

Environmental Engineering Department News

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Special Points of interest:

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- Students Awarded
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- A&WMA Student Chapter
- Commencement
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EVEN Highlights



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Student Achievements

Students busy with summer internships are **Iris Facundo Torres** (BS pictured right) working with *U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Protection Agency* in Washington D.C., **Gehan Flanders** (MS) working with *U.S. EPA* in Washington D.C., **Kai Williams** (BS) working with *U.S. EPA-Region 6* in Dallas, TX, **Nereyda Facundo Torres** (PhD) working with *CITGO* in Corpus Christi, TX and **Lisa McLaughlin** working with *EPA* in Alaska.

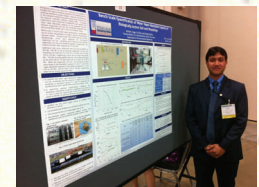


Xiangting Hou (PhD) took 1st Place at the *First Annual Graduate Students Posters Competition* held by the **TAMUK College of Engineering**. April 24, 2012

Nereyda Facundo Torres (PhD pictured right) was awarded 1st Place for **Master Thesis Award** by the *Air & Waste Management Association*. She was recognized at the *105th Annual Conference & Exhibition* in San Antonio, TX on June 20, 2012.



Sagar Chitre (MS pictured right) was awarded 2nd Place Master's level at the **Student Poster Competition** of the *105th Annual Conference & Exhibition*. The poster titled "Bench Scale Quantification of Water Vapor Adsorption Capacity of Biologically Active Soil and Woodchips". Co-author of the poster is **Sergio Santos** (PhD).



Congratulations to **Vinod Balakrishnan** (MS) and **Xingting Hou** (PhD) for passing the FE in April.

The **Student Organization Forum Committee (SOFC)** met and awarded the **A&WMA Student Chapter** \$1,250 for the next year funding. This is more than they have ever been awarded before! **Thanks to everyone who participated in the A&WMA Student Chapter activities!**

Commencement

May 11, 2012 was a big day for many Environmental Engineering students. Graduating with a **Bachelors of Science** was **Natalie A. Rocha**, **Master of Science** were **Oluyinka H. Elegbede**, **Waldy Fernandez-Lopez**, **Cesar G. Moran**, **Alexander J. Murillo Rada**, and **Doctor of Philosophy** were **Martin Alcalá Jr.**, and **Xubin Pan**. **Congratulations All !!**

Undergrad News

Hoggie Days are in full swing and our enrollment is increasing! Welcome **Daniela Aguilar**, **Hunter Balzen**, **Alisa Bautista**, **Eric Harwell**, **Erin Hoelscher**, **Ruben Martinez**, **Iniobong Nkanta**, **Christina Saldivar**, **Nicholas Salyers**, and **Jayne Wilson** who will be joining the Environmental Engineering Department this Fall semester! There are still a few Hoggie Days available so check on-line at <http://www.tamuk.edu/hoggiedays/index.html> to see the latest updates.

Dissertation / Thesis / Project Presentations

Sreeram Singaraju and *Josepha Amaya* (PhD) successfully defended their Dissertation Proposals. *Waldy Fernandez* and *Alexander Murillo* (MS) completed their Thesis Defenses and *Daniel Heuston*, *Danning Wu*, *Jingyi Zhang* and *Yangyang Zou* defended their Thesis Proposals. April 2012.

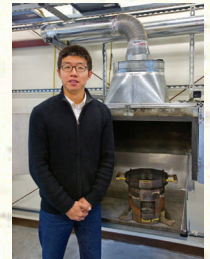
Prajay Gor (PhD) successfully defended his Dissertation Proposal and **Yuan Yuan** (PhD) successfully defended her Dissertation. May 2012.

Alumni News

Vidyasagar Sunkavalli (MS, Class of 2011) is an Environmental Engineer with [Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Co-operative](#) in Renville, Minnesota.

Juan J. Garcia (MS, Class of 2011) is an Environmental Engineer with [Seadrift Coke L.P.](#) in Victoria, TX.

Yungang C. Wang (MS, Class of 2008, pictured right) is a Berkeley Lab Postdoc in Berkeley, CA. Yungang was acknowledged in an article titled "[Head of Stove-Testing Lab Wants to Clear the Air](http://today.lbl.gov/head-of-stove-testing-lab-wants-to-clear-the-air/)". Please go to <http://today.lbl.gov/head-of-stove-testing-lab-wants-to-clear-the-air/> and read this interesting article.



Don't forget to check out the Javelina Alumni Association website. **Alumni & Friends:**

www.alumni.tamuk.edu **Javelina Alumni Association:** www.javelinaalumni.com

*****LinkedIn** is a great way to stay in touch with our Alumni—please connect with Cathey Allen when you can

Faculty / Staff News

Drs. David Ramirez, Hongbo Su, Venkatesh Uddameri, Lee Clapp and **ISEE Abel Garza** participated as judges for the *2012 Annual Engineering Student Design Conference*. **Dr. David Ramirez** received the Outstanding Research Award, **Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri** and **Dr. Kim Jones** received the Professor of the Year Award (voted by students of Env Eng), **Natalie Rocha** (BS) received the Outstanding Senior from Env Eng Award, and **Denis Guleiof** (BS) received the Outstanding Student from Env Eng Award. April 2012.

Dr. Alvaro Martinez organized the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** *The Importance of Green Infrastructure Webinar*. April 30, 2012.

Dr. David Ramirez published an article: Gangupomu, R.H.; Kositkanawuth, K.; Sattler, M.L.; **Ramirez, D.**; Dennis, G.H.; MacDonnel, F.M.; Billo, R.; Priets, J.W. (2012) "[Analysis and Comparison of Inertinite-Derived Adsorbent with Conventional Adsorbents](#)"; *Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association*, 62(5), 489-499.

Dr. David Ramirez and **Dr. Lee Clapp** traveled to the University of Houston to present research proposals for approximately \$300K in external funding to the *Coastal Impacts Technology Program, Technology Roadmapping Workshop*. May 15, 2012.

Dr. Jianhong Ren initiated the [IGERT Webinar](#) between TAMU-K and TAMU-CC. May 16, 2012.

Dr. Lee Clapp traveled to Austin, TX to participate in the TCEQ "*Brackish Groundwater Desalination Advisory Work Group*" meeting. May 18, 2012.

The **External Advisory Board** for the **BS Program in Environmental Engineering** held their first meeting May 31, 2012.

Dr. Kuo-Jen Liao had a proposal awarded entitled "[Air Quality Management for the State of Maryland](#)" for \$40,000. **Dr. Liao** will assist the *State of Maryland* to develop effective air quality state implementation plans to protect human health in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri attended the *NSF Human Resources Development Joint Annual Meeting (JAM)* in Washington, D.C. June 12-15, 2012.

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Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) News

Javier Guerrero, Augusto Sanchez, and Abel Garza organized the *Stormwater Infiltration Basin Design-Design Consideration and Example Projects Training* in Alamo, TX. April 12, 2012.

Dr. Kim Jones traveled to San Antonio, TX to participate in the **NSF Research Coordination Network** kick-off charette for *Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability on Climate, Energy, Environment and Engagement in Semiarid Regions (CE3SAR)*. May 23-24, 2012

Javier Guerrero and Augusto Sanchez organized the following webinars:

- *Public Infrastructure Inspector Study Guild 2* (May 7, Edinburg, TX),
- *Public Infrastructure Inspector Study Guild 3* (May 14, San Benito, TX)
- *Curve Number & Vegetative Techniques to Manage Stormwater Runoff Sustainability* (May 15, Weslaco, TX).

Tosin Oyelakin (PhD), Rashida Sucky, Adeniyi Adetayo (MS) and Teresa Perez (BS) attended a *Texas Stream Team "Core Water Quality Monitor Training"*; that certified them to sample stormwater for the **TCEQ Low Impact Development** grant projects at the Estero Llano Grande State Park in Weslaco, TX. June 16, 2012.

CREST-RESSACA

The Center for Research Excellence in Science and Technology-Research on Environmental Sustainability in Semi-Arid Coastal Areas (CREST-RESSACA) at Texas A&M University-Kingsville sponsored a conference which focused on *Sustainability Energy and Environmental Issues*. The conference provided a great platform to showcase faculty, students, and research sponsored by the **National Science Foundation CREST** grant. The conference was held April 26—April 27, 2012 at the InterContinental Hotel in Houston, TX. The **Student Poster Competition** was very successful with a total of 40 posters competing from various Universities and Community Colleges. Students awarded were **Joseph Amaya** (PhD) 2nd Place, **Nereyda Facundo** (PhD) HARC 3rd Place, **Natalie Rocha** and **Jonathan Gorman** (BS) 3rd Place. **Dr. Kalliat T. Valsaraj**, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at Louisiana State University was the Keynote Speaker. It was great to see **Alumni Sridhar Dadi, David Salinas, and Ivan Santoyo** there.

Upcoming Events

2012 Summer Camps — 3 camps are current scheduled for July:

YESTexas Summer Camp (July 9-13, 2012)

- **Dr. Alvaro Martinez** to speak on Environmental Engineering
- Groundwater Quality, led by **Dr. Lee Clapp**
- Air Pollutant Measurements, led by **Dr. David Ramirez**
- Students Participating: Nima Ghahremani (PhD), Tanvir Khan and Sagar Chitre (MS).

GEMS Summer Camp (July 16-20, 2012)

- **Dr. Alvaro Martinez** to speak on Environmental Engineering
- Solar Energy, led by **Dr. David Ramirez**
- Groundwater Quality, led by **Dr. Lee Clapp**
- Students Participating: Nima Ghahremani and Yuan Yuan (PhD), and Ana Cardona (BS).

ESF Summer Camp (July 23-27, 2012)

- **Dr. Alvaro Martinez** to speak on Environmental Engineering
- Air Quality, led by **Dr. Alvaro Martinez**
- Student Participating: Prajay Gor (PhD).

EPA Undergraduate Fellowship on Border Air Pollution Issues personnel : **Drs Alvaro Martinez, David Ramirez, Kuo-Jen Liao and Rajat Sethi**, Prajay Gor (PhD), and BS students Iris Facundo, Gisela Alfaro, Procopio Herrera, Azia Hinojosa, Paige McIntyre, Andrea Meyer, Ariel Ramirez, and Juan Rios will be traveling to Montgomery, Alabama to visit the National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory (NAREL). August 12-14, 2012.