

Summer 2025 Graduating Class

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

John Charles Kwasny, Jr., Applied Coastal Environmental Science

Hometown: Brandon, MS

Caroline Beth McPherson, Applied Coastal Environmental Science

Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA

Rachel Alexis Morgan, Applied Coastal Environmental Science

Baton Rouge, LA

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Jacopo Aldrighetti, MS Environmental Sciences

Thesis: "Community Adaptation and Resilience in Coastal Louisiana: Environmental Disasters, Insurance Price Surge, and Out-migration"

Major Professor: Dr. Linda Hooper-Bùi

Hometown: Milan, Italy

Caleb Cavness, MS Environmental Sciences

Thesis: "Identification of Pathogenic Vibrio Species Associated with Eastern Oyster Crassostrea virginica Larval Mortality Events and Assessment of Potential Therapeutic Approach"

Major Professor: Dr. Aixin Hou

Hometown: Austin, TX

Jamie Dismukes, MS Environmental Sciences

Thesis: "Cost Analysis of PEM Electrolysis Utilizing Small Modular Reactors in H₂ Production"

Major Professor: Dr. Brian Snyder

Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA

Saif Hassan, MS Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers: "Plastic Pollution-Sources, Environmental Presence, Impacts, and Mitigation: A Review"

Hometown: Providence, RI

Thomas Maletta, MS Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers: "Rebuilding Reefs: Evaluating Coral Transplanting as a Viable Restoration Strategy"

Hometown: Tampa, FL

Matthew Parker, MS Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Assessing Wintertime Export Fluxes in the Labrador Sea using ²³⁴Th-²³⁸U Disequilibria and a Mechanistic Particle Sinking Model"

Major Professor: Dr. Kanchan Maiti

Hometown: St. Amant, LA

Jacob Reinhardt, MS Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Hydrodynamics and sediment dynamics in East Bay of Mississippi River Delta, Louisiana, USA"

Major Professor: Dr. Kehui Xu

Hometown: Plaquemine, LA

MASTER OF SCIENCE (CONTINUED)

Kim Salta, MS Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers: "The Impact of Climate Change-Related Flood Hazards on Infrastructure in Manhattan, New York: A Systematic Literature Review"
Hometown: Sandy Hook, CT

Cameron Shapiro, MS Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers: "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Benthic Macroinvertebrates as Bioindicators of Water Quality in New Jersey: Implications for Environmental Management"
Hometown: Sewell, NJ

Kayla Thomas, MS Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Estimating the Future Frequency of Bonnet Carré Spillway Openings"
Major Professor: Dr. Paul Miller
Hometown: New Orleans, LA

Lily Vowels, MS Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Investigating the Relationships Among Suspended Sediment Concentration, and Marsh Edge Erosion in Barataria Bay, LA"
Major Professor: Dr. Matthew Hiatt
Hometown: Bowling Green, KY

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Daniela Kaegi, Graduate Certificate in Environmental Health Science

Hometown: Silver Springs, MD

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Oluwafemi Awolesi, PhD Environmental Sciences

Dissertation: "Rethinking Green Building Development Through Policy and Operational Metrics: Insights from Baton Rouge and Beyond"
Major Professor: Dr. Margaret Reams
Hometown: Lagos, Nigeria

Wenjia Cao, PhD Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Dissertation: "Investigating the Role of Aerosols in Extreme Precipitation Events along the Gulf Coast of the U.S.A."
Major Professor: Dr. Robert Rohli
Hometown: China

Trinity Johnson, PhD Environmental Sciences

Dissertation: "Weathering the Risks: How Risk Communication Shapes Preparedness for Natural Hazards & Extreme Weather in Southeast Louisiana"
Major Professor: Dr. Margaret Reams
Hometown: Baton Rouge, LA

Sara Wang, PhD Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Dissertation: "Variations in the Foraging Ecologies of Guanay Cormorants (*Leucocarbo bougainvillii*) and Peruvian Boobies (*Sula variegata*) Across Oceanographic Conditions: Insights from Stable Isotope, Movement, and Corticosterone Analyses"
Major Professor: Dr. Michael Polito
Hometown: Seattle, WA

Matthew Zink, PhD Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Dissertation: "Stream Fish Ecology at the Macroscale: Abundance, Base Flow, and Connectivity"
Major Professor: Dr. Stephen Midway
Hometown: Mahtomedi, MN