

Ashley Whitt

Texas A&M University at Galveston
Marine Biology Interdisciplinary Program
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Education

- In progress Texas A&M University at Galveston
Master of Science in Marine Biology
- 2011 University of North Carolina Wilmington
Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology
University Honors, Departmental Honors, and Cum Laude

Research Experience

- 2012-2013 **Research Assistant** Galveston, TX
Coastal and Wetlands Ecology Lab, Texas A&M Galveston
Mentors: Dr. Anna Armitage
- Native mangrove invasion into northern Gulf of Mexico salt marshes
 - *Collaboration with Dr. Steven Pennings, University of Houston*
 - Assessing the range expansion of black mangroves in south TX
- 2011-2012 **Marine Ecology Lab Intern** Dauphin Island, AL
Marine Ecology Lab, Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Mentors: Dr. Kenneth Heck
- **Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill**
 - Assessed post-spill fisheries recruitment to seagrass beds
 - **Oyster Reef Breakwater**
 - *Collaboration with the Nature Conservancy*
 - Appraised effectiveness of oyster reefs abating shoreline erosion
 - **National Gulf Shores Seagrass Assessment**
 - Surveyed the percent cover, SAV, and water quality of various seagrass beds across Florida and Alabama
 - **Climate-related Ichthyofaunal Shifts**
 - Competition study amid lane, grey, and red snappers in mesocosms
 - **Black mangrove expansion into the Gulf Islands National Seashore**
 - *Collaboration with National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife*
- Summer 2011 **Research Assistant** Wilmington, NC
Benthic Ecology Lab, University of North Carolina Wilmington
Mentors: Dr. Martin Posey and Mr. Troy Alphin
- **American Recovery and Reassessment Act**
 - Deployed breeder traps to appraise the nekton use of oyster reefs

- Sampled oyster population dynamics to determine recruitment to various created oyster reef sizes
- “To Seed or Not to Seed”
 - The effectiveness of seeding juvenile oysters on restoration areas
- Beach Profiling for Oil Baseline Project
 - Led field crews to collect infaunal samples across a beach profile in order to archive baseline samples

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

- Cooperative Institute for Coastal and Estuarine Environmental Technology Examination of Estuarine Shoreline Stabilization in NC
 - Developed protocol for analysis of sediment grain size using Beckman Coulter™ counter.
 - Managed data sets and analysis of infaunal samples, percent organics, and sediment grain size characteristics data
- Tidal Creeks Project
 - Monitor health of oyster reefs using PCR and oyster reef metrics.
- Cape Fear River Monitoring Project
 - *Collaboration with the Army Corps of Engineers*
 - Sorted core samples collected from Cape Fear River to assess impact of river dredging on benthic populations
- Spat Monitoring Project
 - Volunteer with homeowners on monitoring oyster spat settlement on deployed racks across NC estuarine coastlines

Research Funding

2011 Honors Research Supplies Grant, Honors Scholars Program, UNCW

Presentations

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

Whitt, A.W., Posey, M., & Alphin, T.A. (2011). Estuarine shoreline stabilization effects on sediments in North Carolina’s salt marshes. CAA Conference. Hampstead, NY. Poster.

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

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

Publications

Whitt, A.W., Posey, M., & Alphin, T.A. (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*, Honors Thesis.

Other Activities

- 2013-2014 **President, Galveston Graduate Student Association** Galveston, TX
- Coordinate academic grants, fundraising, and public outreach
- Spring 2011 **Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences** St. George's, Bermuda
- Selected participant for course in Field Methods in Marine Ecology
- Spring 2010 **James Cook University** Townsville, Australia
- Studied abroad--participated in class research trips to Orpheus Island Research Station

Certifications

- Department of Interior Motorboat Certification
- CPR/AED and Standard First Aid Certification
- Rescue Diver, PADI Dive Certification

References

Dr. Anna Armitage

Associate Professor

Texas A&M University at
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Dr. Kenneth Heck

*Assistant Director, Professor
President-Elect Coastal and
Estuarine Federation*

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Dr. Martin Posey

*Interim Associate Vice
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