

AEES QUARTERLY

The Official Newsletter of the American Ecological Engineering Society

Sharing our stories, building networks, and growing together.

www.ecoeng.org



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President's Notes

By: Michael Burchell, PhD
AEEES President



Greetings!

As my presidency comes to a close at the AEEES conference in June, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over this last year to make this society stronger. I have participated in dozens of committees and leadership roles during my career, but serving as AEEES President has truly been THE most fulfilling of these experiences.

The main reason I enjoyed this role so much is two-fold. First, I was surrounded by an excellent Executive Committee - Dr. Stephanie Lansing (Vice-President), Dr. Tiffany Messer (Secretary), Dr. Eban Bean (Treasurer – for 3 years!), Dr. Andrea Ludwig (past-President) and Gabi Itokazu (student representative). This group met monthly and more recently bi-weekly during conference planning, and worked tirelessly in between those meetings to help make our other initiatives a reality. Thank you all for your hard work and support.

Secondly, we had some major accomplishments over the past year.

- We were able to build and strengthen our sense of AEEES community through this newsletter and our webinar series, the latter of which had nearly 300 registrants during this calendar year.
- We supported a largely member-led initiative to develop the *Journal of Ecological Engineering Design*, which is ready for a soft-launch following the conference.
- Our society remains in a strong financial position so that we were able to pay for outside support of our website, newsletter production, and webinar series. Due to generous sponsors, we were also able to keep student conference registration costs low and provide conference travel scholarships to qualified students.
- Our Body of Knowledge Committee continues to work towards establishing accreditation for Ecological Engineering undergraduate programs.
- After many years of discussion, we have drafted the guidelines to induct the first class of AEEES Fellows in 2023.
- Momentum and interest is building to expand the number of AEEES student chapters.
- Last, but not least, the successful planning of our first in-person conference since 2019.

I leave this position in great hands. Dr. Stephanie Lansing from UMD will assume the role of President during the business meeting at the conference. I have no doubt she will expand on our success and momentum over the next year. I will assume the role as past-President, and look forward to supporting the organization and these new initiatives in that position.

We have received nominations for 2022-2023 Vice-President/President-elect, Treasurer, and student representatives, and the elections will be held during the week of the conference – so be sure to look for emails with instructions that week in June.

I can't wait to see everyone at the conference in Baltimore June 21-23. Registration numbers are strong! Don't forget to visit our website or share it (and this newsletter) with your colleagues across all of the disciplines that combine to create the field of ecological engineering <https://www.ecoeng.org/>.

Don't forget - working together, we can strengthen this society and further build upon its foundation to make meaningful impacts in the development of sustainable ecosystems that integrate human society with its natural environment - **for the benefit of both!**

AEES 2022 Annual Meeting



We are excited to welcome everyone to the 22nd annual American Ecological Engineering Society (AEES) Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD from June 21-23, 2022. This year's conference theme is "Designing for Our Future: Ecotechnology for Watershed Health in the Urban-Rural Continuum." During the conference, our presenters and keynote speakers will show how the practices of Ecological Engineering can be used to solve the world's grand challenges. The conference will showcase the AEES mission in promoting the development of sustainable ecosystems that integrate human society with its natural environment for the benefit of both. The conference work will foster education, outreach, and professional development while raising public awareness and highlighting original research.

Sponsoring the 22nd AEES Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to promote your organization and give back to the future of Ecological Engineering! [On our website](#), learn about our sponsoring opportunities and meet our current sponsors.

[Early Registration](#) ended May 20th, with a \$50 late fee for registration from May 21st to June 15th. Registration fees will cover all sessions, lunches, snacks, field trips, and a social dinner. Five exciting educational field tours will be offered on June 22nd and entertaining social opportunities each night. [Field trips](#) include a boat tour of ecological restoration at the Hart-Miller Island, a boat tour of the Oyster Reef Restoration, a bus tour of stream restoration and BMP implementation in the Baltimore area, a behind the scenes Baltimore Aquarium's sustainability efforts, and a walking tour of the Baltimore Harbor including IMET's recirculating aquaculture and anaerobic digestion system, floating wetlands, bulkhead suspended oyster reefs, and the famous Mr. Trash Wheel solar and hydro powered debris collector barge. Our social events include a baseball game and picnic between the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Nationals, the unforgettable American Visionary Art Museum, and the Frederick Douglas Museum at the Baltimore Harbor's Living Classroom facility. A full agenda can be found [online](#).

Our [conference Keynote speakers](#) include Dr. Peter Goodwin, the President of the University of Maryland Center of Environmental Science and an expert in using a systems approach to the ecological recovery of river, wetland, and estuarine systems; Sadie Drescher, the Vice President of Programs for Restoration at the Chesapeake Bay Trust, who leads restoration programs that use innovative partnerships to engage and empower diverse groups, watershed organizations, and residents to benefit the water and people in the Chesapeake Bay; Joe Berg, a Senior Ecologist at Biohabitats, who uses systems ecology in the stream and wetland assessments to implement restoration plans that restore ecosystem services, increase natural capital, and integrate local community needs with an appreciation of natural resource values; Rebecca Stack, a Principal of DesignGreen, who works at the intersection of urban design, ecosystem science, and water resource management by integrating water quality and flood management with blue-green infrastructure, community engagement, and consensus design process for neighborhood-scale urban resilience projects; Priscila B. R. Alves, a Postdoctoral Research Associate of the Stormwater, Infrastructure, Resilience and Justice (SIRJ) Lab at the University of Maryland, who has professional experience in Brazil, the UK, and the US engaging with policymakers and communities in analyzing actions and solutions for risk mitigation, including mapping flood vulnerability, hydrological modeling, and public participation; Rico Newman, Director of Maryland Indian Tourism and a spokesman for the Piscataway-Conoy Confederacy and Subtribe, who assisted his tribe in regaining Maryland Indian Status in 2012 and has worked with numerous student groups developing and refining eco-technologies that harmonize with the natural environment.

The [conference venue](#) is the Columbus Center, home of the Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology (IMET), a research leader into marine and coastal environments and hub for Maryland’s blossoming environmental tech-startup culture. [Baltimore](#) is well known for its rich history, diverse culture, museums, its Aquarium, and beautiful harbor on the Chesapeake Bay. Rooms are still available at the [Tru by Hilton](#) although rooms at the conference rate are no longer available.

We can’t wait to see everyone in person in Baltimore in June. It will be an amazing time for networking, research/ educational presentations, new collaborations, and socialization. We want to thank our current Gold Sponsor, Silver Sponsors, and Bronze Sponsors, and our host sponsor the University of Maryland’s Department of Environmental Science & Technology and College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Stephanie Lansing, AEES 2022 Conference Chair
 AEES Vice President
 Professor, University of Maryland

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Committee Updates

Joining a AEES committee at any time of the year is strongly encouraged. Please contact the Committee Chair if you are interested.

Conference Planning Committee

Chair of Committee – Stephanie Lansing slansing@umd.edu

The conference committee is working hard to provide the best in-person conference experience for our 21st annual meeting from June 21-23, 2022. We encourage individuals interested in attending the conference to [register](#) and to book accommodations at the conference venue, [Tru by Hilton Baltimore East Harbor Hotel](#). Encourage your colleagues and business partners to be an AEES sponsor: Please find the [sponsorship levels](#) on the AEES conference website. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in June. This is going to be a fun and informative conference and we are excited to finally spend time with each of you and grow through this experience as a society.

Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Justice (DIEJ) Committee

Chair of Committee – Ani Jayakaran anand.jayakaran@wsu.edu

The AEES DEIJ committee met on May 5, 2022, their last meeting before the AEES 2022 annual meeting in Baltimore. Several short-term initiatives will be visible at AEES 2022, including a closing plenary session hosted by the committee, encouraging people to use their preferred pronouns, a code of conduct for all meeting participants, and providing childcare at the meeting (Is this happening?). In addition, the committee aims to expand its membership by recruiting new members at AEES 2022. Finally, for the rest of 2022, the committee will finalize its by-laws, appoint a new chair, and begin working on a mentoring program for early-career members.

Body of Knowledge Committee

Chair of Committee – Tricia Moore tlcmoore@ksu.edu

The BOK committee continues to make progress to formalize a Body of Knowledge document for ecological engineering as well as engaging with ABET to develop criteria for undergraduate ecological engineering programs. We hope you can join us during the upcoming AEES conference in Baltimore to learn more about our efforts over the past year and to provide your input at the following sessions on Wednesday, June 22: 8 AM for ABET accreditation update and 12:15 PM for a Body of Knowledge workshop.

Student Chapter Committee

Chair of Committee – Ana Gabriela Itokazu gabi@auburn.edu

Our monthly meetings have been all about the Student Design Competition, and we are excited to meet everybody and make the best discussion about the new and existing Student Chapters. In addition to that, we finalized our bylaws and keep moving forward with organizing and producing documentation that supports the Committee and AEES. Again, we would love to have more students working with us, so reach out if you are interested in being part of our Committee!

Career Opportunities

Two Postdoctoral Associate Positions—Manure Processing & Anaerobic Digestion Policy

University of Maryland

Posted 5-24-2022

Water Resources Control Engineer

San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board

Posted 5-24-2022

Environmental/Civil Engineer

Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) - California

Posted 05-20-2022

Water Resources/Civil Engineer

Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA) - California

Posted 05-20-2022

Assistant/Associate Professor of Biological and/or Agricultural Engineering

North Carolina A&T State University

Posted 04-13-2022

Mid-Level Stream Restoration Professional

The Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) - Fayetteville, Arkansas

Posted 03-31-2022

Senior Restoration Designer

Westervelt Ecological Services—Sacramento, CA

Posted 03-17-2022

Project Engineer II—Stormwater Management

Timmons Group

Posted 03-04-2022