



LSU College of the Coast & Environment Spring 2024 Graduating Class

Program

Faculty Procession

Welcome & Introduction of Platform Party
Clint Willson, Dean

Presentation of Candidates
Robert Rohli, Professor and Master of Ceremony

Congratulations
Clint Willson, Dean

Acknowledgement of Graduates Not in Attendance - Bachelors, Masters, PhD
Robert Rohli, Professor and Master of Ceremony

Presentation of Diplomas
Bachelor of Science in Coastal Environmental Science
Vince Wilson, Director, CC&E's Undergraduate Program
Master of Science in Oceanography & Coastal Sciences
Master of Science in Environmental Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy in Oceanography & Coastal Sciences
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental Sciences
Brian Snyder, Associate Chair, Department of Environmental Sciences
Kanchan Maiti, Chair, Department of Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Concluding Remarks, Clint Willson, Dean

The ASL interpreter stands stage-left, near the CC&E backdrop.

**LSU College of the Coast & Environment
Spring 2024 Graduating Class**

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

James M. Anderson

Summa Cum Laude
Honors College Thesis: "Hurricanes and Harmful Algal Blooms: Assessing the Legacy P Role in Linking These Events Through a Lake Pontchartrain Case Study"
Major Professor: Dr. John R. White
Hometown: Long Branch, New Jersey

Maile S. Branden

Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

William S. Blake Burgett-Merkel

Hometown: Houston, Texas

Hugh Marthinson Coffin

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina

Gillian A. Coleman

LSU Distinguished Researcher
Hometown: Hurley, Mississippi

Morgan Deneene Coleman

LSU Distinguished Researcher
Hometown: Hurley, Mississippi

Owen Amiel Dasher

Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia

Noah Flynn Flaherty

Hometown: Aurora, Colorado

Mia Grace Fraser

Summa Cum Laude
Honors College Thesis: "Major Nurdle Spills Underscore the Need for a Legal Framework to Prevent Future Discharges in the State of Louisiana, USA"
Major Professor: Dr. Mark Benfield
Hometown: Brentwood, Tennessee

Emma Ralston Glasgow

Hometown: Nokesville, Virginia

Umi Catherine Hermann

Cum Laude
Hometown: Annandale, Virginia

Marci Kathryn Jones

Hometown: Batavia, Ohio

Olivia Jean LaRochelle

Summa Cum Laude
Hometown: Houston, Texas

Jayden McKenzie Morgan

Hometown: Shreveport, Louisiana

Emma Angelle Peairs-Felix

Summa Cum Laude
Hometown: Central, Louisiana

Abby Rae Roche

LSU Distinguished Researcher
Hometown: Bay Village, Ohio

Lucas William Rot

Hometown: Barrington, Illinois

Sarah Jane Underwood

Hometown: Zachary, Louisiana

Kollin Thomas Williams

Hometown: Cookeville, Tennessee

Summa Cum Laude, 3.9 GPA and above
Magma Cum Laude 3.8 to 3.899 GPA
Cum Laude 3.7 to 3.799 GPA

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MASTER OF SCIENCE

Melaan Bender, MS, Environmental Sciences

Thesis: "The Effects of Global Temperature Change on Radon Exposure in Permafrost Areas"

Major Professor: Dr. Yong-Ha Kim

Hometown: Madison, Mississippi

Nicholas Bent, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Water Quality of Louisiana"

Major Advisor: Dr. Rebeca de Jesús Crespo

Hometown: Lake Charles, Louisiana

Kyrsten Boswell, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Losing Barataria: Investigating Marsh Erosion Drivers via a Basin-wide Field Survey"

Major Professor: Dr. Giulio Mariotti

Hometown: Ponchatoula, Louisiana

Jacob Cheng, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "The Impacts of Nature-Based Sediment Restoration Practices on Coastal Wetland Soil Biogeochemistry"

Major Professor: Dr. John White

Hometown: Orange, California

Ethan Elleser, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Effective Regulations to Improve Hypoxia Task Force Strategies and the Gulf of Mexico"

Major Advisor: Dr. Rebeca de Jesús Crespo

Hometown: Evansville, Indiana

Eathan Gentry, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Coal Ash Storage"

Major Advisor: Dr. Brian Snyder

Hometown: Evansville, Jefferson City, Tennessee

Meghan Elise Johnson, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Spatial Mapping of the Benthic Community and How it Is Used to Research Effects of Dredging in Louisiana's Lake Borgne"

Major Professor: Dr. Cassandra Glaspie

Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Anna Kaz, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Using Creel and Angler Surveys to Characterize U.S. Recreational Fishing"

Major Professor: Dr. Michael Dance

Hometown: Knoxville, Tennessee

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MASTER OF SCIENCE

Natalie Matherne, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Investigating Drivers of High Wetland Loss Rates in Brackish Marshes of the Mississippi River Delta"

Major Professor: Dr. Tracy Quirk

Hometown: Norco, Louisiana

Kristopher James Mayfield, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Green Youth: Motivators for Environmental Sustainability Among Environmental Student Members"

Major Advisor: Dr. Denise DeLorme

Hometown: Tulsa, Oklahoma

Denise M Poveda, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Quantification of Belowground Biomass and Sediment Accretion in Mangroves of Different Coastal Environmental Settings of the Costa Rican Pacific Coast"

Major Professor: Dr. Robert Twilley

Hometown: Panama City, Panama

Alyssa Sharbaugh, MS Environmental Sciences

Thesis: "Interactive Effects of CO₂, Temperature, and Nitrate Limitation on the Growth and Physiology of Marine Cyanobacterium *Synechococcus* Sp. CCMP 1334"

Major Professor: Dr. Edward Laws

Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

William Spatfora, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Environmental Health Impacts of Air Pollution Associated with the Petrochemical Industry with an emphasis on Louisiana, USA: a Systematic Literature Review"

Major Advisor: Dr. Rebeca de Jesús Crespo

Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Jessica Roberta Stephens, MS Environmental Sciences

Thesis: "Examination of the effects of ultraviolet radiation on the toxicity of an array of pesticides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and pharmaceuticals via in-vitro bioassays"

Major Professor: Dr. Kevin Armbrust

Hometown: St. Johns, Canada

Luce Tang, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Effective workplace program implementation that protects workers' health and prevents environmental disasters"

Major Advisor: Dr. Brian Snyder

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York



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MASTER OF SCIENCE

Dylan Tarno, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "How efficient are current standard septic system methods in wastewater treatment?: A comparative analysis with advanced wastewater treatment systems"

Major Advisor: Dr. Rebeca de Jesús Crespo

Hometown: Jamestown, North Dakota

Matthew Veccione, MS, Environmental Sciences

Title of Papers (non-thesis): "Does Pm2.5 Exposure lead to/exacerbate adverse health impacts in adults?"

Major Advisor: Dr. Rebeca de Jesús Crespo

Hometown: Orlando, FL

Marcus Cameron Watkins, MS, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Thesis: "Anticipating the Impact of the Saharan Air Layer on the Puerto Rican Early Rainfall Season"

Major Professor: Dr. Paul Miller

Hometown: Houston, Texas

CERTIFICATES

Emily Rose Mitter, Certificate of Environmental Modeling & Analysis; Certificate of Environmental Health Science

Hometown: Redondo Beach, California



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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Patrick Owen Clower, PhD, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Dissertation: "Carbon Cycling Across Land Ocean Continuum Under Accelerated Climate Changes"

Major Professor: Dr. Kanchan Maiti

Hometown: Palatka, Florida

Viet Dao, PhD, Environmental Sciences

Dissertation: "Prescribed Fire Effects on Microbial Communities and Functions in Managed Ecosystems"

Major Professor: Dr. Crystal Johnson

Hometown: Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Ashley Rossin, PhD, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Dissertation: "Addition and Subtraction: Coral Reproduction and Disease in Changing Ocean"

Major Professor: Dr. Daniel Holstein

Hometown: Overland Park, Kansas

Jillian C. Tupitza, PhD, Oceanography & Coastal Sciences

Dissertation: "Benthic Community Response to the Impacts of Proposed Sediment Diversions in Louisiana Estuaries"

Major Professor: Dr. Cassandra Glaspie

Hometown: Alexandria, Virginia

Kejin Wang, PhD, Environmental Sciences

Dissertation: "Effects of Social Media Use Disparities on Community Resilience to Disasters"

Major Professor: Dr. Nina Lam

Hometown: Baotou, China