

GLO Project Description

In recent years, scientists, policy makers, and elected officials have been calling for a comprehensive coastal storm surge protection system for the Galveston Bay region. To date, several efforts have estimated benefit/cost ratios of multiple protection solutions—which focused primarily on the direct economic impacts of a surge-related event in Galveston Bay. Although these efforts have been critical in demonstrating the effectiveness of a coastal spine from the perspective of avoided damages, several secondary benefits have yet to be demonstrated. We seek to better identify these benefits by further evaluating the national-level economic consequences and regional-level insurance implications of constructing a coastal spine. Dr. Wesley Highfield is the PI for this GLO project.

Faculty Fellow Updates



Fieldwork 1: Sandra Lee, TAMUG MARM graduate student, interviewing a person affected by Hurricane Harvey flooding



Fieldwork 2: Pictured left to right - Christina Stipanic, Sandra Lee, Kelsey McCraw, and Dr. Ashley Ross

This semester, Dr. Ashley Ross, CTCBS Fellow and TAMUG MARS Assistant Professor, led a group of faculty and students in conducting interviews in Hurricane Harvey affected areas. Faculty involved in the project included Dr. David Retchless, CTBS Fellow and TAMUG MARS Assistant Professor, and Dr. Lauren Clay, Assistant Professor at D'Youville College in New York. Six graduate and undergraduate students took part in the research, including Tara Kruse of D'Youville College and TAMUG students: Abbey Hotard, Sandra Lee, Kelsey McCraw, Annitha Ochoa, and Christina Stipanic. The research is focused on better understanding resilience and recovery in small, rural communities. The research team conducted 120 interviews in four towns in Texas: Port Aransas, Refugio, Dickinson, and La Grange. The interviews predominantly focused on individuals and households but also included local organizations and government officials. Next steps in the project include analyzing the interview data and translating its central themes into a Texas-wide survey that will allow systematic assessment of resilience dynamics between rural and urban areas. The project was supported by the National Academies Gulf Research Program Early-Career Fellowship awarded to Ross this year.

Graduating Researchers

Graduate Assistant Researchers at CTBS, William Mobley and Russell Blessing, have graduated. We are so excited to see the next steps in their professional careers.

