

Curriculum Vitae

Laura Szczyrba
Graduate Student
Department of Geosciences, Virginia Tech
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Education

M.S. Geosciences, Virginia Tech, expected passing year 2020

Advisor: Dr. Robert Weiss

B.S. Environmental Sciences (Highest Distinction), University of Virginia, 2016

B.A. Spanish, University of Virginia, 2016

Research Interests

Coastal Hazards: storm surge, flood impacts, numerical modeling, hazard mitigation

Experience

Virginia Tech

Graduate Research Assistant - Coastal Hazards (2018 - present)

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Oceanography (Spring Semester 2019)

Dewberry Engineers Inc.

Geospatial Analyst - Coastal (2016 - present)

Intern - Coastal (Summer 2016)

University of Virginia

Undergraduate Researcher - Environmental Sciences (2014 - 2016)

Thesis Title: Hydrodynamic Forces on Coral Larvae Within Unidirectional and Wave-Driven Flows

Thesis Advisor: Matthew Reidenbach

The Nature Conservancy

Intern - Global Freshwater (Summer 2015)

Awards and Certifications

Dewberry at Work Award - Perseverance (2018)

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) (2017)

Dewberry at Work Award - Contribution (2016)

Wallace Poole Prize, University of Virginia (2016)

Intermediate Honors, University of Virginia (2014)

Grants and Fellowships

National Research Traineeship, Disaster Resilience and Risk Management, NSF (2018 - 2020)
CURC Zero Waste Grant, College and University Recycling Coalition (2015)
From the Grounds up Grant, University of Virginia Office for Sustainability (2015)
Service Grant, University of Virginia Parents Committee (2014)

Presentations

Poster Presentation: “Puerto Rican Household Vulnerability and Damage in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria”, Natural Hazards Workshop, July 2019
Oral Presentation: “Exploratory Data Science Analysis of the Preservation Potential of Coastal Storm Deposits”, Geosciences Student Research Symposium, February 2019

Field Experience

Puerto Rico Substantial Damage Estimations - Spring 2018 post hurricanes Irma and Maria
Puerto Rico Damage Data Analytics - Fall 2017 post hurricanes Irma and Maria
Louisiana Substantial Damage Estimations - Summer 2016 riverine flooding

Other Engagement

Virginia Sea Grant Alda Method® Communication Workshop (2019)
Virginia Sea Grant Collaborative Team Science Training (2018 - 2019)
Geosciences Student Research Symposium - Committee Member (2018)
VASEM Annual Summit: Securing Prosperity in the Coastal Zone - Volunteer (2018)
Rotating Resilience Roundtables - Volunteer (2018)
Virginia Floodplain Management Association Fall Workshop (2018)

Affiliations

American Geophysical Union (AGU)
Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)
Virginia Floodplain Management Association (VFMA)