

# Environmental Engineering Department News

## Texas A&M University-Kingsville

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- Student Publications
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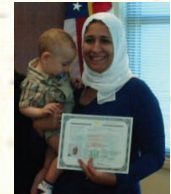
## EVEN Highlights



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## Student Achievements

Congratulations to **Gehan Ali Ahmed - Flanders** (MS) for becoming a US citizen on March 22, 2012. Gehan originally came to the US from Egypt. Shown right is Gehan “Jane” with son Timothy.



**ACS Publications** announces published paper titled “**PM<sub>2.5</sub> Monitoring and Mitigation in the Cities of China**” in the **Environmental Science & Technology**, 2012, 46 (7), pp3627-3628 DOI: 10.1021/ex300984j by **Yuan Yuan**, Shusen Liu, Roberto Castro, and **Xubin Pan** (PhD)

## Organization News

Thirteen **A&WMA Student Chapter Members** from Env Eng volunteered at the **Adopt-A-Beach Clean Up** where they cleaned the stretch of beach by Kleberg County’s Padre Island National Seashore (Malaquite Visitor’s Center). February 11, 2012. (pictured right)



Over 15 members of the **A&WMA Student Chapter Members** from Env Eng and the local **Omega Delta Phi** fraternity participated in the annual **Bigger Event** by cleaning up the Corral Street Kingsville City Park as a demonstration of their commitment to community service. March 24, 2012.

The AAEE Student Organization started up a Facebook Group titled “TAMU-Kingsville AAEE”. Here they will share their links with other members, post photos of group events, create group events, etc. March, 2012.

## Undergrad News

**Ashley Rivera (BS)** who plays for the TAMU-K women’s golf team, led the Javelinas in the **Islander Classic** early March in Corpus Christi. She had a 258 score over the 36 holes. Ashley played in the season tournament “Texas A&M –Commerce Lion Invitational” in Pottsboro, TX.

**Natalie Rocha** will be Environmental Engineering’s **1st BS student to graduate** this **May 11th Commencement**.

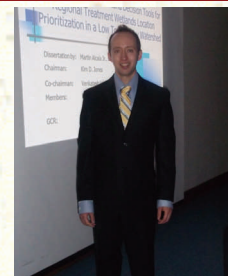
Its that time of the year to get advised for the Summer and Fall semesters. Please make an appointment to see your advisor soon. Register early before classes fill up. :)



Ashley Rivera

## Dissertation / Thesis / Project Presentations

**Martin Alcala** (PhD Candidate, pictured right) successfully defended his Dissertation titled “Development and Implementation of Expert-Based Multi-Criteria Decision Tools for Regional Treatment Wetlands Location Prioritization in a Low Topography Watershed”. Advisor: Dr. Kim D Jones. February 22, 2012



## Alumni News

**Vijay Vegesna** (MS, Class of 2001) is an Environmental Consultant with [Environmental](#) in Denver, CO.

**Adebayo Oyediran** (MS, Class of 2011) is an Asset Project Engineer with [DCP Midstream](#) in the Midland, Texas area.

**Zuber Farooqui** (PhD, Class of 2009) is an Air Resources Engineer with [California Air Resources Board](#) in Sacramento, CA.

**Anand Sundaresan** (MS, Class of 1997) is the Global Commercial Director EO/EG with [Dow Chemical Co.](#) in Midland, MI.

**Ivan Santoyo** (MS, Class of 1994) is the Engineering Associate I with the [City of Laredo](#) in Laredo, TX.

Don't forget to check out the Javelina Alumni Association website.

**Alumni & Friends:** [www.alumni.tamuk.edu](http://www.alumni.tamuk.edu)

**Javelina Alumni Association:** [www.javelinaalumni.com](http://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

**Dr. David Ramirez** gave a presentation on the departments capabilities at the [Other Institutions of Higher Education \(OIHE\) Minority Serving Institutions \(MSI\) Symposium](#) held at University of Texas-Pan American (UTPA). February 20-21, 2012.

**Mg Liliana Maria Bertini**, Profesora Adjunta from [Instituto Tecnologico de Buenos Aires](#) presented a lecture on “Waste Management in Academic Chemical Laboratories of Universities with Active Student Involvement” for the EVEN 6102 Seminar class and EVEN BS students. All found the topic very informative and interesting while enjoying a pizza lunch. February 17, 2012.

**Dr. Kim D. Jones** gave a presentation to engineering students at [Del Mar Community College](#) in Corpus Christi, TX. February 22, 2012.

**Dr. Kim D. Jones** gave a brief presentation to the visiting [South Texas College](#) students. Several AAEE Chapter Env Eng members assisted by giving the students tours of the engineering building, and campus. February 23, 2012.

**Dr. David Ramirez** submitted a proposal titled “Nano-structured Sensors with Tunable Pore Size for Detecting Volatile Organic Compounds in Oceanic Waters and Air” sponsored by [Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative](#) for \$605,942. Co-PI: **Dr. Jianhong Ren**.

**Dr. Kuo-Jen Liao** traveled to Athens, Greece to present a paper at the [8th International Conference on Air Quality-Science and Application](#). March 19-23, 2012.

**Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri** traveled to Boulder, CO to participate in a Special Analysis with [ENVI](#) to obtain updated information that will be used for research. March 10-24, 2012.

**Dr. Venkatesh Uddameri** and **Dr. Kartik Venkataraman** traveled to New Orleans, LA to present three papers at the [AWRA Spring Specialty Conference](#). March 25-29, 2012.

## Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) News

**Dr. Kim D. Jones** (Prof) and **Martin Alcalá** (PhD) traveled to Weslaco to deliver a technical presentation on their research results to the [Arroyo Colorado Stakeholders Group](#). February 9, 2012.

**Javier Guerrero** (Res Eng Assoc) helped organize the [Dual Enrollment Engineering Academy \(DEEA\)](#) visits at South Texas College.

**Dr. Kim Jones** and **Augusto Sanchez** (Res Eng Assoc) assisted by speaking to the group. February 14, 2012.

**Dr. Lee Clapp** (Assoc. Prof.) assisted in organizing the [Coastal Impacts Technology Program—Technology Roadmapping Workshops](#) held at the Cesar Kleberg Wildlife Center. The objective of the two workshops was to identify research needed to reduce the impact of energy production within the Texas coastal counties on February 28, 2012. **Dr. Kim Jones** presented on [Research on Innovative Control Strategies](#), **Dr. David Ramirez** presented on [VOC Adsorption Technology Research](#), and **Dr. Alvaro Martinez** presented on [Air Modeling Research](#). Restoring Well Sites was discussed in the afternoon.

**Javier Guerrero, Dr. Kim Jones, Abel Garza and Augusto Sanchez** organized and led the [14th Annual Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Management and Planning Conference](#) held at the **Pearl South Padre Resort**. **Nina Cortez** and **Monica Hernandez** assisted with the logistics and staff support. Over 125 attendees enjoyed the informative technical sessions, opportune networking and delicious meals. **Undergraduate Poster Awards** went to: **1st Place (\$500) Andrea Meyer**, TAMUK, **2nd Place (\$200) Alejandro Lara/Gloria Alcaraz** UTB, and **3rd Place (\$100) Jonathan Gorman**, TAMUK. **Graduate Poster Awards** went to: **1st Place (\$1000) Jessica Ruiz**, TAMUK, **2nd Place (\$500) Sreeram Gopal**, TAMUK and **3rd Place (\$250) Vinod Balakrishnan**, TAMUK. The success of the conference was due in part by: **Pilar D Corpus-Park**, Edinburg; **Felipe Perez**, Mission; **Jacinto Hinojosa**, San Benito; **Rodrigo Davila**, San Benito; **Jungseok Ho**, UTPA Edinburg, **Melisa Gonzales**, Alamo; **Omar Rios**, Harlingen; **Joe Hinojosa**, Brownsville; **David Salinas**, Weslaco; **Rene Jaime**, San Juan; **Rosendo Flores**, Palm Valley; and **Jaime Flores**, Arroyo Colorado Watershed Coordinator. The [2nd Annual Javelina Engineering Alumni Dinner](#) took place on Thursday evening with **President Steven Tallant**, **Ms. Yvonne Trachta**, Director of Alumni Affairs, and College of Engineering **Dean Stephan Nix** in attendance. Prizes were raffled throughout the conference; the winner of the **final prize, a 2-day vacation at the Pearl South Padre Resort** was awarded to **Mr. Joe Hinojosa**, Chairman of the LRGV TPDES Task Force. March 28-30, 2012.

## Upcoming Events

**2012 Annual Engineering Student Design Conference**—All undergraduate engineering students in the [Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering](#) complete comprehensive design projects during their senior year. This conference highlights their work through oral presentations and project displays. The Guest Speaker at the luncheon is **Dr. Annette Hernandez** from [Texas Tech University](#). April 18, 2012.

**2012 Annual Engineering Senior Dinner and Order of the Engineer Ceremony**—All seniors in the [Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering](#) graduating in 2012 are recognized at this event. Awards for outstanding student achievement will be presented along with awards to Professors of the Year as chosen by students. April 19, 2012.

**Graduate Student's Research Poster Competition**—All graduates in the [Frank H. Dotterweich College of Engineering](#) are welcome to participate. Award Categories: 1st Place: \$500, 2nd Place: \$300, 3rd Place: \$200, 4th & 5th Place: \$100, 6th—10th Place: \$50. April 24, 2012.

**The CREST-RESSACA Environmental and Energy Sustainability Conference** will be held at the **Intercontinental Houston**, Houston, Texas on April 26-27, 2012. Some of the topics to be discussed are **Climate Change, Air Quality, Environmental Modeling & Informatics, Social Sciences, Wind Resources, Alternative Energy Technologies, Education & Outreach Workshop, and Hydraulic Fracturing/Eagle Ford Shale Panel**. For more information about the conference please contact :

**Texas A&M University - Kingsville**

**CREST-RESSACA**

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