

# ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

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## UMCES celebrates graduates at Commencement 2022



The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science hosted its first in-person Commencement in two years on May 24 at the Horn Point Laboratory. Graduates were presented with their degrees, awards were given to professors, students and staff, and this year's speaker was oceanographer and UMCES alumna Deborah Bronk, who earned her Ph.D. through the Marine Estuarine and Environmental Sciences (MEES) graduate program. [MORE](#)

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## Xin Zhang receives President's Award for Excellence in Application of Science

The annual President's Award for Excellence in Application of Science was presented to Xin Zhang, associate professor and expert in sustainable agriculture, for her outstanding contributions and global



leadership in improving understanding of the intersection between food production needs, economic concerns, and the environment.

"Food production is important locally and globally, and the international nature of Xin's work exemplifies our mission to conduct environmental research that is both locally relevant and globally eminent,"

said UMCES President Peter Goodwin. [MORE](#)

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## Eric Schott selected by UMCES graduate students as outstanding faculty mentor



"Eric Schott represents what it means to be an exemplary and exceptional mentor by devoting his time, energy, knowledge, and wisdom to benefit as many students as he can," said UMCES Graduate Student Council Co-Chair Kia Ramarui.

Students say he is dedicated to improving diversity, equality, and inclusion in his lab. He has

mentored numerous undergraduates and interns in his lab, and for many years has been involved in the IMET Summer Internship program that connects students with scientists to conduct their own research. [MORE](#)

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## Graduate student Claire Nemes receives UMCES Student Service Award



Claire Nemes, a Ph.D. candidate with a research focus on birds, has been awarded the UMCES' Student Service Award for a high level of engagement and service to the Appalachian Laboratory, UMCES, and the broader community.

"Besides her stellar scientific credentials and a highly contagious passion for birds and ornithology research, Claire is an enthusiastic and fervent community builder

who works to improve the lives of those around her," said Appalachian Laboratory Director David Nelson. [MORE](#)

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## Casey Hodgkins honored with President's Award for Outstanding Research Support



After 13 years of service to UMCES' Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Casey Hodgkins was awarded the President's Award for Outstanding Research Support to recognize her work rising above the norms of research responsibilities to include unique leadership, mentorship, and service roles.

"Casey is an outstanding colleague and a leader in all aspects of our group's research. Her skills and support help us think big as we envision new research," said Associate Professor Jeremy Testa. [MORE](#)

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## John Piasecki wins UMCES Staff Excellence Award



John Piasecki, Appalachian Laboratory Facilities Manager, was awarded the UMCES Staff Excellence Award, an annual award that recognizes those staff members who consistently demonstrate a high level of commitment and dedication to UMCES. Piasecki has been responsible for for an assortment of wide-ranging duties from maintaining Laboratory buildings and vehicles to rescuing researchers and students stranded in the field by vehicle breakdowns. [MORE](#)



See more memories from Commencement 2022 [HERE](#)



## UMCES IN THE NEWS

What feeds the fish in the Chesapeake Bay? (Bay Journal)

Danger Ahead: Montgomery County is already feeling the impact of climate change. Experts say the worst is yet to come (Bethesda Magazine)

This college student is using her science degree to help clean up the Baltimore harbor (Yahoo News)

New research will help minimize impact of wind energy development on migratory birds (Environmental News Network)

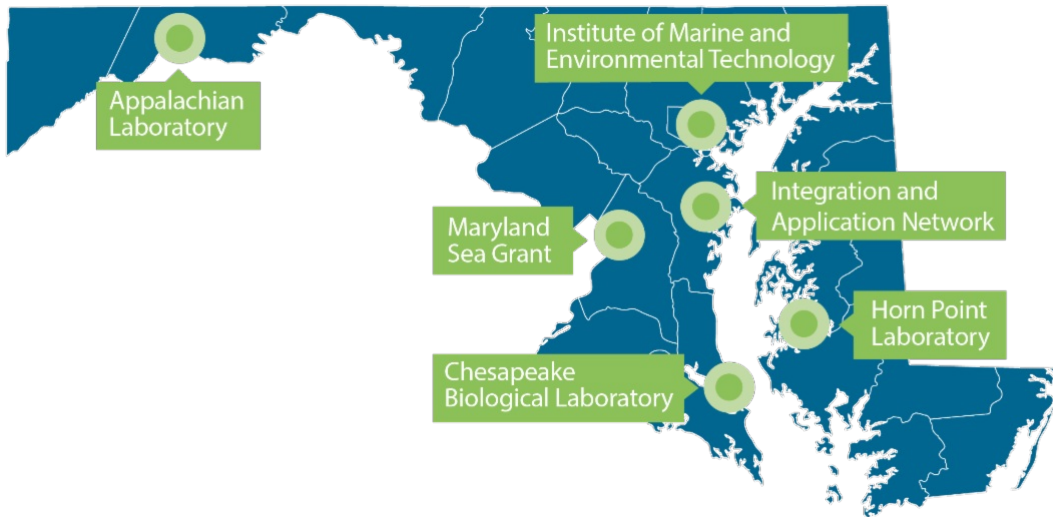
UMCES to study marine life effects of offshore wind development (Chesapeake Bay Magazine)

Annapolis-based nonprofit prepares to set sail for Greenland to study climate change on the newly commissioned sailboat (Baltimore Sun)

U.S. university leading \$14 million effort to produce more resilient oyster broodstock (Hatchery Feed & Management)

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