

## Contact Information

### The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley Civil Engineering Department

---

Edinburg Campus:

EACSB 1.202

1201 West University Drive

Edinburg TX 78539

(956) 665-3038

[deanna.gomez@utrgv.edu](mailto:deanna.gomez@utrgv.edu)

Brownsville Campus:

LHSB 2.702

One West University Boulevard

Brownsville, TX 78520

(956) 882-6605

### The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley College of Engineering & Computer Science

---

Edinburg Campus:

ENGR 1.294

1201 West University Drive

Edinburg TX 78539

(956) 665-3510

[Leticia.ocanas@utrgv.edu](mailto:Leticia.ocanas@utrgv.edu)

Brownsville Campus:

LHSB 2.702

One West University Boulevard

Brownsville, TX 78520

(956) 882-6605

### Lower Rio Grande Valley-TPDES Storm Water Task Force

Edinburg Campus:

EACSB 1.202

1201 West University Drive

Edinburg TX 78539

(956) 665-3038

[LRGVswtf@utrgv.edu](mailto:LRGVswtf@utrgv.edu)



The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 33033-4097: Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.



# Lower Rio Grande Valley 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Water Quality Management & Planning Conference

## Program

May 23 - 27, 2017

Isla Grand Resort  
South Padre Island, Texas

[www.islagrand.com](http://www.islagrand.com)



May 23, 2017

Greetings,

On behalf of The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV), along with the Lower Rio Grande Valley Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Storm Water Task Force and our partners, welcome to the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual *Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Quality Management & Planning Conference*. UTRGV is pleased to lead the planning and delivery of the annual event.

UTRGV focuses on research topics germane to South Texas and the U.S.-Mexico border region. It is our goal to develop team-based and research inspired programs to train and educate our future engineers. Working with our partners, we have brought together representatives from academia, private industries, environmental groups, research communities and state and federal agencies to be a part of a team exchanging ideas concerning environmental issues impacting coastal and semi-arid regions and the Rio Grande Valley, and transferring that information to the decision makers and stakeholders who influence the economic, social and physical infrastructure along the border region.

It is our hope that this conference serves as a platform for discussing sustainability issues that are both important and relevant to the Rio Grande Valley. This year the conference includes topics on the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program, the Lower Laguna Madre & Port of Brownsville Watershed Protection Plan, low impact development, stormwater runoff flow reduction strategies, RESTORE, academia research topics, and many other interesting themes. **Our 2017 conference is pleased to announce that event topics will highlight planning, updates and working sessions associated with the recently formed Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program.** We hope you consider participating in this event and hope you have an enjoyable and stimulating time at the conference.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

**Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE**  
 Civil Engineering Department  
 Professor & Chair  
[Andrew.ernest@utrgv.edu](mailto:Andrew.ernest@utrgv.edu)

**Javier Guerrero, E.I.T., MS**  
 Civil Engineering Department  
 Director of Water Studies  
[Javier.guerrero@utrgv.edu](mailto:Javier.guerrero@utrgv.edu)



## Conference Schedule

<b>Tuesday, May 23, 2016 – Grant Workshop, TFMA Course and Exam</b> <i>Separate registration required. Must join TFMA to sit in during Exam.</i>		
7:30 am-9:00		<b>Registration</b>
8:00 am–12:00	<b>Course I</b>	<b>NAUTILUS</b>
		<b>“Federal and State Funding Grant Workshop”</b> facilitated by <b>Adele Cardenas-Malott, P.E.</b> Senior Policy Advisor & <b>Curry Jones</b> Chief, State and Tribal Programs Section EPA, Region 6, Dallas, TX
8:30 am–12:00	<b>Course II</b>	<b>SUNDIAL</b>
		<b>Floodplain Management Review Course</b> Thomas W. Mountz, PE, D.WRE, CFM Project Manager - Water Resources Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) 6 CECS/6 PDU's
12 noon – 12:30 pm	<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b> <b>ROYAL</b>
		<b>MC: Joe Hinojosa</b> General Manager Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15
		<b>Kathleen Jackson, Board Member</b> <b>Texas Water Development Board</b>
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Course I</b>	<b>NAUTILUS</b>
		<b>“Federal and State Funding Grant Workshop”</b> facilitated by <b>Adele Cardenas-Malott, P.E.</b> Senior Policy Advisor & <b>Curry Jones</b> Chief, State and Tribal Programs Section EPA, Region 6, Dallas, TX
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Course II</b>	<b>SUNDIAL</b>
		<b>Floodplain Management Review Course</b> Thomas W. Mountz, PE, D.WRE, CFM Project Manager - Water Resources Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) 6 CECS/6 PDU's
5:30 pm - 8:00 pm		<b>CFM Exam</b> Register at <a href="http://www.ffma.org">www.ffma.org</a>
		<b>FOYER</b>
		<b>Exhibitor setup (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)</b>

<b>Tuesday, May 23, 2016 – Pre-Conference Activities</b>		
6–7:00 pm	Registration	PALM GRAND BALLROOM RECEPTION AREA (2nd Floor)
		Early Registration, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor
6:00 pm	Meeting	Conference Room (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor)
		High School Track – Volunteer Meeting
7:30 pm	Dinner	WINDJAMMER’S BEACHFRONT CAFÉ (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)
		EPA/UTRGV FACULTY/STAFF/TASK FORCE DINNER
<b>Conference begins.</b>		
<b>Wednesday, May 24, 2016 – Plenary – Conference Themes</b>		
<b>Welcome, Guest Speakers, Key Topics and Plenary Keynote</b>		
7:00 – 8:30 am	FOYER	
	Breakfast	
Group Session 0 8:00-10:15	ROYAL	MAJESTIC
	<b>Stormwater 0 – Plenary, Welcome, and Keynote</b> Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE Vice-Chair: Jose Hinojosa, Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15, Chairperson Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Storm Water Task Force	
Plenary Welcome 8:00-8:15	<i>“Celebrating the Future of UTRGV Civil Engineering in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and South Texas”</i> <b>Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE</b> Civil Engineering Department College of Engineering & Computer Science Edinburg, TX/Brownsville, TX	
Plenary Theme Speaker 8:15-8:30	<i>“The LRGV Stormwater TPDES Task Force – History and Beyond”</i> <b>José Hinojosa, REM</b> General Manager Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15 Chairperson <b>LRGV Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Task Force Founded 1998</b>	
Plenary Guest 8:30-8:45	<i>“Texas Floodplain Management Association Initiatives”</i> <b>Thomas W. Mountz, PE, D.WRE, CFM</b> Sr. Project Manager - Water Resources - RPS Klotz Associates Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) State Board of Directors – Treasurer Austin, Texas 78735	
Plenary Conference Theme Speaker 8:45-9:05	<i>“TCEQ MS4 Program Update”</i> <b>Rebecca Villalba</b> Team Leader, Stormwater & Pretreatment Team Water Quality Division Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Austin, TX	

Plenary Guest Speaker 9:05-9:20	<i>“ASCE’s Grand Challenge”</i> <b>Craig B. Thompson, P.E.</b> ASCE Texas Section President Vice President/Principal, Hanson Professional Services Naismith   Hanson Corpus Christi, TX	
Plenary Guests 9:20-9:30	<i>“Serving the Civil Engineering Community through ASCE”</i> <b>Jesse Sanchez, P.E.</b> American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Rio Grande Valley Branch President & <b>Dora Marin-Robles, P.E.</b> American Society of Civil Engineers Rio Grande Valley Branch Branch Section Director	
Plenary Conference Theme Speaker 9:30-9:50	<i>“Region 6 Water Priorities at EPA”</i> <b>David Garcia</b> Assistant Director Water Quality Protection Division EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX	
Plenary Keynote 9:50-10:15	<b>Jorge A. Garza</b> Senior Managing Director Estrada Hinojosa & Co., Inc. Board of Directors Dallas, TX	
10:15-10:30	FOYER	
	Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters	
Group Session I 10:30-12:30	ROYAL	MAJESTIC
	<b>Stormwater Ia –TPDES, NPDES and Stormwater Management</b> Chair: Ernesto Solis, Stormwater Specialist, City of Alamo Vice Chair: Melisa Gonzales, Stormwater Manager, City of Alamo	<b>Stormwater Ib – Avanced Topics</b> Chair: Paolina Vega, P.E., County Engineer, Cameron County Vice Chair: Jungseok Ho, Ph.D. Civil Engineering, UTRGV

	<p><i>“National and Regional Outstanding Examples of Long Term Stormwater Management and Integrated Planning Frameworks”</i>  <b>Nelly Smith</b>  Municipal Stormwater Coord.  EPA Region 6, Permits and Technical Assistance Section  NPDES Permits &amp; TMDLs Branch</p> <p><i>“TCEQ MS4 Program Update”</i>  <b>Rebecca Villalba</b>  Team Leader  Stormwater &amp; Pretreatment Team  Water Quality Division  TCEQ  Austin, TX</p> <p><i>“Legal and practical issues associated with using Lower Rio Grande Irrigation surface water rights for industrial purposes, and possible solutions”</i>  <b>Emily Rogers, Attorney</b>  Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP  Austin, TX</p> <p><i>“City of Laredo Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDD&amp;E) Program for TPDES Compliance”</i>  <b>Ivan Santoyo</b>  Stormwater Manager/City of Laredo  Environmental Services Department  Laredo, TX</p>	<p><i>“Historical and Recent Characteristics of Freshwater Inflow and Salinity in the Lower Laguna Madre and Rio Grande Estuaries”</i>  <b>Caimee A. Schoenbaechler</b>  Manager  &amp;  <b>Evan L. Turner, Ph.D.</b>  Coastal Scientist  Bays and Estuaries Program/Texas Water Development Board  Austin, TX</p> <p><i>“Improving runoff simulation for sub-watersheds in the Lower Laguna Madre: an assessment of the need to incorporate land use-land cover information in rainfall-runoff model calibration”</i>  <b>D. Nelun Fernando, Ph.D., CTCM</b>  Hydrologist  Surface Water   Bays &amp; Estuaries  Water Science and Conservation  Austin, TX</p> <p><i>“Project CRAWFISH: a water-smart, integrated vegetable garden and aquaculture system maintained with harvested rainwater and HVAC condensate”</i>  <b>Christopher A. Gabler, Ph.D.</b>  Assistant Professor  School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences  University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Brownsville, TX</p> <p><i>“Nutrient removal from anaerobically treated digested sludge using multiple sequential aeration schemes”</i>  <b>Jongmin Kim, Ph.D., P.E.</b>  Assistant Professor  Civil Engineering Department  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX</p>
<b>11 am – 12:00</b>	<b>BOARDROOM</b>	
	<b>Task Force Roundtable with Commissioner Sid Miller (by invitation only)</b>	
<b>12:30-1:30 Lunch</b>	<b>BALLROOM</b>	
	<b>MC: Joe Hinojosa</b> General Manager Santa Cruz Irrigation District #15	

<b>12:30-12:50 Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>Sid Miller</b> Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner	
<b>Group Session II 1:30-3:00</b>	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>
	<b>Stormwater II – Environmental Topics</b> Chair: Martino Trevino, Project Manager, City of Brownsville Vice Chair: Raul Gomez, Administrative Assistant to the Honorable David Garza, Cameron County Commissioner	
	<i>“Coordinated Local Environmental Enforcement”</i> <b>John Ockels</b> Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center Dallas, TX  <i>“Trash Free Texas”</i> <b>J. Douglas Jacobson</b> U.S.EPA, Region 6 Program Manager, National Estuary Program Regional Coordinator, Gulf of Mexico Program Natural Resource Damage Assessment, EPA Trustee Texas Representative Gulf of Mexico Alliance Marine Debris Team Co-Chair Dallas, TX  <i>“Volunteer Monitoring in the United States”</i> <b>Mike Bira</b> EPA NPS Program EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX	
<b>3:00-3:15</b>	<b>FOYER</b>	
	<b>Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters</b>	
<b>Group Session III 3:15-5:00</b>	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>
	<b>Stormwater III – General Topics</b> Chair: Jose Figueroa, Stormwater Manager, City of Brownsville Vice Chair: Roy Jimenez, Stormwater Manager, City of Donna	
	<i>“TWDB Financing: Demystified”</i> <b>David Mendez, Attorney</b> Principal Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP Austin, TX & <b>Mark Evans</b> Clean Water SRF Program Coordinator Texas Water Development Board, Austin, TX	

	<p><i>“General Introduction to LNG and the Annova Project”</i>  <b>Maribel B. Guerrero</b>  Alderwoman, Town of Rancho Viejo  President  Bermudez &amp; Associates, LLC  Town of Rancho Viejo, TX</p> <p><i>“Best Water Management Practices: City and federal approaches and perspectives”</i>  <b>Laura E. Gómez Rodríguez</b>  Community Liaison for Federal Interagency Initiatives  USEPA  Dallas, TX</p>						
<b>Social</b> 6:00-6:30	<b>PALM GRAND BALLROOM</b>						
<b>Dinner</b> 6:30-8:30	<p><b>Networking/Fellowship</b></p> <p><b>“Engineering Education, Technology Development and New Initiatives in the Valley”</b></p> <p><i>“We Are One: Building a Sustainable and Resilient Community in the Lower Rio Grande Valley”</i>  <b>MC: Andrew Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE</b>  Chairperson  Civil Engineering Department  The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley  Edinburg, TX</p> <p><i>“Title”</i>  <b>Name</b>  College of Medicine  The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley  Harlingen, TX</p> <p><i>“South Texas College’s STEM Initiatives and Leadership in the Rio Grande Valley”</i>  <b>Ali Esmaeili, Ph.D.</b>  Dean of Math, Science, and Bachelor’s Degree Programs  South Texas College  McAllen, TX</p>						
<b>Thursday, May 25, 2016 - TPDES, Research and Emergency Response</b>							
<b>7:00 - 8:30</b>	<b>FOYER</b>						
	<b>Breakfast</b>						
<b>Group Session IV</b> 8:15-10:15	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>ROYAL</b></td> <td><b>MAJESTIC</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Stormwater IV – General Topics</b>  Chair: Xavier Cervantes, AICP, City Planner, City of San Juan  Vice Chair: Mardoqueo Hinojosa, P.E., City Engineer, City of Weslaco</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>“Ethics of Environmental Enforcement”</i>  <b>John Ockels</b>  Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center  Dallas, TX</td> </tr> </table>	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>	<b>Stormwater IV – General Topics</b> Chair: Xavier Cervantes, AICP, City Planner, City of San Juan Vice Chair: Mardoqueo Hinojosa, P.E., City Engineer, City of Weslaco		<i>“Ethics of Environmental Enforcement”</i> <b>John Ockels</b> Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center Dallas, TX	
<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>						
<b>Stormwater IV – General Topics</b> Chair: Xavier Cervantes, AICP, City Planner, City of San Juan Vice Chair: Mardoqueo Hinojosa, P.E., City Engineer, City of Weslaco							
<i>“Ethics of Environmental Enforcement”</i> <b>John Ockels</b> Texas Illegal Dumping Resource Center Dallas, TX							

	<p><i>“Monitoring, Modeling, and Decision Making: Making it Work”</i>  <b>Mike Bira</b>  EPA NPS Program  EPA Region 6, Dallas, TX</p> <p><i>“The legal and practical requirements for permitting return flows and groundwater and surface water-based Effluent”</i>  <b>Emily Rogers, Attorney</b>  Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP  Austin, TX</p>										
<b>10:15-10:30</b>	<b>FOYER</b>										
	<b>Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters</b>										
<b>Group Session V</b> 10:15-12:00	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>ROYAL</b></td> <td><b>MAJESTIC</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Stormwater Va – Estuary and Watershed Topics</b>  Chair: Paula Rodriguez, City Planning and Community Development Director, City of La Feria  Vice Chair: Raul Garcia, Stormwater Manager  City of Los Fresnos</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>“EPA’s Role in Support for Sustainable Agriculture”</i>  <b>Randy Rush</b>  Policy Advisor - Agriculture  U.S. EPA - Region 6  Dallas, TX</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>“Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Water Quality Management Plan Program”</i>  <b>Brian Koch</b>  Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board  Regional Watershed Coordinator  Temple, TX</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><i>“Lower Laguna Madre &amp; Port of Brownsville Watershed Characterization Study”</i>  <b>Tim Cawthon</b>  NPS Project Manager  Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  NPS Program, Austin, TX  &amp;  <b>Jude Benavidez, Ph.D.</b>  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences</td> </tr> </table>	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>	<b>Stormwater Va – Estuary and Watershed Topics</b> Chair: Paula Rodriguez, City Planning and Community Development Director, City of La Feria Vice Chair: Raul Garcia, Stormwater Manager City of Los Fresnos		<i>“EPA’s Role in Support for Sustainable Agriculture”</i> <b>Randy Rush</b> Policy Advisor - Agriculture U.S. EPA - Region 6 Dallas, TX		<i>“Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Water Quality Management Plan Program”</i> <b>Brian Koch</b> Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Regional Watershed Coordinator Temple, TX		<i>“Lower Laguna Madre &amp; Port of Brownsville Watershed Characterization Study”</i> <b>Tim Cawthon</b> NPS Project Manager Texas Commission on Environmental Quality NPS Program, Austin, TX & <b>Jude Benavidez, Ph.D.</b> The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences	
<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>										
<b>Stormwater Va – Estuary and Watershed Topics</b> Chair: Paula Rodriguez, City Planning and Community Development Director, City of La Feria Vice Chair: Raul Garcia, Stormwater Manager City of Los Fresnos											
<i>“EPA’s Role in Support for Sustainable Agriculture”</i> <b>Randy Rush</b> Policy Advisor - Agriculture U.S. EPA - Region 6 Dallas, TX											
<i>“Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Water Quality Management Plan Program”</i> <b>Brian Koch</b> Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Regional Watershed Coordinator Temple, TX											
<i>“Lower Laguna Madre &amp; Port of Brownsville Watershed Characterization Study”</i> <b>Tim Cawthon</b> NPS Project Manager Texas Commission on Environmental Quality NPS Program, Austin, TX & <b>Jude Benavidez, Ph.D.</b> The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences											
<b>Lunch</b> 12:00-1:15	<table border="1"> <tr> <td><b>SABAL</b></td> <td><b>PARADISE</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>MC: Joe E. Vega</b>  <b>Cameron County Parks and Rec Department Director</b>  <b>Former Mayor, City of Port Isabel</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"><b>Toby Baker</b>  <b>Commissioner</b>  <b>TCEQ, Austin, TX</b></td> </tr> </table>	<b>SABAL</b>	<b>PARADISE</b>	<b>MC: Joe E. Vega</b> <b>Cameron County Parks and Rec Department Director</b> <b>Former Mayor, City of Port Isabel</b>		<b>Toby Baker</b> <b>Commissioner</b> <b>TCEQ, Austin, TX</b>					
<b>SABAL</b>	<b>PARADISE</b>										
<b>MC: Joe E. Vega</b> <b>Cameron County Parks and Rec Department Director</b> <b>Former Mayor, City of Port Isabel</b>											
<b>Toby Baker</b> <b>Commissioner</b> <b>TCEQ, Austin, TX</b>											
<b>12:15-12:45</b> Keynote Speaker											

<b>Group Session VI</b> 1:15-3:15	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>
	<b>Stormwater VI – MS4 Topics</b> Chair: Daniel Tijerina, City Manager, City of Mercedes Vice Chair: Robert Valenzuela, Stormwater Manager, City of Edinburg	
	<p>“Topic”</p> <p><b>Ty Garmon</b> CBI Systems LJA Engineering, Inc.</p> <p>“TPDES Construction Management at the City of Laredo”</p> <p><b>Ivan Santoyo</b> Stormwater Manager/City of Laredo Environmental Services Department Laredo, TX</p> <p>“Stormwater Management as a Community Asset: Transforming a Necessity into an Amenity”</p> <p><b>Hugo Colón</b> Landscape Designer Design Workshop Houston, TX</p>	
3:15-3:30	<b>FOYER</b>	
	<b>Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters</b>	
3:15-3:30	<b>NAUTILUS</b>	
	<b>POSTER WINNER ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
<b>Group Session VII</b> 3:30-5:30	<b>ROYAL</b>	<b>MAJESTIC</b>
	<b>Stormwater VII – Valley-Wide Integrated Monitoring and Forecasting for Flood Response and Economic Development Emergency Management</b> Chair: Andrew N.S. Ernest, Ph.D., P.E., BCEE, D.WRE Vice Chair: Name	
	<p><b>Andrew Ernest, P.E., Ph.D., BCEE, D.WRE,</b> Chairperson, Civil Engineering The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley</p> <p><b>Harry Evans</b> Center for Research on Water Resources University of Texas Austin Fire Department (Retired), Austin, TX</p> <p><b>John O’Valle</b> District Coordinator Field Response Section Texas Division of Emergency Management Austin, TX</p> <p><b>Tony Pena</b> Region III State Coordinator Texas Division of Emergency Management, Austin, TX</p> <p><b>Jude Benavides</b> Associate Professor The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Brownsville, TX</p>	

	<p><b>Doug Fowler</b> Fire Chief City of South Padre Island, TX</p> <p><b>Pilar Rodriguez, P.E.</b> Executive Director Hidalgo County Regional Mobility Authority, Pharr, TX</p> <p><b>Ricardo Saldana</b> Emergency Management Coordinator Hidalgo County Office of Emergency Management, Edinburg, TX</p>
<b>Alumni Social</b> 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	<b>KEY LARGO ROOM</b>
	<b>FIRST FLOOR</b>
	<p><b>1st Annual UTRGV Engineering Alumni Social</b></p> <p><b>Alumni Social</b> MC: Julissa Flores, Assistant Dean College of Engineering &amp; Computer Science The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Guest Speaker: TBD</p>
8:00 - 10:00pm	<b>QUARTERDECK BAR</b> <b>Hammerhead Deck</b>
	<b>Luau Outdoor Party – Food and Music</b>
<b>Friday, May 26, 2016 – Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Strategic Planning</b>	
8:30am-10:30	<b>MAJESTIC</b>
	<p><b>Estuary Program I – Topic</b> Chair: Augusto Sanchez-Gonzales, MS, CFM, Director of Estuary, Environmental and Special Projects UTRGV/Cameron County Vice Chair: Iris Cantu, Assistant County Engineer, Cameron County</p> <p>“Seasonal and inter-annual variations in evapotranspiration of <i>Arundo donax</i>, water-using weed in the arid southwestern US”</p> <p><b>Alexis Racelis, Ph.D.</b> The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences</p> <p>“Role of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board as a State Agency Representative on the NEPs Implementation Subcommittees, Specifically Water and Sediment Quality”</p> <p><b>Brian Koch</b> Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board Regional Watershed Coordinator Temple, TX</p>

	<p><i>"Field Evaluation of Bioretention Hydrology and Pollutant Loads Reductions in South Texas"</i>  <b>Ahmed Refaat</b>  Ph.D. Candidate  Environmental Engineering Department  Texas A&amp;M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX</p>
<b>10:30-10:45</b>	<p><b>FOYER</b></p> <p>Networking Coffee Break, Exhibits and Posters</p>
<b>10:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<p><b>ROYAL</b></p> <p><b>TASK FORCE/UTRGV ROUND TABLE</b>  By invitation only</p>
<b>10:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<p><b>MAJESTIC</b></p> <p><b>Estuary II – Topic</b>  Chair: Name  Vice Chair: Name</p> <p><i>"Lower Laguna Madre Water Quality"</i>  <b>Tim Cawthon</b>  Nonpoint Source Program  TCEQ  Austin, TX</p> <p><i>"Beyond sea-level rise: impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems in South Texas"</i>  <b>Christopher A. Gabler, Ph.D.</b>  Assistant Professor  School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley  Brownsville, TX</p> <p><i>"Development of the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Strategic Plan"</i>  <b>Augusto Sanchez-Gonzales, MS, CFM</b>  Director of Estuary, Environmental and Special Projects  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley/Cameron County  San Benito, TX</p>
<b>12:30 pm-2:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Working Lunch</b></p> <p><i>"Development of the Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program Strategic Plan - Discussion of the Work Done to Date, from Jan 2017-May 2017, 5 years of planning, and the Future"</i>  <b>Augusto Sanchez-Gonzales, MS, CFM</b>  Director of Estuary, Environmental and Special Projects  The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley/Cameron County  San Benito, TX</p>
<b>2:00</b>	<p><b>End of Conference</b></p>

**Saturday, May 27, 2017 (7 am-12 noon)– Laguna Madre Tour (Charter Boat) – Hosted by Lower Laguna Madre Estuary Program – For more information, please sign up at the Registration Table between May 23 and May 26.**

**Saturday, May 27, 2016 (7 pm) – Social, Fish Fry – Beach side of Resort.**



**College of Engineering & Computer Science**  
**The University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley**