

# ECSC BIWEEKLY

## ECSC TAMU-CC Scholar Successfully Defends Thesis

On May 6, ECSC student Robyn Ball successfully defended her Master Thesis entitled “A Comparison of Artificial Neural Network, Random Forest, and Multi-linear Regression Models: Predicting Water Temperature in the Upper Laguna Madre”. The work was also sponsored in part by a grant from Texas Parks and Wildlife. Robyn is presently spending her summer working on implementing the hydrodynamic model FV-COM for the Texas Coastal Bend which should become an invaluable resource for ECSC and other modeling projects. In the fall Robyn will start a PhD in the Statistics Department of Texas A&M University in College Station. ~ written by Dr. Philippe Tissot

## Job Vacancy

### Announcements

There are several vacant positions within the ECSC, and various NOAA offices and laboratories. The position announcements can be found on the ECSC website.

<http://ecsc.famu.edu/employmentopportunities.html>

To have job announcements added to the site, please send the information to: [michelle.williams@famu.edu](mailto:michelle.williams@famu.edu)

## Upcoming Events in July and August

Event	Location	Time
<b>7/7-7/17</b> Eco Clues Summer Camp	Morgan State University	
<b>7/13-7/23</b> ECSC Flyover of the Mission-Aransas NERR	Port Aransas, TX	
<b>7/18</b> Integrated Assessment Thematic Area Conference call	Teleconference	<b>11:00 AM EST</b>
<b>8/4</b> Center Management Team Conference Call	Teleconference	<b>9:00 AM EST</b>
<b>8/6</b> Integrated Social Science Thematic Area Conference Call	Teleconference	<b>TBA</b>
<b>8/29</b> Integrated Assessment Thematic Area	Teleconference	<b>TBA</b>

## TAMU-CC Student Passes Comprehensive Exams



TAMU-CC ECSC scholar, Sandra Arismendez successfully passed her comprehensive exams in May. Her dissertation proposal was also accepted. As a PhD candidate, Sandra will now commence her dissertation research. The title of her dissertation will be “Nutrient loads in Texas estuaries: Temporal and spatial trends and the effect of anthropogenic alterations”. She expects to graduate in the summer of 2009.

Above: Sandra Arismendez

## ECSC’ers play major roles in landmark Mussel Watch Report

It might have gone unnoticed but former ECSC postdoctoral fellow, Dr. Kimani Kimbrough served as lead author while FAMU/ECSC Ph.D. recipient, Dr. Denis Apeti served as co-author of the report “NOAA National Status and Trends Mussel Watch Program: An Assessment of Two Decades of Contaminant Monitoring in the Nation’s Coastal Zone from 1986-2005.” Beyond authorship of the report, both scientists are intimately involved in day-to-day activities of NOAA’s Mussel Watch program. Please see the excerpt below from NOAA’s NCCOS weekly newsletter (5-28-08) which includes a link to the report.

### New Report on Coastal Waters Shows Decline in Contaminants

On May 12, The National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) released a 20-year study showing that environmental laws have had a positive effect on reducing overall contaminant levels in coastal waters of the U.S. However, the report points to continuing concerns with elevated levels of metals and organic contaminants found near urban and industrial areas of the coasts. The report, “NOAA National Status and Trends Mussel Watch Program: An Assessment of Two Decades of Contaminant Monitoring in the Nation’s Coastal Zone from 1986-2005,” is the first that presents national, regional, and local findings in a quick reference format, suitable for use by policymakers, scientists, resource managers and the public. The findings are the result of monitoring efforts that analyze 140 different chemicals in U.S. coastal and estuarine areas, including the Great Lakes. The report is available online at <http://www.nsanat.noaa.gov/>. For more information, contact Gunnar Lauenstein at (301) 713 3028 x152 or [Gunnar.Lauenstein@noaa.gov](mailto:Gunnar.Lauenstein@noaa.gov), or Kimani Kimbrough at (301) 713 3028 x114 or [Kimani.Kimbrough@noaa.gov](mailto:Kimani.Kimbrough@noaa.gov) [02M00019] (CCMA) Significance: The economies of many coastal regions are dependent on healthy, productive marine resources, such as fish and shellfish. Legislation to reduce contaminants to these areas is vital to reverse the trend of declining coastal habitat health.

## Michelle Williams receives ECSC Distinguished Service Award

Acknowledging five years of tireless and unselfish commitment to the goals of ECSC Ms. Williams was presented the Distinguished Service Award on the behalf of all ECSC constituents during the closing ceremony of the high school summer camp on June 25, 2008. Ms. Williams received a plaques the reads as follows: In appreciation of her tireless efforts, dedication and embodiment of ECSC: Energy, Commitment, Service, and Character.