

4-1-2016

Research Express News

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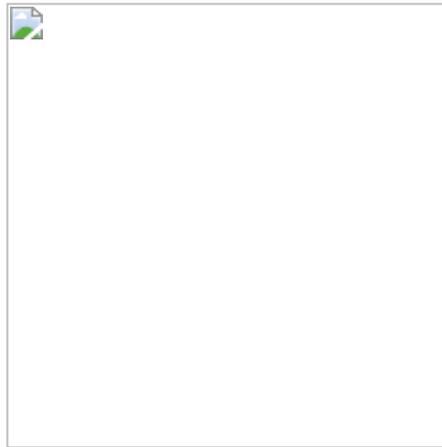
Georgia Southern University, "Research Express News" (2016). *Research Express News Blog (2013-present)*. 61.
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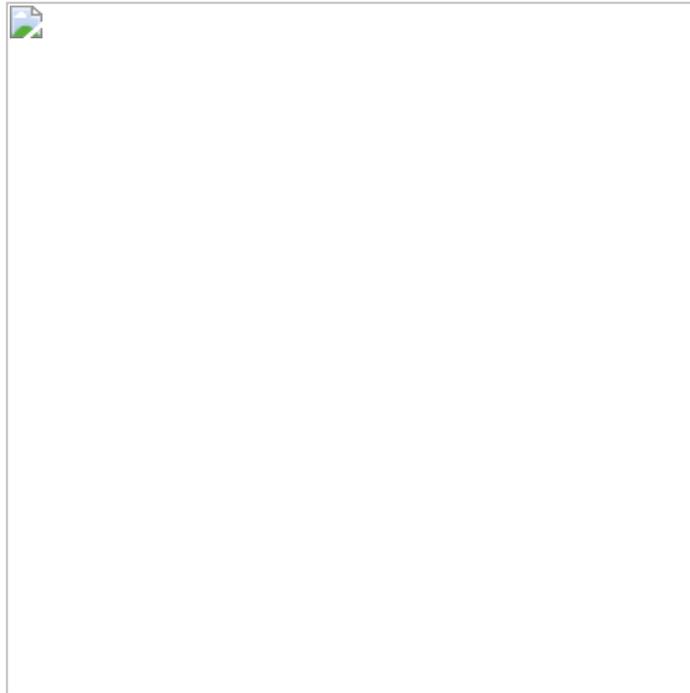
Institute for Coastal Plain Science Awards Summer Graduate Student Research Assistantships

April 1, 2016

The Institute for Coastal Plain Science (ICPS) is proud to announce that the recipients of the 2016 ICPS Summer Graduate Student Research Assistantships are Lauren Neel and Matthew Scanlon. These students were selected after careful review of all submissions by a committee of ICPS faculty. Each student will receive a summer research stipend of \$4,000 to further their graduate studies.



Lauren is an M.S. student in the Department of Biology and is examining thermal sensitivity and thermal tolerance in populations of the Florida scrub lizard (*Sceloporus woodi*) that occupy both long-leaf pine and scrub forest habitats. Fragmentation of habitat poses a major threat to this species in the southeastern Coastal Plain and results from Lauren's study will be used to predict how the Florida scrub lizard may fare in a globally changing climate.



Matthew, also an M.S. student in the Department of Biology, is investigating interactions between shrimp fisherman and sharks and sawfish along the Georgia coast. Specifically, Matthew will accompany shrimp fisherman to document how often shrimp nets get damaged and which fish species are causing damage. He will also develop and test a cost-effective electromagnetic deterrent system that will reduce damage to shrimp nets by repelling sharks and sawfish.

The ICPS furthers the College of Science and Mathematics' mission of transforming scientific knowledge into opportunities for economic development which are protective of our natural resources by 1) promoting, in coordination with public and private partnerships, interdisciplinary research and education directed toward understanding the physical and biological resources occurring below the Fall Line and their sustainable use and management and 2) enhancing curation of the extensive natural history collections and promoting their use as research and education tools.

For the purposes of this competition, all applicants were asked to show how their research will lead to a better understanding of the physical or biological resources occurring below the Fall Line, and to demonstrate clearly how their project is interdisciplinary.

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