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Coastal Science Assistantship Recipients Announced

BATON ROUGE — The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) has announced this year's recipients of its annual Coastal Science Assistantship Program (CSAP). CSAP enables faculty members of Louisiana institutions to fund Master of Science students enrolled full-time at Louisiana colleges and universities who are involved in research relevant to Louisiana coastal protection and restoration efforts. This year's faculty recipients are:

- **Mead Allison, Tulane.** Sedimentary aspects of land-building in the Fort St. Phillip Crevasse Complex
- **Giulio Mariotti, LSU.** Mud settling velocity in Barataria Bay: A crucial (yet neglected) parameter for marsh evolution
- **Tracy Quirk, LSU.** Factors influencing subsurface wetland dynamics in coastal Louisiana: Implications for wetland response to sea-level rise and restoration
- **Carol Wilson, LSU.** Time-varying rates of organic and inorganic mass accumulation in Louisiana marshes and relation to sea-level change

The CPRA awards, which fund a three-year period of study, are intended to support academic research that will improve the planning, design and construction of coastal restoration projects, thus contributing to CPRA's overall success. In addition, these assistantships help CPRA foster closer ties with the academic community and promote a platform for collaboration by developing relationships with students, professors, and universities. These relationships allow for greater communication, participation, and integration between Louisiana higher education and the state's coastal protection and restoration program.

While CPRA makes the final selections and provides the funds for CSAP, the assistantships will be administered by the Louisiana Sea Grant (LSG) College Program. Once chosen, faculty members select graduate students to work on the projects. These students are required to complete a master's thesis at their institution and a 240-hour internship with CPRA. The students receive a yearly stipend of \$25,000 each (a maximum of \$75,000 per student).

"Since the program's inception in 2008, CPRA has supported sixty-one students across eight different

institutions including LSU, ULL, SLU, UNO, Tulane, Nicholls, LUMCON, and Louisiana Tech,” said CPRA Executive Director Bren Haase. “To date, the program has generated 44 theses and more than 8,000 internship hours with CPRA. Eight former students have gone on to pursue careers within state agencies including CPRA. They have also produced more than 80 journal publications, and greater than 80% of graduating students have pursued STEM careers.”

For more information, visit the [CSAP website](#) or contact:

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