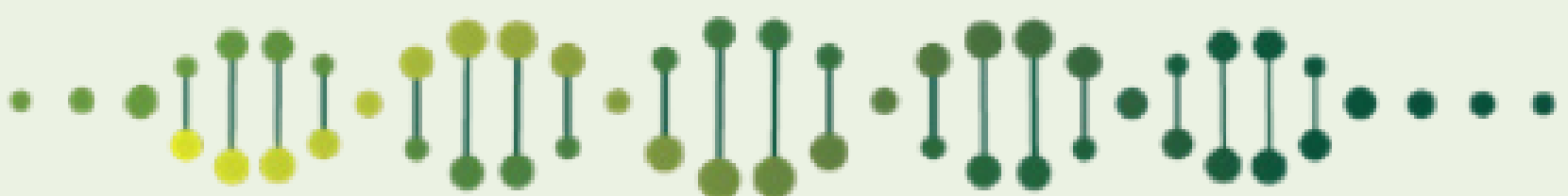




THE YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

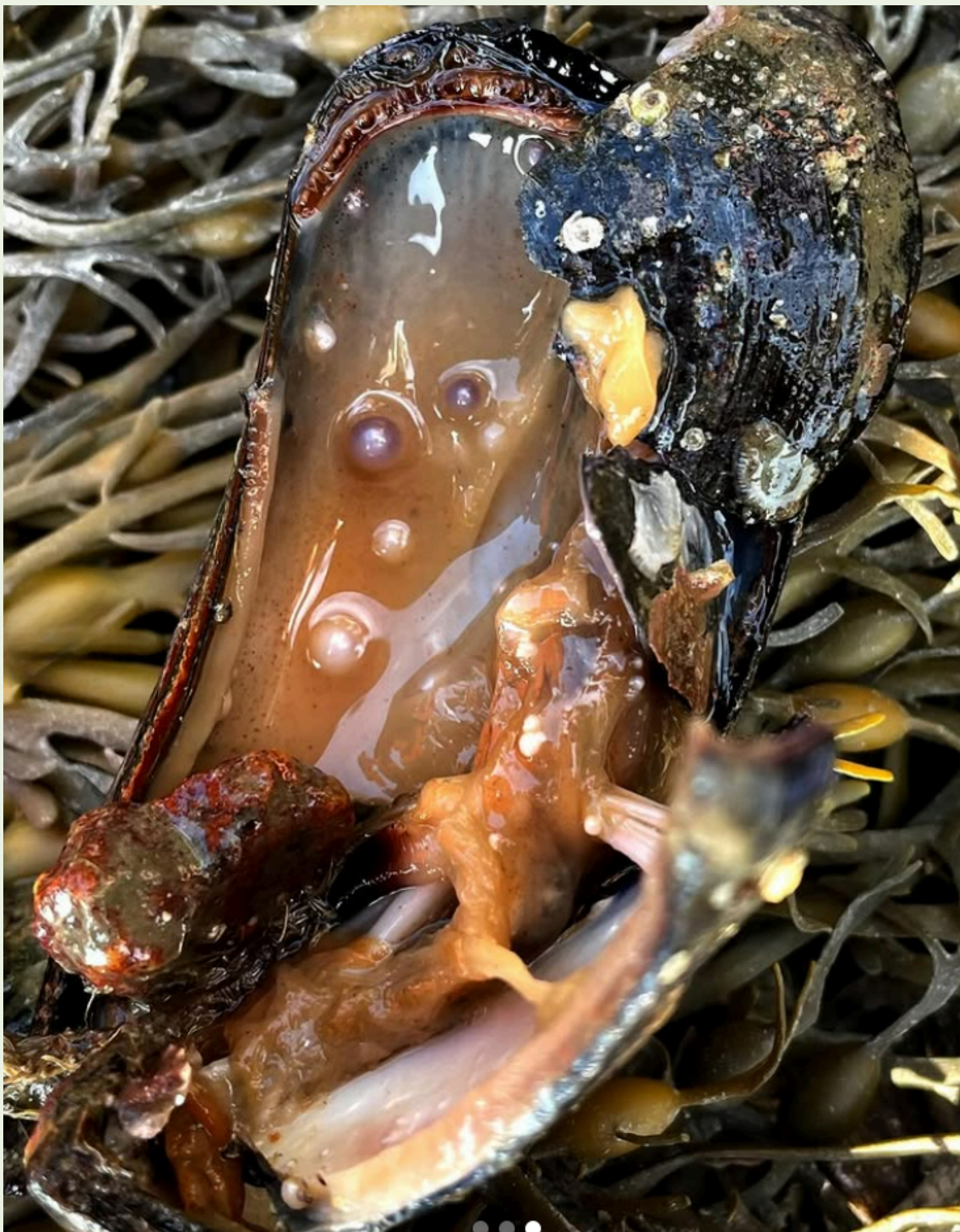


*Biology Department
at
William & Mary*



WELCOME TO THE BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT WILLIAM & MARY

Join us as we celebrate the “Year of the Environment,” highlighting our dedication to studying and protecting nature. Our faculty lead research from Virginia’s wetlands to ecosystems worldwide, helping us understand how life interacts with the environment. Whether you’re a student, scientist, or just curious, explore how our work is shaping a better future for our planet.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS: GREEN RESEARCH IN EVERY DISCIPLINE

Our department is proud to champion sustainability and environmental stewardship across all areas of biology. Meet some of the faculty leading the way:

- **Ecology & Evolution:**

Dr. Dan Cristol focuses on the effects of environmental contaminants—like mercury—on birds and other wildlife. His research has helped reveal how pollution moves through ecosystems and what it means for both animal and human health.

- **Plant Biology:**

Dr. Martha Case explores rare and endangered orchids, combining conservation genetics with fieldwork to protect Virginia's native plant species.

- **Marine Biology:**

Dr. Jon Allen studies the impacts of climate change on marine invertebrates, including how warming waters affect local ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay.

- **Cell & Molecular Biology:**

Dr. Diane Shakes researches the molecular and cellular biology of nematodes, uncovering how they develop and reproduce to help improve sustainable farming and eco-friendly pest control.

- **Microbiology:**

Dr. Mark Forsyth examines soil microbes and their crucial role in nutrient cycling, helping to inform sustainable agriculture and land management.

These faculty—and so many others—embody our commitment to green research, inspiring students to tackle the planet's most pressing environmental challenges.

WHY IT MATTERS

Research in the William & Mary Biology Department goes beyond advancing science—it makes a real difference on campus, in Williamsburg, and beyond. For students, hands-on research builds problem-solving skills, confidence, and valuable experience that stands out to employers and grad schools. Many projects address local issues, like monitoring ecosystems and advising on sustainability, so students see their impact first-hand.

The department also tackles global challenges—from biodiversity loss to climate change—contributing discoveries that inform policy and practice worldwide. In short, research here prepares future scientists and supports a healthier, more sustainable world.



GET INVOLVED: STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

The William & Mary Biology Department gives students lots of ways to get hands-on experience, from lab work to field exploration to connecting with other science lovers.

Research Labs:

Join a lab and work on real projects with faculty and grad students, from genetics to conservation. Many students start by sophomore year—just contact professors whose research interests you.

Fieldwork:

Take your learning outside with field courses and research at places like the Keck Lab or College Woods. You'll gain hands-on skills studying local habitats, monitoring wildlife, and tackling real environmental challenges.

Clubs & Organizations:

Connect with peers in groups like Biology Club, Beta Beta Beta, or EcoAmbassadors—organizations that host events, guest speakers, volunteer projects, and socials to help you build community and explore new interests.

How to Start:

Visit the Biology Department website for lab openings and fieldwork opportunities. Reach out to professors or club leaders—they're eager to help you get involved! Joining in puts you at the heart of discovery, connects you with mentors, and opens doors for your future in biology.





CONTACT & FOLLOW US

Want to learn more, ask questions, or get involved? The William & Mary Biology Department is always excited to connect with future students, alumni, community members, and science enthusiasts.

Website: www.wm.edu/biology

Email: biology@wm.edu

Phone: 757-221-5433

Visit: Integrated Science Center, Room 3035, 540 Landrum Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185

Instagram: [_WMBiology1905](https://www.instagram.com/_WMBiology1905)

Check out our latest research, upcoming events, and department news, or reach out directly with your questions. We'd love to hear from you!