



DAVIDSON FELLOWSHIP

Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship Newsletter

This issue of the newsletter highlights some of the Davidson Fellows' accomplishments when working with coastal communities to address key management needs at the national estuarine research reserves.

Fellow Highlights



Claudia Mazur (Waquoit Bay Reserve) – Spearheaded a first-generation college student workshop series and mentoring group titled, “[Step into STEM.](#)” The workshop was part of the NOAA for Minority Student STEM Initiative and was supported by funding from NOAA’s North Atlantic Regional Collaboration Team. The goal of this program was to provide ongoing support through workshops and mentoring for students who are the first in their families to attend college. The group hosted six webinars and had eight guest speakers who identified as first-generation college students. The webinar series included topics on

how to apply to college, how to write a resume and personal statement, and how to make the most of a college experience, and included a STEM career panel.



Philip Souza (Mission-Aransas Reserve) – In addition to his monitoring efforts, Philip has been working with the reserve system’s Science Collaborative group, which aims to develop acoustic monitoring protocols for reserves in the southeastern United States. Some of his work in the Mission-Aransas Reserve will serve as a pilot study for a Science Collaborative project to provide proof of concept for the proposed work. If successful,

these combined efforts will lead to a more structured acoustic monitoring program within the Mission-Aransas Reserve, and across the reserve network at large.

To learn more about acoustic monitoring, check out this article that Philip co-authored in the Texas Saltwater Fishing Magazine – The article is on pages 36 and 37 of this digital issue of the magazine: www.mirabelsmagazinecentral.com/DigitalEdition/index.html?id=6013bc93-c193-4980-a869-9dd2959818a3.



Jessica Tipton (Jobs Bay Reserve) – Jessica identified a knowledge gap for reserve managers to systematically record observations about disturbance occurring within the Jobs Bay Reserve. Managers needed a tool to collect anecdotal descriptions of disturbance events gathered while in the field that could be accessed and built upon in the future. Jessica helped develop a participatory mapping survey using ArcGIS Survey123 to facilitate data collection on the location, type, and extent

of disturbance events occurring. The tool can be used by managers to input historical and future observations for seagrass, mangrove, and coral reef habitats. Reserve managers have reported 27 unique disturbance observations to date and will continue to have access to this tool throughout the entirety of this fellowship project.

Accolades



Sarah Tucker (He'eia Reserve)

Published a peer-reviewed article on the diversity and abundance of phytoplankton within Kāne'ohe Bay on the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i, at <https://peerj.com/articles/12274/>.



Johanna L'Heureux

(North Inlet-Winyah Bay Reserve – right)

Awarded best graduate poster at the 2021 Southeastern Estuarine Research Society Annual Meeting.

Tyler Cribbs (ACE Basin Reserve – left)

Awarded second place for his virtual research presentation at the 2020 Southeastern Estuarine Research Society Annual Meeting.



Ashley Reaume (Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve)

Won the outstanding poster presentation award at the Guana Tolomato Matanzas State of the Reserve meeting.



Emilio Grande (Elkhorn Slough Reserve)

Submitted a chapter of his thesis dissertation for publication. The preprint is available online at www.authorea.com/users/449013/articles/547683-tidal-frequencies-and-quasiperiodic-subsurface-water-level-variations-dominate-redox-dynamics-in-a-salt-marsh-system.



Jessica Brunacini (Wells Reserve)

Invited to participate in the Story Collider's Estuary Storytelling virtual workshop, which was hosted by North Inlet-Winyah Bay Reserve, and is involved in multiple Social Coast Forum gatherings to share lessons learned from the photo storytelling techniques used in her fellowship research.

About the Program

This fellowship program honors the legacy of Margaret A. Davidson, a visionary and pioneer in the world of coastal resource management. The Margaret A. Davidson Graduate Fellowship emphasizes professional development, mentoring, and innovation, and offers students admitted to or enrolled in a master's or doctoral program the opportunity to conduct research at one of the 29 [national estuarine research reserves](#) (Connecticut was not designated prior to the proposal process).

For more information, and to see a list of the full 2020 to 2022 cohort, visit coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/research/davidson-fellowship.html.

Program Timeline

Call for applications for the 2022 to 2024 cohort is now closed.

2022 to 2024 cohort will be announced in May/June 2022.

August 1, 2022 – Start date for the 2022 to 2024 cohort.

