

ENVIRONMENTAL INSIGHTS

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



Eric Schott receives Regents Award for student mentoring

Eric Schott, a marine ecologist whose research focuses on understanding aquatic health, has received a 2023 Regents Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring, the highest honor that the University System of Maryland bestows to recognize exemplary faculty achievement. Working out of the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET) in Baltimore, Schott is recognized for his strong contributions to high school, undergraduate, and graduate mentoring and his passion for increasing the diversity of students following careers in the marine sciences.

“He realizes that he can transform lives through a single conversation with someone, by providing thoughtful attention and constructive suggestions. No web search or algorithm can substitute for this kind of personal contact,” said IMET Director Russell Hill. [MORE](#)

USM Chancellor appoints Bill Dennison as Interim President

University System of Maryland Chancellor Jay A. Perman appointed Bill Dennison as interim UMCES president to take the reins when President Peter Goodwin retires in September.

Dennison has served UMCES as its Vice President for Science Application and as a professor of marine science since 2002. One of his major responsibilities has been to coordinate the Integration and Application Network (IAN), which has been at the forefront of pioneering new techniques of science communication, stakeholder engagement, and assessing ecosystem the health. [MORE](#)



Stop by IMET's Open House this Saturday!



IMET opens its doors for its annual free Open House on May 6 from 1-4 p.m. Enjoy hands-on science activities for kids of all ages, meet our scientists, and discover important marine research happening at the harbor's edge. [MORE](#)

Nancy K. Kopp joins UMCES' Board of Visitors

UMCES welcomes former State Treasurer Nancy Kopp to its Board of Visitors.

“As Treasurer, Nancy was an active member of Maryland’s Climate Change Commission and a leader in the State’s efforts in climate change mitigation and

adaptation, with a special focus on reducing inequities and supporting vulnerable communities,” said President Goodwin. “We are delighted to welcome Nancy Kopp to our Board of Visitors.”

[MORE](#)



UMCES appoints Essala Lowe new Vice President for Administration and Finance

Essala Lowe has been appointed as UMCES' Vice President for Administration and Finance. She is now a part of the leadership team as the chief financial and operating officer.



“Essala comes to us with breadth and depth of expertise working for NGOs, national research institutions, and higher education.”

said President Peter Goodwin. “We are excited about having her join UMCES in this pivotal leadership role.” [MORE](#)



Appalachian Laboratory features research of recent alumni as part of its Watershed Moments community learning series

Conservation through collaboration: Using camera traps to form partnerships and inform conservation in the French Creek Watershed

May 4, 6:30 p.m.

In person at the Appalachian Laboratory

Kelly Pearce, co-director of the Watershed Conservation Research Center at Allegheny College, will share an ongoing project in Northwestern Pennsylvania that uses camera traps to help inform future conservation plans in the French Creek Watershed, the most biologically diverse watershed in the state.

Navigating the waters of arid lands

June 1, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

Stephanie Siemek, a hydrologist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, will share the challenges of working in the United States Southwest, where water is scarce and the competition for it is high.

Both events are free and open to the public but registration is required. [MORE](#)

Exploring the role clams and salt marshes play in carbon cycling in estuaries

The National Science Foundation awarded a \$3.5 million grant to an interdisciplinary team of researchers across six institutions to investigate the role that clams, salt marshes and seagrasses—also known as macrobiota—play in carbon cycling in estuaries.

“Estuaries are highly productive and diverse ecosystems and hence deserve study in their own right,” said Raymond Najjar, lead investigator on the project at Penn State. “But estuaries also play an important role in the global carbon cycle, which regulates atmospheric carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas.” [MORE](#)





UMCES IN THE NEWS

Lush prairies could really be 'green deserts' (The Atlantic)

Is red tide harmful to humans? Florida's toxic algae bloom explained (Newsweek)

Earth Day in the year of the farm bill (The Hill)

The Chesapeake Bay is warming with "cascading effects" possible on marine and human life (WHRO Public Media)

The Arctic after dark: a secret world of hidden life (Nature)

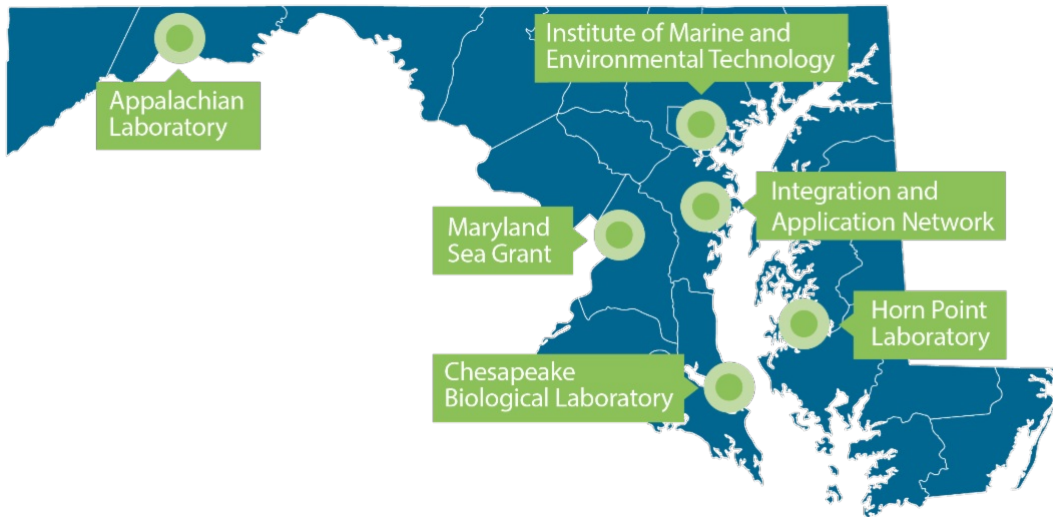
Learn about the world of plankton (The Star Democrat)

Saving our state reptile! (Maryland Public TV)

A warmer planet, less nutritious plants and ... fewer grasshoppers? (Knowable Magazine)

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