HARTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE
FOR GULF OF MEXICO STUDIES

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & INTERNSHIPS
REPORT 2020
MESSAGE FROM THE

HARTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

for Gulf of Mexico Studies
It’s a time of change at the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies (HRI) as we say goodbye to longtime Senior Executive Director Dr. Larry McKinney, who retired from his position in August 2020 after 12 years of leadership to take a new role as our Chair for Gulf Strategies.

We are grateful for Dr. McKinney’s leadership and vision. He believed deeply in the role that educating future Gulf leaders played in fulfilling our vision for an economically and environmentally sustainable Gulf of Mexico. Under his tenure we founded several major student initiatives, including our Student Workshop on International Coastal and Marine Management (SWiMM), which brings together students from the U.S., Mexico, and Cuba to build relationships and learn international research skills; he gifted a series of institute-based competitive grants allowing HRI graduate students to sponsor their own projects, like the Harte of the Gulf environmental film festival; and he took students on multiple trips to dive the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary’s annual coral spawn to see one of the rare natural marine wonders of the world right in our back yard.

But most of all, Dr. McKinney believed in the value of ensuring our graduate students are as close to fully funded in their education as possible. That is a tradition we plan to continue as he passes the baton to new leadership. Dr. David Yoskowitz, former HRI Associate Director for Research, Policy, and Development and the founding HRI Endowed Chair for Socio-Economics, is our new Senior Executive Director at HRI, and he will continue to make a difference for our students in funding their education, allowing them to focus on their research and future careers.

This report profiles HRI students whose education and research have been paid for by sponsors and donors who believe in our mission — developing science-driven solutions for Gulf of Mexico problems. Our students work together across a variety of science, social science and policy disciplines, training to put the HRI model of interdisciplinary research into action. With your help, our students have published papers, made discoveries, engaged in active research and monitoring, and our graduates have begun new careers helping to protect and preserve our home sea, the Gulf of Mexico.

We thank you for your support!
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Maggie Bains Endowed Scholarship .................................................. 1-2

R.N. “Dick” Conolly Endowed Scholarship ......................................... 3-4

Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment .................................................... 5-8

Harte Fellows .................................................................................. 9-10

Furgason Fellowship Endowment ...................................................... 11-12

Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment for the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation ............................................. 13

Dr. John “Wes” Tunnell, Jr. Fellowship ................................................. 14

Coastal Conservation Association–Texas Graduate Scholarship Fund ................................................................. 15-16

Shimano-CCA National Marine Science Scholarship ......................... 17-18

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Coastal Conservation Association Summer Internship Program .......................... 19

Donor Spotlight ............................................................................. 20

Upcoming Student Funding Opportunities ........................................ 21-22
Maggie Bains Endowed Scholarship

In May 2013, Margaret “Maggie” Bains, a former lab volunteer at HRI, was recognized for her years of dedication to marine science with the establishment of an endowed scholarship in her name. Funding supports HRI graduate students pursuing a degree in marine biology. The scholarship was established by the Chapel in the Hills Interdenominational Church in Wimberley, Texas, HRI, and Maggie’s former HRI co-workers. Bains, a career teacher, never fully believed in retirement and used her master’s degree in zoology from Texas A&M Maritime Academy in Galveston to volunteer as a research assistant at HRI into her 80s.

Maggie Bains Endowed Scholarship

Graduate Research Assistant

Diana Del Angel, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Brownsville, Texas

RESEARCH GROUP: Socio-Economics

DISSERTATION: Social-ecological system approach for assessing impacts of sea-level rise and benefit of natural and nature-based features

EXPECTED GRADUATION: SPRING 2021

Throughout my academic career, maps have always been the tool of choice. As an undergrad, I spent many hours in the field mapping coastal vegetation, and as a master’s student I used digital maps to assess changes in the shape and volume of dunes on a South Texas barrier island. Currently, as a Ph.D. candidate, I continue to work with habitat maps but also have expanded my work to map the social and economic makeup of an ecosystem. Data mapping is crucial to my dissertation — an assessment of the combined effects of sea-level rise and storm-surge flooding in northern Gulf of Mexico communities.

Under the guidance of diverse researchers here at HRI, my research has been shaped into an interdisciplinary endeavor. I believe this kind of work is increasingly important to inform policymaking and planning for sustainable coastal communities. I am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Maggie Bains Scholarship. This scholarship was particularly helpful over the summer of 2020, when many changes were happening as we adjusted our living and working situations to COVID.
Graduate Research Assistant
Mariana C. León-Pérez, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
RESEARCH GROUP: Coastal and Marine Geospatial Sciences
DISSERTATION: Massive Arrivals of Pelagic Sargassum: Vulnerability of Social-Ecological Systems and Management Implications in Puerto Rico
EXPECTED GRADUATION: Spring 2022

I have always wanted to help solve the environmental problems I saw every day on my home island of Puerto Rico and throughout the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). Leaving my island to pursue a Ph.D. at the Harte Research Institute was one of the most difficult but most rewarding decisions I have ever made. Here at HRRI, I have been able to acquire invaluable skills and experiences, while at the same time give back with data from my research that can be used to mitigate the effects of massive Sargassum influxes on coastal communities in the WCR.

All of this would not have been possible without the financial support I have received throughout my educational career. The Maggie Bains Scholarship has provided me much-needed financial relief that translates into more time to focus on my research. I am honored and immensely grateful for the support!

Graduate Research Assistant
Alyssa Outhwaite, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Darien, Georgia
RESEARCH GROUP: Coastal Conservation & Restoration
DISSERTATION: Ecological structure and function of estuarine habitats in Matagorda Bay, Texas
EXPECTED GRADUATION: FALL 2023

As a young girl there were three things that I loved to do most: playing in the ocean, teaching my sisters, and letting my curiosity get the better of me. These passions have stayed with me over the years, leading me towards a degree in marine biology. Ultimately, it is my hope to become a professor where I might continue to share my excited curiosity with others. The Maggie Bains Scholarship helped me further these dreams by supporting my research in coastal habitats of the Matagorda Bay. My work on the ecological structure and function of estuarine habitats is crucial to the future of resource management and species conservation decisions. I am deeply honored to have been chosen for this scholarship and I look forward to sharing the findings of my work that this award has allowed me to continue.
R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Scholarship

The R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Graduate Scholarship in Fisheries Conservation and Sportfish Research was established by the Rotary Club of Corpus Christi in honor of R.N. "Dick" Conolly. Dick was an avid sportfish angler and leader in creating the Rotary Club’s Harvey Weil Sportsmanship Conservationist Award Program in honor of his friend and sportfishing companion Harvey Weil. The R.N. "Dick" Conolly Endowed Scholarship assists full-time students pursuing a master’s or doctoral degree during a program of study within the research focus areas of fisheries conservation, particularly those in HRI’s Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation.
I was initially attracted to the Harte Research Institute because of the pivotal and multidisciplinary research being done on fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. As a graduate student here, I have been involved in The Great Red Snapper Count, a Gulf-wide project aimed at assessing the absolute abundance of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico. During my time working on this project I’ve collected data offshore using a remotely operated vehicle and hydroacoustic equipment, learned new ways to process the data we collected, and applied the statistical knowledge I gained while taking classes to analyze the data. I know that so many of these exciting, indispensable moments were made possible by support from the Coastal Conservation Association—Texas Graduate Scholarship, R.N. “Dick” Conolly Endowed Scholarship, and the Harte Fellowship. Thank you for the opportunities you have granted me as an HRI student because without you I would not have been able to reach my goals as a graduate student.
Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment

The Crutchfield Fellowships were established by John H. and Danna Crutchfield in honor of John’s late father, John W. Crutchfield, a Corpus Christi businessman and civic leader who was instrumental in the University of Corpus Christi’s transformation into today’s Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. The endowment assists HRI master’s and doctoral students by providing funding for educational expenses ranging from tuition and books, to travel associated with meetings and workshops, as well as research supplies and equipment.
Crutchfield Scholar

Graduate Research Assistant

Tiffany Chin, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Baltimore, Maryland

RESEARCH GROUP: Coastal Ecosystem Processes

THESIS: Comparison of Phytoplankton Biomass and Community Composition in Three Texas Estuaries Differing in Freshwater Inflow Regime

GRADUATION: SUMMER 2020

I chose to pursue a graduate degree within the Harte Research Institute to further develop skills that would allow me to excel in my desired career field of water quality and ecosystem management at the state or regional level. The Crutchfield Fellowship lessened the financial stress of graduate school, allowing me to cover the costs of university fees and essential supplies without taking out loans or cutting into my living costs.

Since graduating in summer 2020, I have been working as a Coastal Management Specialist with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services’ Coastal Program and the Jackson Estuarine Lab at the University of New Hampshire. In this position, I am responsible for the phytoplankton sampling program and harmful algal bloom monitoring and contribute to many ongoing programs including: salt marsh biomonitoring, water quality monitoring for shellfish harvest regulation, and management and remediation of coastal lands for resilience to flood and erosion risks associated with climate change and sea level rise.

Crutchfield Scholar

Graduate Research Assistant

Sandeep Jilla

HOMETOWN: Hyderabad, India

RESEARCH GROUP: Coastal & Marine Geospatial Sciences

EXPECTED GRADUATION: FALL 2020

I am a full-time graduate student in Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi’s Computer Science degree program and am honored to be one of the recipients of the Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment. As an international student, I had to take a student loan to organize money for my course fees and living costs before coming to the U.S. The Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment has alleviated the pressure of student loan debt and allowed me to focus on the most important aspect of school: learning.

Because of this generous support, I have been able to receive an outstanding education and participate in activities and competitions, like “Invent for the Planet,” that have helped me in developing potential when it comes to overcoming barriers. I really hope that one day I will also be able to help a student achieve their goals, like the Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment has done for me.

Thank you again for your investment in students like myself and in our education.
**Rachael Klose**

**HOMETOWN:** Bethlehem, Pennsylvania  
**RESEARCH GROUP:** Marine Resource Development  
**THESIS:** Measuring the treatment and effect of biofouling on the Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*) in suspended longline cages in Copano Bay, Texas  
**EXPECTED GRADUATION:** **SUMMER 2021**

I discovered my passion for aquaculture during my sophomore year of college and have pursued it ever since. The goal of my project is researching biofouling accumulation on oyster cages in Copano Bay to provide management recommendations to new oyster farmers in Texas. I am fortunate enough to have my tuition covered by funding from the Crutchfield Fellowship and a monthly stipend from the Harte Research Institute’s research fund. Without this support, I would have needed to reconsider pursuing a master’s degree for financial reasons or needed to take out more student loans as well as have a job on top of my other responsibilities. Without these worries, I can have financial security and more time to focus on my education and research. I would like to personally thank the Crutchfield Fellowship for providing me with so much, including the ability to give back to the state of Texas with my research and pursue my passion.

**Abraham “Abe” Margo, M.S.**

**HOMETOWN:** Cohasset, Minnesota  
**RESEARCH GROUP:** Coastal Conservation & Restoration  
**THESIS:** Analyses of Biotic Communities and Development of Indices of Biological Integrity for Monitoring Tidal Streams Along the Upper Texas Coast  
**GRADUATION:** **SPRING 2020**

I was initially drawn to my area of study by the strength and experience found in Dr. Jennifer Pollack’s lab. It was composed of high-level researchers in their fields, who were also pillars in their communities through their work, outreach, and personal lives. This integration of science and community was something that felt important to me. With assistance from the Harte Research Institute and the Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment, I was able to become a part of this experience.

During my final year of study, uncertainty spread throughout the world and keeping the cost of attending graduate school low was paramount. Without receiving assistance from the Crutchfield Fellowship Endowment, I do not believe I would have been able to achieve all my research goals while maintaining positive experiences along the way. Since graduating in May, I have been exploring opportunities to continue my work in marine and freshwater sciences. Ideally, I would like to work in a field that promotes conservation or conducts restoration for fragile ecosystems.
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Quinn McColly, Ph.D.

HOMETOWN: Chesterton, Indiana
RESEARCH GROUP: Socio-Economics
DISSERTATION: Market mechanisms and the efficient allocation of water
GRADUATION: SPRING 2020

The 2019-2020 school year was a very busy one for me! In the fall, I attended the bi-annual meeting of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation in Mobile, Alabama where I presented research discussing the possibilities that emerge when data is combined in creative new ways. In January, I traveled to Boston to present my modelling research at the American Meteorological Society, then defended my dissertation in April to become “Dr.” McColly. I really enjoyed presenting my work at these conferences and am so grateful for the opportunity to engage with our scientific community and share the work that we have been doing at the Harte Research Institute. I am also very pleased to be staying at HRI as a postdoctoral research associate with Dr. David Yoskowitz and the Socio-Economics group. I plan to continue my research exploring the use of artificial intelligence to model water prices to inform and build financial tools for developing markets.

Graduate Research Assistant

Sarah Tominack, M.S.

HOMETOWN: La Plata, Maryland
RESEARCH GROUP: Coastal Ecosystem Processes
DISSERTATION: Physical, Chemical, and Biological Factors Influencing Karenia brevis Bloom Dynamics in a South Texas Bay (Corpus Christi Bay)
EXPECTED GRADUATION: SPRING 2021

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude for being chosen to receive the Crutchfield Fellowship for the 2019-2020 school year. The fellowship allowed me to stop applying for student loans to cover university fees. Though I was able to avoid student loans by working full-time during my B.A. and M.S. degrees, the rigors of a Harte Research Institute Ph.D. program were not conducive to pursuing outside employment while maintaining academic and scientific excellence. Therefore, this fellowship not only provided direct support for me this past year but has also provided extended stability and peace of mind for me in the years to come. So again, I would like to say thank you for the Crutchfield Fellowship and all that it has provided and will provide for me.
Harte Fellows

When Ed Harte, Corpus Christi newspaper publisher and noted conservationist, gave his $46 million gift in 2000 to establish the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, he emphasized the role that student support would play in his vision. The Harte Fellows were created in his name, ensuring every Endowed Chair would have at least one fully-funded graduate student in their program. The endowment funds educational expenses for six to eight HRI master’s and doctoral students each year, including tuition, books, travel and research supplies.
Postdoctoral Research Associate
Kesley Gibson, Ph.D.

HOMETOWN: Martin, Tennessee
RESEARCH GROUP: Fisheries & Ocean Health
DISSERTATION: Movement Patterns and Habitat Use for Fishery Species of Varying Life History Strategies
GRADUATION: FALL 2019

The scholarships I received offered not only financial support but also a vote of confidence in my future. Without generous organizations, such as Shimano, Coastal Conservation Association–Texas, and the Harte Research Institute, research and education would be impossible. It was a great honor to have been chosen as a recipient and one I hope to have earned upon the completion of my degree and continue to earn as I remain on at the Harte Research Institute as a postdoctoral research associate. These scholarships helped support my research in artificial reef ecology and recreational angler engagement in the scientific process, an important concept that is often overlooked in science. By engaging recreational anglers, many times with the help of your organizations, we have been able to be transparent in our research and demonstrate the need for stakeholders and citizens to conserve natural resources for future generations.

Graduate Research Assistant
Lily Walker

HOMETOWN: Belle Fourche, South Dakota
RESEARCH GROUP: Coastal Ecosystem Processes
THESIS: Climatic and Anthropogenic Drivers of Estuarine Biogeochemical Variability
EXPECTED GRADUATION: FALL 2021

I deeply cherish the support of the Harte Research Institute and the Shimano-CCA National Marine Science Scholarship Program in my pursuit of my life’s passion: protecting the Gulf Coast. From diving the Gulf, to presenting Gulf research internationally, the Harte Research Institute has been there for me. Before I came to HRI, I never could have imagined the breadth and depth of amazing experiences that were in my future. Over the past few years with HRI, I have tagged sharks offshore, worked with stakeholder groups to conserve local ecosystems, and learned laboratory and analytical skills to launch my future career in marine resource policy — all while being unencumbered with financial stress. In my work studying the drivers of water quality degradation and hypoxia formation on the Texas coast, I am thankful to be a part of ensuring a healthy Gulf Coast for generations to come.
Furgason Fellowship Endowment

The Furgason Fellowships were established by Ed Harte and Joe Hornblower in honor of Dr. Robert Furgason, President Emeritus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and founding Executive Director of the Harte Research Institute. The endowment funds teaching and research fellowships at the Harte Research Institute exclusively from Mexican or Cuban universities, as well as the funding of conferences, workshops, and symposia on subjects related to the Gulf of Mexico.
Furgason Fellowship International Chair for Coastal and Marine Studies in Mexico

Fernando Nuno Dias Marques Simões, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION/POSITION: Professor at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México-Sisal

FUNDED ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR: 2019-2020

Dr. Simões used funding from the Furgason Fellowship Endowment to support Mexican students’ research experiences at other institutions; his participation, and some of his students’, at international conferences; scientific equipment for use in the “Biodiversity in the Southern Gulf of Mexico” project; publication fees of scientific contributions for three articles with a strong focus on open access journals; and master classes featuring distinguished specialists presenting on four topics related to the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico.

Furgason Fellowship International Chair for Coastal and Marine Studies in Cuba

Patricia González Díaz, Ph.D.

ORGANIZATION/POSITION: Director of the University of Havana’s Center for Marine Research or Centro de Investigaciones Marinas

FUNDED ACADEMIC SCHOOL YEAR: 2019-2020

Dr. González Díaz used funding from the Furgason Fellowship Endowment to support doctoral students’ participation in international workshops; scientific books for the Center for Marine Research library; scientific equipment for coral reef research; research on the Gulf of Mexico Coral Reef Report Card; and vessel time aboard a research cruise exploring coral reefs in southern Cuba.

Furgason Fellowship Student Workshop

The annual Furgason Fellowship Student Workshop on International Coastal and Marine Management (SWIMM) was held in the Yucatán in January 2020. Six students each from Cuba, Mexico, and the United States participated in the workshop. This year’s focus centered on development pressure from oil and gas exploration and tourism.
Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment for the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation

The Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment for the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation (CSSC) was established to enhance the mission of the CSSC. It’s a mission that is near and dear to hearts of Dan and Carolyn, both advocates for the practice of anglers giving back to the waters that provide for their recreational enjoyment. The scholarship assists top-tier graduate students with tuition and research support as they pursue an education pertaining to sportfish conservation.

Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment for the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation

Graduate Research Assistant
Kelsey Martin, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Frederick, Maryland
RESEARCH GROUP: Fisheries & Ocean Health
DISSERTATION: Distribution and Abundance of Economically Important Fish Species in the Western Gulf of Mexico
EXPECTED GRADUATION: SPRING 2022

The generosity of the Dan and Carolyn Pedrotti Endowment for the CSSC has enabled me to focus on my research without having to worry about the burden of financial instability. During the 2019-2020 school year, I took and passed my qualifying exams and progressed from a Ph.D. student to a Ph.D. candidate. I was very grateful that financial stress was one stress I did not have to endure during that period.

The peace-of-mind of financial security has also enabled me to develop and execute a research plan that is relevant to fisheries management practices. This direct involvement with research critical to managers of economically important species will facilitate my career as a fisheries scientist. I hope to become the first person in my family to obtain a doctorate degree, and no amount of thanks can surmount the gratitude I feel for making my dream a reality.
Dr. John “Wes” Tunnell, Jr. Fellowship

In April 2016, a fellowship was funded by the Harte Charitable Foundation to continue the teaching legacy of long-time educator, author, and marine scientist Dr. John “Wes” Tunnell, Jr., HRI Associate Director and Endowed Chair for Biodiversity and Conservation Science. The fellowship supports graduate students from Mexico or the United States who are committed to research in Mexico while pursuing their graduate education at HRI.

Tunnell Fellow

Graduate Research Assistant

Coral Lozada, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Katy, Texas
RESEARCH GROUP: Socio-Economics
DISSERTATION: Livelihoods in Transition Across the Gulf of Mexico: A Three Case Study Approach
EXPECTED GRADUATION: FALL 2021

As 2019 saw a substantive modification of my project and committee, the Tunnell Fellowship was vitally important. It helped create, and continues to support, the professional network I developed during my previous years’ fieldwork and courses in the Yucatán, Mexico. In January 2020, this network was critical in helping me conduct the interviews for my project and continue to interact with the Yucatán communities. The fellowship also allowed me to present the preliminary findings of my project in Berlin, Germany at the MAXQDA (software) International Conference in February.

Today, the Tunnell Fellowship affords me security during the pandemic, knowing I can focus on moving forward with my research. During this upcoming year I hope to accomplish my second and third case study components, which will be possible through the Tunnell Fellowship. I am forever grateful to the Harte family, Dr. Yoskowitz, the Tunnell Fellowship, and my friends in the Yucatán and Cuba for their continued support during my Ph.D.
Coastal Conservation Association—Texas Graduate Scholarship Fund

The Coastal Conservation Association of Texas established this scholarship to assist graduate students at HRI pursuing a degree with specific focus on marine resource management. Recipients are expected to contribute, through their research, to the understanding of marine fisheries science and management in the Gulf of Mexico with emphasis on recreational fishing.
Coastal Conservation Association – Texas Graduate Scholarship Fund

Graduate Research Assistant

Ethan Taulbee, M.S.

HOMETOWN: Camden, Ohio

RESEARCH GROUP: Fisheries & Ocean Health

THESIS: Scale Microchemistry as a Non-Lethal Alternative for Tracking Individually Variable Migration Patterns in Mobile Fish

GRADUATION: SPRING 2020

During my time at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, the largest scholarship I received was the Coastal Conservation Association–Texas Graduate Scholarship. I will never forget opening that email, I was ecstatic. The scholarship meant a lot more than just money. It was some security in a time of unknowns. It prevented me from having to take out loans to afford graduate school, and it allowed me to save some money to support myself during my subsequent move out of Corpus Christi to begin my post-graduation job search for opportunities at fisheries in West Virginia. I cannot emphasize enough how much this scholarship has helped me to complete my graduate education and start my next step.

Coastal Conservation Association – Texas Graduate Scholarship Fund

Graduate Research Assistant

Jill Thompson-Grim

HOMETOWN: Pearland, Texas

RESEARCH GROUP: Fisheries & Ocean Health

THESIS: Fine-scale Habitat Use by Reef Fish in the Western Gulf of Mexico

EXPECTED GRADUATION: FALL 2020

I deeply cherish the support of the Harte Research Institute and the Shimano-CCA National Marine Science Scholarship Program in my pursuit of my life’s passion: protecting the Gulf Coast. From diving the Gulf, to presenting Gulf research internationally, the Harte Research Institute has been there for me. Before I came to HRI, I never could have imagined the breadth and depth of amazing experiences that were in my future. Over the past few years with HRI, I have tagged sharks offshore, worked with stakeholder groups to conserve local ecosystems, and learned laboratory and analytical skills to launch my future career in marine resource policy — all while being unencumbered with financial stress. In my work studying the drivers of water quality degradation and hypoxia formation on the Texas coast, I am thankful to be a part of ensuring a healthy Gulf Coast for generations to come.
Shimano-CCA National Marine Science Scholarship

Shimano and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) have partnered to fund two scholarships for graduate students dedicated to advancing their education in marine fisheries conservation. Students must demonstrate a passion for recreational fishing and are expected to contribute, through their research, to the understanding of Gulf of Mexico marine fisheries — in alignment with the missions of Shimano, CCA, and the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Harte Research Institute.
The scholarships I received offered not only financial support but also a vote of confidence in my future. Without generous organizations, such as Shimano, Coastal Conservation Association–Texas, and the Harte Research Institute, research and education would be impossible. It was a great honor to have been chosen as a recipient and one I hope to have earned upon the completion of my degree and continue to earn as I remain on at the Harte Research Institute as a postdoctoral research associate. These scholarships helped support my research in artificial reef ecology and recreational angler engagement in the scientific process, an important concept that is often overlooked in science. By engaging recreational anglers, many times with the help of your organizations, we have been able to be transparent in our research and demonstrate the need for stakeholders and citizens to conserve natural resources for future generations.

I deeply cherish the support of the Harte Research Institute and the Shimano-CCA National Marine Science Scholarship Program in my pursuit of my life’s passion: protecting the Gulf Coast. From diving the Gulf, to presenting Gulf research internationally, the Harte Research Institute has been there for me. Before I came to HRI, I never could have imagined the breadth and depth of amazing experiences that were in my future. Over the past few years with HRI, I have tagged sharks offshore, worked with stakeholder groups to conserve local ecosystems, and learned laboratory and analytical skills to launch my future career in marine resource policy — all while being unencumbered with financial stress. In my work studying the drivers of water quality degradation and hypoxia formation on the Texas coast, I am thankful to be a part of ensuring a healthy Gulf Coast for generations to come.
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department and Coastal Conservation Association Summer Internship Program

The Coastal Conservation Association, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi (TAMU-CC) and the Harte Research Institute have partnered since 2002 for student internships with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department’s Coastal Fisheries Management Resource and Harvesting Program. The program provides TAMU-CC students with the valuable hands-on experience of working in the field alongside state agency personnel. Support for the program is also provided by the Mr. & Mrs. Big Trout Scholarship Tournament.

**Summer 2020 Interns**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kyle Ayers</th>
<th>Sayge Flores</th>
<th>Kathleen Mathews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement Program</td>
<td>Enhancement Program</td>
<td>Science &amp; Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCA Marine Development Center</td>
<td>CCA Marine Development Center</td>
<td>Outreach/Commercial Trip Ticket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alyx Bradley</th>
<th>Margaret Harpe</th>
<th>Melanie McBride</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources Management</td>
<td>Science &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Resources Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi Bay</td>
<td>Habitat Assessment Team</td>
<td>Upper Laguna Madre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hannah Buel tel</th>
<th>Katherine Lanoue</th>
<th>Hannah Organ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resources Management</td>
<td>Science &amp; Policy</td>
<td>Ecosystem Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aransas Bay</td>
<td>Perry R. Bass Marine Fisheries Research Station</td>
<td>Corpus Christi ERP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19
Donor Spotlight

Dr. Raymond E. and Renée Barsalou Frisbie

A dedicated Texas A&M scholar and a lifelong angler, Texas A&M University emeritus professor and former College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology department head Dr. Ray Frisbie is an Aggie through and through. He began his career as an entomologist at TAMU’s AgriLife Extension Service, and made the university his life’s work, becoming an internationally recognized expert in integrated pest management.

Frisbie, his wife, Renée, and their daughter, Katelan, an ‘09 Texas A&M grad, chose to honor the Texas A&M University system with an amazing contribution to future students: A planned gift establishing the Dr. Raymond E. and Renée Barsalou Frisbie Endowed Graduate Student Fellowship in Marine and Coastal Conservation.

Why would an entomologist be interested in coastal and marine conservation? Frisbie is a dedicated saltwater angler of more than 40 years, and has watched the decline of coastal habitats, particularly the freshwater inflows that support important bay and estuary systems. With his background in supporting student research and integrated science, Frisbie wanted to establish an innovative partnership between the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology in College Station and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Raymond E. and Renée Barsalou Frisbie Endowed Graduate Student Fellowship in Marine and Coastal Conservation

In this joint fellowship, doctoral students in marine and coastal conservation will collaborate and learn from fisheries and coastal marine scientists at both campuses. To be eligible, the students’ field research should address critical needs in marine and coastal conservation such as:

- Design and restoration of marine habitats
- Water quality for marine life
- Short- and long-term impacts of freshwater inflows
- Rearing and release methods for sportfish species to cope with changing environmental conditions
- Development of government policies to reduce or eliminate industrial, urban and agricultural marine pollution

DID YOU KNOW?

You can make a planned or cash gift that will provide vital support for HRI’s research, future students, and long-term conservation goals, supporting a cause you love both today and tomorrow.

Contact HRI Development Director Joe Youngblood at joe.youngblood@tamucc.edu or (361) 825-2552 for more information.
Upcoming Student Funding Opportunities
Erin Caroline Donalson Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Erin Caroline Donalson was a native of Silsbee, Texas and proud Islander at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Outside of her studies, she enjoyed saltwater fishing and paddle boarding on the Texas coast. Following her passing in May 2018, Erin’s parents, Drew and Alyson Donalson, created the Erin Caroline Donalson Memorial Endowed Scholarship in celebration of their daughter’s passion for her school and the outdoors. The scholarship assists graduate students whose studies and/or research align with mission of the Harte Research Institute’s Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation.

William and Lyell Snyder Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Marine Science

Gail and Michael Sutton established the William and Lyell Snyder Memorial Endowed Scholarship in Marine Science to honor the lives and accomplishments of Gail’s parents. William was a genetic biologist and Lyell an English and political science scholar. Their work took them all over the world until they settled in Corpus Christi, but they were always passionate about their home aquaria. Together, the two Wyoming natives put their intellect to work to create incredible aquariums and were pioneers with exotic species. Their work with aquatic species inspired their children, and this scholarship is designed to assist marine science students primarily from larger families in their honor.

Texas State Aquarium Endowed Scholarship in Biodiversity and Conservation Science

The Texas State Aquarium established this scholarship to support graduate students following in the footsteps of the late Dr. John “Wes” Tunnell, Jr. by conducting biodiversity and/or conservation science research in the Gulf of Mexico or Caribbean Sea. Dr. Tunnell was a longtime friend and advisor to the Aquarium, having aided in the Aquarium’s early planning phases in 1978 and subsequent expansions throughout the next four decades. Through his teachings and mentorship, he inspired many Aquarium staff members and volunteers to pursue careers in marine science.