student presentations. The judging of student oral presentations and posters is a vital service to the Society and to our future professionals in estuarine science and management. Judges should strive to provide students with honest, constructive feedback which serves to identify areas of achievement and improvement. Should you have any comments regarding student judging or wish to participate please contact Dave Yozzo ([dyozzo@hdrinc.com](mailto:dyozzo@hdrinc.com))

Pre-registration on-line by October 8 at [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info):

- \$ 90 - Student Member
- \$110 - Regular Member
- \$105 - Student Non-member
- \$140 - Regular Non-member
- \$ 90 - Retired Member

*You can register when you come to the meeting, but remember that we can only accept checks or cash, no credit cards.*

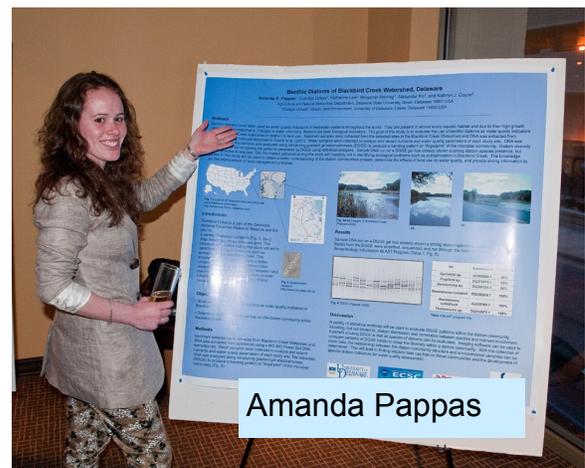
*You can also register after Oct. 8, but the rates will increase at least an order of magnitude!*

## Student Travel Awards

By Dave Yozzo

To apply for a student travel award (typical award \$75-125), students must do the following:

-  Register and submit an abstract **and** be giving a poster or oral presentation at the meeting for which support is requested.
-  Be members in good standing (all dues paid).
-  Submit a copy of your **presentation abstract**, a **letter of application** identifying your estimated meeting costs and other support (if any), your **vita**, and a **letter of recommendation / support** from an advisor by **October 8, 2010**. **Be sure to include a total estimate of your travel cost which will help us assess future budgetary needs.**
-  **All materials should be submitted electronically to Dave Yozzo ([dyozzo@hdrinc.com](mailto:dyozzo@hdrinc.com)).**



## Spring Meeting Atlantic City, NJ, 2010 Re-cap

By Mark Brush, Juliette Giordano, and Jeremy Testa, AERS Program Committee

The Spring 2010 AERS meeting was held March 4-6 at the Chelsea Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ. A total of 98 attendees enjoyed the opening keynote panel, *"Nutrient Solutions: Science Based Management of Estuarine and Coastal Systems"*, with presentations from keynote speaker Daniel Conley and panelists Jacques Oliver, Michael Paul, Philip Trowbridge, Holly Greening, and Douglas Lipton. Following the panel, AERSians had the chance to hear 28 talks and view 13 posters, including 4 talks focused on education in a special session organized by Louise Wootton entitled, *"Beyond the Ivory Tower: Using Coasts and Estuaries to Build Awareness of Environmental Issues"*.

We are especially grateful to **Stan Hales**, **Pete Straub**, and **Louise Wootton** for hosting the meeting, to **Stan Hales** for organizing the panel, to **Leila Hamdan** for her leadership, to **Frank Reilly** for coordinating arrangements with the hotel, and to **Heidi Mahon** and **Treda Smith** for keeping the website up to date and facilitating online abstract submission, registration, and payments. The meeting was a great success and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Kitty Hawk this November!



Judith Weis beams enthusiasm about her new book, "Salt Marshes, A Natural and Unnatural History" coauthored with Carol A Butler. AERS members are definitely the right crowd for this book signing event and proud to have a member be an author. "Salt Marshes" was published by Rutgers University Press.



Local hosts: Pete Straub, Louise Wootton and Stan Hales.



Keynote Panel for *"Nutrient Solutions: Science Based Management of Estuarine and Coastal Systems"*,  
From left to right:  
Jacques Oliver, Daniel Conley, Michael Paul, Douglas Lipton, Holly Greening, and Philip Trowbridge.



Pres. Pete Straub poses with Bridget Long.  
Photo by David Osgood.

## Student Awards at the Spring Meeting 2010

**Emily Basile**, Drexel University, Best Graduate Presentation, "Atypical polybrominated diphenyl ether (PBDE) pattern in Diamondback Terapins of Barnegat Bay, New Jersey"

**Bridget Long**, University of Virginia, Best Undergraduate Presentation, "Belowground Dynamics and Productivity of Two Temperate Marsh Communities"

**Catherine Luria**, Virginia Commonwealth University, Honorable Mention Graduate presentation, "Bacterial community response to experimental manipulations of and natural gradients in organic matter and nutrients in the tidal freshwater James River."

**Janine Jemmott**, Morgan State University, Honorable Mention Undergraduate Presentation, "Dynamics of Mesozooplankton & Gelatinous Zooplankton in Mackall Cove, MD during Summer, 2009"



Treda Grayson, Juliette Giordano and Jeremy Testa hard at work at the registration desk.



Emily Basile discusses her poster with Chris Swarth.



Pres. Pete Straub and Catherine Luria.  
Photo by David Osgood.



Janine Jemmott explains her poster.



Kent Mountford watches as Leila Hamdan adjusts the sail in Chesapeake Bay. Kent offered a day of sailing to Leila and her husband as the AERS gift of appreciation for Leila's excellent job as President of AERS. During the Spring 2010 meeting, Leila passed the AERS gavel to Pete Straub, the current AERS president. Photo credit to Bill Rooney.



Judith Stribling and Dave O'Neill share a laugh.



Special thanks to Mark Prinz for the photographs of the Spring 2010 AERS meeting.

## Thanks to Frank Reilly for *AERSNews*

When you see *AERSNews*, you think of Frank Reilly, the inspiration and driving force for *AERSNews* for fifteen years! During the past year, Frank's frequent work travel to Texas has competed with *AERSNews*. So I volunteered to take up where Frank had led us for so long. Frank left me with a template which helped a lot. I received articles and pictures from several folks. Thanks everyone! My plan is to go electronic for most of the news with maybe one mailed issue per year. Please keep sending me articles and pictures.

Julie Ambler, *AERSNews* Editor



Frank Reilly and Pete Straub.

## Musings from the past-President, Leila Hamdan

A year ago today, two things were different. First, I was an AERS President where as now I hold the coveted title of "past-President". Second, I was on a ship in the Arctic Ocean while now I gaze out my office window to the sparkling shallows of the tidal Potomac River. Depending on where I have found myself during this last year the water in my view has been a range of colors from precious amber to alluring sapphire blue. One of the great fortunes of these last few years is that while work has kept me busy in blue water, service to AERS has kept one foot planted in shallow estuarine waters filled with deep mysteries.

On the research cruise that took me to the Arctic Ocean last year, I was joined by a group of students and professionals spanning every stage of our careers. This mesocosm reminded me of an AERS meeting (minus the beverage consumption event) in that various backgrounds and skill sets came together in common purpose and study. By mid-day on most days we found ourselves tired, punchy and a bit battered, but still highly motivated. This is about how I felt midway through my term as AERS President. During that term and during that trip I occasionally felt overwhelmed with responsibility and worry about mission success.

During the latter, this was compounded by difficulties with the ship and the loss of a major piece of equipment. When finally the CTD was deployed with success, tens of us crowded around the display to see what story was written on the water. We were closer to shore than we had planned, and I observed among my blue water colleagues general surprise about the hydrodynamics of near shore waters. In the midst of self doubt, I realized that I was among few who were not surprised. In that moment, I drew strength from my pedigree as an estuarine scientist, and the multidisciplinary tool box that pedigree comes with. On that day our colorful and complex estuarine waters made everything else look elegantly simple. I was feeling delightfully smug until I recalled an earlier discovery of that trip. The color of open arctic water was a clear teal that seemed to be lit from within. I had come to expect something less lively. This was an important reminder that although I have learned so much from our community, there is a whole spectrum of learning and service yet to come for me.

AERS has provided me with a learning environment which has enhanced my studies and a networking nexus. These were both tangible and ex-

pected. What was not expected was the level of growth I would experience during my whole time with AERS. For so many reasons, AERS is a place to call home. Our home is tidy, has a great retro feel, but like any house, it is constantly in need of improvements. The AERS Board has been working hard to keep AERS relevant. We continue to experiment with different models for meetings and means to expand our impact. At the same time, we are moving towards greater self sufficiency. The spring 2010 meeting was the first where we hosted our own online registration and we now operate our listserv independently. Improvements like these help reinforce the foundation that our home was built on.

The AERS home does not stand alone on the edge of the estuary. It is situated in the neighborhood of CERF and the affiliates to the north, south and west. Our neighborly nature has been important in our history and in the history of CERF, but I believe that we can make this a better neighborhood. CERF, under the leadership of Susan Williams has re-committed itself to supporting the growth of the affiliates. The CERF governing board is investigating ways to provide organizational support to the affiliates, educational opportunities at our meetings, and continues to sponsor our scientific programs.

I feel so fortunate to continue on the CERF governing board as CERF Secretary so that I can be a part of these efforts. I hope that AERS can recommit to supporting CERF in kind. We can help CERF with members, scientific expertise and most importantly, effective leadership. AERS and CERF persist because our members step up for service. We are gifted with serial volunteers, but, if we hope to grow into the future, we need fresh ideas and new perspectives on the way we do business. Members at any career stage (student, professional, retired) should talk to AERS Board members, committee chairs and volunteers about ways to get involved with the leadership of AERS. At the Fall 2010 Meeting, the current and past CERF Presidents will be in attendance along with several current CERF Board members, including myself. This meeting will be an excellent opportunity to take a tour of the AERS house, and to join in making our whole neighborhood a better place to live. AERS and CERF continue to open doors to career growth, scholarship, and friendship for me. When you are ready to serve, I and many others will be standing on the porch holding the door open for you.

**For Lodging Choices at the Spring Meeting please see [www.AERS.info](http://www.AERS.info)  
Be sure to mention that you are with AERS when you make your reservation**

★ **Atlantic Estuarine Research Society**  
 ★ an affiliate of the Coastal and Estuarine Research  
 ★ Federation (CERF)  
 ★ Find us at [www.aers.info](http://www.aers.info)



**Take 2 or 3 friends to the AERS Meeting with you this time - Heck take 'em every time!**

## 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 your 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 to our treasurer at the address provided on the website. Dues remain a bargain at \$20 for regular members and \$10 for students.. Pete Straub

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 Estuarine Research Society**