

Environmental Engineering Department News

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Special Points of interest:

- May Commencement
- Annual Javelina Regional Research Symposium
- 2013 Annual Engineering Senior Design Conference
- Undergrad Corner
* Students of the Year Awarded

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EVEN Highlights



Volume 4 Issue 2
March—May 2013

Student Achievements

May Commencement—Graduating with **Doctor of Philosophy** were **Dr. Joseph Amaya** and **Dr. Celia De la Mora Orozco**, **Master of Science** were **Gehan Flanders**, **Nedal Shheber** and **Di Yang**, **Bachelor of Science** were **Geraldo Carmona**, **Issac Prado**, **Jesus Prado**, and **Natalia Rojas Arias**. **Congratulations All!!**

Chih-Yan “Andy” Chang, **Xiangting “Ting” Hou**, **Yaneth Gamboa**, **Nima Ghahremani** (all PhD), **Ahmed Mahmoud**, **Armando Barrera**, **Gerald Ogumerem** (all MS), **Andrea Meyer** and **Ana Cardona** (both BS) presented posters at the *Annual Javelina Regional Research Symposium* held at TAMUK.

Graduate Students Posters Awarded: **Andy Chang** took 1st Place and **Ting Hou** took 3rd Place; Undergraduate Students: **Andrea Meyer** took 1st Place and **Ana Cardona** took 2nd Place. April 18, 2013.

Kailas Malwade (PhD) took 1st place at the *Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering Graduate Students’ Research Poster Competition*. **Dr. David Ramirez** served as a Judge for the competition. April 25, 2013.

Undergraduate Students **Debbie Garcia**, **Issac Prado**, and **Jesus Prado** gave a presentation on “City of Corpus Christi O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant Sludge Removal System Design” and a related poster, and **Natalia Rojas**, **Gisela Alfaro**, and **Gerardo Carmona** gave a presentation on “Water Treatment Sludge Dewatering Design on the O.N. Stevens Water Treatment Plant” and a related poster at the *2013 Annual Engineering Senior Design Conference*. April 26, 2013.

Yaneth Gamboa (PhD) presented a talk “Fingerprint Analysis for Distinguishing between Potential Groundwater Contamination and Background near ISR Uranium Mining Sites” at the *National Groundwater Association Summit* in San Antonio, TX. April 29, 2013.



*Dr. Joseph Amaya and
Dr. Celia De la Mora Orozco*

Undergrad Corner

The department will meet with the program External Advisory Board to discuss the curriculum and student training on June 17, 2013.

Students of the Year Awards: **Gerardo Carmona** for **Outstanding Service**, **Natalia Rojas** for **Outstanding Senior**, and **Jesus Prado** for **Academic Excellence**. **Congratulations!**

If you are interested in joining the **AAEE Student Organization** please contact **Theresa Perez** (BS) President at tamuk.aaees@gmail.com. If interested in joining the **AWMA Organization** please contact **Iris Facundo** (BS) Secretary at irisfacundo@yahoo.com.

If you have any questions you can contact our department at 361-593-4330 or send **Cathey Allen** an email at allen@tamuk.edu.

Student Achievements (continued)

Cesar Moran (PhD) and **Iris Facundo** (BS) were nominated to represent the Environmental Engineering department on the *Student Advisory Council* for the College of Engineering.

Kailas Malwade (PhD), **Iris Facundo** and **Ana Cardona** (both BS) and **Dr. David Ramirez** met with the **Javalena Mascot** and Doug Smith (Photographer) in the Emissions Control Lab for a photo shoot for “*A day in the life of the TAMUK Javelina Mascot*” March 21, 2013. (Pictured right)



Joseph Amaya (PhD) successfully defended his dissertation titled “*A Decision-Support System for Collaborative Regional Groundwater Management*” on April 12, 2013. Advisor: **Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri**, Co-Chair: **Dr. Kim D. Jones**.

Celia De la Mora Orozco (PhD) successfully defended her dissertation titled “*Nutrient Removal Prediction Using Hyperspectral Reflectance Indices and Modeling for a Pilot Constructed Channel Treatment Wetland*” on April 23, 2013. Advisor: **Dr. Kim D. Jones**

Alumni

Dr. Celia De la Mora Orozco (PhD Class of ‘13) works as a **Researcher** for **Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agricolas y Pecuarias**, in Mexico .

Gerardo Carmona and **Natalia Rojas Arias** (BS Class of ‘13) have been hired as **Engineer I’s** for **Bureau Veritas** in Houston, TX.

Dr. Zuber Farooqui (PhD Class of ‘08) is an **Air Resources Engineer** at **California Air Resources Board** in Sacramento, CA.

Ketan Maroo (MS Class of ‘01) is the **Director** at **ARCADIS/Malcom Pirnie** in India.

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

Recruitment

A **Doctoral Fellowship** is available at TAMUK for research projects at the Department of Environmental Engineering starting this Fall 2013. These research projects span ten areas in environmental engineering including 1) Air Quality, 2) Water Quality, 3) Solid/Hazardous Waste, 4) Ecological Engineering, 5) Natural Resources Management, 6) Environmental Systems, 7) Environmental Informatics, 8) Environmental Biotechnology, 9) Sensing Technology and 10) Sustainable Energy Systems. If interested please contact **Dr. Jennifer Ren** via email at kfjr000@tamuk.edu or call 361-593-2290.

Dr. David Ramirez traveled to **Tarleton State University** where he gave a presentation on “*Research and Education in Environmental Engineering at TAMUK*”. April 18, 2013.

Faculty / Staff News

Dr. Lee Clapp and MS students **Gerald Ogumerem** and **Nikhil Mantrawadi** traveled to Cotulla, TX to perform air quality monitoring as part of the inaugural field trial for the *Eagle Ford Shale Environmentally Friendly Drilling Technology Integration Program (EFD-TIP)*. March 22, 2013

Dr. Kuo-Jen Liao, **Dr. Nuri Yilmazer** and **Dr. Young Lee** (EE/CS) published a paper entitled “A new generation air pollution alert system: integrating air quality models and location-aware mobile devices” in the *International Journal of Environmental Monitoring and Analysis* Volume Citation.

Dr. Jianhong Ren obtained her **P.E. License** for the **State of Texas**.

Dr. Jianhong Ren and **Rose Rodriguez** organized the *Sustainable Eagle Ford Shale Community Infrastructure Challenges and Solutions Workshop* held at the Tio & Janelle Kleberg Wildlife Center. All EVEN faculty participated as Session Chairs or Speakers. April 10, 2013.

Faculty / Staff News (cont.)

Dr. Lee Clapp traveled to College Station and gave two presentations: “[Analysis and Diagnosis of Membrane Fouling](#)” and “[VOC Monitoring Using Wireless Sensor Networks](#)” at the [Water & Wastewater: Issues, Challenges, Solutions and New Technologies Short Courses](#). Dr. Clapp also presented “[Analysis and Diagnosis of Membrane Fouling](#)” at the [23rd Annual Membrane Filtration Short Course](#) at College Station. April 17-18, 2013.

Dr. Hongbo Su was invited to join the Panel Discussion at the “[Water Cycle Missions Workshop](#)” organized by NASA in Baltimore, MD. April 29-May 1, 2013.

Dr. Lee Clapp and Dr. Rouzbeh Ghanbarnezhad-Moghanloo were awarded **\$100,000** for a project “[Assessment of Two Alternative “Smart” Shale Fracturing Fluids: Desalination Concentrate and CO₂ Foam](#)” from the [Texas General Land Office’s Coastal Impacts Technology Program \(CITP\)](#).

Dr. David Ramirez was awarded **\$100,000** for his research grant titled “[Thermal-swing adsorption to capture toxic air emissions from point sources](#)”, sponsored by [Houston Advanced Research Center \(HARC\)](#).

Dr. Lee Clapp was awarded “**Professor of the Year**” by the Environmental Engineering Class of 2013 at the [Senior Dinner and Order of Engineer Ceremony](#) on May 9, 2013.

Dr. Kuo-Jen Liao participated in the [May-mester Summer Research Program](#). May 13-24, 2013.

Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) News

Javier Guerrero, Augusto Sanchez, Cheryl Flores, and Monica Hernandez (ISEE personnel) organized a well received [15th Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Quality Management & Planning Conference](#) which was held at the Pearl South Padre Resort, South Padre Island. The ISEE, LRGV TPDES Task Force and the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) partnered and hosted a [TFMA 8-hr course](#) at the conference. [Graduate Student Poster Presentation Awarded](#) at the conference were: [Adeniyi Adetayo, Mayokun Adekola](#) (both MS) won **2nd Place** with research projects: “[Assessment of Regional Stormwater Detention Facilities for Runoff Water Quality Improvement in the Arroyo Colorado Watershed](#)” and “[Design and Installation of a Green Roof System in San Juan, Texas](#)”, respectively. [Nithesh Katttekola](#) (MS) won **3rd Place** with project: “[Design and Implementation of a Lower Rio Grande Valley Regional Wetland System for the City of Harlingen](#)”. April 16-19, 2013.

The ISEE and LRGV Task Force hosted its [1st Annual Fishing Tournament for the Arroyo Colorado Conservancy](#), the 501(c)3 organization of the ACWP. A ceremonial \$500 check was presented to the ACC. April 20, 2013.

[Augusto Sanchez](#) and [Cheryl Flores](#) conducted classroom presentations on “[Nonpoint Source Pollution](#)” to [Mission ISD High School Science Students](#) on May 14, 2013.

[Augusto Sanchez](#), [Cheryl Flores](#), and [Joe Hinojosa](#) traveled to Sugarland, TX and participated at the [Texas Floodplain Management Association \(TFMA\) Spring Conference](#). Augusto gave a presentation titled “[Low Impact Development \(LID\) Program](#)” that ISEE is carrying on in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. May 21-24, 2013.

[Javier Guerrero](#) and [Augusto Sanchez](#) traveled to San Antonio, TX to participate at the [Low Impact Development at the Southwest Stream Restoration Conference](#). Augusto served on a panel discussion entitled “[LID in the Southwest Region](#)” where he explained the green infrastructure implementation efforts in the LRGV region and its educational approach. May 28, 2013.

Upcoming Events

Summer Camps: Dr. Lee Clapp will be participating in the [YESTexas](#) (June 17-21) and in the [GEMS](#) (June 24-29) while Dr. Alvaro Martinez will be participating in the [ESF](#) (July 15-19).

[The U2013 Uranium Mining and Restoration Conference](#) will be held in Corpus Christi on **September 29—October 3, 2013**. More information will be available later.



Go Javelina's !!!!