



CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING

# CIVIL ENGINEERING

## November 2017 Newsletter

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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Welcome everyone to the third edition of our monthly newsletter. This month was filled with exciting news for the Civil Engineering Department. The Department recently received a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to develop a Watershed Protection Plan that will focus on reducing pollution in the Laguna Madre and our Civil Engineering program ranked among the

top in Texas

We have a month left of the fall semester, so keep up the good work and we hope you all have a great thanksgiving break. Also don't forget to save the date for our next **Stormwater conference happening on May 14-19, 2018.**

If you are interested in including an announcement or submitting pictures, please feel free to contact us.



Stormwater Students at the  
Operation and Maintenance of Stormwater  
Control Measures 2017 Conference



Stormwater Conference 2018

*"Think not of yourself as the architect of your career but as the sculptor. Expect to have to do a lot of hard hammering and chiseling and scraping and polishing."* - B.C. Forbes

# UTRGV Program ranked among top Civil Engineering majors in Texas

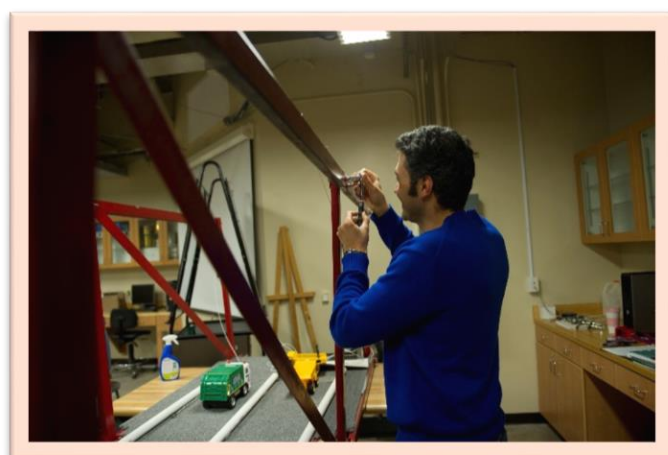
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley has been ranked one of the top colleges in Texas for Civil Engineering majors by Zippia, a career resource website.

UTRGV's civil engineering program was ranked No. 7 on the list. The only other UT System university, UT Austin, was third.

Our civil engineering program began in 2010 and offers four areas of study: environmental and water resources, construction and structures, geotechnical and transportation and energy and utility infrastructure engineering.

In 2015, 32 UTRGV undergraduates earned civil engineering degrees. Also, in 2015, an estimated 441 students were enrolled in the program. In addition, Zippia.com reports that median mid-career earnings for UTRGV civil engineering graduates is \$41,600.

"It's hard to argue with a selective school that features Civil Engineering and produces strong earning potential for your career," Zippia.com says.



# STUDENT OF THE MONTH

## Antonio Reyna

### What made you decide on your current major?

*During my time in high school I knew the time had come to choose what my career would be for my collegiate education. After much debate and research, I decided the Civil Engineering was the right path for me. I enjoyed the vast field and the extensive knowledge that could be earned in this discipline. Another contributing factor is the thought of knowing that any work done within this field helps aid and further the development society.*

### What are your plans after graduation?

*After graduation I plan to work in the public sector. Throughout my life while living in the Valley, I have received the help and support of my family and community,*



*so I plan on giving back to the people by working hard to help continue improving the Valley's infrastructures.*

### What advice do you have for future students?

*For students that are in their last semester of their undergraduate career, I recommend for each student to begin studying for their Fundamentals of Engineering Exam (FE). As most of you know, this exam is very crucial for most civil engineers because it should be everyone's aspiration to receive their Professional Engineering (P.E.) License after passing their FE Exam. Also I would recommend to students is to pursue greater education and obtain a Master's in their area of interest.*

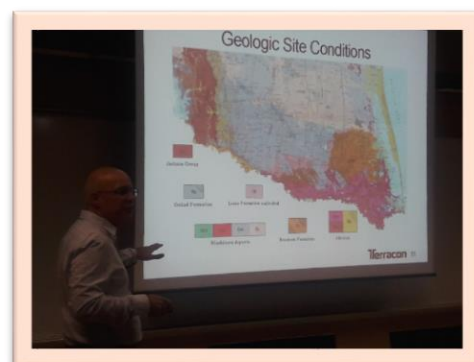
## CIVE 1101 & 2220 courses go "Pro"

Students taking professor Vidal's "Gateway" courses learn how civil engineers work, by joining teams asked to produce high-quality reports and presentations using the materials learned in class, combined with "real-world" project research.

Additionally, Mr. Vidal frequently invites professionals to speak about their fields of expertise and discuss with the students the challenges and opportunities found in their specific sector.

Recent guests include Mr. Alfonso Soto, PE, F. ASCE (photo 1), principal at Terracon, and manager of their Geotechnical & Construction Materials Testing Services, and Mr. Eli Ochoa, PE, AIA (photo 2), a structural engineer and CEO of ERO Architects, both internationally-recognized professionals with well over a quarter-century of experience which they kindly shared with our students.

Our thanks go to both of them!





## GRANT TO STUDY HOW TO PROTECT LAGUNA MADRE

The UTRGV civil engineering department received a \$200,000 grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to lead the development of the first Watershed Protection Plan to be run locally.

A watershed protection plan is typically put together to try and address any issues in the water quality or ecology of a basin,” said Dr. Andrew Ernest, lead investigator and UTRGV civil engineering department chair.

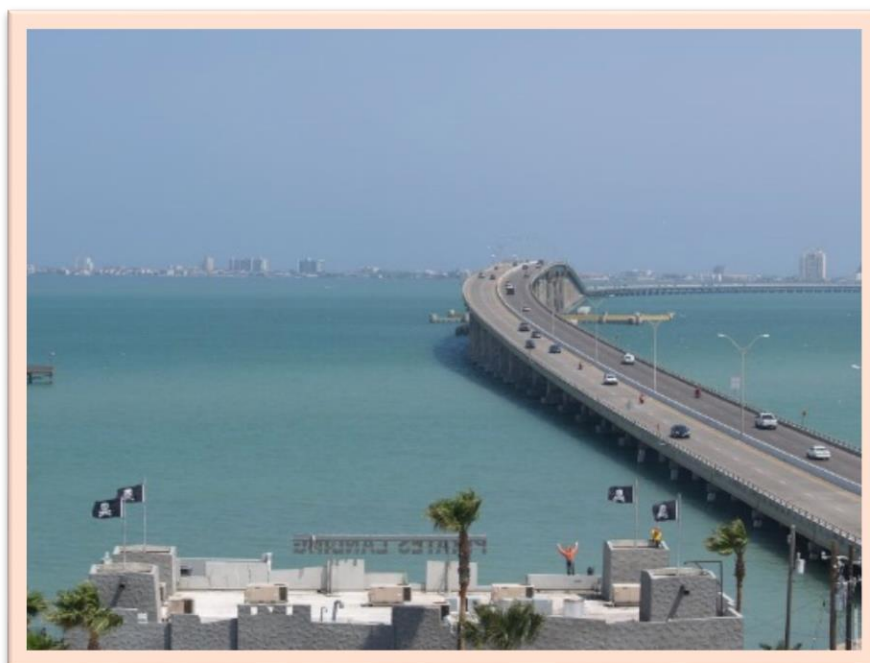
The improvement of water quality will lead to the overall sustainability of the body of water and the usage of it by locals.

With the help from the Lower Rio Grande Valley Stormwater Task Force, a joint management task force between

UTRGV and Texas A&M-Kingsville’s Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment, the university was able to get an additional \$133,000 from local municipalities.

Most of this money will go toward the planning and investigation phase, and once there is a full plan there will be more opportunities to apply for additional grants considering this is a 10- to 20-year endeavor, he said.

This is the first time that such plan will be investigated and carried out fully on the local level, he added, which will not only aid in the efforts to get the communities to buy into the initiative, but also in retaining local talent by getting students involved in the process.





*The Civil Engineering Department wants to wish a Happy Birthday to Dr. Chu-Lin Cheng and Mr. Javier Guerrero.*

DR. CHU-LIN CHENG

November 20th



MR. JAVIER GUERRERO

November 23th



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