



2024 Intern Symposium

August 9, 2024, 10:00am – 3:00pm

Hybrid Event

Thank you for joining us as we celebrate the work and contributions of students participating in the Chesapeake Research Consortium's Chesapeake Student Recruitment, Early Advisement, and Mentoring Program (C-StREAM) and NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Internship program. This represents a capstone moment for both students and their mentors, and we're glad to have you join us.

In-Person:

Schmidt Conference Center, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
647 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037-0028

Virtual Attendants Zoom Link:

Register to receive the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvcOqorTktGNHshpUjOCFvdusyThKmmm6a#/registration>

10:00 am Welcome - Randy Rowel (CRC) and Bart Merrick (NOAA)

10:15 am Introductory remarks - Mariah Davis (Environmental Justice Officer, Office of the Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources)

Intern Project Presentations

To ensure that virtual attendees can effectively participate, we will maintain a strict time limit on each presentation (12 minutes) with a brief time for questions immediately following (2-3 minutes)



10:30 am Henry Sage (*University of Miami*)

Title: Summer of a COL Marine Biology Intern

Abstract: My presentation is about 4 of the ongoing projects I assisted with this summer. It will be a crash course in how I assisted as well as what I gained from those experiences.

Mentor(s): Rose Adelizzi, Ava Ellett, Shawn Mclaughlin, John Jacobs - NOAA



10:45 am Oliver Sojka (*New York University*)

Internship Title: NOAA Fish Ecology Intern

Presentation Title: Final Report: Summer 2024 Fish Ecology

Abstract: A summary of my different experiences working out of the Cooperative Oxford Lab, including my daily work at the lab, major fieldwork, individual project, and collaborations with people in the lab outside of my normal routine.

Mentor(s): Wilmelie Cruz, and David Bruce - NOAA



11:00 am Bria Pope (*Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University*)

Internship Title: NOAA Experiential Research Training Opportunity (NERTO)

Presentation Title: Evaluating the Role of Oyster Reefs and Wetlands in Shoreline Protection and Cultural Resource Preservation in the Chesapeake Bay

Abstract: I will present a number of maps to help the audience visualize the distribution of natural infrastructure and explain my recommendations for future restoration based on them and their data.

Mentor(s): Amy Freitag - NOAA



11:15 am Apoorva Ajith (*University of Maryland*)

Internship Title: Education Workgroup Intern

Presentation Title: Charting the Future of Environmental Literacy: Listening and Learning

Abstract: This summer Apoorva planned and facilitated listening sessions with community members working to improve environmental literacy across the Mid-Atlantic region. She analyzed the feedback and compiled the ideas they shared to inform the next steps of the Bay Program Education Workgroup and upcoming state action plans.

Mentor(s): Shannon Sprague, and Elise Trelegan - NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office



11:30 am Julia Staranowski (*University of Maryland- College Park*)

Internship Title: Partnerships & Engagement Internship

Presentation Title: Examining NCBO Partnerships

Abstract: Julia examined the NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office's Partnerships through informational interviews and enhanced their Partnerships Management System spreadsheets.

Mentor: Lauren Taneyhill NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office



11:45 am Bryn Kearney (*Oberlin College*)

Internship Title: Environmental Literacy Intern

Presentation Title: Climate Change Education: Assessing Usability and Transformativity for K-12 Schools

Abstract: In addition to supporting the climate change education (CCE) conferences and education this summer, I researched the current state of CCE. I evaluated over 100 materials and gathered preliminary data on the trends and gaps in CCE.

Mentor(s): Krysta Hougen and Bart Merrick - NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office



12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm Sophia Bryan (*Boston University*)

Internship Title: Field Technician Intern

Presentation Abstract: Temporal Analysis of Historic (1984 - 2022) and Recent Hypoxia Trends in the Choptank River

Abstract: This summer Sophia worked with the field team on various operations, including the construction, deployment, and maintenance of the NCBO hypoxia monitoring buoys in the Chesapeake Bay. She analyzed current dissolved oxygen data from the buoys as well as historical data from the Chesapeake Bay Program to identify hypoxia trends over the last 40 years in the Choptank River.

Mentor: Jay Lazar - NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office

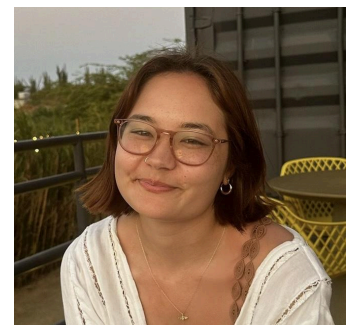


1:15 pm Kami Lentzsch (*Washington College*)

Internship Title: Research Assistant

Presentation Title: Plastic Party Crashers: Interactions of Macroplastics and Macroinvertebrates in Freshwater Ecosystems

Abstract: Kami spent her summer as a research assistant with Penn State, conducting research on the interaction between macroplastics and macroinvertebrates, examining how these organisms establish themselves and potentially consume plastic debris in the aquatic environment. This work aims to contribute to the understanding of the



ecological impact plastic pollution has on freshwater ecosystems, in Central Pennsylvania and beyond.

Mentor(s): Daniel Allen, Jon Sweetman - Penn State University

1:30 pm Melinda Lin (**Cornell University**)

Internship Title: Knowledge Graph Visualization Intern

Presentation Title: Goals, Groups, and Graphs: Visualizing the Complexities of the Chesapeake Bay Partnership

Abstract: As the Chesapeake Bay Partnership's environmental efforts expand, what happens when the Partnership's organization becomes too complicated? To communicate how the Partnership's databases, scientific tools, workgroups, and more support 10 overarching Goals and 31 Outcomes, I visualized these complex relationships as interactive knowledge graphs.

Mentor: John Wolf - USGS



1:45 pm Emma Chuang (**Recent graduate from Oregon State University**)

Internship Title: Environmental Justice Intern

Presentation Title: Optimizing the EJ Mapping Tool for Elizabeth River Communities

Abstract: Over the Summer, Emma Chuang, mentored by Dr. Molly Mitchell at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), worked to improve the Elizabeth River Environmental Justice (EREJ) mapping tool for community use. This constituted the creation of a story map tutorial specifically made for community members, which Emma will discuss more about during her presentation today.

Mentor: Molly Mitchell - VIMS



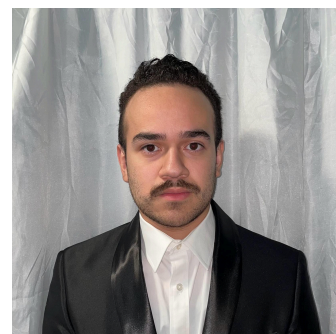
2:00 pm Diego Henriquez (**University of Maryland**)

Internship Title: Invasive Species Intern

Presentation Title: Do Knot Fret: Invasive Species Management at Rock Creek Park

Abstract: Conducted a literature review of invasive knotweed impacts on riparian forest buffers and did a cost-benefit analysis of removal along Rock Creek in Washington, DC.

Mentor(s): Lorenzo Cinalli, Sushanth Gupta - Chesapeake Bay Program



2:15 pm Lashawna Perry (**Bowie State University**)

Internship Title: USNA Research Assistant - Marine Soundscapes in the Severna River

Presentation Title: Toadfish Tunes: Tracking mating calls on Oxford Reef using passive acoustics



Abstract: Graphing Toadfish Mating Calls and Soundscape Variability in the Oxford Reefs Through Acoustic Monitoring. Analyzing the data to assess the health of the Oxford Reef.

Mentor: Cecily Steppe - United State Naval Academy

2:30 pm Kellene Wotring (*Sweet Briar College*)

Internship Title: Climate Change Intern

Presentation Title: Management practices for the city of Norfolk

Abstract: I worked to analyze management practices approved in Virginia. When done I created a map that used soil types, elevation and ground water to give the best practices for a location.

Mentor: Xixi Wang - Old Dominion University



2:45 Wrap-up discussion and next steps during the academic year - facilitated by Randy Rowel (CRC) and Bart Merrick (NOAA)

3:00 pm Adjourn

Our profound thanks to our interns, mentors, and staff for their substantive contributions to the work of the restoration; you've changed the world.