

Environmental Engineering Department News

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Special Points of interest:

- August Commencement
- ABET Accreditation
- YESTexas, GEMS, and ESF summer camps.
- BS Entrepreneurs
- Undergrad Corner Growth in the BS Program

Inside this Issue:

- Alumni News
- Faculty / Staff News
- ISEE News
- Upcoming Events



Kim D. Jones
Professor, Chair
Environmental Engineering
Director, ISEE

Office: 361-593-4330
Fax: 361-593-2069

Email: allen@tamuk.edu
<http://www.even.tamuk.edu>

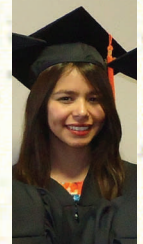
EVEN Highlights



Volume 4 Issue 3
June—August 2013

Student Achievements

August Commencement—Bachelor of Science was earned by **Gisela Alfaro** (pictured right). Congratulations!!



Environmental Engineering Undergraduate Program at Texas A&M-Kingsville Receives Accreditation - *"This ABET accreditation is for one of the newest and most rapidly evolving engineering disciplines around the globe—environmental engineering,"* said **Dr. Kim D. Jones**, Chair of the department. *"This new engineering program is a response to workforce needs and regional planning mandates to help industries and communities accomplish engineering objectives while more effectively utilizing and conserving increasingly limited resources including water, air, land, and ecosystems around the world".*

Nima Ghahremani (PhD) and **Ahmed Mahmoud** (MS) with the assistance from **Dr. Lee Clapp**, developed and supervised 4-hour water treatment lab activities for HS students participating in the YESTexas and GEMS summer camps held June 17-28, 2013.

Armando Barrera (MS) and **Dr. Lee Clapp** mentored UG student (Thomas Moody) for the summer CREST Undergraduate Research Opportunities (URO) program. **Jonathan Gorman** (BS) and **Dr. Lee Clapp** mentored a teacher (Lilia Baldera) for the summer CREST Research Experience for Teachers (RET) program.

Prajay Gor (PhD) and **Andrea Meyer** (BS) with the assistance from **Dr. Alvaro Martinez**, developed and supervised lab experiments for HS students participating in the ESF summer camp. The students learned about how to control mercury emissions using enhanced oxidation and wet scrubbing technology held July 15-19, 2013.

Undergrad Corner

Entrepreneurs: **Jonathan Gorman**, CEO(BS) and **Denis Guleiof**, COO (BS Class of '12) have started their own business called **G&G Power Systems, LLC**. The company was formed to offer high quality Solar Photovoltaic (PV) services to home owners, businesses and municipalities. They have just installed an 8.4 kw Solar PV System with Perry and Janet Mixon in Rivera, TX who now have zero net costs of electricity.



Hoggie Days were busy this summer assisting **25** incoming and transferring students into the Environmental Engineering BS program. We currently have **63** EVEN BS students enrolled for the Fall semester. **Welcome Everyone!**

Eva Saenz was nominated for the **Javelina Alumni Association (JAA) Scholarship**. **Congratulations!**

If you are interested in joining the **AAEES Student Organization** please contact **Theresa Perez** (BS) President at tamuk.aees@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.

Go to Page 2

Student Achievements (continued)

Robert Salinas (MS) successfully defended his thesis titled “Thermal Desorption of P-xylene from Granular Activated Carbon” on June 19, 2013.

Summer Interns: **Theresa Perez** (BS) was an Environmental Engineer Intern with Water Group at **Flint Hills Resources LLC** in Corpus Christi, TX. **Juan Martinez** (BS) was an Intern in **Bhutan** with the Traditional Economies and Sustainable Development Program between RTC and Texas A&M, from there Juan traveled to the **University of Colorado** in Boulder, CO to serve as Research Assistant in wastewater treatment with the Environmental Sustainability REU Program. **Kai Williams** (BS) was a Research Assistant at **Chungnam University** in South Korea. **Samuel Franco** (BS) was a Construction Quality Assurance Technician with **SCS Environmental Engineers and Consultants**— main office is in Houston, TX . **Justin Long** (MS) was an Environmental Consultant Intern with **Booz Allen Hamilton**. **Adeniyi Adetayo** (MS) was an Engineering Intern with **DC Water** in Washington D.C.. **Natalie Rocha** (MS) was a Plant Engineer with **UPS** in Louisville, KY.

Alumni

Brandon Klim (MS Class of ‘12) was hired with **TRC Solutions** in Greenville, SC as **Staff Engineer/Remediation Specialist**.

Aditya Singh (MS Class of ‘10) is a **Project Manager** at **New Tech/Carr Environmental Group** in Houston, TX

Priyanka Painuly (MS Class of ‘01) is an **Environmental Engineer** at **Iowa DNR** in Des Moines, IA.

Sagar Chitre (MS Class of ‘12) is an **Environmental Specialist** at **BTB Refining L.L.C.** in Corpus Christi, TX.

Oghenetega “Tega” Iyasere (MS Class of ‘09) is a **Directional Drilling Engineer** (Consultant) at **Wyodak Staffing** in Casper. WY.

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

Faculty / Staff News

Dr. Lee W. Clapp obtained his **Professional Engineering License (P.E.)** to practice in the **State of Texas**.

Dr. Kim Jones, Dr. Lee Clapp and **Nima Ghahremani** (PhD) participated in a meeting on potential development of a seawater desalination plant by **M&G Plastics** in Corpus Christi, TX on June 18, 2013.

Dr. Kuo-Jen Liao, Dr. David Ramirez, Chih-Yaun “Andy” Chang (PhD), **Xiangting “Ting” Hou** (PhD) and **Ana Cardona** (BS) traveled to Chicago, IL to participate in the **2013 Annual Conference & Exhibition with Air & Waste Management Association**. **Ana** won **2nd Place** for her poster presentation. **Dr. Yuan Yuan** was notified that she was the **1st Place** recipient for the **2013 Doctoral Dissertation Competition** held June 24-28, 2013. (pictured right)

Drs. David Ramirez, Lee Clapp, Jianhong Ren and Hongbo Su took part in the **CREST-RESSACA II RET & REU Research Program**. The RET program gives middle and high school teachers a month and a half long research experience in engineering labs at TAMUK. The REU provides research experience to undergraduate students who participate in exciting projects mentored by and working side-by-side with some of the brightest minds in environmental engineering. (pictured right)

Dr. David Ramirez—Book Publication (includes 11 book chapters from CREST researchers, students and faculty): **Ramirez, D., Ren, J., Jones, K.D. and Lamm, H**, eds. (2013)

Environmental Sustainability Issues in the South Texas-Mexico Border Region.
ISBN 978-94-007-7121-5, **Springer Science and Business Media**.



Dr. Liao, Andy Chang, Ting Hou, Alumni Dr. Yuan and Robert Castro, Ana Cardona and Dr. Ramirez



Faculty / Staff News (cont.)

Dr. Alvaro Martinez and Dr. Kuo-Jen Liao traveled to Bogotá, Colombia to present papers at the [4th Colombian Meeting and International Conference on Air Quality and Public Health](#). Dr. Martinez presented “*Effect of Hydrogen Peroxide on Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Oxidation of Elemental Mercury in Flue Gas*” and Dr. Liao presented “*Impacts of Shale Oil and Gas Development on Air Quality in South Texas Urban Area*” held August 13-16, 2013.

Dr. Lee Clapp presented a talk entitled “*Wireless Sensor Network for Monitoring VOC Levels near Drilling Operations*” at the [Environmentally Friendly Drilling-Sustainability Research Network \(EFD-SRN\) Joint Workshop](#) at the Colorado School of Mines on August 15, 2013.

Dr. Alvaro Martinez was awarded \$67,000 from EPA for extension of his project: “*Multidisciplinary Approach to Educate and Train Engineering and Science Students on Air Pollution Issues of the US-Mexico Border*” until August 31, 2014.

Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) News

Augusto Sanchez, Javier Guerrero, Monica Hernandez (ISEE personnel) and MS students Shrey Kankaria, Nithesh Kattokola and Aiywarya Parthasarathy traveled to New Orleans, LA to participate in the [15th Annual EPA MS4 Storm Water Conference](#). Monica represented ISEE by maintaining a booth. June 16-21, 2013.

Dr. Kim D. Jones traveled to London, UK to present a paper at the [London Symposium on Climate Change](#) held June 20-29, 2013.

Javier Guerrero, Shrey Kankaria (MS) Nithesh Kattokola (MS), Aiywarya Parthasarathy (MS), Daniel Guerra (BS) and Eva Saenz (BS) assisted with the [City of Weslaco](#) in their runoff evaluation as green building projects progress by preparing survey drainage areas. The story of the collaboration with our students was published in the [Valley Monitor Newspaper](#). July 10, 2013.

Augusto Sanchez, Shrey Kankaria (MS) and Nithesh Kattokola (MS) assisted the [City of San Benito](#) storm water officer Jose Figueroa with promoting environmental awareness by displaying environmentally-friendly signs at the city’s public library and Heavin Resaca Trail as part of a continuing partnership with TAMUK. Augusto also assisted the city with suggestions on their storm water runoff by using GPS tracking equipment. Another article was published about our students in the [San Benito News](#). July 24, 2013.

A warm welcome to [Brianna Saenz](#), Research Engineering Associate I, who joined the ISEE team this August!

ISEE staff Javier Guerrero, Augusto Sanchez, Brianna Saenz and Monica Hernandez along with MS students Shrey Kankaria, Nithesh Kattokola, Mayokun Adekola, Aiywarya Parthasarathy along with three LRGV Task Force members traveled to Myrtle Beach, SC to participate in the [2014 STORMCON Conference](#). A&M Kingsville sponsored a booth, Augusto Sanchez presented an LID paper entitled “*LRGV LID Implementation and Education*”, and Shrey, Nithesh and Ash facilitated several LID technical sessions.

ISEE submitted seven (7) grant applications to the EPA Border 2020 program for funding on August 29, 2013.



Upcoming Events

[Welcome and Orientation](#) for new and returning **Graduate Students** will be held September 17th from 5-6pm on the Engineering Complex patio. The faculty will be serving food from El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant and hold a questions/answer session.

[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 !!!!