

UMCES



100 YEARS OF SCIENCE

NEWS FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



Grebmeier Wins Board of Regents Faculty Award

Jacqueline Grebmeier, an international leader in Arctic research, has been awarded the 2025 *Board of Regents (BOR) Faculty Award* in the category of Excellence in Research or Scholarship. Based at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, Grebmeier has specialized in understanding how ecosystems at high latitudes respond to climate warming and the

loss of sea ice for the past four decades. Her contributions have pioneered the biological aspects of this change, which impact a wide variety of living species, communities and economic activities. Grebmeier was honored at the BOR Awards Breakfast in April.

"I appreciate this award as an honor for myself and our research team because it recognizes the value of the many years of long term, time series and cooperative studies that are tracking the ecosystem response to warming seawater and declining sea ice conditions in the Polar North," Grebmeier said. Photo, from left: Jay Perman (USM Chancellor), Jacqueline Grebmeier (UMCES Professor), Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm (UMCES President) and Linda Gooden (Board of Regents Chair). Credit: Thomas Nappi.

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Grad Student Blends Engineering Talent with Oyster Research

Michael Kalinowski, a third-year Ph.D. student at UMCES' Horn Point Lab, is leveraging his industrial engineering background to solve a growing environmental challenge: the accumulation of toxic sulfides in oyster aquaculture sediments. His research measures the efficacy of two bioelectrochemical tools designed to tackle sulfide accumulation in oyster farm sediment: microbial fuel cells and electrochemical snorkels. Kalinowski's journey exemplifies the dynamic nature of interdisciplinary research, demonstrating how engineers, scientists and researchers can collaborate to solve complex problems. The knowledge gained from his research will not only benefit Maryland's oyster aquaculture industry, but will also contribute to global efforts in sustainable aquaculture practices.

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Resurrecting Poplar Island Film Screening a Success

UMCES proudly assisted in kicking-off Maryland Public Television's 2025 Chesapeake Bay Week with the premiere of the film, *Resurrecting Poplar Island*.

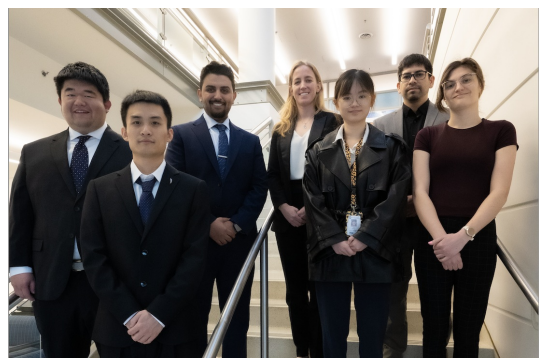
In the 1800s, Poplar Island was home to a developing community, but it was abandoned in the 1920s due to erosion. By the 1990s, little was left of this Chesapeake gem. Fortunately, restoration efforts led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the last couple of decades have bolstered the island's ecology; it has become a "stunning sanctuary, one of the most studied places on the planet." **Lorie Staver**, a research professor at UMCES, has been involved with the restoration effort since 2003.

"The reason we are so focused on sustainability in these marshes is because this is a long-term project... but eventually most of the monitoring and management will come to an end," said Staver. "We want to build these marshes to be as resilient... as possible... the plants help the marsh keep pace with sea level rise," which over time, adds to elevation.

The full film is available on [mpt.com](https://www.mpt.com). **Enjoy this clip** featuring Dr. Staver as she discusses the importance of restored marshes on the island.

*Resurrecting Poplar Island was produced by Maryland Public Television in cooperation with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science.

Inspiring stories to honor 100 years of UMCES



In spring 2024, **Alexandra Fries** traveled to Zambia to work with local partners at **WWF Zambia** on a report card for the Luangwa River. WWF Zambia previously created two report cards for the Kafue and Cuando Rivers, both of which had significant positive outcomes. During this trip, Fries conducted a training workshop in Lusaka and two stakeholder co-design workshops in Katete and Mpika. Together, the attendees built a shared vision of the values of and threats to the Luangwa River via collaboration and engagement activities. Pictured above, from left: Alexandra Fries, **Lili Badri** and **Heath Kesley**.

The 2025 **Ratcliffe Environmental Entrepreneur Fellow** (REEF) program, a 7-month entrepreneurial training program for IMET graduate students – closed in April with seven business plans pitched to the panel, which included the Ratcliffe Foundation, University System of Maryland partners and UMCES President, **Fernando Miralles-Wilhelm**. Pictured above, from left: **Jeffery Jiao** (UMCES), Yalong Sun (UMBC), **Abdulmajid Alrefaie** (UMCES), **Dr. Christine Knauss** (UMCES), **Jing Wang** (UMCES), Leonardo Soto (UMB) and **Anne Baldino** (UMCES). Congratulations to all participants!

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As never before, you can ensure that decisions about the preservation and management of our natural world are based on credible science. When you invest philanthropic support in UMCES research, you are investing in solutions to the urgent environmental challenges we face. **DONATE TODAY**

Upcoming Events

Donald Boesch, professor and president emeritus, will give a talk on his recently published book:

Predictive Ecology: The History of UMCES and IMET
May 6 | 12:00 PM (EST) at IMET

A light pizza lunch will be served. Open to the public.

IMET's Annual Open House

Saturday, May 10 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Pierce's Park | 701 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore
Free fun for the whole family!

Science for Communities Seminar Series

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM (EST) through May 6
CBL's Bernie Fowler Lab | 142 Williams Street, Solomons

Visiting Scholar Seminar Series

Fridays at 11:00 AM (EST) through May 16

ASPIRE Program Virtual Discussion Series

Tuesdays at 3:00 PM (EST) through May 20

Spring 2025 Commencement Friday, May 30 | 1:00 PM

UMCES in the News

Camp Small was warned of fire, environmental hazards ahead of massive blaze (Baltimore Banner)

Chesapeake Bay expert says more dolphin sightings means bay is recovering (WTOP)

Maryland's statewide surge: Counties unite in economic growth (MD Business Journal)

Delaney at ribbon cutting for Appalachian Lab solar project (Cumberland Times)

Maryland colleges back lawsuit to halt Trump visa cancellations (Baltimore Banner)

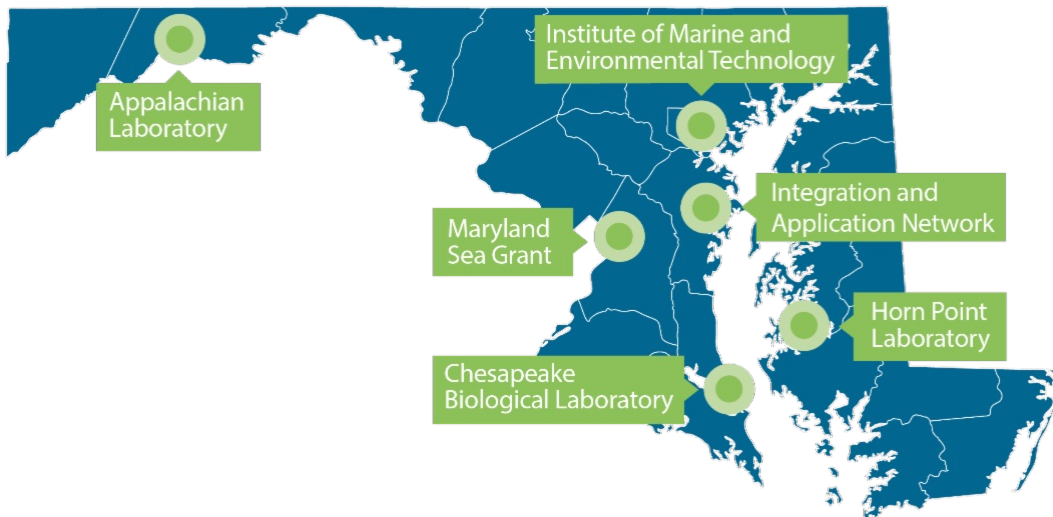
Chesapeake region's growth woes embodied at Solomons Island (Bay Journal)

Beth Polidoro Named Director of UMCES Chesapeake Biological Lab (Bay Net)

3 ways climate change is changing Maryland: floods, forest fires & anxiety (WYPR)

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