

THE REPORTER



Flanked by colleagues and supporters, College President Mitchell Reiss, Truman Semans, and Governor Martin O'Malley cut the ribbon and officially launch the Chester River Watershed Observatory.

One River. All of Us.

THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT & SOCIETY launched its innovative Chester River Watershed Observatory in late May amid predictions that it will become a global model for watershed monitoring.

"It is very bold. The nation will be watching you," said Patrick Noonan, founder and chairman emeritus of The Conservation Fund, and a founder and current board member of The Chesapeake Conservancy. "It is a model for the Chester, but more importantly it's going to be a model for every state in the watershed and every state in the nation, and I predict it

will go across the world. It is a remarkable story that begins here today, and we should all be proud for being a part of it."

Noonan, who developed the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail on the

leader Truman T. Semans, College President Mitchell Reiss, CES Director John Seidel, CES Deputy Director Doug Levin—whom Seidel called the "mad genius" behind the CRWO—and others in

Created and administered by the CES, the CRWO will connect surrounding communities and K-12 school students to the river through intensive, innovative monitoring. The data they collect will provide more thorough, measurable information on which to base decisions that will positively affect the river and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay.

The project draws on the expertise and cooperation of many, including CES staff; the director of the College's GIS lab, Stewart Bruce; the College's environmental sciences and biology faculty; Hach Hydromet, a Danaher

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Chesapeake, joined Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, Pew Charitable Trusts President and CEO Rebecca Rimel, longtime environmental

cutting a ceremonial ribbon strung between two of the buoys that will be among those monitoring the river as part of the observatory.

company that specializes in water-quality analysis and equipment; the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NASA, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Geological Survey; the Maryland State Department of Education and Department of Natural Resources; the University of Maryland, University of Delaware, the U.S. Naval Academy, and Rutgers University; schools in Kent and Queen Anne's counties; the Chester River Field Research Station at Chino Farms; Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge; the Chester River Association; and the Chesapeake Conservancy.



Rebecca Rimel, President and CEO of the Pew Charitable Trusts, and Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley share a moment during the dedication of the Chester River Watershed Observatory.

Conservation's Quiet Man

WASHINGTON COLLEGE'S Center for Environment & Society has honored Truman T. Semans with its first Lifetime Achievement Award in Conservation. Semans accepted the award, which came as a complete surprise to him, during the dedication of the new Chester River Watershed Observatory in late May.

The group of environmental leaders, advocates, educators, and others in attendance gave a standing ovation at the news, delivered by Ed Nordberg, chairman of the College's Board of Visitors and Governors, on the banks of the Chester River.

"We could think of no one more deserving than one man who has done so much, in so many ways, for so long, and yet who keeps his remarkable leadership remarkably quiet. We hope he doesn't mind that today we shout it out loud."

Nordberg described Semans' lifelong dedication to the environmental movement—regional and national—from the 1960s to the present day, and the many ways in which he has worked behind the scenes to bring key leaders and supporters into the cause. He was among those who, in the late 1960s, helped form what would become the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. He served on CBF's board for nearly 30 years and continues to serve on some of its executive committees. He also continues to serve on the board of The Conservation Fund, and is a former board member of the Nature Conservancy of Virginia, the National Audubon Society, and Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment.

"Perhaps most significantly, Truman was at the forefront of building bridges between the corporate world and the environmental movement,"



Truman Semans is pictured with his wife, Nellie, on his left, and Caroline Gabel to his right. Elisabeth Reiss is in the foreground.

Nordberg said. "As early as the 1970s, he was a leader in financing pollution control equipment for industry to help meet the goals of the Clean Air and Clean Water acts. As vice chairman of Brown Advisory, he has been instrumental in making that firm a world leader in sustainability investing. By spurring the

powers of the economy, technological innovation, the financial sectors, and corporate America to become part of the environmental solution, Truman has helped fundamentally transform how society operates. Because of this, we are realizing the full potential of the environmental movement that he helped fledge 50 years ago."