

LAB LINES

In Memorium: Dr. Christopher Rowe

It is with deep sadness that we remember and honor **Dr. Christopher Rowe**, Associate Professor at the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory, whose sudden passing has left a deep void in our community. A gifted scientist, mentor, and collaborator, Chris dedicated his career to understanding how environmental stressors shape the physiology and ecology of diamondback terrapins. His pioneering work in ecotoxicology and thermal biology transformed what we know about how ecosystems and terrapins respond to a changing climate and human impact.

Beyond his research, Chris was known for his generosity, humor, and the great care he showed to students and colleagues alike. He led with curiosity and integrity, inspiring others to see science as both a rigorous pursuit and a shared stewardship of the natural world. His legacy—of scholarship, mentorship, and kindness—will continue to guide the work of those fortunate enough to have known him.

Here are a few words from his students and colleagues:

Chris was an amazing mentor, scientist, and friend! I will be forever grateful for all the time we had together, and honored to have been a part of his circle. I will carry his legacy in all that I do! Chris and I often talked about how lucky we were to have such an amazing "office" right across the Patuxent River from our CBL pier, on the



shores of the base. During our field seasons, seeing the morning sunrises was one of the best parts of our day! Adding to that, the sea breeze, sunshine, and serenity - it really was the perfect place! He loved it out there! So, the next time you're by the pier, raise a glass across the river in Chris's honor! I'm sure his soul is resting on that beach. There's no other place he wanted to be. Jessica McGlinsey, Chris Rowe's PhD student

Chris followed his passion fiercely. He was a gifted naturalist who brought deep insight into how the animals' physiology and ecology impacted their populations. He was also a gentle soul and was tremendously kind - he always found time to work with students when they needed support. Chris also loved his motorbikes. He had a beautiful Triumph Norton and, at one point, a Ducati. Not only did Chris love riding his bike, but he was also a talented mechanic. That ability to work in metal was also evident in the artwork he created. He didn't show his work to many, but if you spent any time in his office, you would have seen his lizard sculpture. It was beautiful - it integrated his expertise as a naturalist and his artistic side. Dr. Tom Miller, Professor and Emeritus Director, CBL.

Chris was a favorite among the Facilities and Administration teams. His quiet warmth had a way of making everyone feel welcome, and the kindness with which he asked for help and connected with others is something we will deeply miss. He treated everyone as an equal, creating a space where people felt comfortable engaging with him, not just professionally, but personally. I was fortunate to call Chris my friend. We shared a mutual appreciation for solitude and often both arrived on campus early, before the day's bustle began, and would find ourselves watching the sunrise together—moments I will always treasure. I admired Chris's passion for art, especially his work in metal and photography. I am grateful that he shared some of his creations with me; they are gifts I will cherish always. Chris, you will be missed by so many. Thank you for leaving such a lasting mark on my heart. Stacy Hutchinson, Associate Director, CBL

Chris was quiet, thoughtful, and an absolute perfectionist. His dedication to science was obvious to anyone who worked with him, from refining his experimental design at every opportunity to revising his manuscripts until he had honed his message to exactly the right phrasing. But Chris carried that ethos with him in everything he did. After science, his machine shop was his second love – forging beautiful knives from cold rectangles of carbon steel, woodworking on his home-made lathe, and endlessly tinkering with his motorcycles (particularly his Triumph). He was quick with a joke, usually self-deprecating, and quietly slipped into a conversation, always ready to put aside his own work to help anyone in need. Chris didn't dominate a space, but he was always present. CBL has lost a fierce advocate for science, a generous colleague, and a wonderful person – he is sorely missed. Dr. Ryan Woodland, Associate Professor, CBL

Meet our Faculty Research Assistant

Kristen Silva joined CBL as a volunteer docent in the visitor center in 2017 before becoming part of the Secor lab 6 years ago. As a member of the Tailwinds project team, she analyzes acoustic data to detect vocalizations from multiple endangered whale species, which trigger protective measures to reduce the risk of vessel strikes. Kristen enjoys collaborating with a "dedicated and talented team of scientists" on a daily basis and contributing to a greater cause with far-reaching

implications. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her family, collecting sea glass, playing sports in the backyard, or just hanging out.



Beth Polidoro travelled to American Samoa in early February to initiate a new NOAA-funded project to study the impact of marine debris interception technologies on near-shore marine habitats. Project partners include the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency, the community group Finafinau, and the Ocean Conservancy.



Ocean Sciences Meeting

Jackie Grebmeier, Lee Cooper, Jeremy Testa, Christina Goethel and Hongsheng Bi all attended and made presentations at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, February 22-27. Mike Sieracki, Pat Glibert, and Ming Li were some of the other UMCES faculty seen at the meeting, which attracted more than 6000 registrants.

<https://www.agu.org/ocean-sciences-meeting>



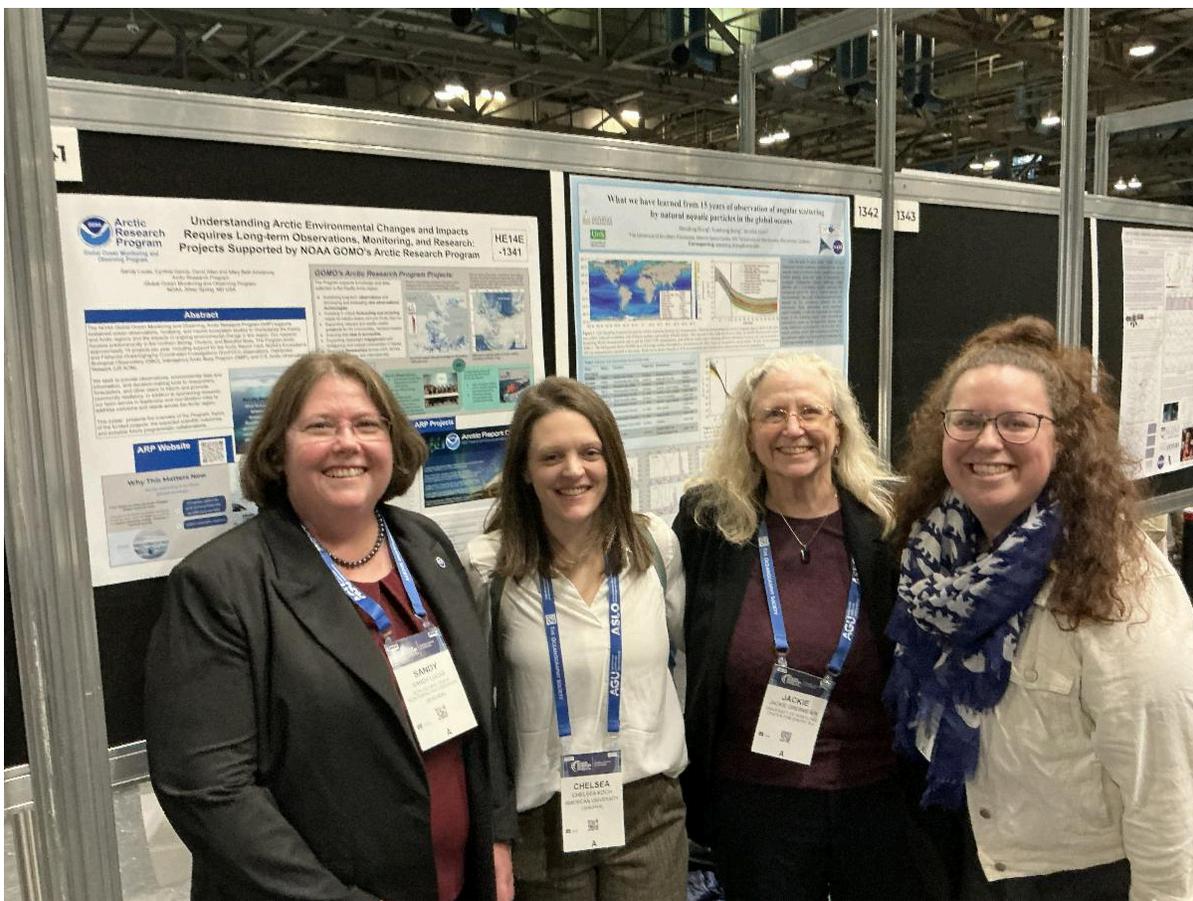
Hongsheng, Lee, Jackie, and Christina at the Meeting logo sign.



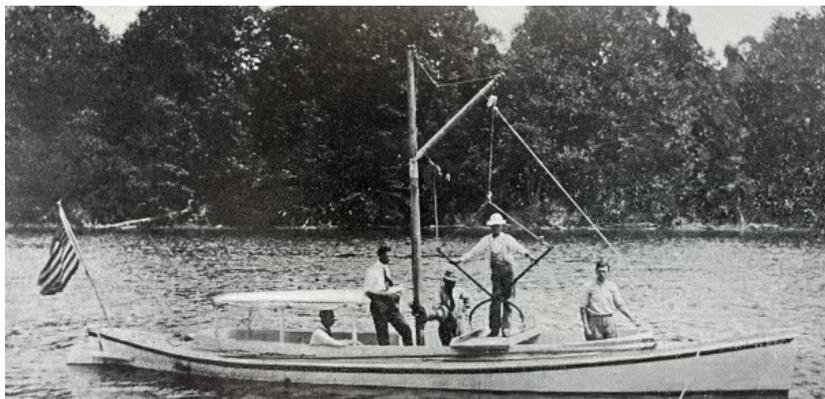
HPL director Mike Sieracki participated in a town hall panel discussing the current science funding regime, particularly in the US



Hongsheng during his presentation.



CBL alumni Chelsea Koch, Christina Goethel, and Jackie Grebmeier visited with NOAA Arctic Program director Sandy Lucas at her poster.



Founding Treasure

Wendy Mitman Clarke · February 13, 2026

Fisheries science professor Tom Miller had his hands full as director of the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science's Chesapeake Biological Laboratory when an engineer reported that cracks in Beaven Hall made the building unsafe. It needed to be vacated immediately. The oldest state-funded building on the Solomons Island campus, Beaven was built in 1931 and housed administrative and staff offices, but more significantly, the historic campus's library.

<https://www.mdsg.umd.edu/onthebay-blog/founding-treasure>

[Read More](#)

Recent Publications

A review of the book on the soft-shell clam, edited by Vic Kennedy and Brian Beal and published by the American Fisheries Society, has appeared in the AFS publication "Fisheries" and is available here.

<https://academic.oup.com/fisheries/advance-article/doi/10.1093/fshmag/vuag004/8469503>

[CBL Newsletter Archives](#)



University of Maryland
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
CHESAPEAKE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY

www.umces.edu/cbl | 410-326-4281

P.O. Box 38 | 146 Williams Street | Solomons, MD 20688-0038

Chesapeake Biological Laboratory | PO Box 38 146 Williams Street | Solomons, MD 20688 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!