

# FIU Project 4 DOE-FIU Science and Technology Workforce Development Program

Dr. Leonel Lagos (Program Director)

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY





AREVA

#### **STEM Minority Students Pipeline**











THE TEXAS SOLUTION





FPL.



### DOE Fellow Induction Class of 2017



Joseph Coverston Ryan Cruz Katherine Delarosa Christopher Excellent Silvia Garcia Alejandro Koszarycz Manuel Losada Ximena Lugo Anibal Morales-Zambrana Joshua Núñez **Tristan Simoes-Ponce** 



11 New DOE Fellows Inducted, 142 since program inception



# **Conference Presentations**



- Waste Management Symposia 18 student technical posters, 2 professional presentations, and 1 panel member
- DOE Fellows Poster Exhibition and Competition at FIU 17 Fellows
- Life Sciences South Florida Undergraduate Research Symposium 7 Fellows
- Third Annual FIU Undergraduate Research Conference 5 Fellows
- STEM Research & Career Symposium by Emory University in Atlanta 1 Fellow
- American Geophysical Union fall meeting in New Orleans 1 Fellow
- FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference 4 Fellows





### **WM18 Robotics Pavilion**

FIU Applied Research Center













### **DOE Fellow Publications**



- Emerson, H., <u>S. Di Pietro</u>, Y. Katsenovich, J. Szecsody, J. Uranium Immobilization in the Presence of Minerals Following Remediation via Base Treatment with Ammonia Gas. *Journal of Environmental Management* (submitted Feb 2018).
- Emerson, H., <u>F. Zengotita</u>, T. Dittrich, M. Richmann, Y. Katsenovich, D. Reed. Retention of neodymium by dolomite at variable ionic strength as probed by batch and column experiments. *Journal of Environmental Radioactivity* (accepted May 2018).
- <u>Gonzalez-Raymat, H.</u>, V. Anagnostopoulos, M. Denham, Y. Cai, Y. Katsenovich. 2018. Unrefined Humic Substances as a Potential Low-Cost Amendment for the Management of Acidic Groundwater Contamination. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 15, 212, 210-218.
- <u>Zengotita, F.</u>, H. Emerson. T. Dittrich, J. Swanson, D. Reed. The Role of *Chromohalobacter* on Transport of Lanthanides and Cesium in the Dolomite Mineral System. LA-UR-17-30894. Los Alamos National Laboratory, Carlsbad, NM.



# **DOE Fellow Awards/Recognitions**



- Best student poster award at WM18 Hansell Gonzalez
- 2018 Roy G. Post Foundation Scholarship (Undergraduate Level) Christine Wipfli
- Young Professional Award at WM18 Christine Wipfli
- Third place, life sciences track at FIU McNair Scholars Research Conference Frances Zengotita
- Best posters at DOE Fellows Poster Exhibition and Competition Jesse Viera (1<sup>st</sup>), Alejandro Garcia (2<sup>nd</sup>), Juan Carlos Morales (3<sup>rd</sup>)
- 2017 DOE Fellow of the Year Award Ripley Raubenolt
- Cash award for poster at FIU's Undergraduate Research Conference Ripley Raubenolt
- Monetary awards and sponsored travel from the Innovations in Nuclear R&D Program Workshop (DOE-NE) – Frances Zengotita and Silvina Di Pietro





# **SRS Field Work**



FIU graduate students Ron Hariprashad and Juan Morales deployed two state-ofthe-art monitoring stations Tims Branch to automatically record and transmit stream flow data as part of their research to study movement of sediments and contaminants.





#### **Next Generations of Tech Workforce**



DOE Fellows demonstrating robotic technologies to middle and high school students during FIU's Engineering Expo













### **Academic Milestones**

#### Mohammed Albassam:

 Submitted master's thesis proposal: The Effect of Frequent Atmospheric Events on Flow Characteristics in Tims Branch and its Major Outfalls, Savannah River Site, SC

#### Silvina Di Pietro

 Successfully passed Ph.D. candidacy exam based on dissertation: Uranium Fate and Mineral Transformations upon Treatment with Ammonia Gas

#### Maximiliano Edrei:

- Successfully defended master's thesis: CFD Evaluation of Mixing Processes for High-Level Nuclear Waste Tanks
- Sebastian Zanlongo:
  - Successfully passed Ph.D. proposal defense based on dissertation: *Multi-Robot Coordination and Scheduling for Deactivation & Decommissioning*



Applied Research



#### Graduates – December 2017

Claudia Cardona (Class of 2011) – Ph.D. Civil Eng. Max Edrei (Class of 2014) – M.S. Mech. Eng. Alexis Smoot (Class of 2015) – B.S. Env. Eng. Jesse Viera (Class of 2014) – B.S. Mech. Eng.

#### Graduates – May 2018

Joshua Nunez (Class of 2017) – B.S. Mech. Eng. Tristan Simoes-Ponce (Class of 2017) – B.S. Mech. Eng. Christine Wipfli (Class of 2014) – B.S. Env. Eng.



### **Career Commencements**

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<u>Alexis Smoot</u> B.S. Environmental Engineering Position: Engineer I – Nexant, Chicago, IL



Alexis Smoot DOE Fellow - Class of 2015



Alexis Smoot at DOE-HQ during her 2016 summer internship with Sarah Bird (left) and at ARC laboratory (right)



# **Career Commencements**



#### Mohammed Albassam

B.S. Environmental Engineering M.S. Environmental Engineering (expected graduation Summer 2018) Position: Engineer I – City of Coconut Creek, FL





Mohammed Albassam DOE Fellow - Class of 2016

Mohammed Albassam at DOE-HQ during his 2017 summer internship at DOE HQ with his mentor Kurt Gerdes and Juan Morales (left) and presenting his poster at WM2018 (right)



# **Career Commencements**



#### Maximiliano Edrei

M.S. Mechanical Engineering Position: Engineer II – Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding Company, Newport News, VA



Maximiliano Edrei DOE Fellow - Class of 2014



Maximiliano Edrei with his summer mentor Chris Guenther during his 2016 summer internship at NETL



# **Career Commencements**



#### Jesse Viera

**B.S. Mechanical Engineering** 

Position: Second Lieutenant – United States Marine Corps (USMC) (after successfully completing USMC Officer Candidate School)



Jesse Viera DOE Fellow - Class of 2014



Official commissioning of Second Lieutenant Jesse Viera into the U.S. Marine Corps (left) and with Dr. Inés Triay (Executive Director, FIU ARC) and Mr. Joseph Sinicrope (right).



### **Career Commencements**



#### **Christine Wipfli**

B.S. Environmental Engineering Position: Entry-level Nuclear Engineer – U.S. Department of Defense, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, Hawaii



Christine Wipfli DOE Fellow - Class of 2014 Christine Wipfli during her one-year internship at IAEA (right) and during her poster presentation at WM 2017 (left).



# **Career Commencements**



#### Kiara Pazan

#### B.S. Environmental Engineering Positions: Environmental Engineer, AECOM (2015) Recently accepted position at U.S. Corps of Engineers' Coastal & Hydraulics Lab (2018)



Kiara Pazan DOE Fellow - Class of 2014



Kiara Pazan with her poster at WM2015 (left) and dressed in PPE with Aref Shehadeh during a summer internship at SRS.



### **Summer 2018 Internships**

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| DOE Fellow              | Internship Location   | Internship Mentor           |                  |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Joshua Nunez            | DOE HQ (EM 3.2)       | Rod Rimando                 |                  |
| Alejandro Koszarycz     | DOE HQ (EM 4.11)      | Andrew Szilagyi             |                  |
| Silvia Garcia           | DOE HQ (EM 4.12)      | Skip Chamberlain            |                  |
| Juan Carlos Morales     | DOE HQ (EM 4.31)      | Robert Seifert              |                  |
| Ximena Lugo             | DOE HQ (EM 4.31)      | Robert Seifert              |                  |
| Tristan Simoes-Ponce    | SRNL                  | Connor Nicholson            | FIU-DOE          |
| Katherine Delarosa      | SRNL                  | Brian Looney                |                  |
| Ryan Cruz               | SRNL                  | Richard Poland              | Cooperative      |
| Silvina Di Pietro       | PNNL                  | Jim Szecsody                | Agreement        |
| Clarice Davila          | WRPS                  | Ruben Mendoza               |                  |
| Joseph Coverston        | WRPS                  | Karthik Subramanian         |                  |
| Anibal Morales-Zambrana | ANL                   | Young Soo Park              |                  |
| Christopher Excellent   | DOE HQ (EM 3.2) / CMU | Rod Rimando / Red Whittaker | FIU-DOE CA &     |
| Michael DiBono          | CMU                   | Red Whittaker               |                  |
| Sebastian Zanlongo      | SRNL/MSIPP            | Timothy Aucott, Robin Young | - MSIPP          |
| Manuel Losada           | SRNL/MSIPP            | Jean Plummer                |                  |
| Frances Zengotita       | LANL ACRSP            | Don Reed, Julie Swanson     | LANL, FIU McNair |
|                         |                       | -                           | - & FIU-DOE CA   |



# **FIU Performance Year 9**



Active hands-on research assisting ARC scientists/engineers during the execution of DOE-EM research in order to integrate education with practical experience in the DOE EM problem areas.

- Recruit qualified talented FIU minority STEM students
- Engage in DOE EM research under the technical projects
- Conduct poster exhibition & competition
- Host DOE Fellows induction ceremony
- Coordinate summer internship program and internship technical reports
- Conference participation & presentations, including WM Symposia
- DOE Fellows lecture series forum
- DOE EM HBCU collaboration/interactions extend recruitment to include HBCU/MSI students interested in a Ph.D. at FIU
- Work closely with DOE nat. labs to identify opportunities for Ph.D. students including extended work assignments that can lead to post-doctoral positions
- Fostering opportunities for DOE Fellows research assignments at other institutions (i.e. CMU, UT-Austin, others)