Name & Hometown: Ariel Suselo (Indonesia)
Research Interest: Earthquake Engineering, specifically on resilient reinforced concrete (RC) buildings.
Dissertation Topic: Simulated behavior of RC columns under seismic loading
What led me to UTSA: Proponent Professors in Structural Engineering (especially for my topic) and one of top leading young university
What I plan to do with my doctoral degree: Become a responsible professional in engineering field or in academics
Hobbies: watching action/thriller movies, reading mystery novel, travelling (preferable to places with fantastic sunset).
Name & Hometown: Reza Nasouri (Bushehr, Iran)

Research Interest: "Computational Modeling in Civil Engineering Applications-Finite Element Analysis - Performance of Steel Structures- Design and Evaluation of Bridges - Fatigue and Fracture Behavior of Steel Structures."

Dissertation Topic: Mitigation of Weldment Cracking of Highway Steel Structures Due to the Galvanizing Process.

What led you to UTSA: Top-notch faculty group of professionals

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: Join a research group

Hobbies: Playing Guitar and Percussion - Reading Books- Playing Ping-Pong
Name & Hometown: Esra'a Alrashydah, (Jordan)

Research interest: My research interests focus mainly on road materials, transportation infrastructures, asphalt pavement distresses, and advanced pavement performance computational modeling techniques.

Dissertation Topic: To be determined

What led you to UTSA: My passion in civil engineering led me to UTSA. The program UTSA offer is amazing, the faculty members are highly experienced and have research interests which are very similar to mine.

What do you plan to do with doctoral degree: I want to continue my passion by earning my Ph.D. and doing more Transportation engineering research. I would be involved in the development of more efficient and sustainable transportation systems. After doing my Ph.D., I am planning to work as a university professor teaching classes and doing research.
Name & Hometown: Jin Ikeda (Chiba, Japan)

Research Interest: Sediment dynamics & Turbulent flow


What led you to UTSA: I have studied above research topics under supervision of Dr. Testik and moved to UTSA with him.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: I would like to better understand the relationships between hydrodynamics and particle movements by using laboratory experiments.

Hobbies: Soccer, workout, and reading manga.
Name & Hometown: Mehdi Najarian (Texas, Iran)

Research Interest: Studying the response of buildings/bridges to natural and man-made hazards.

Dissertation Topic: To be determined

What led me to UTSA: PhD program in Department of Civil Engineering is fresh and upcoming and provides a lot of opportunities for who intend to advance their research skills and knowledge under supervision of recognized faculty in this field.

What will I do with my doctoral degree: Pursuing a career in academia as a Professor upon completing his doctoral degree at UTSA.

Hobbies: Reading recent advancements in development of structural engineering applications. He also enjoys watching documentaries.
Name & Hometown: Dawit Ghebreyesus, (Asmara, Eritrea)
Research Interests: His main research interests are water resource management, Hydrologic modeling and flood assessment and mitigation strategies using remote sensing.
Dissertation Topic: To be determined.
What led you to UTSA: He joined UTSA because of the high-end researches going on in the department of Civil Engineering especially in the GIS and Hydro-metrology laboratory
What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: After finishing his studies, his plan is to join research institutes working on flood forecasting and mitigation.
Name & Hometown: Mohammadreza Gholikhani, (Shiraz, Iran)
Research Interest: Energy, Asphalt pavement materials and Transportation
Dissertation Topic: Harvesting kinetic energy from Roadways
What led you to UTSA: Advance research topics, Being part of the development of UTSA.
What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: Being a "Research assistant".
Hobbies: Traveling, Camping, Writing, Analog Gaming, Reading Books and Watching Movies.
Name & Hometown: Abtin Shahrokh Hamedani, (Tehran, Iran)

Research Interests: Integrated water resources management, Stormwater management and application of green infrastructure in stormwater control and water quality enhancement, Application of remote sensing in meteorological and hydrological studies;

Dissertation Topic: Implementation of a Low Impact Development Test Bed at The University of Texas at San Antonio Main Campus

What led you to UTSA: After graduating from my master’s studies in Hydro Science and Engineering from Technical University of Dresden, I was eager to proceed with my academic career in an interdisciplinary graduate program within strong academic environment and at state of the art research communities. UTSA’s academic standards and PhD program meets my expectations fully and I found it to be one of the most developing universities in the path to excellence.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: I believe that doing a PhD and gaining advanced knowledge is the major step to become a successful and contributing expert in one of the most demanding fields of science due to growing global environmental issues. Acquired knowledge and expertise will make me capable of initially understanding the system and secondly to develop adaptation strategies in order to cope with these rising issues.

Hobbies: Traveling, live music and concerts, cooking and baking, playing with my cat.
Name & Hometown: Seyed Amid Tahami, (Iran)

Research Interest: Energy harvesting; Asphalt pavement characterization, Asphalt mixture materials

Dissertation Topic: Thermoelectric energy harvesting from asphalt pavement

What led you to UTSA: The research area of my supervisor (Professor Dessouky)

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: I would like to work in industry, or perform consulting work.

Hobbies: Watching movies and listening to music.
Name & Hometown: Chao Zheng, (HuBei Province, China)

Research Interests: Numerical simulation for water flow in highway pavement; soil stabilization.

Dissertation Topic: Laboratory Study on Soil Stabilization with Polymerized Alkali Lignin

What led you to UTSA: One of my academic supervisors introduced me to UTSA and strongly encouraged me to apply.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: I have finished evaluating the strength of the soil that stabilized by non-polymerized lignin and already started exploring the method for lignin polymerization. I hope I can figure out the optimum chemical polymerization in the next two months. So that I can publish another paper and start writing my thesis, trying to graduate in the the spring or summer semester of 2019.

Hobbies: Hiking, gym, music, movie and fried chicken.
Name & Hometown: Reza Khalili, (Tehran, Iran)

Research Interests: Smart transportation infrastructures, WIM systems, Energy harvesting from roadways, Tire-Pavement interaction, Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement

Dissertation Topic: Development of a self-powered traffic data collection system

What led you to UTSA: My master's degree thesis supervisor introduced me to Prof. Papagiannakis who is very well known in the field of pavement engineering.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: The greatest advantage of the PhD is that it will give me experience in carrying out detailed research. Getting a PhD teaches me to find out new things, to carry out experiments, to report data, and learn from my mistakes. This process lead to transferable skills crucial in academia and valuable in industry.

Hobbies: ESports
Name & Hometown: Kevin Eddy, (Columbus, Indiana)

Research Interest: I am currently focused on the effects of climate change on plant ecology. I am also interested in restoration ecology and ornithology.

Dissertation Topic: How does increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration affect plant competition?

What led me to UTSA: Relocating was not an option but I wanted to study environmental science, and restoration ecology in particular. UTSA was my only option. After meeting Dr. Janis Bush and Dr. Bill van Auken, I realized how fortunate I was.

What I plan to do with my doctoral degree: I plan to continue my research and teach in academia.

Hobbies: I don’t have much time for hobbies, but I do enjoy watching movies with my family and spending time outdoors: hiking, biking, and camping when I can.
Name & Hometown: Lijun Tian, (Hebel, China)

Research Interest: Karst Hydrogeology

Dissertation Topic: The Evolution of Hydrochemical and Isotopic Signatures from Precipitation, Surface Water to Groundwater in Edwards and Trinity Aquifers, Central Texas

What led me to UTSA: Water shortage and water pollution are the most prominent environmental problems at my hometown in North China. The study and research experience in the Center for Water Research at UTSA provided me with advanced training in water research and technology.

What I plan to do with the doctoral degree: I believe the geochemistry and isotope tools could provide useful information to solve the hydrogeological problems in karst areas. I would like to extend my graduate work into a postdoc in the US, then go back to China to solve the water issues in Chinese karst areas.

Hobbies: Reading and Hiking
Name & Hometown: Duc Phan, (Hatinh Province, Vietnam)

Research Interest: Environmental engineering, environmental microbiology, environmental nanotechnology, water and wastewater treatment

Dissertation topic: Impact of Metal Oxide Nanoparticles on Wastewater Nitrification.

What led you to UTSA: UTSA is ranked as one of the best young universities in the nation with a dynamic research environment and excellent institution for conducting research. It has a lot potential to become one of the top university in the nation. Another reason is San Antonio is a nice and dynamic city to live.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: My academic goal is to be a professor in a university. I want to provide the best academic experience in the field of environmental engineering to my students.
Name & Hometown: Mei Lani May, (San Antonio, Texas)
Research Interest: Stormwater/Water Quality
Dissertation Topic: “Water Quality in the Leon Creek Watershed Recharge Zone as a Function of Urban Development.”
What led me to UTSA: I have lived here all my life.
What will I do with my doctoral degree: Continue to work at UTSA to provide sustainable solutions to development and protection of the Edwards Aquifer.
Hobbies: Everything UTSA
Name & Hometown: Zhongyu Han, (Zhengzhou, China)
Research Interest: Adsorption and Desorption
Dissertation Topic: To Be Determined
What led me to UTSA: The quality of faculty and facilities.
What will I do with my doctoral degree: I would like to find a good job in an exciting industry.
Hobbies: Table Tennis, Movies, and Travel.
Name & Hometown: Ali Balati, (Gorgan, Iran)
Research Interest: My research interests lie in the clean, fast and ecofriendly synthesis of semiconductor nanocomposites, nanosheets/nanofilms e.g. Graphene, TMDCs (MoS$_2$ and MoSe$_2$ NSs) or black TiO$_2$ using pulsed laser ablation and microwave technique for environmental purification.
What led me to UTSA: I selected UTSA because I found good faculty and research facilities more in line with my research objectives.
What will I do with my doctoral degree: Finding an R and D position either in academia or industry is my plan after graduation.
Hobbies: Reading books, plying volleyball and swimming are my main hobbies.
Name & Hometown: Sina Vedadi Moghadam, (Qazvin, Iran)
Research Interest: Water Quality, Water Management
Dissertation Topic: Evaluating and enhancing the potential of roadside vegetation for carbon sequestration (it’s not the final topic yet)
What led you to UTSA: One of the top young universities in the US and the perfect location to study water and environmental problems in real world.
What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: Become a professor in one of the top engineering schools in my own country.
Hobbies: Music, Movies, soccer.
Name & Hometown: Jullian Williams, (Kingston, Jamaica)

Research Interest: Environmental Solutions and Engineering Hazard mapping & planning.


What led you to UTSA: UTSA is a top global university in the engineering field. If I want to be the best and I have to be where the best are at.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: I want to teach at the tertiary level as well as work in the environmental engineering arenas.

Hobbies: Tennis, working at the gym, music/choir, dancing and the visual arts.
Name & Hometown: Salman Sakib, (Dhaka, Bangladesh)

Research Interest: Sediment transport processes, coastal engineering, GIS and remote sensing applications.

Dissertation Topic: Bedload transport modeling in gravel bed rivers.

What led you to UTSA: ESE Ph.D. program, scholarships, and funding opportunities, and San Antonio is a great city to live in.

What you plan to do with the doctoral degree: Join academia as a researcher/professor, start my own water resources/engineering firm in the future.

Hobbies: Playing soccer, traveling, playing guitar and exercising leadership.