

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S  
OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS, ORGANISMAL &  
ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY AND OFFICE FOR SUSTAINABILITY  
PRESENT:

# THE SECOND COLLABORATIVE ECOSYSTEMS SUMMIT

AN HONORS AND PLP EVENT



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PANELS INCLUDE:

SCIENCE  
COMMUNICATION

COLLABORATION  
AND ACTION

PERSPECTIVES  
FROM HIGHER  
EDUCATION

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MARCH 14TH, 2019 NOON - 5 PM  
GAINES THEATER &  
FREEMAN CENTER 201

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
NICHOLAS DIPASQUALE  
FORMER DIRECTOR  
U.S. EPA CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM



# Program Schedule

## REGISTRATION

12:00 – 12:15 pm Gaines Theatre

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

12:15 – 1:15 pm Gaines Theatre

## COFFEE BREAK

1:15 – 1:30 pm Freeman, second floor

## PANEL 1: SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

1:30 – 2:30 pm Freeman, Room 201

## COOKIE/BROWNIE BREAK

2:30 – 2:45 pm Freeman, second floor

## PANEL 2: COLLABORATION & ACTION

2:45 – 3:45 pm Freeman, Room 201

## COFFEE BREAK

3:45 – 4:00 pm Freeman, second floor

## PANEL 3: PERSPECTIVES FROM HIGHER EDUCATION

4:00 - 5:00 pm Freeman, second floor

# Keynote Speaker

**Nicholas (Nick) DiPasquale**  
**Former Director**  
**Chesapeake Bay Program Office**



Nick DiPasquale served as the Director of the Chesapeake Bay Program Office (CBPO) from August, 2011 to December, 2017. The Program coordinates and provides administrative, technical, management and financial support for the overall Bay watershed restoration effort. The Bay Program is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement and the Chesapeake Bay TMDL and ensuring the six states and the District of Columbia meet their pollution load reduction targets. Nick has over 35 years of public policy and environmental management experience in both the public and private sectors.

Nick previously served as Deputy Secretary for Air, Waste & Radiation Protection in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection; Director of the Environmental Management Center for the Brandywine Conservancy in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania; and, Secretary of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Nick worked for 6 years in the private sector as a senior consultant on environmental and ecological restoration issues with an environmental engineering consulting firm in Delaware.

He also served as the Director of Waste Management and Water Pollution Control Programs for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and as a Research Analyst with the Missouri House of Representatives.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Public Administration from the State University of New York, and a master's degree in Energy and Environmental Policy from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

# Panel 1: Science Communication

**Paula Jasinski**  
**President**  
**Green Fin Studio**



Paula's passion for science communication and engaging stakeholders can be traced back to her Chesapeake Bay roots. She grew up along its shores and serendipitously around leaders in environmental restoration and protection policy development.

After obtaining her undergraduate degree from the University of Virginia in Biology and a Master of Science degree from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, she honed her skills with the National Park Service, Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration before launching Green Fin Studio in 2007.

Green Fin Studio specializes in science communication and strategic support to increase awareness, motivate action, and increase the diversity of stakeholder engagement. Paula and her team combine scientific expertise with storytelling, graphic design and compelling content. She has led innovative and award-winning projects around conservation outreach, fisheries management, coastal management, ecotourism, environmental education and science communication training courses.

# Panel 1: Science Communication

**Alan Skees**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Fine Art & Art History**  
**Christopher Newport University**



Alan Skees was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. He received his BFA from the University of Alabama at Birmingham where he studied traditional and alternative forms of printmaking, digital arts, design, and a little sculpture and ceramics thrown in just for fun. He received his MFA degree in 2007 from the University of Arizona. While there, he studied more alternative forms of printmaking, non-toxic printmaking, book arts, installation art, and other forms of digital image making. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of Digital Arts and New Media at Christopher Newport University. He lives and makes art in Hampton, Virginia with his wife Kristin Skees, and they show their work nationally and internationally.

## Panel 1: Science Communication

**Michelle Covi**  
**Assistant Professor**  
**Ocean, Earth, Atmospheric Sciences**  
**Old Dominion University**



Michelle Covi is an Assistant Professor of Practice at Old Dominion University in the Department of Ocean Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and part of the Virginia Sea Grant extension program. She conducts research and outreach activities for climate change adaptation and coastal resilience efforts for coastal Virginia with an emphasis on Hampton Roads. Her research areas include sea level rise and resilience risk perception and communication, public participation in adaptation planning processes and engagement/outreach practices. She co-organizes the Hampton Roads Sea Level Rise/ Flooding Adaptation Forum, a quarterly meeting of adaptation stakeholders and co-chaired the Citizen Engagement Working Group of the Hampton Roads Intergovernmental Pilot Project. She is involved in a number of engaged research projects as a part of team efforts to understand shoreline management decision-making and its impact on ecosystems, understanding the needs of tourism businesses to become more resilient, educating Norfolk area K-12 students about sea level rise, developing methods to engage neighborhood in resilience planning and building university-community partnership in resilience through service-learning. She completed her doctorate in Coastal Resources Manage-

## Panel 2: Collaboration & Action

**Shannon Fluharty**  
**Staff Scientist**  
**Environmental Resources Management**



Shannon currently works for Environmental Resources Management (ERM) as an environmental compliance consultant. ERM is a global consulting firm that provides environmental, health, safety, risk, social consulting services and sustainability related services. The key sectors ERM serves are include Oil & Gas, Mining, Power, Manufacturing, Chemical and Pharmaceutical, and Technology, Media & Telecommunications.

Shannon's projects include assisting with species surveys, sampling, permit writing, regulatory compliance reporting, and data collection. Shannon is currently her office Sustainability Lead, taking on the responsibility of encouraging the ERM Richmond, Virginia office to strive towards a more sustainable work environment and office practices. Shannon particularly enjoys working for ERM because she is constantly presented with the opportunity to work with individuals all over the world and have an impact on the

## Panel 2: Collaboration & Action

**Benjamin Cuker**  
**Professor**  
**Marine & Environmental Studies**  
**Hampton University**



Dr. Cuker has taught at historically black institutions since 1981 (Shaw University 1981-1988, Hampton University since 1988). His research includes; Arctic freshwater ecology, limnology of turbid lakes, estuarine ecology and hypoxia. He created in 1990 (- present) the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography (ASLO) Multicultural Program, in 2000 (-2008), Multicultural Students at Sea Together, and in 2003 (-2015), the Hall-Bonner Program for Minority Doctoral Scholars in the Oceans Sciences. Dr. Cuker was named a Pew Fellow in Marine Conservation in 1999. He received the first ASLO Service Award in 1993 and the first ASLO Education award in 2009 for his work in developing these diversity programs. He is also faculty advisor to the Hampton University Sailing Team. He is presently collaborating with the UCLA Diversity Project which involves engaging under graduate students in coral reef community ecology research in Mo'orea. Dr. Cuker also currently developing and implementing curricular materials for teaching sustainability and renewable energy, which are available to all on



## Panel 2: Collaboration & Action

**Bruckner Chase**  
**NOAA Ambassador**  
**Ocean Positive Foundation**



Bruckner is an internationally recognized ocean athlete and ambassador whose aquatic life began while managing retail and brand development for some of the largest companies in the country. His passion for extreme ocean sports eventually landed him in a life-changing adventure in NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Bruckner now draws on a diverse corporate, non-profit and international athletic career to positively impact the health, well-being and strength of our oceans and communities. Bruckner's diverse work with groups like NOAA National Weather Service, Red Bull, Surf Lifesaving Australia and the American Samoa Government spans topics from beach safety to coastal preservation and creates innovative, multi-disciplinary initiatives that positively impact how we all feel, think and act towards our oceans and communities.

## Panel 2: Collaboration & Action

**Alleyn Harned**  
**Executive Director**  
**Virginia Clean Cities**



Alleyn Harned is the Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities (VCC), a member of the U.S. Department of Energy-affiliated Clean Cities Coalitions program. Alleyn joined Clean Cities in 2009. Prior to being named Executive Director, Alleyn served as the VCC 's Business Development Director. He serves as the Virginia representative to the nine-state Southeast Natural Gas Vehicle Corridor Committee, and was coordinator for Virginia's initial 2010 electric vehicle readiness effort. Harned was appointed to Virginia's Energy Commission in 2014 and the State Advisory Board on Air Pollution in 2013. He serves on the Transportation Energy Partners board of directors and was elected to the Clean Cities Coordinator Council in 2014, 2015, and 2018. Harned led coalition through the completion of the 1200 vehicle Southeast Propane Autogas Development Project under the Recovery Act.

## Panel 3: Prospectives from Higher Education

**Jonathan Van Senten**

**Assistant Professor**

**Agricultural & Applied Economics**

**Virginia Tech—Virginia Seafood AREC**



Dr. Van Senten is an “aquaculture economist” at the Virginia Tech Virginia Seafood Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Hampton, Virginia. Prior to his education and training in economics, Jonathan obtained a degree in marine biology (Barry University) and graduate degree in marine affairs and policy (University of Miami). Jonathan’s current research focus is on quantifying the farm-level effects of the regulatory environment on U.S. aquaculture producers. To date, thorough investigations of the national baitfish/sportfish, national trout, and west coast shellfish industries have been completed; with further investigations in new sectors launching in 2019. In addition to his work on regulations, Jonathan is also involved in evaluating economic impacts, the feasibility of emerging species for aquaculture, assessing the economic performance of new dietary formulations, ornamental aquaculture and business development, financial benchmarking of aquaculture farms, and aquaponics program development as part of the team at Virginia Tech. Alongside his scholarly activities at Virginia Tech, Jonathan is also a member of the Virginia Sea Grant consortium; addressing a variety of issues in fisheries and aquaculture programming in collaboration with other state and regional Sea Grant affiliate universities. Going forward Jonathan plans to build additional capacity within his program and to increase the scope of research activities to include additional stakeholders within both the coastal zone and traditional upland agriculture.

## Panel 3: Prospectives from Higher Education

**June Laffey**

**Senior**

**Political Science & Environmental Studies**

**Christopher Newport University**



June Laffey is a senior at Christopher Newport University studying political science and environmental studies. She is heavily involved on campus, where she works for the Reiff Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, is involved with Greek life, represents the student body as a delegate on Student Assembly where she also serves as the Student Sustainability Commission co-chair, and is a member of the Honors Program. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career in political advocacy, specifically with an environment-centric organization. She believes that society can only begin to address environmental issues through collective action. Our society teaches us that we are individuals, working in competition with another. We should view others as potential partners who are able to help us create change and make our visions realities. Individuals will have to make conscious choices every day, businesses will have to alter their models and means of production, and our governing bodies will have to institute regulations that protect the health of our natural world. For this process to begin, however, younger

## Panel 3: Prospectives from Higher Education

**Shawn Dash**

**Assistant Professor**

**Biological Sciences**

**Hampton University**



Dr. Dash is originally from Baltimore, Maryland where even at the youngest ages spent time exploring the natural world around him. Devoting many hours to become familiar with the flora and fauna of the Maryland and surrounding areas via collections (rock, pine cone, insect, bird nest, skull, foot print, etc), field trips and books, Dr. Dash's passion followed him through middle and high school. After high school he attended the University of Delaware (where he double majored in entomology and wildlife ecology with a minor in biological sciences) which provided opportunities to develop as a scientist. Though starting with the desire to become an ornithologist; while at Delaware he conducted research on cucumber beetle mating behaviors, helped in studies on hive beetles, box turtles, and other wildlife studies. He became part of the UD reference collection laboratory lead by Dr. Charles Bartlett, with Dr. Bartlett's guidance Dr. Dash became interested in faunistics and began studies on ant biodiversity and forest fragmentation. This passion for ecology and taxonomy lead Dr. Dash to Louisiana State University where he conducted his Master studies focused on the first formal survey of the ants of this state with notes on ecology from ants of the southeastern United States. In addition to the important baseline data set, Dr. Dash produced a guide to pest ants and leading courses for pest control operators and wildlife officials in ant identification. During these workshops Dr. Dash became interested in aspects of invasion and urban ecology. Completing a PhD at the University of Texas at El Paso in evolutionary biology focused on the systematics of an understudied Neotropical ant genus (*Hypoponera*). Dr. Dash is continuing his work on ants, soil invertebrates in the context of evolution and ecology. During his time at LSU Dr. Dash developed a strong interest and obsession for science education. Dr. Dash has given numerous outreach programs on insect ecology for audiences from elementary to college level programs. He continues this focus in his research and strives to be a strong figure and mentor to his students involving them in original research with

## Panel 3: Prospectives from Higher Education

**Angela King**  
Assistant Director  
Virginia Coastal Policy Center  
College of William & Mary Law School



Angela M. King is the Assistant Director of the Virginia Coastal Policy Center (VCPC) at William & Mary Law School. Before joining VCPC, Angela served as an assistant attorney general in the Consumer Protection Section of the Virginia Office of the Attorney General, where she focused on charitable solicitation and general consumer protection matters. Her professional experience also includes serving as the Executive Director of the Newport News Green Foundation and as an assistant county attorney for James City County. Before attending law school, Angela worked for a local land surveyor conducting legal research and field surveys throughout Virginia. She received her law degree, magna cum laude, from the Maurer School of Law at Indiana University, Bloomington and her bachelors of science in geography and anthropology, cum laude, from Florida State University. Angela is an active member in the Virginia state bar.

# Special Thanks

## EVENT COMMITTEE

Michelle Gooding  
Jennifer Jones  
Michael Meyer  
Anne Pascucci

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Nicholas DiPasquale

## PANELISTS

Bruckner Chase  
Michelle Covi  
Benjamin Cuker  
Shawn Dash  
Shannon Fluharty  
Alleyn Harned  
Paula Jasinki  
Angela King  
June Laffey  
Alan Skees  
Jonathan Van Senten

## MODERATORS

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