



- Assessed nekton use and recruitment to oyster reefs for the American Recovery and Reassessment Act. Studied the effectiveness of seeding juvenile oysters on restored oyster reefs. Led field crews in collection of baseline samples for the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill potential impact on the Outer Banks, NC.

2009-2011     **Laboratory Assistant**     University of North Carolina Wilmington  
*Benthic Ecology Laboratory, Dr. Martin Posey and Mr. Troy Alphin*

- Developed protocol for analysis of sediment grain size using Beckman Coulter™ counter. Collaborated with the Army Corps of Engineers on assessing the impact of river dredging on benthic populations. Helped coordinate homeowner associations in monitoring oyster spat settlement across NC estuarine coastlines.

Summer 2008     **Laboratory Technician**     University of Minnesota  
*Department of Civil Engineering, Dr. Timothy LaPara*

- Assisted in investigating the transportation of microbial communities between wastewater treatment ponds via water fowl across the state of Minnesota.

## Leadership Experience

2014-present	<b>Graduate Studies Ambassador</b> , Texas A&M University	Galveston, TX
2013-2014	<b>President</b> , Galveston Graduate Student Association	Galveston, TX
2008-2011	<b>Ambassador</b> , UNCW Student Ambassador Association	Wilmington, NC
2009-2010	<b>Treasurer</b> , Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society	Wilmington, NC
2007-2008	<b>Historian</b> , Tri House Area Chapter	Wilmington, NC

## Teaching Experience

2015-Present     **University Leader**     International Student Volunteers, TX and Costa Rica

- Mentor undergraduates in becoming active global citizens aware of sustainable development initiatives through teaching wildlife research in tropical ecosystems.

2014-Present     **Part-time Bay Educator**     Galveston Bay Foundation, TX

- Combine environmental education and marsh restoration initiatives to inspire students to become active stewards of Galveston Bay's natural resources.

2014 & 2015     **Teaching Assistant for Coastal Wetland Ecology**     Texas A&M University

- Taught lab sections that focused on identification of wetland plants, understanding laws governing wetlands, and scientific writing.

Spring 2014     **Mentor for Senior Honors Thesis**     Texas A&M University

- Assisted in undergraduate semester long research project which investigated how brackish marsh restoration techniques impacted wading bird utilization of habitat.

## Research Funding

2015	Galveston Graduate Student Ambassador Stipend (\$200)
2015	Texas Sea Grant-In-Aid of Graduate Research Award (\$2,000)
2015	Galveston Graduate Student Association Micro Grant (\$100)

*Last Update: August 2015*

2014 Galveston Graduate Student Ambassador Stipend (\$200)  
 2014 Galveston Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (\$500)  
 2014 Erma Lee and Luke Mooney Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$500)  
 2011 Honors Research Supplies Grant, Honors Scholars Program (\$500)

## Memberships

Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) • Galveston County Audubon Society  
 Galveston Graduate Student Association (GGSA) • Beta Beta Beta Biological Honors Society

## Outreach Events

2015 Organized Alvin High School AP Research Class visit to Texas A&M University  
 Represented Marine Biology Department at Fairview Junior High Career Day  
 Team leader for Galveston Bay Foundation's Trash Bash at Armand Bayou  
 Interviewed for Texas A&M Galveston's Women's History Month  
 2014-2015 Trip Liaison for Feather Fest: Galveston Birding and Nature Photo Festival  
 2014 Invited as panelist to represent Department of Marine Biology for a TAMUG forum  
 Judge for undergraduate posters at Texas A&M University Student Research Symposium  
 2012 Education volunteer at Dauphin Island Sea Lab Discovery Day  
 Volunteer scientist at Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo  
 2009-2011 Assisted homeowner associations in monitoring oyster spat settlement across NC  
 2008 Volunteer Educator at Fort Fisher Aquarium in NC

## Career Related Education

Fall 2015	<b>ESRI Spatial Analysis using GIS</b>	Online
Spring 2013	<b>Coastal Ornithology, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory</b>	Ocean Springs, MS
Spring 2011	<b>Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences</b>	St. George's, Bermuda
Spring 2010	<b>James Cook University</b>	Townsville, Queensland, Australia

## Certifications

Department of Interior Motorboat Certification • Texas A&M Boat Operator Certification  
 CPR/ AED and Standard First Aid Certification • Rescue Diver, PADI Dive Certification

## Publications

Guo, H., C. Weaver, S. Charles, **A.A. Whitt**, S. Dastidar, P. D'Odorico, J. Fuentes, J.S. Kominoski, A.R. Armitage, S.P. Pennings (in prep). Coastal regime shifts: Rapid responses of coastal wetlands to changes in mangrove density.

**Whitt, A.A.**, M.H. Posey, T. Alphin (2011). Interaction between estuarine shoreline stabilization and marsh thickness: an evaluation of key species and sediment characteristics in North Carolina's salt marshes. *University of North Carolina Wilmington Department of Biology and Marine Biology*, Senior thesis.

## **Presentations (*As Presenter*)**

**Whitt, A.A.,** W.E. Highfield, S.C. Pennings, A.R. Armitage (2015). Using citizen science to assess bird community composition responses to a changing Texas marsh-mangrove ecotone. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF). Portland, OR. Presentation.

**Whitt, A.A.,** W.E. Highfield, S.C. Pennings, A.R. Armitage (2015). eBird's eye view of a changing marsh-mangrove ecotone in coastal Texas. University of Houston Ecology & Evolution Symposium. Poster.

**\* Awarded Top 3 Unranked Poster Award**

**Whitt, A.A.,** W.E. Highfield, S.C. Pennings, A.R. Armitage (2015). eBird's eye view of a changing marsh-mangrove ecotone in coastal Texas. Texas Bays and Estuaries Meeting. Port Aransas, TX. Poster.

**\* Awarded 1st Place Poster**

**Whitt, A.A.** (2014). Maritime Industry Current Challenges: Perspectives from Marine Biology. Texas A&M University Galveston Campus' First Student Forum. Galveston, TX. Presentation.

**\* Invited to present**

**Whitt, A.A.,** A.R. Armitage, R. Morrison, M. Rathjen, A. Norris (2014). Migrating bird use of brackish marshes: Does restoration technique matter? Conference on Ecological and Ecosystem Restoration (CEER). New Orleans, LA. Poster.

**\* Awarded 2nd Place Poster**

**Whitt, A.A.,** A.R. Armitage, S.C. Pennings (2014). Mangroves expanding into salt marshes: How will bird use of the Texas coastline be impacted? Texas A&M at Galveston Student Research Symposium. Galveston, TX. Poster.

**Whitt, A.A.,** M.H. Posey, T. Alphin (2011). Salt marsh width impacts on representative sediment characteristics and key species in North Carolina. UNCW Undergraduate Research Showcase. Wilmington, NC. Poster.

**Whitt, A.A.,** M.H. Posey, T. Alphin (2011). Estuarine shoreline stabilization effects on sediment grain size distribution in North Carolina's salt marshes. Colonial Academic Alliance. Hofstra, NY. Poster.

**Whitt, A.A.,** M.H. Posey, T. Alphin (2011). Estuarine shoreline stabilization effects on sediments in North Carolina's salt marshes. State of North Carolina Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. Raleigh, NC. Poster.

**Whitt, A.A.,** B. Nicolaysen, S. Dorsey (2008). Student resolutions to community conflict: Bald Head Island fox populations and sea turtle nests. National Collegiate Honors Council. San Antonio, TX. Oral presentation.

**\*Invited to present**