

LEAH MARIE KOCIAN

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ACADEMIA

Texas A&M University • Ph.D., Biological & Agricultural Engineering (4.0/4.0)

Expected: May 2025

Texas A&M University • B.A., Biological & Agricultural Engineering (3.3/4.0)

August 2015 – May 2019

EXPERIENCE

Lead Environmental Researcher – Biobank Automation Company in Cambridge, MA

Aug 2019 – Present

- Initiated a research project on carbon sequestration and cancer research to improve human and environmental health by evaluating urban garden soils, collecting data, testing hypotheses, and developing solutions for urban populations
- Assembled and trained a cross-disciplinary team of **4** students, expediting the processing time of **1000+** samples across **6** experimental setups by **30%**
- Led bi-weekly discussions on synthesized results with the CEO and legal team through MECE agenda creation, slide-deck presentations, summarizing discussion points, and outlining milestones throughout the project
- Featured on a CSA News interview in recognition of the impact of the project, and presented the results at a nationwide conference with **20,000+** industry leaders, policy makers, and scientists

PhD Research Associate (Human & Environmental Health) – Texas A&M AgriLife

Aug 2020 – Present

- Developed procedures and protocols for a **\$500k** water and soil quality lab to improve efficiency, communication, and optimization of lab work, training **10+** students on precision instrument handling
- Identified critical infrastructure improvements, monitored material inventory, and proactively conducted performance checks on equipment at labs across **4** departments, saving **\$1M** YoY in maintenance costs
- Cut cleanup costs by **55%** through judicious negotiation with environmental health and safety officials as well as strategic and effective preparation strategies to expedite waste pickup logistics
- Curtailed data collection time by **20%** for **50+** field campaigns, by optimizing field sampling strategies through automation of a physics-based modeling software, to simulate the most effective sampling locations for data analysis
- Generated **\$5k** in revenue from the processing of additional samples for various researchers, providing excellent quality control and top tier precision, resulting in publications in high-impact journals

Environmental Engineer & Scientist Intern – The City of Austin

May 2019 – Aug 2019

- Led a **5-member** research team on **20+** field campaigns to establish the relationship between geographical location and bacteria count in Austin lakes
- Received recognition from the CEO of the Austin Watershed Protection Project due to significant findings and directed the City of Austin's attention to key issues on water protection in a comprehensive report

LEADERSHIP

Texas A&M Graduate Consulting Club (TAMUGC) – Texas A&M University

Aug 2020 – Present

– **President | Chair of the Board**

- Built a diverse, **9-member** leadership team to create a consulting preparatory program, by orchestrating **6+** pro bono projects and **10+** case workshops to engage **150+** club members, resulting in **10+** placements to top consulting firms
- Spearheaded a partnership of **2** organizations to implement the first consulting case competition at Texas A&M, receiving **100+** applications and **\$6K+** in funding
- Multiplied club endowment by **5.7x** in **3** years by negotiating deals for company sponsorships, collaborating events with various graduate student organizations, securing grants, and doubling membership
- Brought in multiple-time oil & gas CEO, Professor Jim (James) Donnell, as the primary advisor

AWARDS & VENTURES

- 2024 | Montgomery Award – Top **2** selected out of **200+** applicants to receive **\$1,000** award for making major contributions to the academic and professional opportunities, and quality of life for the students at Texas A&M
- 2022 | Awarded **\$5,000** from NSF I-Corps program (conducted **30+** market research interviews with business clients)
- 2010 | Earned a black belt in Taekwondo under Master Amani, trainer of the Olympic gold medalist Steven Lopez
- 2024 | Created a user friendly productivity enhancement tool with a comprehensive YouTube tutorial, aggressively marketing to users through social media platforms, gaining **800+** site visits and **227** downloads in **2** months

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Technical Skills:** Data analytics and visualization in R, project management, presentations, and public speaking
- **Languages:** English (native), Spanish (limited working proficiency)
- **Books:** Thinking Fast and Slow, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, & How to Win Friends and Influence People
- **Hobbies:** Escape rooms, traveling, chess, LEGO puzzles & weight lifting