



Pacia Diaz Awarded Fulbright

Pacia Diaz, doctoral candidate in environmental engineering, has just received a 2015-2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Award to Spain, where she will be studying the effects of climate change on water resources (Sept 2015 - May 2016). Her Fulbright host is Dr. J. David Tábara of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Pacia will be working on a European Union funded project called IMPRESSIONS (Impacts and Risks from High-End Scenarios: Strategies for Innovative Solutions) which involves studying the social-ecological issues in the Tagus and Guadiana rivers basins. These basins have been identified as among those most likely to be affected by climate change in all of Europe. Trans-boundary issues are of special concern in the social aspect of the study. Together with his team, Pacia will be interviewing key Spanish stakeholders, collecting data to support modeling of the resilience potential in the river basins, developing an inventory of solutions to climate change scenarios at different scales, and helping to develop a paper on existing integrated solutions and initiatives in the study area.

For her PhD, Pacia is examining and developing strategies for coastal cities to adapt to the effects of climate change, in particular impacts on water supply from salt water intrusion. The Fulbright experience will allow her to connect her current work in Florida to international initiatives and challenges. Daniel Yeh, associate professor in civil and environmental engineering is her advisor.