From the Captain's Quarters

Greetings MAMEA Members,

We kicked off November with a great conference in Ocean City, and I would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that participated. Whether you helped plan or run the conference, presented a session, or just came to learn, your involvement and support was what made it a success! Our auction did great this year and that is due to all of you. I hope everyone is enjoying their awesome wins; I know I am headed to some great experiences in the next few months thanks to the MAMEA auction.

In the upcoming months, the Board will continue to work hard on following through with our organization’s hot off the presses, brand new strategic plan. I can honestly say that Board members are already working hard to meet our goals and further grow and improve the organization.

I would love to see more new faces on the Board (I am a new one for sure!), so if you are interested in learning more about running for a Board position, or helping on a committee, please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the Board. In addition if you have events or resources to share with the membership, keep an eye out for future call for submissions for the Masthead. We would love to have input from our membership in our quarterly newsletter.

Stay warm and Happy Holidays.

Lauren Albright
MAMEA President
2017 MAMEA Conference Recap

Lauren Albright
MAMEA President

Over 60 new and returning members from around the region— including New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee— came together in Ocean City, Maryland, November 3-5, for the 2017 MAMEA Annual Conference. Conference goers were able to enjoy some milder weather and even stick their toes in the sand, between sessions of course!

The conference unofficially kicked off with the MAMEA Board’s annual meeting, beginning at lunch time Friday, November 3. Updates were given and a variety of new business was discussed including beginning a new Expanding Audiences scholarship for the 2018 Annual Conference. We also began exploring new ways to share resources and information with members. Minutes from the meeting are available from our Secretary, Carol Hopper Brill, and will be on the MAMEA website under Board Toolkit.

The conference officially kicked off with a Friday evening event at Ocean City Brewing. While enjoying some food and beverages, we had a wonderful presentation on animal rescue in Ocean City from Jenn Dittmar of the National Aquarium. She shared a lot of information about the rescues that she does and shared some of her favorite calls about stranded animals. David Christopher also hosted a rousing game of trivia, which got super competitive!

Saturday began with a keynote presentation by Bill Street of SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment on societal trends and their impacts on marine science education. The day continued with 16 concurrent sessions featuring information on climate change, glaciers, conservation research, using play and games in marine science, scientific storytelling, and so much more.

During the annual business meeting, we awarded the two MAMEA teaching awards. The classroom teacher award went to Jaclyn Miller from Virginia, while the informal award went to Rachel Riesbeck Clark also from Virginia.

The Saturday evening auctions did not disappoint! Chris Petrone returned as auctioneer and provided us with great deal of entertainment. The auctions were very successful and aided in fundraising to provide conference scholarships for next year.

The conference ended on Sunday with a final field trip to Assateague Island where they explored the different habitats and took in some local wildlife.

Members left Ocean City having learned new information, gained resources, expanded their networks and looking forward to the 2018 MAMEA conference, which will be November 9-11 in Portsmouth, Virginia.
NMEA Representative Report

Kathy Fuller
MAMEA Chapter Representative to NMEA

NMEA at NSTA

The NMEA Mid-Year Board Meeting will be held at the NSTA National Conference on Science Education in Atlanta, Georgia on March 14th. On March 15th NMEA will be hosting a track of marine education related sessions that will be kicked off with a Whale of a Share-a-Thon. Meet me in Atlanta for some science on my mind!

NMEA 2017 Conference Call for Presenters Due December 20th

Make sure your calendars are marked for the 2017 NMEA conference in Long Beach, South California July 15-20. Visit the NMEA website www.marine-ed.org/page/2018conference to get up to date information on the conference.

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, the call for presenters closes on December 20th. Go to http://www.marine-ed.org/page/2018Presenters for more information. See you in Long Beach!
MBARI EARTH Program Connects Teachers and Scientists

Cathy McBride
Long Beach Island Public Schools

About the MBARI EARTH Program
Like a rare jewel, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute’s (MBARI) EARTH program is priceless. Since 2002, the EARTH (Education and Research: Testing Hypotheses) Program has supported educators through a unique ocean science training designed to connect scientists and teachers with the aim of making cutting edge science accessible to students of all grade levels. Each summer, teams of educators work alongside scientists to develop interesting and engaging lessons that focus on the scientists’ real-world investigations and data. This collaboration allows educators to learn from scientists, yet also enables scientists to share their research and understanding of scientific concepts through public education.

The EARTH workshop held this past summer was carried out through partnerships with the following National Science Foundation funded groups: Polar ICE (Interdisciplinary Coordinated Education) and the Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations (C-DEBI). Partners also included university scientists studying polar and deep sea environments. Research topics presented to educators included processes for understanding rapid glacier change, bioacoustics, whale tagging analysis and data visualization, bioinformatics with microbes, and biogeochemical processes in the ocean. From this research, a compelling array of lessons was developed incorporating activities such as case studies, digital games, engineering technology, satellite technology, and interactive simulations.

Visit http://www.mbari.org/earth to access an online database of high quality and engaging lessons that integrate real-time data. Lessons are aligned with NGSS, and ocean literacy and polar literacy principles. Topics feature cutting edge research of whale foraging behaviors, climate, ocean glider technology, glaciers, microbes and biogeochemical processes.

Sample Lesson: “I’m Melting! I’m Melting!”
Through a collaboration with Dr. Ellyn Enderlin, a glaciologist at the University of Maine, a team of teachers created a comprehensive, 9E lesson that includes an exploration and investigation of glaciers through several interesting and engaging activities based on Dr. Enderlin’s scientific work. The lesson begins with an inquiry of the effects of various environmental conditions on glaciers with the use of a physical model that simulates glacial movement (pictured at left). With additional explorations of real USGS glacier data, computer simulations and data story investigations (narrative visualizations of real data), combined with the data collected from the modeling activity, students develop a deep understanding of glacial processes and changes that occur in the real world. For more information, or to access this and other exciting lessons based on real data, please visit http://www.mbari.org/earth.

Teacher Feedback
“It’s great to bring real time data into the classroom, showing students some of the work scientists do, building interest not only in the activity but in possible future careers.”

“The EARTH Program is an immensely rewarding and enriching experience for educators...by far the best professional development of my career. This workshop brought real-data into my classroom in authentic and creative ways, sparking genuine interest and high levels of engagement in my students.”

For More Information
For more information about the MBARI EARTH program contact George Matsumoto at mage@mbari.org. If you are interested in using data stories in your classroom, please visit Polar ICE at https://polar-ice.org. Please also visit the Polar ICE website for links to lessons and other resources and information for teaching about the polar regions. (Link to Glaciers Data Story available soon.)

For more information on polar literacy visit:
Nominating Committee Update

Chris Petrone
Nomination Committee Chair

2018 MMEA Election Cycle

This spring, MMEA will be conducting elections for several very important positions. With the exception of President-elect, which is a three year commitment (one year as President-elect, one year as President, and one year as Past-President), these Board positions all serve a two-year term. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact any of the current Board members, including Nominating Committee Chair, Chris Petrone (petrone@udel.edu), or visit www.mamea.org/toolkit.html for more information. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Chris.

2018 elected offices:
President-elect
Treasurer
DC Rep
VA Rep
(1) At-Large

MMEA elections timeline:
March 1-April 30 - Nominations accepted
May 1 - Candidates are announced to the membership
June 1-July 1 - Online election (paper ballots are available for those who prefer one)
July 16-20 - Election results announced at National Marine Educator's Association conference

Have YOU got a great project idea that needs funding?

Carol Hopper Brill
Grants Committee Chair

Put your thinking caps on, MMEA is looking for great ideas to support in its upcoming grant cycle (2018/19). You can get your next educational project off the drawing board and into reality, engaging students or fellow educators. Be ready for the next round of MAMEA Educational Project grants - start working on your proposal now!

Two grants for up to $1,000 are available annually: One for formal educators (classrooms, K-16); and one for informal educators (museum, aquarium, zoo, science center, government agency staff). Projects should actively engage learners and focus on marine or aquatic topics.

To be eligible, applicants must be current MAMEA members with at least one year’s membership. To be competitive, projects should meet the program structure described on the MAMEA Grants page at www.mamea.org/minigrant.html. To read about projects that have received MAMEA support in the past, see www.mamea.org/pastgrants.html.

Visit the Grants page on the MAMEA website for the grant application form, as well as important details about the application process and grantee responsibilities. Or, contact the Grants Committee Chair, Carol Hopper Brill at chopper@vims.edu. Proposals are accepted throughout the year, but the deadline for the 2018/19 cycle is September 15, 2018. Grant awards will be announced at the MAMEA conference in November 2018, and the funding period is 12 months, from November 2018 to October 2019, with no extensions.
MAMEA At Large Board Members Election Results

Andy Gould
Nominating Committee

Earlier this year, we held a vote to update our by-laws with the addition of several At Large board positions. These new roles would be voting members of the board, would be required to participate in at least one committee, and would allow newer members as well as experienced members to have board involvement. The membership voted to make these changes, and preparations began to add these new positions to the board. In October 2017, we opened voting, with six candidates competing for two At Large positions. Thank you to all of those who nominated members, and everyone who ran in this election. We would like to congratulate our newest board members:

Rachel Riesbeck Clark

Rachel Riesbeck Clark has been working as a marine science educator for the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center since 2008. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a degree in Marine Biology and a passion for sharing her love of the oceans. Teaching school-aged children is her main focus at the Aquarium but also works with teachers, volunteers and other informal science educators. Rachel has been working with educators all over the country on best practices for engaging people about climate change solutions. Rachel will be serving a two-year term as At-Large member.

Ruth Gourley

Ruth Gourley has worn many hats in the marine education world. Ruth graduated in 2000 from University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a BS in Marine Biology. For over 12 years she was an educator at the NC Aquarium at Ft Fisher outside of Wilmington NC. There she helped shape education programs, events, and work closely with aquarium visitors of all ages. She went back to school for a MA in Elementary Education and is currently a third grade teacher at Malpass Corner Elementary School in Pender county, NC. Though she now teaches all subjects, her love is teaching science. She helps organize science fairs, is on the school’s STEM night planning team and is one of two coaches of the school’s Science Olympiad team. Her passion to share marine education with students and parents is evident in the programs and lesson she plans. She has been a member of MAMEA since 2003, has been the NC Representative and part of the presidential chain, planning a MAMEA conference in 2010. Ruth Gourley would be honored to help serve the marine educators again as NC rep, this time striving to incorporate more classroom teachers in our region to become a part of this wonderful organization. Ruth will be serving a one year term as At Large Member.
Delaware
Christopher Petrone
Interim Delaware State Representative

UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

Saturday, February 24, 2018
Delaware Association for Environment Education (DAEE) Annual Conference
F. Niel Postlethwait Middle School, Camden, DE

Join classroom and non-formal educators from across the state and region for the 9th annual DAEE conference. With the theme of “Powered by Nature,” the concurrent sessions will include four tracts: “Connecting People with Nature,” “EE and Formal Education,” “Cultivating Environmental Leaders,” and “Innovative and Inclusive EE.” The $40 early bird registration includes all plenary and concurrent sessions, lunch, networking break, silent auction, and a one-year membership to DAEE.
www.daeonline.org

May 11-13, 2018 (tentative)
Green Eggs & Sand
Where: Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve, Kitts Hummock, DE

An innovative workshop experience and set of curriculum modules designed to explore the Atlantic Coast horseshoe crab/shorebird phenomenon and management controversy. The first workshop was launched in the spring of 2000 by aquatic education specialists from Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey in response to the escalating horseshoe crab management controversy on Delaware Bay. Many of the teachers participating in that inaugural workshop stayed on to help write, pilot and implement the lessons that form the heart of the Green Eggs & Sand curriculum. In the years since, interest in horseshoe crabs and Green Eggs & Sand has spawned workshops up and down the coast, serving educators from 25 states and four foreign countries.

www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/DNERR/Pages/DNERREducationTraining.aspx
Virginia
Kristen Sharpe
Virginia State Representative

Congratulations are in order!
We are so proud to have had TWO of our exceptional Virginia MAMEA members recognized at the 2017 annual conference in Ocean City! Congratulations to Jactyn Miller, Teacher of the Year, and Rachel Riesbeck, Informal Educator of the Year!

Mini Event Update
As of right now, details on the next Virginia MAMEA mini event are still being hammered out. However, the tentative plan is for a day-long, field-based snorkeling exploration of the seagrass beds surrounding beautiful Goodwin Island in the summer of 2018. Attendees will hear from a VIMS scientist about the research being done on seagrasses in the Bay, restoration efforts and success stories, and will have the opportunity to participate in a vegetative quadrat survey to learn about the methods used by researchers in the field. CBNERR educators will present a hands-on lesson that was developed using real data to simulate these research methods in the classroom!
JOIN US FOR A DISCOVERY LAB!

Discovery Labs are provided each month by the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (CBNERR). These labs provide fun, family-friendly opportunities to learn about the Chesapeake Bay and our local environment. Each lab focuses on a different topic and includes exhibits, demonstrations, and hands-on activities for kids and adults. Labs also include a short presentation by a topic expert.

2018 WINTER SCHEDULE

JANUARY 16: MARINE TECHNOLOGY
This lab will include displays of different kinds of technologies used by scientists at VIMS and around the world, along with hands-on experience using some of these tools. PhD student Lydia Bienlien will share how her lab has used drone technology in studies of harmful algal blooms and other events in the Bay!

FEBRUARY 20: PREDATORY FISHES
This lab will focus on important predatory fishes in the Bay, and will explain how they have evolved to become such excellent swimmers and hunters. PhD student Dan Crear will explain his research on the effects of temperature and dissolved oxygen on cobia and juvenile sandbar sharks.

MARCH 20: MARSH MADNESS
Join students from the Williamsburg Montessori School for marsh and plant-related activities, demos, and crafts. PhD student Amanda Knobloch will be sharing information about her research regarding marsh carbon storage, and how marshes can help combat human impacts on the Bay!

CBNERR Discovery Labs take place from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in Gloucester Point, Virginia. The speaker presentation occurs from 6:30-7:00 PM. While the labs are free, registration is required due to limited space.

Register at: http://www.vims.edu/cbnerr/education/public_programs/index.php
Save the Date!
Annual Mid-Atlantic Regional ROV Underwater Robotics Competition
Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Old Dominion University Recreation and Wellness Center - Norfolk, Virginia

FREE! Teacher, Scout Leader, and Team Mentor Workshop at Nauticus!
Get Familiar with Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) | Saturday, January 27, 2018 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Limit 25

For more information and to register, contact:
Susie Hill, Nauticus Education Specialist/Special Programs Manager
(757) 664-1041 | rebecca.hill@norfolk.gov | marinetechnology.org

Nauticus
Featuring the Battleship Wisconsin
(757) 664-1000 • nauticus.org
I’m back!

Hello fellow NC MAMEAns! I’m excited to be returning as YOUR representative for the next two years. We have a lot of great marine education happening in our state, and it’s an honor to be able to represent you and create opportunities for us to share and support one another.

For those of you I haven’t met yet, I’m Andy Gould, School Programs Coordinator for the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher. I served as NC Representative for three years before entering the president’s chain, and I’m excited to be back and to continue to work to serve you.

I have a few ideas for mini-conferences, but I would love to hear from you about locations or activities you would enjoy. Also, please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support your work. Be on the lookout for more information on MAMEA sponsored activities, but in the meantime, here are some great opportunities coming up in our state!

January 6th, 2017 Winter Birding, Mattamuskeet and Pocosin National Wildlife Refuges
Join the Sylvan Heights Bird Park staff and Education Specialist Mike Campbell of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission for an exciting trip to see large numbers of migratory birds. The Mattamuskeet and Pocosin refuges provide excellent viewing opportunities for thousands of waterfowl, song birds, and shore birds that overwinter in North Carolina. Learn winter bird identification in the field and the importance of these unique habitats to wildlife. Bring your binoculars as we search for migratory species as well as year-round residents including Great blue heron, egrets, bald eagles, and black bears. Transportation from Sylvan Heights and lunch will be provided.

Depart from Sylvan Heights at 7:00 AM for Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. At Mattamuskeet, we will meet our guide, Mike Campbell, and enjoy wildlife viewing, tour the visitor’s center, and have lunch. After lunch, depart we’ll depart for Pocosin National Wildlife Refuge for more wildlife viewing before returning to Sylvan Heights at approx. 6:00 PM.

Trip Recommendations:
* Dress warmly and for walking - we will be out in the field
* Bring binoculars, cameras, and bird ID books if desired

Cost:
* $50 for Sylvan Heights members
* $60 for non-members.

Registration for this event is available through the Sylvan Heights website:
http://shwpark.com/plan-a-visit/events/event-calendar/536-mattamuskeet-birding.html

This event qualifies for Criteria II, III, and CE credit hours in the North Carolina Environmental Education Certification program. For more information, questions, or concerns please contact Ashley Hamlet at 252-826-3186 or at education@shwpark.com.

Event Link: http://shwpark.com/plan-a-visit/events/event-calendar/536-mattamuskeet-birding.html
Professional Development at N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher Features Sea Turtles

What: Sea Turtle Exploration Sea Turtle Workshop  
When: Saturday, January 27; 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Where: N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher, 900 Loggerhead Road, Kure Beach  
Cost: $25 (includes admission, behind the scenes tour, access to the curriculum)  

The N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher is offering a workshop featuring their Sea Turtle Exploration, a curriculum to help educators engage students in the fundamentals of STEAM through ready-to-use, standards-based lesson plans and sea turtles. Join them on Saturday, January 27th, for a hands-on teacher workshop guiding you through our new curriculum and website.

In addition to the curriculum, you will learn about additional resources such as weekly blog posts that will be made during the school year. Topics will include species profiles, aquarium staff spotlights, behind-the-scenes videos, new lesson plans and more. Follow the growth of aquarium hatching sea turtles by visiting the blog each week.

Aligned with the Common Core standards, your class will be able to “adopt” a turtle and learn about its care and growth. By adopting a sea turtle, you will receive weekly updates with information including the turtle’s current weight and length. Each class also will receive a certificate of participation.

By the end of the workshop, you will be familiar with the website and curriculum and how to implement the lessons in your own classroom. The workshop will include a behind the scenes tour to meet one of our sea turtles.

Please bring a reusable water bottle, and pack a waste-free lunch, if you choose. Our snack shop, Shark Bites, will be open and there are lunch options off-site as well.

This workshop will count toward N.C. Environmental Education Certification (Criteria I) and consists of 6 contact hours that may count toward CEUs for teachers.
6th Annual SciREN Coast Exchange
February 15, 2018 5:45pm-8pm
NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores

Network with local teachers and exchange lesson plans based on your current research.

For more information and to register visit: http://www.thesciren.org
National Association for Interpretation Regional Workshop
Tuesday, Feb 27, 2018 until Friday, Mar 2, 2018 4 PM to 12 PM

Join other non-formal educators and interpreters as we gather for our annual meeting! We will share strategies and techniques for reaching our diverse audiences through concurrent sessions, field trips, and inspirational speakers. Registration required– see the regional blog for more info at https://naiendregion3.wordpress.com/ or contact Rhana Paris at 252-475-2344
Admission: Registration will cover presentations and some meals– stay tuned for more info!
Event Phone: 252-475-2344
Event Link: https://naiendregion3.wordpress.com/

International Beachcombing Conference (IBC) in NC
www.thebeachcombingconference.com

Join Dr. Beachcomb for another amazing beachcombing experience at the 9th annual International Beachcombing Conference, 2018 (IBC ‘18) coming to North Carolina’s beautiful Crystal Coast. It will be held at the Trinity Retreat and Conference Center at Pine Knoll Shores from March 21 to 25, 2018.

IBC is a collegial, educationally focused gathering, offering consummate and beginning beachcombers with opportunities to learn more about the beachcombing experience, beach treasures, coastal conservation issues and the region in which the conference takes place.

Learning opportunities include field trips to different beaches, museums and aquariums; tutorials led by anthropologists, marine scientists, historians and experienced beachcombers; films; as well as smaller one-on-one discussion groups. Participants will have ample opportunity to expand their coastal know-how because all activities are designed to provide a broader view of specific factors affecting where and how to beachcomb, why certain things appear on certain shorelines, and what tricks to employ to determine the age and/or origin of beach finds. Beach arts and skill-building workshops also are offered, along with beach treasure ID sessions, goodie bags filled with an array of treasures, and a swap table teeming with donated sea glass, shells, pottery shards and much more, which is yours to comb through and pocket as much as you desire.

Most participants develop lifelong friendships and expand their beachcomb networks across the globe. Above all, you will have a BALL! It is like a summer camp for adults but comes without the naps, lousy food and spiders. Treat yourself to an unforgettable experience at IBC ‘18! North Carolina’s Crystal Coast is one of the few remaining undeveloped coastal barrier island systems in the world. It offers beachcombers islands, dune grass, shoals, wild ponies, sea turtles, pirate history, shipwrecks and unparalleled shelling. For beachcombers and nature lovers alike, it doesn’t get much better than this.

Affordable lodging is located both on-site (limited) and at nearby hotels. The conference fee includes a wine and cheese reception; family-style meals and box lunches; tutorials, mini-tutorials and films; three beachcombing expeditions; and unencumbered access to the beach treasure swap table. Arts workshops are extra. So, what are you waiting for? Let’s go beachcombing together! Space is limited, so register early.
Please Congratulate our 2017 MAMEA Award Winners!

Carrie Carlin  
Awards Committee Chair

Each year, we honor selected colleagues for their stellar work in marine education. Based on nominations submitted by their peers, one Classroom Teacher and one Informal Educator are recognized. Additionally, the MAMEA President may acknowledge a highly valued colleague with the President’s Award.

At the 2018 MAMEA Conference in Ocean City, Maryland, out-going President Chris Petrone had the honor of presenting three awards this year during the Annual Business Meeting on November 4.

MAMEA’s 2017 Classroom Educator Award was presented to Jaclyn Miller. Jaclyn began her formal teaching career during the 2016-2017 school year, after receiving her Master’s degree from the School of Education at the College of William and Mary. It was immediately and abundantly clear that she had brought her informal education experiences along for the ride. She has made it her mission to incorporate as many hands-on and field-based activities into her classroom curriculum as possible, making learning active and fun. Most notably, she has exposed her students to live oyster reef inhabitants using oyster habitat cages, and has spent one of her lunch breaks dissecting a dogfish shark so that interested students could come in to observe its internal anatomy. She received the Toano Middle School Teacher of the Year Award in 2016 and went on to win the James City County’s Middle School Teacher of Year Award.

An active and dedicated member of both the MAMEA and NMEA communities since 2012, Jaclyn has provided numerous concurrent session presentations at MAMEA, as well as at NMEA annual conferences. An enthusiastic and vocal advocate for both organizations, Jaclyn encourages new and prospective members to become involved in mini-conferences and other professional development opportunities. She has been spreading the word about MAMEA benefits, like the mini-grants, to her coworkers and educator friends. And, Jaclyn has served on the MAMEA Board as the Virginia State Representative (2014-2016) and as a member of the conference scholarship committee.

Jaclyn is described as “extremely committed to science education... with a special passion for marine ecosystems.” She regularly goes above and beyond her typical job responsibilities. She has taken the initiative to engage with former science colleagues in order to integrate aspects of current marine research and education into many of her classroom lessons. In addition, Jaclyn has taken part in a variety of professional development opportunities, including the Jefferson Lab’s Science Activities for Teachers program and the Virginia Scientists and Educators Alliance at VIMS, gleaning cutting edge resources to use in the classroom.

Spending a significant amount of her childhood at the beach, Jaclyn’s enthusiasm for the ocean started early. This love has matured through a variety of academic and professional pursuits: from her days as a Marine Biology major at UNC Wilmington to her many years of informal education experience. Jaclyn started her career as an educator as an intern at the University of Georgia’s Marine Education Center and Aquarium, then worked at the North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher. Jaclyn went on to a position as a Marine Education Specialist at the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve on the campus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science Campus, where she served for over three years. Then, she set her sights on a teaching credential and making a contribution to science through formal education. Jaclyn’s record and this award show she has succeeded admirably in both environments. Kudos, Jaclyn!
Rachel Riesbeck Clark received MAMEA’s 2017 Informal Educator Award. Rachel has been a powerhouse of creativity and energy in marine education since her arrival at the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in 2008. As School Programs Specialist, she creates hands-on and inquiry activity stations. Students don't just hear about ocean acidification in a power point, they document the loss of calcium carbonate by weighing seashells before and after a soak in vinegar (a weak acid) that decreases their mass. Students place ice on models of land vs. sea surface and measure changing water levels as the ice melts, clarifying how glacial melt contributes to sea level rise. Using marine life clue cards and preserved specimens of their eggs, students learn about life cycles and try to determine the relationships between adults and their early life stages. Students measure fish models and check fishing regulations to determine whether the fish are “keepers,” leading to discussions of sustainable fisheries. This hands-on learning approach extends out to teachers’ classrooms, as well, through the “Suitcase Science” program that Rachel has spearheaded at the Aquarium. Teachers who can't visit the Aquarium, or who want to extend learning in marine science, can borrow these complete lessons kits.

Enthusiastic about expanding her own learning, Rachel participates in workshops and on-line training, and networks with other professionals to expand her knowledge and pedagogy expertise. She also provides opportunities for her education staff to participate in enriching experiences. She arranged an ocean collection trip with another museum department, and after encouraging a colleague to apply for Teacher-At-Sea, accommodated her schedule so she could participate.

Rachel generates rewarding opportunities for local educators. She sponsors workshops on marine topics at the aquarium and partners with local environmental groups. When a local school system ended their support for teacher workshops recently, Rachel stepped up to offer them three highly experiential workshops. Teacher participants left each day enthusiastically planning how they could incorporate their experiences in the classroom. To assure that her school programs are meeting the needs of classroom educators, Rachel has an active Teacher Advisory Panel that meets 5 times a year and she seeks the Panel's input on programming, logistics, and unmet needs.

And, in her role as an active NOAA Climate Steward, Rachel has been making important contributions to awareness about this timely topic, disseminating current information to educators and the public. She has been an active MAMEA member for many years, presenting at both MAMEA and NMEA conferences. She frequently networks with educators from other facilities, sharing ideas and brainstorming better ways to increase public and student interest in marine topics. She adapts best practices to create outstanding learning experiences related to important local and global marine topics. She is always willing to go above and beyond to make quality marine education a reality. Congratulations Rachel!
MAMEA President Christopher Petrone recognized colleague Lisa Tossey with his President’s Award, thanking her for her innovative contributions to MAMEA, especially during his 2016-2017 term.

Lisa has been a member of both MAMEA and NMEA (National Marine Educators Association) since 2012. At conferences of both organizations, she has been presenting engaging, information-rich sessions on social media, digital storytelling, and new technologies—typically to packed rooms. She played a critical role in Petrone’s 2016 MAMEA Conference in Dewey Beach, Delaware, snapping and posting pictures to MAMEA’s Facebook page, broadcasting the plenary sessions through Facebook Live, and providing behind-the-scenes support during the planning and implementation of the conference. She was integral in keeping the conference (and conference chair) running smoothly.

Working with Chris at Delaware Sea Grant, Lisa has helped him take programs and digital learning in marine science to a new level. She filmed and produced numerous award-winning videos about Delaware Sea Grant programs that promoted environmental literacy. She developed the initial concept and then produced over 135 episodes of “15 Second Science,” and got Delaware Sea Grant’s virtual reality (VR) work off the ground. These efforts have put UDEL at the forefront of applying these technologies (short videos and VR) to communications in the marine education world. Chris was both gratified and grateful to be able to honor Lisa with this MAMEA award.

Tossey holds a BS in Science from Salisbury University in Maryland and a MA from the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism. For her Masters, she specialized in multiplatform journalism, with a focus on science communication. She currently serves as a Program Specialist in Salisbury University’s Environmental Studies Department, and is working on her Ed.D. in Education Leadership at the University of Delaware’s College of Education with an expected completion date in Fall 2018.

2017-2018 BOARD OFFICERS

President: Lauren Albright
National Aquarium in Baltimore

Past President: Christopher Petrone
University of Delaware & Delaware Sea Grant

President-Elect: Carrie Carlin
Atlee High School, Hanover County, VA

Secretary: Carol Hopper-Brill
Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Treasurer: Jackie Takacs
University of Maryland & Maryland Sea Grant

2017-2018 STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Delaware: Christopher Petrone (Interim)
University of Delaware & Delaware Sea Grant

District of Columbia: Allie Toomey
PBS Education

Maryland: Evan Beatty
Deer Park Middle Magnet School

North Carolina: Andy Gould
North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher

Virginia: Kristen Sharpe
Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in VA

The MAMEA Board meets twice a year. For more information visit: http://www.mamea.org/board.html

Want to contribute to a future edition of the MASTHEAD? Please email submissions to Celia Cackowski: ccackowski@vims.edu