



ESPecially Noteworthy

An ESP Research Newsletter

Staff Spotlight...

Dr. Jennifer Sklarew



What are you proudest of at the moment?

I think my greatest accomplishment would be my recently published book: [Building Resilient Energy Systems, Lessons from Japan](#). It synthesizes my experience as a policy practitioner in the US and Japanese governments, and also incorporates many years of researching energy policy making in Japan and globally. While it started with my dissertation, the book evolved to incorporate many other topics such as the food-energy-water-climate nexus, the pandemic, and the war in Ukraine. I'm particularly proud of the framework I developed around resilience priorities.

I apply this framework throughout the book to highlight the overlapping and varying resilience priorities of different stakeholder groups. I have already received positive feedback on my book's helpful framing and content, including from Congressional Research Service staff and those attending my book presentations.

What are your goals for the next year?

I plan to apply the framing from my book to unfinished articles on sustainable development goals and the food-energy-water-climate nexus. I also have collaborations with students on a

Interview with Dr. Jennifer Sklarew (continued)

hydropower project and research on rural agricultural communities' challenges related to food, energy, water, and climate, which I hope to resume and expand to other communities.

What advice do you have for ESP students?

Talk to faculty members that you are interested in engaging with. Don't be afraid to approach them. Sometimes faculty don't know that a student is

interested in an opportunity until they tell us explicitly. Also, take advantage of our interdisciplinary department. You may be focused on one subject, but you can still learn about others that may turn into your passion. I have had some students take my energy policy class that afterwards said: now this is what I want to do for my career, but I took the class because I had to or because it looked interesting. They weren't expecting it to become a career changing course for them.

Learn more about Dr. Sklarew 



Research News and Tips

- Did you know that GMU will cover open access costs for certain publishers such as Wiley? See full list of journals [here](#).
- GMU will also cover open access costs from an annual publishing fund, but that appears to run out quickly each year. The application form can be found [here](#).
- Do you have any equipment that requires a service contract? Let your Chair and ACR know so that they can include it in plans to streamline COS service contracts.



If you didn't get your accomplishments in, don't worry, we can feature them next time. Please forward all your accomplishments to [Dr. Glaberman](#) and [Dr. Rockwood](#). Not only grants and publications, but all wins.

Publications, Grants, Presentations, and Awards

- **Dr. Chris Jones** receives Earle C. Williams Presidential Medal for Faculty Excellence in Social Impact. Read more [here](#).
- **Fowler AE**. Invited keynote address. 729th meeting of the Helminthological Society of Washington, DC. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.
- Powers SP, Hightower CL, Hoenig JM, Plumlee JD, **Nelson TR**, Drymon JM. 2023. Novel estimation of gear selectivity using a concurrent mass mortality event: A case study using red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Fisheries Research.
- Demetras NJ, **Nelson TR**, Lehman BM, Michel CJ. 2023. Development of a castable, GPS enabled, Miniaturized Predation Event Recorder (mPER) to quantify predation of juvenile fishes. Fisheries Research.
- **K Akerlof** et al. 2023. What Does Equitable Co-Production Entail? Three Perspectives. Community Science.
- Hawkins C, Foster G, **Glaberman S**. 2023. Chemical prioritization of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in an urban tributary of the Potomac River. Science of the Total Environment.
- Chiari Y, Moreno N, Howard L, Relyea S, Dunnigan J, Boyer M, Kardos M, **Glaberman S**, Luikart G. 2023. Influence of RNA-Seq library construction, sampling methods, and tissue harvesting time on gene expression estimation. Molecular Ecology Resources

For the first time since installation 3 years ago, 5 pairs of migratory purple martins outcompeted the tree swallows and colonized the PSC Condo (C. Smith)





Lauren Hawley (ESP PhD) shows off a corn snake at Laurel Ridge Elementary School



Events, Outreach, and Other Successes

- **Dr. Ling Ren's** work on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in New Jersey along with Pat Gillevet was featured in the [New Jersey Sea Grant Newsletter](#).
- **Bria Bryant** (ESP PhD) and **Dr. Cindy Smith** launched revenue generating outreach programs at PSC. The curriculum was pilot tested with 89 4th graders from Belmont Elementary School. Graduate students Tabitha King and Chelsea Gray, recent graduate Wren Bell, and NVCC student Sky Concannon engaged youth about stream engineering, Potomac River ecosystems, and bird adaptations.
- 28 students employed by PEREC and funded by Fairfax County Public Schools educated 150 7th graders daily on watershed programs at Burke Lake and Accotink Creek through May.
- Congresswoman Abigail Spanberger and GMU President Gregory Washington visited the Potomac Science Center in mid-April and learned about the many projects going on at PEREC. Read more [here](#).
- **Lauren Hawley** (ESP PHD) and others from the Glaberman (ESP) and Chiari (Biology) Labs talked about reptiles during STEAM night at Laurel Ridge Elementary School in Fairfax.



Part of the PEREC Watershed Outreach Team (C. Smith)



PSC Stream Table w/ Tabitha King and Wren Bell (C. Smith)

Graduate Student Accomplishments

- **Doreen Peters** finished in 3rd place and received \$500 in the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT®) competition at the Mason Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference in March.
- **Ziyana Al-Rawahi** successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled "The Sustainability of an Ancestral Water Acquisition System: A Study on Falaj Daris, Nizwa, Oman" (Director, Dr. Paul R. Houser).
- **Lauren Koban**. Successful PhD Dissertation Defense (Director, Dr. Amy Fowler). Also a finalist in the 3MT competition.
- **Sarah Greenberg**. Successful Masters Thesis Defense (Director, Dr. Amy Fowler).
- **Daya Hall-Stratton**. American Malacological Society Melbourne R. Carriker Student Research Award (\$1,500)
- **Daya Hall-Stratton**. Helminthological Society of Washington Bernard Fried Student Research Grant (\$2,800).
- **Hall-Stratton D**. "Distribution and population genetics of recently rediscovered Aspidogastrea trematode and their snail hosts in the Eastern United States." Helminthological Society of Washington Spring 2023 meeting.
- **Cheyenne Hawkins** (ESP MS) published her first ever scientific paper – in Science of the Total Environment.



Doreen Peters takes 3rd place in the GMU 3MT Competition for her presentation on mercury monitoring in the Potomac

