

## Sea Grant Supported Students Graduate

The twelve undergraduate students supported by Louisiana Sea Grant completed their degrees in 2013. The list includes:

- Rifat Quamrul Alam, master of science, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Department of Geosciences, Thesis: *Development and enhancement of a mechanistic model of Little Vermilion Bay: incorporation of stochastic cloud cover and nutrient flux as they affect light dynamics and phytoplankton growth*. Major Professor: Barbara Benson.
- Ruwaida Bari, master of science, University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
Department of Geosciences, Theses: *Analysis of water parameters, light dynamics, and phytoplankton growth kinetics in Little Vermilion Bay: implications for mechanistic model development*. Major Professor: Barbara Benson.
- April Elizabeth Bryant Mason, master of science, Louisiana State University  
Department of Renewable Natural Resources, Dissertation: *Nitrogen and carbon export to the Gulf of Mexico by the Atchafalaya River, a major tributary of the Mississippi River*. Major Professor: Jun Xu.
- Ciara Chambers, master of science, Tulane  
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Thesis: *Spatial and temporal variability of benthic respiration in a developing deltaic estuary (Wax Lake Delta, Louisiana)*. Major Professor: Alex Kolker
- Benjamin S. Eberline, master of science, Louisiana State University  
Department of Renewable Resources and Department of Animal Sciences, Thesis: *Population dynamics of the eastern oyster in the northern Gulf of Mexico*. Major Professor: Megan La Peyre and Jerome La Peyre.
- Chad Robert Judy, master of science, Louisiana State University  
Department of Coast and Environmental Sciences, Thesis: *Impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on vegetation structure and function of the common reed *Phragmites Australis*: a mesocosm study*. Major Professor: Aixin Hou and Irving Mendelsohn.
- James Laleggio, master of science, Louisiana State University  
Department of Renewable Natural Resources, Thesis: *Direct and indirect effects of nutrient and salinity manipulation on wetland vegetation; herbivory and flooding stress as a function of fertilization*. Major Professor: Andy Nyman.
- Gregory Allen Matteson, II, master of the science, University of New Orleans  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Thesis: *Characterization of dredged sediment used in coastal restoration and marsh creation projects*. Major Professor: Malay Ghose Hajra.
- James Dustin Naquin, master of the science, Louisiana State University

Department of Oceanography and Environmental Science, Thesis: *Hurricane-induced geologic change and palynological assessment of a rapidly subsiding deltaic environment in coastal Louisiana*. Major Professor: Kam-biu Liu

- Jason P. Peitroski, master of science, Louisiana State University  
Department of Coast and Environment and Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, Thesis: *Effect of the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill on critical marsh soil microbial functions*. Major Professor: John R. White and Ronald Delaune.
- Cyndhia Ramatachnadirane, master of science, Tulane  
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Thesis: *Coastal marsh formation and its relation to sediment exchange along the Chenier plain in southwest Louisiana*. Major Professor: Alex Kolker.
- Molly Marie Rybovich, master of science, Louisiana State University  
Department of Renewable Resources and Department of Animal Sciences, Thesis: *Growth and mortality of spat, seed, and market-sized oysters (*Crassostrea Virginica*) in low salinities and high temperatures*. Major Professor: Megan La Peyre and Jerome La Peyre.