Hi my name is Shelby Servais! I am a third year Ph.D. candidate at Florida International University in Miami, Florida. For my dissertation I am studying how biogeochemical pathways of soil carbon and microbial processes will be altered under sea level rise in the Florida Everglades. I am conducting this research within the Florida Coastal Everglades (FCE) LTER. I have been supported by FCE LTER as a research assistant through the Primary Production and Biogeochemistry working groups.

Since I started I have been an active member in the FCE graduate student group and am currently serving as the FCE graduate student group president and the FCE student representative for the All Scientist Meeting in August. As the FCE graduate student president I organized student involvement in our site’s successful mid-term review in March 2015, contributed to providing a scholarly and social environment for FCE students, and worked to facilitate collaborative student research projects. Being a part of the LTER network has provided me a sense of community and I am passionate about both the scientific and social aspects of the network. I know the value of conducting research within the interdisciplinary LTER framework. My experience serving as president to the FCE student group, particularly during a midterm review, has provided me with the skills necessary to organize busy graduate students and interact with site PIs to effectively represent the needs and ideas of graduate students. One initiative I would carry out would be the creation of a student focused monthly electronic newsletter highlighting student research and opportunities for graduate student professional development across sites. This newsletter would facilitate cross-site collaboration and showcase recent graduate student successes. If selected to serve as LTER network graduate student co-chair, I look forward to the opportunity to represent LTER graduate students at the cross-site level.