

Environmental Engineering Department News

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Special Points of interest:

- EVEN Welcome Mixers
- Scholarships Awarded
- AAEES / A&WMA Organization Student Chapter Activities

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- Upcoming Events



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EVEN Highlights



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September—November
2013

Student Achievements

EVEN held two successful socials “[Welcoming New and Returning Students](#)” with a Q&A session. The MS/PhD mixer was held on September 17th and the BS mixer was on September 19, 2013.

Theresa Perez, Juan Martinez and Hunter Balzen were nominated to be on the [Student Sustainability Advisory Council](#) for FY14. Azia Hinojosa received the [Gas Processors Association Scholarship](#), [John T. Nicholson Memorial Scholarship](#), and the [Mano A. Mano Scholarship](#) for FY14.

Congratulations All!

The [American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists \(AAEES\)](#) and the [Society of Petroleum Engineers \(SPE\)](#) TAMUK Chapters took part in the [Kingsville Dick Kleberg Park Clean-UP](#) held on September 14, 2013. Students who participated were Theresa Perez, Ashley Rivera, Crescencio Fonseca, Hunter Balzen, Juan Martinez, Taylor Tinnell and Maegan Saverline.



The [Air & Waste Management Association \(AWMA\)](#) Student Chapter participated in the [Adopt a Beach Program](#) on September 28, 2013. The members dedicated their Saturday to the community by helping clean Corpus Christi Beach and contributed to collecting data for litter found in Texas’s beaches. Members participating were Ana Cardona, Prajay Gor, Rashida Sucky, Isha Chaware, Kailas Malwade, Omar Luna, Robert Salinas and Sowmya Damidi.



The [AAEES Student Chapter](#) participated in the [Fun Fest](#) at Ricardo ISD on November 15, 2013. Students presented with a Community Service Award were Theresa Perez, Maegan Saverline, Ashley Rivera, Hunter Balzen and Steven Fonseca (BS students).

The [AWMA Organization Student Chapter](#) was awarded [1st Place](#) in the design competition for the [6th Annual Can You Build It Contest and Canned Food Drive!](#) They collected 883 food items and created Mater, the little tow truck from Disney Pixar’s Cars movie—Mater sends the message “[Tow Away Hunger!](#)” Creators of Mater were Iris Facundo, Ana Cardona, Carmen Thomas, Steven Thomas, Rashida Sucky, Robert Salinas, Natalie Rocha, Nereyda Facundo and Dr. Joseph Amaya. November 21, 2013.



Undergrad Corner

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.

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Student Achievements (continued)

Lewis Haynes, Nima Ghahremani, Yaneth Gamboa (PhD students), Armando Barrera, Gerald Ogumerem and Nikhil Mantrawadi (MS students), Jonathan Gorman, Sebastian Winkler, kai Williams, Ariel Ramirez, and Andrea Meyer (BS students) presented research posters at the [5th Annual Javelina Research Symposium](#) held at A&M-Kingsville on October 16, 2013. Andrea Meyer received **3rd Place** in the Undergraduate Category.

Nima Ghahremani, Lewis Haynes, Oluwatosin Oyelakin, Kailas Malwade, Yaneth Gamboa, Amir Roghani (PhD students), Rashida Sucky, Armando Barrera, Gerald Ogumerem (MS students), Iris Facundo and Ana Cardona (BS students) presented posters at the [Texas A&M University System 11th Annual Pathways Student Research Symposium](#) held in Kingsville, TX on November 8, 2013.

Adeniyi Adetayo successfully defended his MS Project presentation entitled “*Evaluation of Regional Detention Facilities using Statistical Techniques in Analyzing Stormwater Runoff and Pollutant Concentration Reduction from Watersheds in McAllen, Texas*” on November 26, 2013. Dr. Kim D. Jones is his Advisor.

Anuradha Nagaraj successfully defended her Dissertation Proposal entitled “*Catalyst Effectiveness and Reaction Kinetics for SO₂ Oxidation in Particulate and Monolithic Catalysts for Next Generation H₂SO₄ Processes Abstract*” on November 26, 2013. Dr. Patrick Mills is her Advisor.

Alumni

Gerardo Carmona (BS Class of ‘13) is an E.I.T. and working with [Bureau Veritas North America, Inc.](#) in Houston, TX as a **Risk and Safety Engineer**.

Ayokunle Falade (MS Class of ‘12) is working with the [City of Houston, Department Public Works and Engineering](#) in Houston, TX as a **Graduate Engineer**.

Syamala Diwakaruni and Ranjith Dandanayakula (both are MS Class of ‘04) have two children now. Syamala is working with [Environmental Protection Training and Research Institute \(EPTRI\)](#) as **Site-in-Charge Engineer** and Ranjith is working with [Voyants Solutions Private Limited \(VSPL\)](#) as **Manager** for Water and Sanitation Division, both are in Hyderabad, India.

Dr. Anand Karre (PhD Class of ‘12) is working with [Centauri Technologies](#) in Houston, TX as a **Regulatory Compliance Engineer**.

Harish Badrinarayanan (MS Class of ‘01) is working with [INVISTA](#) in Houston, TX as a **Senior Air Environmental Engineer**.

Krishnapillai Pavanandan (MS Class of ‘00) is working with [Nuance Communications](#) in Burlington, MA as **Senior HPC Engineer**.

Dr. Brian Dyson (PhD Class of ‘06) was promoted to **Operations Research Analyst** with [US EPA](#) in Cincinnati, OH.

Dr. Zuber Farooqui (PhD Class of ‘08) and his wife were blessed with a son, Zayan Farooqui on September 13, 2013. Congratulations!

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

Faculty / Staff News

Dr. David Ramirez announced the publication of the **CREST-RESSACA Book**. Please feel free to check out the Springer link; <http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/978-94-007-7122-2.pdf> “*Environmental Sustainability Issues in the South Texas-Mexico Border Region*”.

Dr. Lucy Mar Camacho joined the EVEN Faculty September 1st as Assistant Professor. Dr. Camacho comes to us from New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM where she worked in the Department of Chemical Engineering. Dr. Camacho received her PhD in Chemical Engineering/Minor in Environmental Management (2000) from New Mexico State University.

Dr. Hongbo Su and his wife gave birth to a baby girl, Rosabel on September 17, 2013.

Dr. Lee Clapp received \$5000 and supplies from [Uranium Resources Inc.](#) for a research project entitled “*Membrane Hydrogen Infusion Study*”.

Faculty / Staff News (cont.)

Dr. Lee Clapp served as lead technical organizer for the U-2013 Global Uranium Symposium held in Corpus Christi, TX from September 29—October 3, 2013. Drs. Alvaro Martinez and Kim Jones gave a presentation entitled “*Environmental Management Systems and ISO 14001 Certification: How to communicate the Performance and Benefits*”. Yaneth Gamboa (PhD student) presented “*Background Uranium and Molybdenum Concentrations in Private Wells in South Texas*”. A tour of the UEC Kingsville Dome Restoration site, STP Power Plant and RGR site were provided.

Dr. Lucy Camacho participated in the 2013 SACNAS National Conference “Strengthening the Nation through Diversity, Innovation & Leadership in STEM” held in San Antonio, TX on October 3-6, 2013.

The Javelina Alumni Association honored Dr. Kim Jones with the Distinguished Research Award at the organization’s Distinguished Alumni Luncheon held on Saturday, October 12, 2013. The Distinguished Research Award is presented to a deserving faculty member who has shown superior scholarship through publication, continued creativity, the research impact on the field and/or other academic or professional awards.



Dr. Kim Jones with wife, Carol and their daughter Allyson.

Dr. Lucy Camacho participated in the Eagle Ford Consortium Fall 2013 Conference “Where the South Texas Energy Triangle meets the World” held in Corpus Christi, TX. Dr. Camacho also attended the “Women in Energy Breakfast” sponsored by the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Lee Clapp delivered a presentation on “*Characterization of desalination plant concentrate discharge impacts on water quality in a Texas coastal area*” at the Water Issues & Technologies: Process Water, Wastewater, and Desalination Short Course, held at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX on October 27-29, 2013.

Dr. Lucy Camacho’s proposal titled: “*Evaluation of Membrane Distillation as a Desalination Technology for High-Salinity Shale Gas Produced Water*” for \$15,000 was selected to receive the University Research Award for Fall 2013. Dr. Camacho also received funding from the El Paso Water Utilities-Public Service Board for services performed on “Ammonia Removal Project; Laboratory Research Testing was previously performed at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Dr. Lee Clapp delivered two presentations at the Environmental Friendly Drilling Systems Advisory Committee Meeting held in Houston, TX on November 12, 2013. The presentations were titled “*Assessment of two smart shale fracturing fluids: Desalination concentration and CO₂ foam*” and “*Field Tests—Air Quality Emissions*”. Oluwatosin Oyelakin (PhD) presented a poster.

Dr. Jianhong Ren and Clarissa Torres organized and led the Eagle Ford Center for Research, Education and Outreach Fall Workshop in Cotulla, TX. Drs. Ramirez, Jones, Clapp and Camacho participated by presenting. Chih-Yuah Chang, Nima Ghahremani, and Gerardo Pinzon (PhD students), Eduard Zakirov, Armando Barrera, Gerald Ogumerem, Aditya Shah, Shubham Aggarwal (MS students), Jean Romero, Jonathan Gorman, and Sebastian Winkler (BS students) presented posters on November 15, 2013.

Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) News

ISEE was awarded a \$228,769 grant from the EPA CWA NPS 319 FY13 program. The Low Impact Development Outreach Phase V project period will be August 2013—July 2016.

Augusto Sanchez and Brianna Saenz traveled to College Station for the Grand Opening of the Texas Transportation Institute Soil Erosion Testing Laboratory and Facility where they gave a presentation on September 3-4, 2013.

ISEE and Task Force members attended the Texas Flood Management Association Conference in Austin, TX. ISEE and TFMA are partnering in developing a certification program for non-point source pollution professionals. September 11-13, 2013.

ISEE hosted an ASCE Webinar at the Weslaco Citrus Center. The webinar entitled “*Stormwater BMPs, what works and what doesn’t*” was well attended. September 19, 2013.

Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment (ISEE) News

Environmental Engineering and ISEE joined the [A&M Kingsville Office of Admissions](#) at the Texas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers annual event “**University Days**” in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Attending the event from EVEN were [Aditya Shah](#), [Aiswarya Parthasarathy](#), [Lewis Haynes](#), [Ahmed Mahmoud](#), [Augusto Sanchez](#), [Nima Ghahremani](#), and [Brianna Saenz](#). The students and staff visited with students from over 25 local school districts at 15 different venues. September 16-20, 2013.

ISEE hosted an [ASCE Webinar](#) at the College of Engineering. The webinar entitled “*Creating Design Stormwater as Rainfall-Runoff Models*” and was well attended by [ISEE staff](#) and [EVEN graduate students](#). September 23, 2013.

[Javier Guerrero](#), [Brianna Saenz](#), [Augusto Sanchez](#), [Joe Hinojosa](#) (Santa Cruz Irrigation Dist. #15), [Luis Alfonso](#), [Martino Trevino](#) (City of Brownsville), and [Roy Jimenez](#) (City of Donna) attended the [TCEQ’s Annual Water Quality Division](#) seminar in Austin, TX on October 2-4, 2013. . The TCEQ’s [MS4 Stormwater Permit](#) will be issued in December 2013.

[Javier Guerrero](#) organized a training with graduate students in Kingsville. The topic was “*Municipal Stormwater Management Programs*”. The session prepared students for additional training associated with a stormwater management program software purchased by ISEE. October 7, 2013.

ISEE hosted an [ASCE Webcast](#) titled “*Sustainable Sites Stormwater Design and Water Efficiency Points for LEED Projects*” in Weslaco, TX. ISEE also joined the [Arroyo Colorado Watershed Partnership](#) in Donna, TX for the [Boat Giveaway Fundraiser](#) event which benefited the Arroyo Colorado Conservancy on October 10, 2013.

ISEE, the [LRGV Javelina Engineers Alumni Association](#) and the [Task Force](#) hosted its [4th Annual Homecoming Event](#). Over 200 students and parents joined the College of Engineering in an all day recruiting event which included speakers, fun events, meals, tailgating and the football game. October 12, 2013.

ISEE hosted a training conducted by [CBI Systems](#). 42 members of the [LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force](#) attended the training in Kingsville to learn how to use the [MS4Web Software](#) purchased from CBI. Graduate and undergraduate students will assist the Task Force with this software. October 15, 2013.

[Javier Guerrero](#), [Augusto Sanchez](#) and [Brianna Saenz](#) traveled to Cleveland, OH to participate in the “*Working Together to Protect and Restore our Water Resources Conference*” sponsored by [TCEQ](#) on October 28-30, 2013.

[Dr. Kim Jones](#), [Javier Guerrero](#), [Augusto Sanchez](#) and [Brianna Saenz](#) traveled to Weslaco, TX to Chair/attend the [Arroyo Colorado Habitat Workgroup and Stakeholders](#) meeting at the [Estero llano Grande World Birding Center](#) on October 17, 2013. ISEE will be authoring 3 new Chapters of the ACWP Plan, a project funded by the EPA NPS 319 Program.

[Dr. Kim D. Jones](#) and [Dr. Lee Clapp](#) organized and led the [Supply, Flowback, and Waste Water Treatment Training Course for Hydraulic Fracturing Operations](#) held at the CKWRI Conference Center on November 5-7, 2013. Several of our grad students assisted with the [video recording of the short course](#). [Dr. Clapp](#) delivered two presentations titled “*Frac Water Treatment and Management: Secondary and Tertiary*” and “*Introduction to air quality topics for oil and gas operations*”. [Dr. Jones](#) delivered a presentation on “*Oilfield Water Disposal*”.

Upcoming Events

[December 13th is Commencement](#)—Students planning on Graduating are: [Debbie Garcia](#) (BS), [Adeniyi Adetayo](#), [Justin Long](#) and [Robert Salinas](#) (MS).

[ISEE 3rd Annual LRGV TPDES Stormwater Task Force Christmas Dinner](#) will be held on December 17, 2013 at the La Fogata Restaurant in Mission, TX.

The University will be **closed** for the Christmas/New Year’s Holiday from December 23, 2013 —January 1, 2014.



Go Javelina’s !!!!