

EWRE SPRING 2026

NEWSLETTER



As we near the end of the Spring semester, we want to reflect on EWRE's achievements and appreciate one another. We're proud of all we've accomplished and excited for what lies ahead.

Conferences

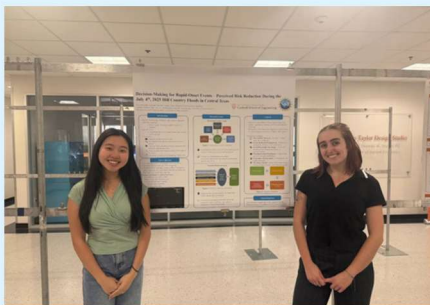
The JETLab (Blair Johnson's group) went to the American Physical Society's Division of Fluid Dynamics Meeting in Houston in November



The Werth Group attended AGU in New Orleans, LA.

Priyanshu Gupta from Manish Kumar's group gave an oral talk titled "Machine learning to trace PFAS contamination at the continental United States scale" at AGU 2025.

First year master's students Erin McDuffie and Hannah Choi presented preliminary findings from their "Decision-Making for Rapid-Onset Events" research together for the first time at the 2026 Graduate Symposium



Ana Lacau and Elise Huglo went to the CI & CRC Joint Conference. Ana presented her paper on Infrastructure Interdependencies in Rural Alaska and Elise presented her poster on Air Quality Community Perceptions in Beaumont-Port Arthur.



M.S. Graduations!



Hiromu Koyama from Blair Johnson's group graduated with his MS in December and will continue to pursue his PhD in EWRE!

Ana Lacau from Kasey Faust's group graduated with her MS in December and will continue to pursue her PhD!

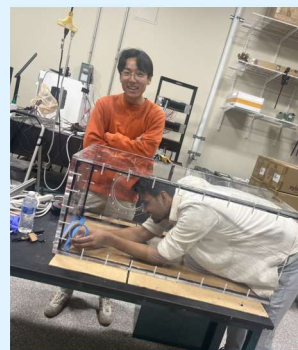
Carlo Garcia from Mary Jo Kirisits' group will graduate in May!

Abby Chapman and Malika Rao from Manish Kumar's group are graduating in May. Abby will be working at Hazen and Sawyer following graduation.

Bailey Hardage and Daria Deeds are graduating with their M.S. in May!

We are very proud of their hard work!

The JETLab in Action



SemCom Spotlight



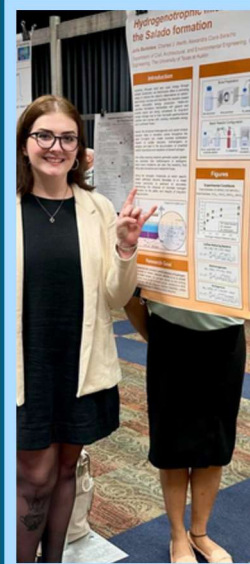
Ana Lacau submitted her first journal paper titled "Residents as System Operators: Translating Community Expertise into Engineering Insight in Rural Alaska." Julia Barkelew will be graduating with her Master's in May.

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SEMCOM SPOTLIGHT



SEMCOM loves women's sports! This is your reminder to go support Women's Basketball.



Julia Barkelew won the **BEST POSTER AWARD** at UT Energy Institute H2 Day.

Ana Lacau's paper was awarded the Second-Best Paper Award on the Sustainability Track at the CI&CRC JOINT Conference.



EWRE Student Friendsgiving



Back in November, EWRE students gathered to celebrate Friendsgiving! Everyone brought a dish to make a fun and delicious time. Thank you to Abby Chapman for hosting!



SHOUTOUTS!!!

Dr. Kirisits received a \$700,000 gift from the Schmidt Foundation for her work on opportunistic pathogens in drinking water!

Yerin Choe from the Werth group passed her qualifying exam.

Claire Baldus passed her qualifying exam!

NEW FACES

Jenna Schoonmaker graduated from Purdue University in May 2025 with a B.S. in biochemistry. She joined the EWRE program in January and is co-advised by Dr. Kirisits and Dr. Gardner.

This highlight is part of our effort to spotlight new EWRE members.

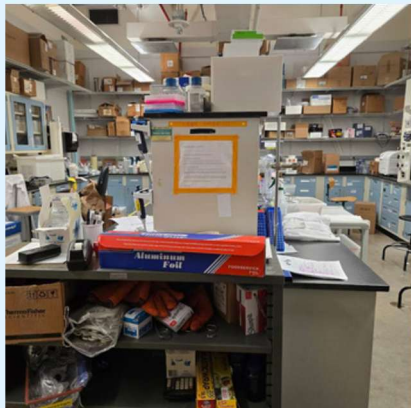
Welcome, Jenna!



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~ We moved from ECJ to CPE ~

An ECJ lab before the moveout



Huge shoutout to Dr. Kirisits for keeping things on track, and for everyone's hard work to make the move happen!



An Empty CPE lab before the move in!



SEMCOM got a new cart, new(ish) coffee maker, and just restocked our snacks!

Thank you Dr. Liljestrand for the new coffee maker!



CATS OF EWRE



Dr. Courtney Gardner's cats, Moonbeam (above) and Carbon (left).



This is Maeve (below), named after the character in Hotel Transylvania. She is Jenna Schoonmaker's cat!

Ella Junker's senior lady, Scout. (right)



Please enjoy our two favorite photos of Dr. Fonoll's (we had too many to choose from). In the bee costume is Daisy (left), and Grandalla is the cutie in the basket (below)!



Feedback!

Let us know how we are doing! This is a link to a Google form where you can anonymously give the EWRE Seminar Committee feedback.