



**MARYMOUNT**  
UNIVERSITY

1/21/2022

Matt Fitzpatrick  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
Appalachian Laboratory  
301 Braddock Road  
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick,

Attached, please find an enclosed membership application package from Marymount University being submitted in response to the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (CHWA-CESU). Marymount University is a private comprehensive Catholic university located in Arlington, VA, just outside Washington, DC and was founded in 1950 by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary (RSHM). Marymount University welcomes people of all backgrounds and faiths and provides an educational environment that promotes dialogue, understanding, and service, as well as intellectual and personal development. The university offers its nearly 4,000 students a wide array of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees through its Colleges of Business, Innovation, Leadership, and Technology, Health and Education, and Sciences and Humanities.

Our Mission

Marymount is a comprehensive Catholic university, guided by the traditions of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, that emphasizes intellectual curiosity, service to others, and a global perspective. A Marymount education is grounded in the liberal arts, promotes career preparation, and provides opportunities for personal and professional growth. A student-centered learning community that values diversity and focuses on the education of the whole person, Marymount guides the intellectual, ethical, and spiritual development of each individual.

Our Vision

Marymount, a leading Catholic university, will be nationally recognized for innovation and commitment to student success, alumni achievement, and faculty and staff excellence.

The primary focus of collaborative activities to be supported through the CHWA are history with a focus in historic preservation, behavioral and social sciences with focus areas in cultural heritage and preservation studies, and natural sciences with focus areas in marine biology, ecology, and urban gardening which are aligned with the mission of CHWA-CESU Network.

If our university is accepted into the CHWA-CESU Network, we agree to abide by the following:

- Acceptance of a limited overhead rate of 17.5% and cost items to which the rate is applicable for activities conducted through the CHWA-CESU, including research, technical assistance, and educational service.
- We agree to abide by the CHWA-CESU agreement and to support the CHWA-CESU mission and goals and fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a nonfederal partner, as described in the CESU agreement Joint Venture Agreement.



2807 North Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22207 | (703) 908-7644 | Fax (703) 284-1509

[www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu)

- We agree to commit institutional resources in a binding multi-year federal cooperative and joint venture agreement.
- We agree to participate in the CHWA-CESU annual/semi-annual partner meetings, and facilitation of internal and external communication, promotion, and response to CHWA-CESU correspondence and administrative actions.
- We agree to relay agency-specific research, technical assistance, and educational needs and associated funding opportunities to other institutional/organizational members (e.g., faculty, students).

We look forward to working with and strengthening new and existing collaborations within the CHWA-CESU Network.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rita Wong".

Rita Wong EdD, PT, FAPTA  
Associate Vice-President of Research  
Marymount University

## **Primary Programs & Departments that likely will be Engaged in CHWA CESU Activities**

### **School of Humanities**

#### **History (Major and Minor)**

Marymount offers an option to pursue teaching licensure for History and Social Science. It offers the opportunity to minor in Public History, study abroad, and participate in internships and research in areas of special interest. The requirements of the major and minor are deliberately flexible to accommodate a variety of options within the discipline and with other fields of study. Marymount History students learn beyond the classroom through hands-on experiences and research with supportive faculty. History is the story of past human events and the study of social, cultural, or intellectual continuity and change over time. Resources for the study of history in the Washington area are extraordinary, and many students find opportunities to witness firsthand history-making events in this capital city. Emphasis on the development of critical thinking, research, and writing skills – plus the internship – make Marymount History majors highly employable.

#### **Public History (Minor)**

The Public History minor is an innovative, interdisciplinary track providing the kinds of skills and information associated with careers in museums, historical societies, national parks, corporate archives, and heritage tourism industries. Capitalizing upon Marymount's proximity to some of the nation's premier cultural and historical institutions, it combines hands-on experience with traditional coursework.

### **School of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

#### **Sociology (Major and Minor)**

The applied sociology program focuses on addressing inequality and achieving justice in a world of diversity and difference. The following programs are offered at Marymount University: Interior Design (BA and MA), with historic preservation coursework, Historic Preservation (minor) and a Graduate Certificate in Cultural Heritage and Preservation Studies now in development.

### **School of Natural Sciences and Math**

#### **Biology (Undergraduate Major and Minor)**

Marymount University provides a broad introduction to the biological world and prepares students for careers in Biology. Students work closely with faculty on a range of ongoing biology research projects including studying marine biology and ecology of the endangered Hawksbill Turtle in Belize; and examining ways to establish irrigation systems and maximize land use for local urban gardens as a county effort for "Plot against Hunger".

#### **Important Links**

<https://marymount.edu/academics/college-of-sciences-and-humanities/school-of-humanities/undergraduate-programs/>

<https://marymount.edu/academics/college-of-sciences-and-humanities/school-of-natural-sciences-and-mathematics/>

#### **Description of Faculty with Expertise and Relevant Disciplines**

**Dr. Mark Benbow** joined Marymount University's faculty in 2007, first serving as an adjunct, then as an assistant professor, and earning tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2018. From 1987 to 2002, Dr. Benbow worked on national security issues for the federal government. From



2003 to 2006, he was the historian at the Woodrow Wilson House Museum in Washington, DC. He also serves as Museum Director for the Arlington Historical Society and manages the Arlington Historical Museum (The Hume School). He earned his BA in history from Hanover College in Indiana in 1981 and his MA in history from Wright State University in 1983. From 1983-1987 he studied for his doctorate in American History at Ohio University under Alonzo Hamby. From 1987 until 1999 he worked towards completing his degree, finally finishing in 1999. He has published peer-reviewed articles in multiple journals including Journalism History, Studies in Intelligence, The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, and Brewery History. He has also published multiple essays and book chapters including two articles for the German Historical Institute's online Immigrant Entrepreneurship project and has also delivered numerous papers on multiple topics relating to Woodrow Wilson's administration and on Washington history and the brewing industry at meetings of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, and the Popular Culture Association. <https://marymount.edu/staff-members/mark-benbow/>

**Dr. Cassandra Good** joined the faculty at Marymount in Fall 2017. Prior to that, she served as associate editor of the Papers of James Monroe at the University of Mary Washington. There she did research, writing, and editing, as well as teaching a material culture-centered course titled The World of James Monroe. Professor Good was trained in a multidisciplinary approach to history, integrating literature, art, material culture, gender studies, and anthropology. Her bachelor's and master's degrees in American Studies included courses ranging from religion to archaeology. She interned and later worked full time at the Smithsonian Institution in new media as part of a team that started one of the Smithsonian's first blogs and its first podcast series at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She later worked in research and scholarly programs at the Freer and Sackler Galleries. Professor Good teaches the history of early America from contact to 1877. Her upper level courses include Colonial and Revolutionary America, The Early Republic and Jacksonian America, Virginia and the Old South, and The United States: Civil War and Reconstruction. She integrates material culture and public history into many of her courses. Professor Good is a scholar of gender and culture in the early American founding era. She presents regularly at scholarly conferences and to public audiences. Her work has also appeared in academic journals and popular websites including Slate, Smithsonian.com, and the History News Network. Professor Good's first book, *Founding Friendships: Friendships Between Men and Women in the Early American Republic*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2015. It received the Mary Jurich Nickliss Prize for the year's best gender or women's history book from the Organization of American Historians in 2016. Good's current research focuses on George Washington's family and the ways succeeding generations grappled with their political role in the new nation. <https://marymount.edu/staff-members/cassandra-good/>

**Dr. Todd Rimkus** is the faculty advisor for the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society and the Belize Service Club. He also works closely with local elementary through high schools in an outreach program designed to generate further interest in the sciences. He has a program that allows freshwater turtles to be maintained in classrooms in Virginia, DC, and Maryland whereby the students and teachers contribute to the research by taking the growth measurements of their animals and uploading them to the central database back at Marymount University. In addition to these animals being housed in the schools, Dr. Todd Rimkus often visits the schools with his reptilian entourage. Children getting the opportunity to interact with these animals up close might just turn a few into future research scientists. Dr. Todd Rimkus has made a commitment to the small community of Gales Point Belize. In 2009, Dr. Todd Rimkus along with a group of Marymount Study Abroad Students founded the charity Hawksbill Hope. Hawksbill Hope accepts donations to further the turtle research in Belize and has expanded to fund projects in the

community and even more recently to ensure that children in Gales Point Belize have the opportunity to have their high school tuition covered as they become Hawksbill Hope Scholars. Dr. Todd Rimkus was honored by the class of 2017 with the Robert A. Draghi Outstanding Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. His goal in teaching is to engage and bring the subject to life for his students. Dr. Todd Rimkus was trained as a physiologist so he always wants his students to inquire about how the systems accomplish their amazing feats. Finally, Dr. Todd Rimkus has been teaching a hands-on course in Belize each summer since 2007. In 2011, the group started satellite tagging sea turtles. The interaction with a sea turtle and getting an up-close look at these fascinating creatures is an experience of a lifetime. <https://marymount.edu/staff-members/todd-rimkus/>

**Janine DeWitt** is a Professor of Sociology at Marymount University with research interests in place-based teaching and learning, globally networked classrooms, and visual sociology. Thriving in a global community requires we have an understanding of how to work with people who come from many different types of backgrounds. In this context, Dr. DeWitt's scholarship and teaching focus on how experiential learning can engage and empower all students. She is interested in understanding strategies that lead to a shared understanding and facilitate collaboration. She has presented at international conferences on the effective design of globally networked learning as well as intercultural teaching and learning. She is co-authoring the book titled Navigating Place-based Learning: Mapping for a Better World. Her previous research focused on ways to infuse ethics across the curriculum. She is actively engaged in place-based research focused on the history of racial covenants in Arlington, Va. <https://marymount.edu/staff-members/janine-dewitt/>

**Elizabeth Langran** is a Professor of Education at Marymount University with research interests in Geospatial Technology, Global Citizenship, Place-based learning, and Mobile Learning, digital equity. Elizabeth Langran, Ph.D., taught secondary and post-secondary students in the United States, Morocco (as a Peace Corps volunteer), and Switzerland before pursuing her Ph.D. in Instructional Technology at the University of Virginia. Since 2003 she has been educating and mentoring pre- and in-service teachers. Collaborative projects tapping her educational technology work have taken her to many international locations, including Nicaragua, India, Central Asia, Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Bermuda, China, and most recently, Uganda, as part of Marymount's partnership with Uganda REACH (formerly the Arlington Academy of Hope). Elizabeth is currently serving a 3-year term as the President of the Society for Information Technology & Teacher Education. Elizabeth loves to travel; you can follow her on Twitter @elangran (link: <https://twitter.com/elangran>). <https://marymount.edu/staff-members/elizabeth-langran/>

**Susan Brand Agolini** is the Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professor of Biology at Marymount University, in Arlington, VA. Dr. Agolini received her B.S. in Biology from the College of William and Mary and her Ph.D. in Cell Biology from the University of Virginia, where she focused on molecular regulators of intracellular protein transport. Following post-doctoral research fellowships at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Research Institute and The University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Agolini joined the faculty at Marymount University. Since coming to Marymount, Dr. Agolini has enjoyed combining her interest in sustainable urban agriculture with her commitment to inclusive teaching and community engagement by introducing her students to service and research in a campus charitable vegetable garden. With her students, the Marymount Food for Thought club, and her many urban gardening enthusiast friends throughout Arlington County, Dr. Agolini feels lucky to be a part of the burgeoning grassroots movement determined to address food insecurity through growing and equitably distributing fresh, local produce to the community.

## **Student Demographics and Minority-Serving Institution Status**

### **Enrollment (2020-2021)**

Total enrollment: 3,897

Total undergraduate students: 2,350

Total graduate students: 1,547

### **Gender Distribution**

<b><u>Undergraduate Students</u></b>	<b><u>Graduate Students</u></b>
Female: 56%	Female: 70%
Male: 43%	Male: 30%

### **Race and Ethnicity (Fall 2021)**

Marymount's diversity is one of its greatest strengths, inspiring intellectual curiosity, ideas, and perspectives that challenge students, faculty, and staff to find innovative, creative, and inclusive solutions to societal issues. Marymount's students hail from 78 countries and 45 U.S. states and territories, and the university is tied in USNWR for #1 for Campus Ethnic Diversity and #2 in Most International Students among regional universities in the South. Marymount is currently recognized as Virginia's only four-year emerging Hispanic-serving institution.

<b><u>Undergraduate Students</u></b>	<b><u>Graduate Students</u></b>
Hispanic: 32%	White: 47%
White: 30%	Black/African American: 19%
Black/African American: 14%	Hispanic: 11.0%
Nonresident Alien (International): 12%	Nonresident Alien (International): 8%
Asian: 6%	Asian: 6%
Two or More Races: 5%	Unknown: 5%
Unknown: 2%	Two or more races: 3%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%	American Indian/Alaska Native: 0%
American Indian/Alaska Native: 0%	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0%

### **Minority-Serving Institution Status**

Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)

### **Important Links**

<https://marymount.edu/about-mu/marymount-at-a-glance/>

### **Description of Facilities and Equipment to Support Research**

#### **Center for Global Engagement**

The mission of the Global Learning Office is to serve the Marymount University community by providing inclusive and accessible academically-based programming to cultivate the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to be active, informed, and culturally sensitive citizens who are empowered to promote social justice in both a local and global context.

The Belize Biology Summer Program is an intensive two-week program that provides students with hands-on experience in reef, estuarine, mangrove, freshwater, and replanted jungle ecosystems, as well as opportunities to observe a complex manatee refuge, a tropical beach, and ecological relationships. Students will explore coral reefs while snorkeling, visit mangrove swamps and nurseries, hike Mayan ruins, observe Hawksbill Sea turtles being satellite tagged



2807 North Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22207 | (703) 908-7644 | Fax (703) 284-1509

[www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu)

and laying eggs (if possible), and engage in cultural activities all the while staying at a manatee preserve. <https://marymount-travel.terradotta.com/>

### **Biology and Biochemistry Facilities**

Caruthers Hall, which houses the School of Natural Sciences and Math (SNSM), is equipped with the teaching labs for General Biology, General Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, Cellular Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Physics, Environmental Biology, and Anatomy and Physiology. There are six designated or shared prep spaces available for experimental set-up and housing of shared supplies and/or equipment. There is a computer lab/conference space available to STEM students in Caruthers as well as 5 faculty research spaces, a chemical equipment room, and chemical storage room.

### **Description of Formal Agreements and Informal Relationships with Federal Agencies**

**Dr. Agolini** is the recipient of the 2021 E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Award. The Fellowship Program is an important platform for partnership between USDA and Hispanic-Serving Institutions to build awareness of USDA services, resources, and employment opportunities within the Department and the agricultural sector in general. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/06/17/usda-selects-2021-class-e-kika-de-la-garza-fellows>

### **Technical and Administrative Contact Information**

#### **Technical Contact:**

#### **Janine K. Burgess, MPA**

Director, Office of Sponsored Programs

Email: [jburgess@marymount.edu](mailto:jburgess@marymount.edu)

Phone: (703) 908-7644

Fax: (703)-284-1553

Mailing address:

2807 N Glebe Rd

Arlington, VA 22207

Office location:

Room 2003 Chapel Hill, Main House

(Main Campus)

#### **Administrative Contact:**

#### **Rita Wong EdD, PT, FAPTA**

Associate Vice-President of Research

Marymount University

Email: [rwong@marymount.edu](mailto:rwong@marymount.edu)

Phone: (703)-284-5982

Fax: (703)-284-1553

Mailing address:

2807 N Glebe Rd

Arlington, VA 22207

Office location:

Room 2011 Chapel Hill, Main House

(Main Campus)



2807 North Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22207 | (703) 908-7644 | Fax (703) 284-1509

[www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu)

**Letter of Support from CHWA-CESU Federal Partner**  
See attached letter

Learn  
with purpose

2807 North Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22207 | (703) 908-7644 | Fax (703) 284-1509

[www.marymount.edu](http://www.marymount.edu)



1/21/2022

Matt Fitzpatrick  
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science  
Appalachian Laboratory  
301 Braddock Road  
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick,

I am writing in support of the application by Marymount University to participate in the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CW-CESU) network. Marymount University is currently being supported by an Administration of Community Living (ACL) federal financial assistance award, 90FPSG0012-01-00, with a start date of July 1, 2018 and ending June 30, 2022. The cooperative agreement has a total budget of \$542,554.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

*Donna S. Bethge*

Aging Program Specialist  
Administration on Aging | Administration for Community Living  
Department of Health and Human Services  
[Donna.Bethge@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:Donna.Bethge@acl.hhs.gov)  
202-795-7659