

### Distinguished Speaker Marc Walraven

The Center for Texas Beaches and Shores sponsored a talk by a prominent Dutch flood management expert on Wednesday October 11th entitled "Learning experiences in managing and operating storm surge barriers: International collaboration of flood management barriers" Marc Walraven is Senior Advisor Storm Surge Barrier at Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment), the Netherlands. He is a member of the improvement team for all storm surge barriers managed by Rijkswaterstaat. He is also a founder and delivery board member of I-STORM, international network of storm surge barriers, and a leader of the operational team of the Maeslant and Hartel barrier.



### Recent Grants/Contracts

Dr. Figlus (PI, OCEN) and Dr. Dellapenna (Co-PI, MARS) were awarded a one-year NSF RAPID grant for field work related to Hurricane Harvey's impact on the Texas coastal system. The overarching objective of the research effort is to link measurements of storm hydrodynamics over impacted, low-lying barrier islands with the morphological evolution of the barrier. The title of the project is:

"RAPID: Hurricane Harvey Rapid Response: Storm Impact and Recovery Field Measurements of Hydrodynamic Forcing, Morphological Evolution, and Sedimentological Processes on Two Barrier Islands Along the Central and Upper Texas Gulf Coast." The work is a collaboration between Texas A&M University Galveston, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, and Rice University. Rice University student Katherine Anarde is one of Dr. Figlus' Ph.D. advisees and was instrumental in writing the grant proposal to solidify the already ongoing collaboration between these CTBS-affiliated organizations. Stay tuned for updates on data collection efforts and results

A multi-disciplinary team of A&M researchers including Dr. Figlus (PI, OCEN), Dr. Feagin (Co-PI, ESSM), and Dr. Dellapenna (Co-PI, MARS) have been awarded a research contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Galveston District and Engineering Research and Development Center) to conduct a variety of studies in Texas coastal waters. The contract starts with a one-year initial phase and optional engagement over 5-years total. Valued at \$900,000, the proposed field research will tackle sediment transport, dredging, and engineering-with-nature problems of immediate relevance to the Houston-Galveston region as well as the entire Texas coast. The first field campaign will gather data on newly constructed mixed sediment dikes in Galveston bay to create new marsh land and protect dredge material placement sites.

### People News

CTBS faculty (Dr. Brody, Dr. Merrell, Dr. Highfield, and Dr. Galloway) join the Governor's Commission on Rebuild Texas after hurricane Harvey to provide leadership on how to floodproof the coast ahead of future storms.

PhD candidate, Russell Blessing's published article was highlighted in the NY Times and by the National Academies of Sciences in the same week.

Dr. Figlus discussed Hurricane Harvey effects on the Texas coastal system and potential ways to protect our region from future storm impacts on local TV news (Fox Channel 26):

<http://www.fox26houston.com/news/harvey-coverage/researching-coastal-storm-impact>

Undergraduate student, Mariah McBride was accepted for a policy internship in Washington, DC this summer.

Dr. Meri Davlasheridze welcomed her first daughter, Katerina Marie Mykoniatis, in the middle of Harvey (August 28.)

