TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT SPECIAL SESSIONS FOR BALTIMORE

March, 2027 may seem like a distant time, but it will be here before you know it. The time is now to begin planning special sessions for the 119th Annual Meeting in Baltimore. Special sessions are a great opportunity to provide a focused discussion of a topic, to share ideas, and to foster future collaborations. Many fields of research involve different interest groups and organizations and this is a chance to bring new people and new ideas to the NSA. Planning a special session means recruiting participants to fill the program, it does not mean waiting to see what abstracts are submitted and putting them in some order for presentation. This is a great way to help guarantee a strong meeting program and to spend a session with like-minded people discussing your favorite topic!

If you are willing to organize a session, or if you just have an idea for a session topic, send them along to Sandy Shumway. A general call will be sent out in the near future.

Johns Hopkins University Press and BioOne Announce Landmark Non-profit Integration

BioOne is integrating with Johns Hopkins University Press, effective September 1, 2026, in a bold move designed to enhance community impact, expand future opportunities, and transform how they engage with researchers.

BioOne's flagship aggregation of bioscience research journals, BioOne Complete, as well as their eBook collections, will continue as discrete and independent products within Hopkins Press. The union promises significant operating efficiencies and combined scale with Hopkins Press's Project MUSE, the widely used collection of journals and books in the humanities and social sciences. Both organizations were early adopters of the equitable open access model, Subscribe to Open.

This powerful union is designed to allow both organizations to maximize their missions and enhance their impact in exciting new ways. For BioOne publishers, this move provides increased financial security (including the safeguarding of your royalties over the long-term) as well as the potential for new strategic services and growth opportunities that would be prohibitive for BioOne alone.

2026 NSA Student Research Awards

The Association has a number of competitive grants for students that provide $1250 in support student research projects as well as for the 'Outstanding Student Paper' published in the *JSR*.

The **Melbourne R. Carriker Award** for student research in shellfisheries was awarded to two students this year. Congratulations to Flavie Perron of Dalhousie University for her proposal "Ecophysiological responses of triploid blue mussels (*Mytilus edulis*) exposed to heat stress" and to Paul Coyne of Rutgers University for his proposal "Using genomic tools to enhance New Jersey bivalve aquaculture".

The **Michael Castagna Award** for student research devoted to applied shellfish studies shellfisheries was awarded to Anne Gilewski of the University of Connecticut for her proposal "Tire wear particles in Connecticut estuaries and their interactions with bivalve shellfish."

The **Sandra E. Shumway Award for Outstanding Student Paper** published in the *Journal of Shellfish Research* has specific selection and evaluation criteria: (1) The lead author must have been a student when the work was completed, (2) the paper must present the student's work, not that of a co-author, (3) it is evaluated on the quality of science and writing, and the importance of the work to the field of shellfish research. A panel of judges evaluated 12 papers, and two individuals received almost identical scores and it was decided to present awards to two students. Congratulations to Jessica Pruett of the University of Southern Mississippi for her paper:

Pruett, J.L., Otts, S.S., Willett, K.L., Fairbanks, L., Darnell, K.M., and Gochfeld, D.J. 2024. A past, present, and future outlook on the Mississippi oyster fishery. *Journal of Shellfish Research*, 43(1): 1-13. doi.org/10.2983/035.043.0101. Jessica was a 2025 BioOne Ambassador.

Congratulations to Maritza Garcia-Flores of the Instituto Politecnico Nacional, Mexico for her paper:

Garcia-Flores, M., Aguilar-Cruz, C.A., Rodriguez-Jaramillo, C., Morelos-Castro, R.M., Hernandez-Cristobal, O., and Arellano-Martinez, M. 2024. Histological and morphological characterization of the development of the Kolliker's organs of green octopus, *Octopus hubbsorum*. *Journal of Shellfish Research,* 43(2): 281 - 289; doi.org/10.2983/035.043.0215. An extra congratulations to Maritza who received the award previously in 2023.

Thank you, again, to all the students for submitting their proposals and the reviewers for evaluating each of these proposals and student papers so thoughtfully.

Application deadline is November 1, 2026. Start planning now! Details are available at www.shellfish.org.

Aswani Volety
Past-President