



Spring 2014 IAHR Newsletter



Organization Elections

The International Association of Hydro-Environmental Engineering and Research (IAHR) Student Chapter at UCF has kicked off in full swing! In October 2013, SGA approved this interdisciplinary association, which was authorized before by IAHR making it the 6th recognized IAHR student chapter in the United States. This past spring, members attended general meetings, an RTK workshop, a seminar on coastal erosion and sea level rise, and participated in field research. Officer elections for the 2014-2015 academic year were held the last week of March. Congratulations to the following elected members:

President – Karim Alizad (PhD Student, Civil Engineering)

Vice President – Matthew Bilskie (PhD Student, Civil Engineering)

Secretary – Davina Passeri (PhD Student, Civil Engineering)

Treasurer – Paige Hovenga (Masters Student, Civil Engineering)

Public Relations Officer – Stephanie Garvis (PhD Student, Biology)

A big thank you to all members of IAHR-UCF for your involvement, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Sea Level Rise Hazards Seminar

In April, we held our first seminar with an invited talk from Dr. Nathaniel Plant from the U.S. Geological Survey St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center. Dr. Plant gave a lecture on the “Sea-Level Rise Hazards and Decision Support” project which assesses the potential impacts of sea-level rise on the Nation’s coasts. The project implements historical and recent observational data, and uncertainties in the understanding of coastal processes into a Bayesian statistical analysis framework which is used to make probabilistic predictions of future shoreline changes and wetland survival. We are looking forward to having more invited seminars by leading professionals in the areas of engineering and biology!



RTK Workshop

IAHR student chapter at UCF presented RTK surveying workshop to provide the members with one of the most useful tools for their future research and career. This workshop was taught by Dr. Stephen Medeiros (Research Assistant Professor, Department of Civil, Environmental and Construction



Engineering, UCF) in theory and hands on sections. The theory section was held at the CHAMPS lab and the members were informed about the device and its data collection methods. The hands-on portion of the workshop was done in the Memory Mall area at UCF in three groups. The members collected the elevation data, which they later transferred and processed using CHAMPS lab computers. At the end of the workshop, members ate their lunch together to celebrate their new academic skill. This workshop

will be available next year for new IAHR members if requested!

Weeks Bay field work

In April, several members of IAHR traveled to Weeks Bay, AL to set-up a field experiment. The experiment consisted of installing three "marsh organs" as well as planting two marsh species within the organs, *Spartina alterniflora* and *Juncus roemerianus*. The experiment is in support of a five year NOAA funded project entitled "Ecological Effects of Sea Level Rise in the Northern Gulf of Mexico", led by the University of Central Florida. Essentially, the experiment mimics sea level rise by differing inundation times across the marsh organ by varying the heights of the planted salt marsh. This experiment will aid in informing scientists and researchers about the growing patterns of the salt marsh species across different marsh table elevations.



Future Work

Though the spring semester has come to a close, research will continue on. This summer five of our members will be presenting their research at the Young Coastal Scientists and Engineers Conference this July at the University of Delaware. Karim Alizad (PhD Student, Civil Engineering), Davina Passeri (PhD Student, Civil Engineering) and Milad Hooshyar (PhD Student, Civil Engineering) will be giving talks and

Paige Hovenga (Masters Student, Civil Engineering), and Aaron Thomas (Undergraduate Student, Civil Engineering) will be presenting posters. This three day event is a great opportunity to strengthen presentation skills, learn what others are doing in the research community, and gain peer feedback to help strengthen your own research.



Mark your calendars! The 36th IAHR World Congress will be hosted in Delft of the Netherlands. The conference will be June 28th – July 3rd, 2015. For more information, visit www.iahr2015.info/.