



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, DC

SCOTT A. BASS
PROVOST

July 13, 2009


Dr. Robert H. Gardner, Director
Appalachian Laboratory
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
301 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Dr. Gardner:

Please find attached an application that outlines some of the areas in which American University might contribute as a partner in the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (CWCESU). It is submitted to the University of Maryland's Appalachian Laboratory (UMCES) in accordance with the "Suggestions for Prospective Partners" circulated by CWCESU.

We look forward to admission of American University into the CWCSEU. Please let us know if you need more information in order to facilitate our application.

Sincerely,


Scott A. Bass
Provost

Cc: Dean Peter T. Starr, College of Arts and Sciences
Dean Kay Mussell, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Academic Affairs
Professor Victoria Connaughton, Department of Biology
Professor Robert Griffith, Department of History
Professor Kiho Kim, Department of Environmental Studies
Professor William Leap, Department of Anthropology

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

4400 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20016-8061 202-885-2127 FAX: 202-885-2195



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

W A S H I N G T O N , D C

A Proposal for Inclusion of American University in the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (July 13, 2009)

What follows outlines the areas in which American University might contribute as a partner in the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit (CWCESU). It is submitted to the University of Maryland's Appalachian Laboratory (UMCES) in accordance with the "Suggestions for Prospective Partners" circulated by CWCESU.

Chartered by Congress in 1893, American University is a private doctoral institution situated in a residential neighborhood of northwest Washington, D.C. Our total fall 2008 enrollment was 12,186, with 6,023 degree-seeking undergraduates, 3,297 degree-seeking graduate students, 1,667 law students, and 1,199 students in non-degree certificate programs, Washington Semester, or AU Abroad. The University offers 57 bachelor's degrees, 51 master's degrees (not including law), 9 doctoral degrees, and 3 law degrees, as well as more than 60 certificate programs, mostly graduate level. The university's mission is carried out by 591 full-time teaching and research faculty, 69 full-time administrative and library faculty, and 1,337 full-time staff. Ninety-four percent of full-time faculty hold the highest degree in their field. Among our 500 adjunct faculty are policy makers, diplomats, journalists, artists, writers, scientists, and business leaders.

American University's 89-acre campus consists of the main campus at 4400 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.; the Tenley satellite campus at 4300 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., home to the Washington Semester Program; and Washington College of Law at 4801 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. We have 51 buildings, including 10 residence halls (housing approximately 3,500 students), and 41 academic and administrative buildings. The Cyrus and Myrtle Katzen Arts Center opened in fall 2005. AU has several administrative buildings located near the university: 4000 Brandywine Street, N.W.; 3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.; and 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. American University has several LEEDS certified buildings and is a designated arboretum and public garden. For more details about the University, visit our homepage at: <http://www.american.edu/>.

While many of the University's departments and programs have potential interests in participating in the CW-CSEU, we would like to highlight four in particular: the Department of History, the Department of Environmental Science, the Department of Anthropology, and the Department of Biology.

The Department of History

The Department of History (<http://www.american.edu/cas/history/>) has 19 tenured and tenure-line faculty serving approximate 185 undergraduate and 96 graduate majors. More than 30 of its graduate majors participate in the Department's rapidly growing Public History Program (<http://www.american.edu/cas/history/public/MA.cfm>). Public History can be characterized as the many ways in which history is made and practiced in public forums and includes work in museums, historic preservation and cultural resource management, libraries

and archives, and digital and documentary media. It is an interdisciplinary field, with connections to archeology, arts management, public policy, and media production, among others. Moreover, many members of our faculty are public historians whose work blurs the lines between the academy and the public. Among faculty who would be expected to take advantage of the CWCSEU are the following:

Professor Alan Kraut (<http://www.american.edu/cas/faculty/akraut.cfm>) is a widely published historian of U.S. immigration and ethnic history, the history of medicine in the United States, and the American Civil War. Dr. Kraut chairs the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island History Advisory Committee and is a consultant to the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. The Department of History is currently in the process of negotiating a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation.

Professor Kathy Franz (<http://www.american.edu/cas/faculty/franz.cfm>), who directs the Department's Public History program, holds degrees in museum studies and American Civilization from Brown University and specializes in 20th Century US cultural history with a focus on popular culture and the history of technology. She is also an active curator and public historian who works regularly with local and national cultural institutions. She had directed the work of students at numerous sites, including Arlington Cemetery and the Lincoln Cottage, both NPS sites.

Dr. LuAnn Jones is Public Historian in Residence in the Department of History. Dr. Jones has an extensive list of publications, including a major book on farm women in the New South and a co-authored study, *Like a Family: the Making of a Southern Cotton Mill World* which won three major historical awards. An oral historian, she has undertaken important projects for the Southern Oral History program, the National Museum of American History and other organizations. She currently holds the position of Historian in the office of the Chief Historian of the National Park Service.

Professor David Thelen, who will be the Department's Distinguished Public Historian in Residence during the Spring 2010 semester is the former editor of the *Journal of American History* and one of the most distinguished members of the historical profession, Professor Thelen will work with American University faculty and graduate students and with David L. Larsen of the National Park Service to better understand how people experience the National Parks.

The Department of Environmental Science

The Department of Environmental Science (<http://www.american.edu/cas/environmental/>) offers a BS and BA degrees in Environmental Studies and an MS in Environmental Science, as well as a Certificate in Environmental Assessment. The Department's program trains students to become effective advocates for the environment. The curriculum consists of rigorous science- and policy-based courses and experiential learning that prepare our students for exciting careers in the environmental field. The program offers undergraduate (BA/BS) and graduate (MS) degrees and a certificate (CERT) in environmental assessment. The Chesapeake watershed itself is the focus of research for several of the Department's faculty:

Dr. Karen Bushaw- Newton (<http://www.american.edu/profiles/faculty/bushaw.cfm>) is a microbial ecologist interested in the restoration of degraded aquatic systems. Her current projects are focused on understanding the microbial dynamics of aquatic ecosystems of the Chesapeake Bay.

Dr. David Culver (<http://www.american.edu/profiles/faculty/dculver.cfm>) is a conservation biologist who has studied many aspects of the biology of subterranean animals, especially cave animals. His field sites range from seeps in the George Washington Memorial Parkway to the caves of Slovenia.

Dr. Stephen E. MacAvoy (<http://www.american.edu/profiles/faculty/macavoy.cfm>) is a biogeochemist who works in areas where marine and freshwater systems interface such as tidal aquatic environments. His work examines the origin and fate of organic material in the Anacostia River, Washington DC.

The Department of Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology (<http://www.american.edu/cas/anthropology/>) trains students to become advocates for human beings and the environment. We were the second anthropology department in the USA to offer an MA in Applied Anthropology. Our new BA- and MA- related initiatives in Public Anthropology, our support for critical studies in archaeology, and our Anthropology/Sociology joint PhD track in Race, Gender and Social Justice prepares students to address issues of public policy, community struggle and other locally defined concerns in their academic projects, and for employment in activist domains outside of academia. Currently, there are several faculty members conducting research that might touch on issues surrounding the Chesapeake watershed:

Professor Brett Williams (<http://american.edu/cas/faculty/bwillia.cfm>) has written on gentrification, displacement, and homelessness; urban renewal and public housing; race and poverty; environmental justice in the Anacostia Watershed; urban nature; illness and inequality; the culture of and credit and debt. She and her students have undertaken projects for the National Park Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Smithsonian Institution's Festival of American Folklife.

Professor Richard Dent (<http://american.edu/cas/faculty/potomac.cfm>) is an archeologist with strong interests in the prehistory of the Chesapeake and Middle Atlantic regions. He maintains interests in both prehistoric and historic archaeology. His active program of field investigations in the Potomac Valley currently focuses on the origins of settled village life and the incorporation of horticulture into subsistence bases after AD 1200. He is deeply committed to cultural resources management, as both preservation and as dissemination of archaeological knowledge to the general public.

Professor Daniel Sayers (<http://american.edu/cas/faculty/sayers.cfm>) is an archeologist whose current research focuses on the defiant communities of maroons, Native Americans, and Enslaved Laborers that formed in the pre-Civil War Great Dismal Swamp (VA and NC). He has also examined the Underground Railroad and its contemporary meanings, and, studied the transition to capitalism at the 19th century Shepard farmstead in Michigan.

The Department of Biology

The Department of Biology (<http://www.american.edu/cas/biology/>) provides courses in the life sciences, emphasizing advances in molecular genetics, embryology, development and evolutionary biology. Faculty members conduct research in developmental biology, evolutionary biology, neurobiology, microbiology, ecology, oceanography, immunology, and molecular biology. The Department provides students with a solid foundation in the biological sciences through coursework and independent research projects, offering undergraduate degrees, BS in Biology and BS in Marine Science, and two graduate degrees, MS Biology and MA Biology, as well as a minor in Biology. Students are encouraged to participate in research projects at all levels, both on- and off-campus.

Biology faculty are active scholars with expertise in a variety of disciplines, including cell biology, genetics, molecular biology, physiology, neurobiology, ecology, evolution, conservation biology, developmental biology, and immunology. Faculty who could potentially participate in the program are

Professor Victoria Connaughton (<http://www.american.edu/cas/faculty/vconn.cfm>) is a retinal physiologist with a background in larval ecology. Students in her lab perform experiments looking at factors affecting growth and development during the larval stage in zebra fish, particularly in response to external factors (such as personal care products and pharmaceuticals). Such projects could be applicable to studies of external factors effecting the survival of larval fish indigenous to the Bay.

Professor Daniel Fong (<http://www.american.edu/cas/faculty/dfong.cfm>). Professor Fong's research focuses on ecology and evolution of groundwater organisms. His work is based primarily in the District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia.

Professor Catherine Schaeff (<http://www.american.edu/cas/faculty/schaeff.cfm>). Professor Schaeff's research interests are in marine mammal conservation/conservation biology. She utilizes a variety of methodologies including behavioral analyses, molecular ecology and assessment of developmental stability (via fluctuating asymmetry) to examine the relative health of populations.

Professor Christopher Tudge (<http://www.american.edu/cas/faculty/ctudge.cfm>). Professor Tudge's research primarily focuses on the reproductive biology of decapod crabs. His crustacean and invertebrate research could be applied to ecological monitoring projects carried out in the Bay.

For additional information or questions, please contact Professor Robert Griffith, Department of History, American University, at 202-885-2419 (bgriff@american.edu).