

# PIERS 2024

## 26TH ANNUAL PENN STATE INTERDISCIPLINARY ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

formerly the Environmental Chemistry and Microbiology Student Symposium (ECMSS)



FRI. AND SAT.  
5-6 APRIL, 2024



STEIDLE BUILDING  
UNIVERSITY PARK  
PA 16802

### Friday Workshop: "Effective Science Communication"

### Saturday Keynote Speakers:

#### Dr. Qian Zhang

Associate Research Scientist

University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science

**Talk:** *Progress in reducing nutrient loads to Chesapeake Bay: A synthesis of three decades of monitoring data and research*



#### Dr. Elizabeth Minor

Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

University of Minnesota Duluth, Large Lakes Observatory

**Talk:** *Anthropogenic impacts in large-lake carbon cycling*



### April 5th – Friday

5:00 – 5:25 PM	Conference Check-in (Steidle Building Atrium)
5:25 – 5:30 PM	Opening Remarks (Steidle Room 116)
5:30 – 6:15 PM	Effective Science Communications Workshop - Dr. Hadjimichael
6:15 – 7:00 PM	Effective Science Communications Workshop - Dr. Brennan
7:00 – 8:00 PM	Poster Session I & Appetizers

### April 6th – Saturday

8:00 - 8:50 AM	Conference Check-in and Breakfast (Steidle Building Atrium)
8:50 - 9:00 AM	Opening Remarks (Steidle 114)
9:00 - 10:00 AM	Keynote – Dr. Qian Zhang Progress in reducing nutrient loads to Chesapeake Bay: A synthesis of three decades of monitoring data and research
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Student Oral Presentations Direct measurement of pH of model continental aerosol particles using carbon quantum dots - Komal Jaswal Elucidating the effect of amino acids on the phase separation properties of atmospheric aerosol – Kiran R. Pitta Microplastics as ice nucleating particles in the atmosphere – Heidi L. Busse
11:00 – 11:10 AM	Break
11:10 AM - 12:30 PM	Poster Session II
12:30 - 1:30 PM	Lunch Break
1:30 – 2:30 PM	Student Oral Presentations Thermal Comfort Evaluation during Demand Response using Computational Fluid Dynamics Simulations – Hyeonjun Lee Climate Impacts on Afroalpine Vegetation in the Rwenzori Mountains – Caleb Norville Life cycle assessment of pelletized duckweed soil amendment derived from farm manure wastewater- Divya Pant
2:30 – 2:40 PM	Break
2:40 – 3:40 PM	Student Oral Presentations Correlation between yield and enzyme production in <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> on minimally supplemented wood-based substrates – Swathi Kothattil Isolating Putative Polyphosphate-Accumulating Organisms (PAOs) from Natural and Engineered Environments – Patrick J. Hoover <i>Haddadus binotatus</i> and its Protection Crew: How the Bacteriome Could Hold the Key to this Neotropical Frog Resistance Against the Frog-Eating Fungus – Laura K. Schuck
3:40 – 3:50 PM	Tea/Coffee Break
4:00 – 5:00 PM	Keynote – Dr. Elizabeth Minor Anthropogenic impacts in large-lake carbon cycling
5:00 – 5:30 PM	Closing remarks and prize ceremony



Department of Geosciences



Department of Chemistry

