

Hello,

My name is Connor Geis. I was born and raised on the water in Florida. I spent my days surfing, fishing, paddling, swimming, and happily living with the ebb and flood of the tides. These activities exposed me to a variety of plants and animals, unique coastal ecosystems and the processes that govern them. Collectively these experiences inspired me to pursue higher education that would not only advance my career, but also to enrich my own personal life and improve my understanding of the world around me.

I received my Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Science from New College of Florida, a small liberal arts college in southwest Florida, where I studied the various physical and biological processes that influenced Florida's coastal ecosystems. My time at New College put me in contact with faculty that shared similar interests, and provided me with the opportunity to conduct field research on the water in Bocas del Toro, Panama. It also gave the chance to begin developing useful lab skills while working for the school as a geospatial analyst.

I am currently a graduate student in the Earth and Ocean Science Department at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. As a UNCW student, I have continued to develop my research, communication and teaching skills, while learning as much as possible about our stretch of coast and the wide variety of ecosystems further inland here in North Carolina. I am thankful to have worked both as a Teaching Assistant, and as an Intern with the United States Army Corps of Engineers at their Field Research Facility (FRF) in Duck, North Carolina. The time I have spent in the classroom and working on my internship projects has shown me the importance of sharing my passion for the coastal environment with others and helped me develop a range of skills that I can comfortably apply in the workplace.

My time working at the FRF during my internship was both fulfilling and enjoyable, but most important of all, a valuable learning experience and period of growth. I developed new skills working alongside the scientists, technicians, and operations team members at the facility. The experience also exposed me to numerous lines of research being conducted within the organization and academic world. This exposure helped me understand more about the skillset that I possess, as well as, how I can continue to grow intellectually and professionally.

Before my internship began, I had no experience working with pressure or velocity sensors. I now know how to program, test and trouble shoot issues with both types of sensors and create computer programs to collect and store sensor data continuously. I acquired valuable experience creating robust instrument mounts that can withstand swells of over 2 meters and being buried. I also learned valuable team work skills when deploying the instrument instruments and adjusting them in a quickly changing and harsh environment. I also gained valuable experience operating professional grade survey equipment and software,

while working on the sediment sample survey and taking part in mobile terrestrial Lidar surveys.

Exposure to a wide variety of research and working in the field has shown me that I am most interested in coastal remote sensing and coastal imaging as they pertain to nearshore research. In the short term, I can envision myself working in a supporting role at a research facility that allows me to interface with both operational staff and staff scientists. I enjoy the creativity involved with developing equipment and clever operational procedures that allow an experiment to be completed successfully. I also have an interest in working with geographic data and developing map-based tools that can be used as educational and outreach platforms that demonstrate coastal processes and issues. Ultimately, if I continue to work in the nearshore research community, I would like to find or create a role that allows me to do both of these things. As I continue to grow professionally, my goal is to continue developing my analytical and communication skills while working hard in a natural environment that captures my imagination.

Thank you,

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