

BENJAMIN MILLER RITT

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(719)439-4616

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate Texas A&M University Galveston Campus: Marine Science and Coastal Sustainability program Jan. 2019

Advisor: David Retchless

Masters: MARM Thesis Texas A&M University Galveston Campus Dec. 2018

Thesis: "UAS Based photogrammetry: a new tool for monitoring Beach nourishment projects: A Galveston, TX Test Case"

Advisor: Glenn Jones

Post Graduate Certificate Indiana University May 2015

Underwater Resource Management

BA University of Colorado at Colorado Springs May 2013

Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Galveston Island Park Board Beach Maintenance Advisory Committee 2017-Present

Serving on the committee as a Scientific/Community Representative supporting the Galveston Park Board of Trustees on issues related to the restoration and preservation of Galveston Island beaches, including; long-term planning, maintenance, sustainability, attractiveness, funding, usage, and environmental concerns.

UAS Survey Consultant for APTIM /Coastal, Ports & Marine 2018-Present

Licensed UAS pilot conducting survey flights for work on beach nourishment projects for the Coastal, Ports, & Marine Group of APTIM an engineering and project design company.

- 2019 & 2020 Galveston Island Shoreline Survey for the City of Galveston, TX
 - Chief UAS operator and post flight data processing & analysis
- Hurricane Laura, 2020 Post storm survey of retaining barriers and levies at the Cameron LNG Terminal in Hackberry, LA.

UAS Based consulting for the City of Galveston 2020

- UAS based assessment and classification of the 3/27/2020 wild fire at East Beach.

- Principal UAS imaging of Galveston Island, TX breakwater project sites and land use potential survey.

UAS Based consulting for the Gulf Coast Water Authority

2021-2022

UAS imaging and mapping and of Gulf Coast Water Authority pumping stations and construction projects for use in agency GIS projects.

HONORS AND AWARDS

NOAA Texas Sea Grant

2017

Texas Sea Grant's 2017 Grants-in-Aid of Graduate Research Using UAS Based Photogrammetry for the Study of Beach Replenishment Projects in Galveston Texas (\$1,499). Primary Investigator: Benjamin Ritt

Texas Comprehensive Research Fund (TCRF)

2017

Purchase of an RTK-enabled Commercial-grade Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) (\$18,942). Primary Investigators: Glenn Jones, Benjamin Ritt, Jens Figlus, and Anna Armitage

PRESENTATIONS, INVITED LECTURES, & PAPERS

Publications

Ritt, B., Jones, G., & Retchless, R. (2021) Sand and Social Distancing: A UAS study of Galveston, TX beach attendance during COVID-19. *Shore & Beach*
<http://doi.org/10.34237/1008911>

Valsamidis, A., Figlus, J., Ritt, B., & Reeve, D. E. (2021). Modelling the Morphodynamic Evolution of Galveston Beach, Gulf of Mexico, Following Hurricane Ike in 2008. *Continental Shelf Research*, 218, 104373. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2021.104373>

Poster

Ritt, B., Jones, G., & Trevino, R. (2019) “The Use of UAS Based 3D Photogrammetry to Study the Galveston Phase III Beach Nourishment Project” NOAA Texas Sea Grant Symposium at College Station, TX, April 2019.

Oral Presentation

Ritt, B., & Jones, G. (2018) “Monitoring Erosion of a Beach Nourishment Over its First Year Using UAS (Drones)”, American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) National Coastal Conference at Galveston, TX, October 2018.

Oral Presentation (Invited)

Ritt, B., & Jones, G. (2018) “A UAS (Drone) Examination of The Impact of Hurricane Harvey on Galveston’s Phase III Beach Nourishment Project”, Texas Chapter of the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) Symposium at Corpus Christi, TX, April 2018

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Federal Aviation Administration Remote Pilot in Command License	May 2017
US Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Management #655 Training Certification	May 2017
American Academy of Underwater Sciences Scientific Diver (TAMUG) 60 ft. certification	May 2017
Certified Pix4D Mapper	Dec 2020
Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Master Scuba Diver	May 2011