
Laura Stearns

Center for Texas Beaches and Shores · Texas A&M University at Galveston
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EDUCATION

MS, Marine Resource Management

Fall 2016- August 2018

Texas A&M Galveston Campus

Masters Professional Project: "Assessing the Impact of Storm Surge and Sea Level Rise on Industrial Structures in the Port of Houston"

Chair: Dr. Sam Brody

BS, Ocean and Coastal Resources, *cum laude*

Fall 2012- Spring 2016

Texas A&M Galveston Campus

Undergraduate Thesis: "The 21st Energy Transition of Individual Countries"

Advisor: Dr. Glenn Jones

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Geostatistical analytics; Coastal and Urban Flood Risk; Urban Resilience; Natural Hazards

EXPERIENCE

Research Associate

October 2018 - Present

Texas A&M Galveston Campus | Center for Texas Beaches and Shores

- Manage PostGIS database for large spatial datasets used across the team
- Collaborate to create maps that better represent flood risk for various audiences
- Process and perform statistical analysis of geospatial data
- Format technical documents using Adobe Creative Cloud products

National Science Foundation Research Fellow

January 2018 - August 2018

National Science Foundation Partnerships for International Research and Education

- Traveled to the Netherlands to meet with flood risk reduction experts
- Participated in flood risk reduction design workshop with Dutch students
- Completed a case study comparing urban flood risk in Amsterdam to that in Houston

Research Assistant

Fall 2017- Summer 2018

Texas A&M Galveston Campus | Center for Texas Beaches and Shores

- Assisted in data collection and writing for the Commission to Rebuild Texas Hurricane Harvey report
- Developed risk scores for Houston and Galveston area for Buyers Be-Where website
- Continued maintenance of online Texas Coastal Atlas

Student Technician

Spring 2017-Summer 2017

Texas A&M Galveston Campus | Center for Texas Beaches and Shores

- Created a library of data for Texas Coastal Atals
- Formatted data layers using ArcGIS

- Updated Texas Coastal Atlas using ArcGIS Online

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017

Texas A&M University Galveston Campus

- Taught two sections of Engineering Physics and one section of Wetland Management
- For Physics Sections: Planned lectures and instructed labs, graded weekly assignments and exams
- For Wetland Management: Helped organize lessons and coordinated plans with Army Corps representative; assisted in wetland delineations

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2016

Texas A&M University Galveston Campus

- Taught two sections of College Physics and one section of Engineering Physics
- Led laboratories explaining basic concepts of mechanical physics
- Planned lectures and instructed labs, graded weekly assignments and exams

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Computing: R, ArcGIS, QGIS, PostgreSQL/PostGIS, Python, Stata
- Design: Adobe InDesign, Adobe Illustrator

PRESENTATIONS

- Buyers BeWhere Interactive Portal, **March 2018**
(Poster Presentation) Texas A&M Discovery Lounge, South by Southwest Conference
- “Assessing the Impact of Storm Surge and Sea Level Rise on the Petrochemical Industry along the Houston Ship Channel”, **February 2018**
(Poster Presentation) SSPEED Conference, Rice University
- “Hurricane Harvey and Buyers Be-Where”, **November 2017**
(Oral Presentation) Buyers Be-Where Workshop, United Way of Greater Houston
- “The 21st Century Energy Transition of Individual Countries”, **April 2016**
(Poster Presentation) 12th Annual Research Symposium, TAMUG

AWARDS AND HONORS

Undergraduate Research Scholar

May 2016

- Awarded at graduation upon completing the Undergraduate Research Scholar Thesis Program

3rd Place in Topics on Ocean and Coastal Resources

April 2016

- Awarded at TAMUG 12th Annual Research Symposium in the Marine Sciences and Ocean and Coastal Resources category