Next generation of environmental science leaders graduate

The University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's sixth annual Commencement ceremony was held on May 23 at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory in Southern Maryland and featured Commencement speaker Professor Vicki Arroyo, Executive Director of the Georgetown Climate Center. She told graduates: "For major environmental challenges-saving Chesapeake Bay, curbing or preparing for climate change-individual institutions (even relatively small ones like UMCES and Georgetown Climate Center) can play a vital role. And individual people like each of you graduating today can make a difference."

MORE
Chesapeake Bay health score dips due to extreme rainfall, but overall improvement continues

According to UMCES' 2018 Chesapeake Bay Report Card, the Bay health score dropped but maintained a C grade due to high precipitation over the year. Despite extreme rainfall last year, the overall trend indicates that Chesapeake Bay health is improving over time. "The Bay is showing resilience to climate change," said Bill Dennison, Vice President for Science Application.

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Matt Fitzpatrick honored with President's Award for public outreach on climate change

President Peter Goodwin awarded UMCES' annual President's Award for Excellence in Application of Science to Associate Professor Matt Fitzpatrick for his outstanding work helping the public understand the impact of climate change. His Future Urban Climates web application that helps users visualize how climate change will feel in 60 years has attracted interview requests from around the globe and reached more than half a billion people on every continent.

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Graduate students recognize Laura Lapham for Outstanding Faculty Mentorship

Associate Professor Laura Lapham was awarded the second annual Outstanding Faculty Mentorship Award by graduate students for her commitment to students beyond the classroom. "Dr. Lapham has made mentoring a top priority in her program and has employed unique opportunities to mentor both within UMCES and externally by bringing various aged students into the UMCES community," said Christina Goethel, chair of the Graduate Student Council.
NOAA names UMCES part of Cooperative Institute

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has named UMCES as part of a new Cooperative Institute for the North Atlantic Region to study the Northeast continental shelf ecosystem. "UMCES oceanographers and fisheries scientists are at the forefront of understanding our changing oceans and climate," said President Peter Goodwin. "This partnership is an exciting opportunity to work with leading researchers along the coast to develop new and innovative research programs that focus on the many impacts of climate change on our oceans."

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SCIENCE IN ACTION: 32 days on the Indian Ocean

Follow oceanographer Raleigh Hood as he spends 32 days on the Indian Ocean exploring the impact of climate change. "We are all aware of the potential
negative consequences of global warming and warming of the oceans. The
Indian Ocean seems to be accumulating heat faster than the other ocean
basins," said Hood. "We look at it as a canary in the coal mine in terms of how
ocean ecology and chemistry might be impacted by warming and acidification."

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NEXT GENERATION:
Zach Gotthardt on aerating polluted estuaries

"I'm studying the biogeochemistry of a polluted estuary and how it responds to
aeration, the addition of oxygen to the system. My research focuses on a small tidal estuary
downstream of Baltimore called Rock Creek. High nutrients in a system can cause a chain
reaction of biological processes which result in a lack of oxygen which can cause fish kills and
other ecological issues."

MORE

Watershed Moments:
Matt Fitzpatrick on the Past, Present, and Future of Climate Change
June 6, 6:30 p.m.
Appalachian Laboratory, free

Spatial ecologist Matt Fitzpatrick, who recently released a web app that allows
the public to visualize the impact of climate change on their city in the future, will offer an
introduction to how Earth's climate has changed in the past and why scientists are concerned
about the future.
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week, June 2-9, is an annual reminder for every one of us to re-commit to doing our part for a cleaner Chesapeake Bay. Get involved! Check out some of the events happening all over the Bay area, from oyster planting to clean water concerts.

UMCES IN THE NEWS

Chesapeake Bay recovery took a hit amid heavy ray in 2019, but retains C grade on annual report card (Baltimore Sun)

These popular destinations will look a lot different in a decade (MSN- Canada)

Downpours, runoff lead to decline in Chesapeake Bay's health (WJZ-TV)

Scientists from 29 countries discuss climate change and development of the Arctic population (Arctic.ur)
Climate change is real, can be proved (Cumberland Times-News)

Razor clams die in Upper Chesapeake Bay, worrying watermen (WBOC-TV)

Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology open house exposes public to science (The Retriever)