NEWSLETTER

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A Message from Executive Director Dr. Brian Roberts

It is hard to believe that another summer season is already near an end. As LUMCON's summer programs begin to slow down, it is time to reflect on the impact that we have made on the next generation of young science professionals. Summer is one of the most exciting times at LUMCON and highlights the unique ways we serve our community. By fully integrating our science and education programs we are able to provide unique, place-based experiences to students,educators, early career researchers, and visiting scientists. We combine our scientific and education expertise, world-class assets and resources, and community relationships to be more effective and efficient in our role in redefining and preparing the future coastal workforce for Louisiana and beyond. We train our learners to be better problem solvers and enhance learning experiences far beyond what we could achieve if we kept the research and education programs separate. This approach emphasizes collaboration, place-based skill-based learning, critical thinking and complex problem solving, and the best kind of professional development opportunities to cultivate a culture of excellence, innovation, and mentorship. Below we highlight some of LUMCON's exciting research and education & outreach activities that took place in the month of July.

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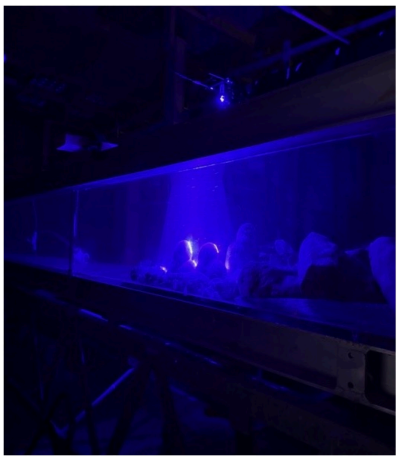
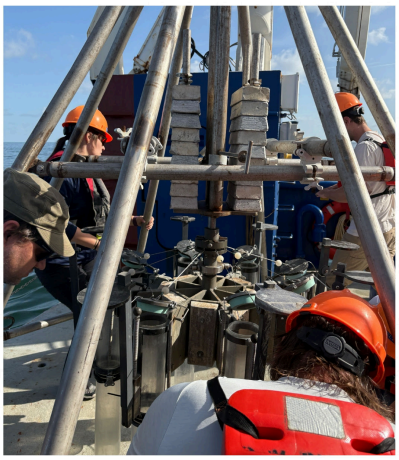



July Research Lab Highlights

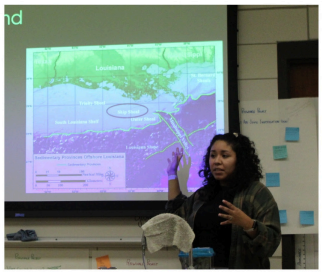
Dr. Stephanie Archer's lab hosted two visiting graduate students from East Carolina University and Northeastern University. The students worked on projects looking at the relationship between a parasite, *Loxothylacus panopaei*, and its mud crab hosts and how vessel noise influences sound producing behavior in snapping shrimp and other sound producing invertebrates.

The labs of Drs. Marshall Bowles, Brian Roberts and Havalend Steinmuller completed a research cruise on board the RV Pelican from July 9th-19th. The cruise was funded by the NSF for the "MEFFLUX" project examining Methane effluxes from river influenced sediments off of the Mississippi River. This collaborative project also involves researchers from LSU and the University of Georgia and provided opportunities for two of this year's REU cohort to contribute to the cruise activities.

Dr. Kevin Du Clos started a collaborative project with Dr. Kelly Sutherland at the University of Oregon, funded by NSF's Biological Oceanography Program that seeks to quantify prey capture impacts of largely unstudied tentacle bearing gelatinous zooplankton.

Dr. Alex Kolker contiuned leading efforts to study the dynamic system of Neptune Pass and developing a collaborative proposal to establish a Neptune Pass Observatory

July Education & Outreach Activities



Field Site to Lab Bench Teacher Workshop - July 9-11, 2025

K-12 teachers from all over Louisiana attended this multi-day, multi-disciplinary workshop focused how get students to work as a collaborative research team and comfortable asking testable questions that frame their understanding of science content. The workshop was in collaboration with and funded by the Mississippi River Delta Transition Initiative (MissDelta).

Summer Science Summit on the Maritime Campus

The Marine Education staff hosted its very first Summer Science Summit at Blue Works on July 16th. This exciting event was offered specifically to our younger learners. Roughly 70 participants aged 5-10 years old and their adults came to the Houma Maritime Campus to explore and create through the use of lab techniques, engineering, art and design, marine science, and ocean exploration. We thank our program partner, Terrebonne Parish Library, for coming to the event and hosting a story time for our participants.

REUs meet the Community

Our REU students began to wrap up their research projects and started analyzing data for their final push towards their symposium. Three (3) field trips in July taught the students about the local environment, communities, and important infrastructure components as they relate to the environmental issues of the region where the balance between the landscape and function as a working coast exists in tandem. REU Field Trips are possible through the involvement of with insitutional partners LA Sea Grant, National Park Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Graduate Student Pays it Forward

Jackie Valladares, a graduate student in the Roberts Lab of Ecosystem Ecology and Biogeochemistry, spoke to the teacher in the Field Site to Lab Bench Workshop. Jackie did a spectatular job explaining her research focused on studying the impacts of dredging on denitrification and nutrient cycling rates on Ship Shoal. Jackie's perspective gave the teachers a glimpse into approaches and challenges of science in practice-based applications.