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 16th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 255
Advisor: Dr. Eric Belden
Committee Members: Dr. Courtney Murray, Dr. Brian Schell

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
Academic Advisor: Dr. Anneke Wadler
Committee Members: Dr. Timothy Callahan, Ms. Kelda Mailey, Dr. Todd Lovendahl

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
Academic Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members: Dr. Julianna Blackwell, Dr. Nicole Ellis, Dr. Elizabeth Fry

Alex Braud
Friday, December 7th at 1:00 p.m.
SSMB 255
Academic Advisor: Dr. Norman Levine
Committee Members: Dr. Jennifer Bird, Dr. Nhan Tran, Dr. Norman Levine

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
Academic Advisor: Dr. Adam Ali
Committee Members: Dr. Jennifer Bird, Dr. Nhan Tran, 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 Schell
Committee Members: Dr. Norman Levine, Dr. Matthew Naylor, Dr. Judith Stein-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. Megan Tisdale, Dr. Kendra Stewart, Kate Johannesen

Lee Bundrick
Thesis: "Coastal Residents Perspectives on Environmental Health Risk Factors: Analysis Using Cultural Theory and Deliberative Discussion"
Monday, April 8th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 255
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Naylor
Committee Members: Dr. Susan Leaverton, Dr. Pedro Salazar, 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 Naylor, Dr. Kendra Stewart

Jeanette Huber
Thesis: "Phylogeography and Genetic Variation of the Endangered Saafish (Family Pristidae)"
Wednesday, April 24th at 11:00 a.m.
MRRI Auditorium at Fort Johnson
Advisor: Dr. Kevin Naylor
Committee Members: Dr. Tony Dodson, Dr. Lyle Hard, Dr. Alan Stomach

Megan Shearer
Tuesday, June 18th at 10:00 a.m.
SSMB 253
Advisor: Dr. Seth Persaud
Committee Members: Dr. Brian Schell, Amy Daniels, Jennifer Scales

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. Dieter de Groot, Dr. Courtney Murray, Joshua Robinson

Chelsea Woodruff
Thesis: "Assessment of Willingness to Pay for Coral-Safe sunscreen"
Thursday, July 18th at 11:00 a.m.
SSMB 253
Advisor: Dr. William Voel
Committee Members: Dr. Julianna Blackwell, Dr. David Horan, Andrew Shaker

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 Naylor
Committee Members: Dr. William Voel, Dr. Julie Blau, 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:
Frank Abraham
Dan 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 Depee
Committee Members:
Dr. Heather Fullerton
Dr. Barbara Beckham

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 Beckham
Dr. John Weinstein
Dr. Joseph Bollinger

Casey Conrad
Thesis: “The use of an L-THIA base 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:
Landor Knoepf
Dr. Susan Lovelace
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 Stekol
Committee Members:
Dr. Todd LaVasseur
Harry Lerner
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. Kent Gourdin
Committee Members:
Dr. Giornam Quanida
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 Stewart
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 Nolan

Luz Agudelo
Thesis: "An Analysis of Community Resilience to Flood/Hurricane Hazards in Charleston, SC”
Friday, May 15th at 2:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Academic Advisor: Dr. Annette Watson
Committee Members:
Dr. Elizabeth Ry
Dr. Norman Levine
Dr. Kendra Stewart

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 Sauder
Committee Members:
Dr. Susan Lovelace
Dr. Norman Levine
Landor Knoepf

Christopher Brown
Thesis: “The Impact of Infrastructure on the Natural Hydrologic Processes of Coastal Tidal Watersheds”
July 23th, 2020 9:30 AM via Zoom

Academic Advisor: Dr. Timothy Callahan
Committee Members:
Joshua Robinson
Dr. Susan Lovelace
Dr. Adam Ali