



### From the Director's desk:

Summer is nearly upon us and at the Horn Point Lab (HPL) that means it is time to get out into the field and onto the water to gather essential samples and data for our research. In early June HPL faculty will hold a two day retreat at the Paul S. Sarbane's Coastal Ecology Center in Berlin, MD. The retreat's goal is to look ahead and determine how our core competencies can best be applied to meet future environmental challenges. Best regards, Mike Sieracki

## New Horizons: Resilience, Innovation, Discovery

### A FRESH WAVE OF RESEARCH: A CHAT WITH HORN POINT LAB'S NEW DIRECTOR MIKE SIERACKI

Spy editor, Dave Wheelan, sat down with the Horn Point Laboratory's Director, Mike Sieracki. In his first interview with the Spy, Mike talks about the challenge and the necessity of having scientific research move at a more rapid speed from the laboratory to policy makers as the Shore and our world prepares for a warmer planet and higher sea levels.

[READ MORE](#)  
[WATCH VIDEO](#)





## UMCES GRADUATES NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS



The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) commencement was held Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at the UMCES, Appalachian Laboratory in Frostburg, Maryland. It was a day of recognition for the Horn Point Laboratory (HPL) with faculty and staff being honored for their excellence and students receiving the conferral of master's and doctorate degrees.

HPL [Professor Ming Li](#) received the President's Award for Excellence in the Application of Science. Li was recognized for his outstanding contributions and global leadership. [Mary Ann Manley](#) received the UMCES Staff Excellence Award for 36 years of exemplary service to UMCES and the HPL. HPL doctorate recipients include Brendan Campbell, Shannon Hood and Anna Windle. HPL master's recipients include Daniella Hanacek and Archi Howlader. [READ MORE](#)

*UMCES Graduates, Faculty and Administration. Photo credit, Carin Starr*

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## FIELD TRIPS BRING BIOLOGICAL OCEANOGRAPHY UP CLOSE AND EXPERIENTIAL

Graduate students from the Marine Environmental and Estuarine Sciences (MEES) Program taking the Biological Oceanography course taught by HPL faculty [Raleigh Hood](#), [Judy O'Neil](#) and [Louis Plough](#), enhanced the classroom learning with 3 spring field trips. First to Poplar Island to study marshes and restoration work executed by [Lori Staver](#) and others; second to study plankton and food webs aboard UMCES Research Vessel (R/V) *Rachel Carson*.



*Lorie Staver, HPL Associate Research Professor and MEES students on Poplar Island. Photo credit, Judy O'Neil*

A little Physical Oceanography with [Victoria Coles](#) added a

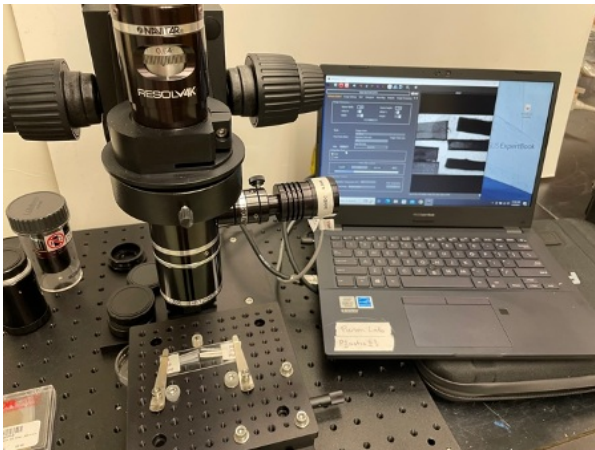




dynamic dimension. Finally, the students took a second venture aboard the R/V *Rachel Carson*, studying the Choptank River benthos (bottom) including sediment, oyster and fish. HPL graduate student Teaching Assistants: **Catherine Fitzgerald** and **Anna Windle** ably assisted the field trips.

*MEES students aboard R/V Rachel Carson in the Chesapeake Bay with instructor, Louis Plough far right, and student TA Anna Windle, right of Louis Plough. Photo credit, Captain Michael Helm.*

## PROGRESS UPDATE - TRACKING HOW MICROPLASTICS MOVE THROUGH THE WATERSHED



**Jamie Pierson** and **William Nardin**, Associate Professors at the Horn Point Laboratory, have embarked on a research project that will lay the foundation for plastic research in the Chesapeake Bay. The two-year project, funded by the **NOAA Marine Debris Program**, is tracking how microplastics move through the Choptank River watershed.

A game-changer for the project, a short-wave infrared (SWIR) microscope was purchased and

has arrived! The SWIR microscope enables the team to differentiate specific plastic types to help inform them of how different plastics move through the waterways and how they breakdown. Pierson and Nardin and their students spent time on the Choptank River over the winter collecting samples, and have begun processing the samples. Purchase of the SWIR microscope was possible thanks to a \$30,000 matching grant from the Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF) and a group of generous donors who met the match.

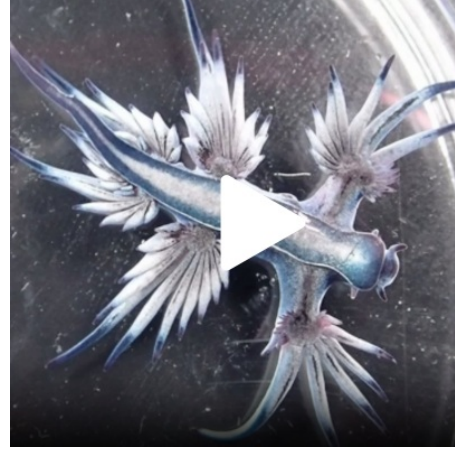
### [READ MORE](#)

*Short-wave infrared microscope and image display in Pierson Lab. Photo credit, Jamie Pierson, HPL Associate Professor.*

A Twitter blog by Rebecca Helm speaks to an unexpected discovery about the importance of this project's work, understanding how to prevent plastics from reaching the open ocean.

### [PROJECT UPDATE](#) [TWITTER BLOG](#)





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## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

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### MICHAEL KALINOWSKI - REDUCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF OYSTER AQUACULTURE

Meet [Michael Kalinowski](#) master's student studying under [Dr. Sairah Malkin](#). As an undergraduate Michael studied engineering at the University of Michigan and then worked for Boeing. Restless, he found his passion in marine biology and came to the Horn Point Laboratory. In this interview Michael shares his research that focuses on building and testing tools to place below oyster aquaculture cages to help prevent environmental damage to the sediment.

[READ MORE](#)



*Michael Kalinowski with microbial fuel cells, photo credit Carin Starr*

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## EVENTS: Growing Engagement and Education

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### SIX SUMMER TALKS EXPLORE THE SCIENCE OF THE WATERS AROUND US

As part of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Horn Point Laboratory is hosting a





## with the Horn Point Lab

series of six Summer Talks. Beginning June 20 these Tuesday talks will run weekly (except July 4<sup>th</sup>), from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the [High Spot](#), in Cambridge. "We are excited to bring our latest science to the Cambridge community and to share what we are learning about the natural world around

us", shared Director, Mike Sieracki. With slides and conversation, faculty members will share their research on a variety of topics to explore the science of the waters that surround us.

HPL is partnering with the High Spot to create a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. FREE!

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

### PUBLIC TOURS!

Every Tuesday - Memorial Day to Labor Day at 10:00 am. Tours are led by HPL Graduate Students. Meet in the lobby of the Coastal Sciences Building. FREE and open to the public, these walking tours take approximately 90 minutes. [READ MORE](#)



### BIRD WALKS AT HORN POINT!

Join us for a morning bird walk, every Wednesday now thru June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Meet at the Environmental Education building at 7:30 am, wrapping up around 9 am.

If you're curious, the list from last week [is linked here](#). Highlights from last week's walk included a yellow-billed

cuckoo (listen to [their strange sounds here](#)), prairie warbler, and brown thrasher. Join us as we walk through the woods and fields of the Horn Point Lab.

To learn more contact [Laura Sebastianelli](#), HPL Volunteer Coordinator.

*Image of yellow billed cuckoo bird. Photo credit ebird.*

### DIVE INTO SCIENCE -

#### Explore the Bay and Beyond

Explore a broad offering of online discussions on science relating to the Chesapeake Bay and the quality of its



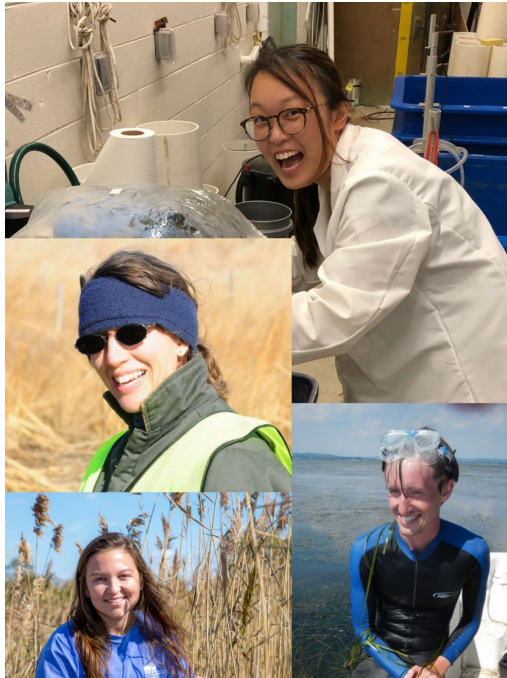
environment through recordings of seminars presented at the Horn Point Lab. [VIEW LISTING](#)



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## SCIENCE SERVES EVERYONE

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### HELP SUPPORT US!

Are you committed to helping solve our environmental challenges? Perhaps you are passionate about educating the next generation of environmental leaders? Do you support science for its contributions to policy and advocacy work? By supporting the Horn Point Lab you can fulfill that purpose. **Even the smallest gift makes a meaningful impact!** Visit our [Giving Page](#) or click on the link below.

[Make a Gift](#)

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Located in Cambridge, MD, Horn Point Laboratory is part of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science --a fully-accredited graduate school and research facility conducting environmental research on a variety of ecosystems spanning from the estuarine waters of the Chesapeake Bay to the open waters of the world's oceans. Horn Point is a national leader in applying environmental research and discovery to solve society's most pressing environmental problems.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)





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