NSF award supports UMCES-led coalition to study climate change, storm impacts on bays and estuaries

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science has been awarded a $500,000 grant by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to lead a coalition of scientists from around the country to study the impact of storms, sea-level rise, and climate change on estuaries and bays.

"The Estuarine CoPe RCN allows us to bring together oceanographers, engineers, ecologists, and social scientists to synthesize recent research, explore open questions, and advance the transdisciplinary science of coastal resiliency," said oceanographer Ming Li, who will be coordinating the coalition of experts from around the country.

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Who runs the (hatchery) world? Increasingly women are behind the microscope and in charge of the tanks

"I never really thought that I'm paving the path for a future of women in charge," said Stephanie Tobash Alexander, who has worked at the Horn Point oyster hatchery for 20 years. She was promoted to director last year, and more than half of the summer interns at the hatchery are women undergraduate science majors or graduate students. "In the hatchery environment, you respect hard work, and as long as you're a hard worker, it doesn't matter what the gender is. But women are already in the hatchery environment, and it's kind of natural for us to be doing this."
Jeanette Davis publishes children's book about science

UMCES alumna Jeanette Davis '04 helped uncover the marine source of an anticancer compound while pursuing her Ph.D. at the Institute of Marine and Environmental Science and went on to complete a coveted Knauss Fellowship in Washington, D.C. Now she has published a children’s book about science. "Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone" introduces kids to the diverse possibilities for careers in science, from astronomy to zoology. Davis currently works as a marine microbiologist who serves as an Ocean Policy Advisor in a federal agency, conducting research and providing support on policies regarding resources in the ocean.

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NEXT GENERATION: Lauren Jonas on the essential role of marine sponges in supporting coral reefs

"I study bacteria in the ocean and how they cycle nutrients to support the life of other organisms. More specifically, I look at bacteria that live inside of marine sponges and how phosphorus moves throughout coral reef ecosystems. Understanding sponge biology and microbiology can give us a good look into the future and what coral reefs might look like. They play an essential role in supporting life in coral reefs as they are involved in all the major nutrient cycles."

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