Master’s of Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Research Defenses
Fall 2018 - Summer 2019

Kristen Gold
Thesis: “Factors that determine the spatial distribution of an introduced species, Phrynosoma cornutum, in South Carolina”
Friday, November 10th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Eric McElroy
Committee Members:
Dr. Courtney Murken
Dr. Brian Schisano
Eunha Paz

Amanda Voges
Internship: “Aquatic ecosystem restoration opportunities to improve the coastal resilience of the City of Charleston”
Tuesday, November 27th at 2:00 p.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Anelele Watson
Committee Members:
Dr. Joshua Robinson
Dr. Barbara Buckingham
Dr. Todd Melosh

Brian Palus
Thesis: “Low-altitude Remote Sensing Applications for Critical Zone Management in South Carolina, USA”
Tuesday, December 4th at 2:00 p.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members:
Dr. Timothy Callahan
Melinda Lucia Valley
Daniel Burge

Alex Braud
Friday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members:
Dr. Calvin Rackawell
Dr. Nicole Ellis
Dr. Elizabeth Fry

David Flanagan
Thesis: “Bio-optical inversion modeling of the nearshore waters in the US Virgin Islands”
Wednesday, March 13th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 200

Advisor: Dr. Aden Ali
Committee Members:
Dr. Matthew Callahan
Dr. Meital Brandt
Dr. Hans van den Hurk
Dr. Norman Levine

Ashton Basar
Thesis: “The Role of Ambient Temperature and Influenza Outbreaks: A Case Study of the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic”
Wednesday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Brian Schisano
Committee Members:
Dr. Norman Levine
Dr. Matthew Callahan
Dr. Judith Stine Williams

Zach Spencer
Internship: “The Creation of a Master Plan for Guidance and Direction of the Battery to Beach Non-Profit Bicycle Infrastructure Program”
Thursday, April 4th at 2:00 p.m.
SSMB 138

Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members:
Dr. Morgan Hughes
Dr. Kamil Stewart
Katie Dreherman

Lee Bundrick
Monday, April 8th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Matthew Novelin
Committee Members:
Dr. Susan Leavitt
Dr. Bart Walk
Dr. Kendra Stewart

Lucas Hernandez
Thesis: “Understanding Coastal Resilience and Natural Disaster Preparedness Through Raster-Based Flood Modeling: Kiawah Island, SC”
Tuesday, April 9th at 2:00 p.m.
SSMB 253

Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members:
Dr. John Leffler
Dr. Matthew Novelin
Dr. Kendra Stewart

Jeanette Huber
Thesis: “Phygeography and Genetic Variation of the Endangered Saipanush (Family Pterostichus)”
Wednesday, April 24th at 11:00 a.m.
MRRI Auditorium at Fort Johnson

Advisor: Dr. Aden Ali
Committee Members:
Dr. Tony O’Neil
Dr. Leslie Naid
Dr. Allen Asbell

Megan Shearer
Tuesday, June 18th at 10:00 a.m.
SSMB 253

Advisor: Dr. Seth Postma
Committee Members:
Dr. Brian Schisano
Amy Dobbs
Jennifer Sparks

Hannah Kuhl
Thesis: “Stormwater and Tidal Hydraulics in an Urban Coastal Watershed: Land Use Change Impacts”
Thursday, July 18th at 9:30 a.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Timothy Callahan
Committee Members:
Dr. Isaac DeCleen
Dr. Courtney Murken
Joshua Robinson

Chelsea Woodruff
Thesis: “Assessment of Willingness to Pay for Coral-Safe Sunscreens”
Thursday, July 18th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 253

Advisor: Dr. Wendy Burnett
Committee Members:
Dr. Julia Binet
Dr. David Hantin
Andrew Shacter

Eliza Nixon
Internship: “An Evaluation of Students’ Knowledge Retention and Attitude Towards the Coastal Ecosystem as Participants in the From Seeds to Shoreline Project”
Friday, August 2nd at 10:00 a.m.
SSMB 255

Advisor: Dr. Matthew Novelin
Committee Members:
Dr. William Voss
Julie Hisz
Cynthia Hall
Master’s of Environmental and Sustainability Studies
Research Defenses
Fall 2019 – Summer 2020

Joey Coz
Thesis: “A Coastal Flood Climatology for the Lowcountry”
Tuesday, November 5th at 2:00 p.m.
RITA 336

Academic Advisor: Dr. B. Lee Lindner
Committee Members:
F. James
Din Burger
Dr. Matthew Nowlin

Lindsey Beard
Internship: “Development of a Data-Driven Decision Management Tool for Monitoring Nitrification at Mount Pleasant Waterworks”
Friday, November 15th at 10:00 a.m.
SSMB 200

Academic Advisor: Justin Deegan
Committee Members:
Allen Cline
Dr. Heather Fullerton
Dr. Barbara Beckingham

Brittney Parker
Thesis: “Microplastic occurrence in fishes from an urban estuary: A study on the influence of feeding characteristics on exposure risk in the Charleston Harbor estuary”
Friday, November 15th at 1:00 p.m.
SSMB 245

Academic Advisor: Dr. Gorka Sancho
Committee Members:
Dr. Barbara Beckingham
Dr. John Weisbrod
Dr. Joseph Balderer

Casey Conrad
Thesis: “The use of an L-THIA basee modified curve number runoff model for flood hazard mapping in Charleston, SC.”
Friday, December 12th at 10 a.m.
SSMB 238

Academic Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members:
Landon Knapp
Dr. Susan Lowrance
Dr. Adam Ali

Anthony Galavotti
Internship: “Reducing the Environmental Impact of the Charleston Parks Conservancy Through the Creation of an Environmental Sustainability Initiative”
Thursday, February 20th at 2:30 p.m.
SSMB 138

Academic Advisor: Dr. Barry Sleeth
Committee Members:
Dr. Todd Levine
Leslie Wade

Taylor Miller
Thesis: “Integrating Blockchain Technology Within the Lowe’s Company Inc. to Enhance Traceability and Verify Wood Certification Along the Supply Chain”
Thursday, March 26th at 3:00 p.m.
SSMB 138

Academic Advisor: Dr. Kurt Goodin
Committee Members:
Dr. Geronda Queveda
Chris Cassell
Lance Alfonso

Abi Locatis
Thesis: “South Carolina Lowcountry Landowners’ Knowledge and Perceptions and the Impacts of Land Management Actions on Isolated Wetlands”
Friday, November 22nd at 10 a.m.
Jewish Studies Center Room 333

Academic Advisor: Dr. Annette Watson
Committee Members:
Dr. Gerald Gordon
Dr. Kendra Steward
Dr. Tim Callahan

Jonathan Cauthen
Internship: “Environmental Education and Ecotourism in Coastal South Carolina”
May 13th, 2020
Prerecorded Online Defense via Zoom

Academic Advisor: Dr. Melissa Hughes
Committee Members:
Matthew Johnson
Dr. Matthew Nowlin
Dr. Paul Nelson

Luz Agudelo
Friday, May 15th at 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Academic Advisor: Dr. Annette Watson
Committee Members:
Dr. Elizabeth Fry
Dr. Norman Levine
Dr. Kendra Steward

Ruth Eklund Manley
Thesis: “Shoreline Exposure and Human Health in the Gulf of Mexico”
July 9th, 2020
11:00 AM via Zoom

Academic Advisor: Dr. Paul Saltz
Committee Members:
Dr. Susan Lowrance
Dr. Norman Levine
Landon Knapp