

ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Developing environmental solutions for the future

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ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS FOUR SCHOLARSHIPS

Alexandria, Va. – At its June 12, 2008 meeting, the Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) board of directors approved two master and two doctoral scholarships. The master's scholarships were named in honor of the current board members who founded them. The Robert P. Stearns/ SCS Engineers award was given to Tim Kramer, Yale University; and the Robert J. Riethmiller/PTR Baler award went to Kurt Flor, Baylor University. Each will receive \$5,000 per year for two years.

Also approved were awards for doctoral environmental scholars, one to Xu Ming, Arizona State University who will receive the Francois Fiessinger scholarship (Fiessinger was a senior vice president of SITA and an EREF board member at the time of his death in 1998); and Ramin Yazdani, University of California at Davis, who will receive an EREF scholarship. Both candidates will receive \$12,000 per year renewable for up to three years.

Master's students:

- **Tim Kramer** is seeking an M.S. in Environmental Management at Yale University. His research topic focuses on how greenhouse gas emissions are calculated for solid waste management facilities and how improvements in efficiency and increased methane collection would be credited to these operations. Mr. Kramer's research will look at the European Union Emissions Trading Program and California's proposed greenhouse gas cap-and-trade program and how they have incorporated solid waste management facilities into their programs.
- **Kurt Flor** is pursuing a M.A. in Business Management at Baylor University. His research will focus on the implementation and management of a waste-to-energy (WTO) facility within a developing country. The research will aim to drive environmental progress and fuel social and economic development.

Doctoral students:

- **Ramin Yazdani** is seeking a Ph.D. at University of California at Davis. The goal of his research is to analyze data gathered over eleven years of research for the anaerobic and aerobic bioreactor landfills. Mr. Yazdani hopes to develop better methods for management of solid waste in landfills, to reduce long-term environmental impacts, and to maximize the amount of renewable energy

produced from landfill gas while minimizing the fugitive gas emissions.

- **Xu Ming** is pursuing a Ph.D. in engineering at Arizona State University. His research will create a model integrating waste management and input-output econometrics to systematically understand the impacts of socioeconomic activities on municipal waste management in the U.S. from various perspectives including economic growth, structural change, technology development, and final consumption behavior.

The four scholars awarded this year were selected from numerous highly qualified finalists and were selected based on academic excellence, professional aspirations, and interest in environmental science with a concentration on solid waste management issues.

Doctoral/post-doctoral scholarships are given in memory of Francois Fiessinger, P.E., Ph.D., a graduate of Rutgers University who was a founding director of the foundation; and by EREF. Master's engineering scholarships are made possible by SCS Engineers and Robert P. Stearns, BCEE, EREF current Board member and former Chairman; and by Robert J. Riethmiller/ PTR Baler and Compactor, current Board member and Chairman of the Scholarship Committee.

The EREF is the only independent foundation in the U.S. that is developing and evaluating new approaches to manage solid waste.

For more information on EREF, visit www.erefdn.org or call 703-299-5139.

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