

EnviroNews

Newsletter of the Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute

Volume XXIV

Fall 2005

New Places, New Faces

Over the summer, the Environmental Studies Institute (ESI) packed up and moved from Daly Science 204 to a more spacious location in the Nexus House, which is the brown house located behind the Arts & Sciences Building. This created space for the office of the Executive Director, three faculty offices, and a faculty meeting space. Not only does this move create more physical space for ESI but we are now located in an area where there is a lot of foot traffic, making ESI more visible to the campus community.

We are also happy to introduce two new faces to the ESI faculty. Their offices are located in the Nexus House. Virginia Matzek joins ESI as the Director of Campus & Community Programs and as a Lecturer. Virginia comes to us from Stanford University, where she is completing her dissertation in plant physiological ecology with Peter Vitousek. A native Californian, she has a great love for the Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada foothills, and hopes to develop research projects in the restoration of perennial grasslands and oak woodlands that will allow her to spend as much time as possible there! At Stanford, Virginia was very involved with the campus Center for Teaching and Learning and won several awards for teaching, including the campus's highest honor for teaching, the Walter J. Gores Award. She developed and taught a course in restoration ecology that will become ENVS 151 at Santa Clara, with fieldwork at Ulistac Natural History Area. She will also teach the new course, Joy of Garbage (ENVS 10), as well as Natural History of Baja (ENVS 144) and Intro to Environmental Science (ENVS 1).

Sean M. Watts also joined the Environmental Studies Institute this Fall 2005 as a teaching postdoc working with Dr. Peter Kareiva. Sean received a B.A. in Biology from the University of Virginia and a Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His doctorate focused on the ecological and evolutionary influences of belowground herbivores on plant defense and community structure. Having developed a foundation in biology and plant community ecology, he seeks to apply ecological perspectives on plant-herbivore interactions to the management of natural areas. Sean is currently teaching Intro to Environmental Science (ENVS 1) and will teach it again in winter quarter.

Pizza & Advising

There will be an open advising session on Thursday, Nov. 3rd in the ESI office from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm.

Come to the ESI house to learn all about ESI's courses and other programs!

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Restoration Work Days at Ulistac Natural Area for Fall 2005

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 3rd, 9am-1pm

Sunday, September 18th, 9am-1pm

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 1st, 9am-1pm

Sunday, October 16th, 9am-1pm

NOVEMBER*

Saturday, November 5th, 10am-2pm

Sunday, November 20th, 10am-2pm

DECEMBER

Saturday, December 3rd, 10am-2pm

Sunday, September 18th, 10am-2pm

*Note the change to our fall/winter hours! Only HEAVY rain will cancel a work day.

Additional information:

- Make sure to wear long pants and sturdy work shoes (NO sandals or flip-flops)
- Sunscreen and hats are recommended.
- Bring water and a lunch or snack.
- Gloves and tools are provided.

Ulistac Outreach Center is located in Swig 103

Phone: (408) 554-5419

Outreach Coordinator: Kelly Crowley,
kcrowley@scu.edu

*The Ulistac Natural Area is the only 41 acres of habitat in the entire of City of Santa Clara. When restoration of the park is complete, it will contain seven California native habitats, including a ¼-acre Bird and Butterfly Garden, oak woodlands and wetlands. Directions to Ulistac are on the Restoration Project's website:
www.scu.edu/envs/ulistac*



ESI Seminar Series Fall 2005

The ESI Seminar Series features speakers from local universities and organizations discussing a wide variety of environmental topics and research. The series is intended to stimulate and support cross-disciplinary inquiry. Attendance at these seminars can be used for ES colloquia credit.

All seminars take place every other Friday from 12 noon – 1 pm in the Casa Italiana Commons. Refreshments are served starting at 11:45 am.

Here is the schedule for Fall Quarter 2005:

September 30, 2005

"A Development of a Social Ecologist in this Society"

Brenda Torres-Barreto, Executive Director,
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

October 14, 2005

"Why Don't We Walk the Talk? Effects of Identity and Contingent Self-Esteem on Conservation Behavior"

Amara Brook, Psychology Department, SCU

October 28, 2005

"Constructing 'Accidents': Pesticide Drift, Regulatory Neglect, and Social Invisibility in California Agriculture"

Jill Harrison, Department of Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz

November 11, 2005

"The IWC in the 21st Century: Leviathan or Laggard?"

Wil Burns, American Society of International Law, International Environmental Law Group

December 2, 2005

"Organic Cotton in Sub-Saharan Africa: A New Engine for Sustainable Development?"

Brian Dowd, Department of Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz

Contact the ESI office at (408) 551-7086 if you have any questions or if you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation.

ENVS Course Update

We are happy to announce that we have new courses for ESI majors and minors this winter!

ECON 1E Economics

A new flavor of ECON 1 especially for ESI majors, minors, and non-majors! ECON 1E is a special version of our Principles of Microeconomics course that focuses on environmental examples and applications. The coverage of core microeconomic theory is the same as that of our generic ECON 1 course, so ECON 1E satisfies all the same requirements that ECON 1 does. The basic approach will be to learn the tools of supply and demand and welfare economics and then apply them to environmental problems and policies. Important topics considered in ECON 1E will include:

1. Externalities: costs imposed on others but not paid for in the market
 - Examples: Pollution, habitat/wilderness destruction, etc.
 - Economic analysis
2. Policy approaches to externalities
 - Private solutions and their limitations
 - Government regulation: "command-and-control" versus incentive-based regulation
 - Economic and ethical dimensions
 - Real-world examples: SO₂ trading, etc.
3. Open-access or common-pool resources
 - Tragedy of the commons and examples (e.g. overfishing)
 - Economic analysis
 - Policy alternatives

ENVS 10 Joy of Garbage

What happens to the things we don't want? This class follows the path of our garbage and detritus as it is disposed of, burnt, decomposed, landfilled, treated, untreated, recycled, reused, or just shipped out of sight. Building on basic scientific concepts and using the scientific method to guide us, we will attempt to answer these and other questions: Do recyclables really get recycled? Can microbes eat dead computers? Does anything decompose in a landfill? Should I choose paper or plastic? Etc. One required field trip. This class counts as a University non-lab science core course. Tell your non-major friends!

Other courses offered in Winter:

ENVS 1 Introduction to Environmental Science

ENVS 101 Capstone – required to graduate with an ESI major or minor. (ONLY offered in Winter)

ENVS 120 Introduction to U.S. Environmental Law and Education

ENVS 144 Natural History of Baja – Attend the MANDATORY info session to get more details (see below)

ENVS 163 Faith, Ethics and the Biodiversity Crisis

ENVS 198C Environmental Vocation Internship – Part one of a two-quarter internship. Contact Keith Warner (kwarner@scu.edu) for details.

Baja Class 2006 Information Session

Monday, Oct. 24th 5:00 pm

Spend spring break kayaking, snorkeling, and hiking in Baja California, and get academic credit! ENVS 144 Natural History of Baja, meets weekly during winter quarter to prepare students for a spring break trip to this fascinating, biologically diverse region. Lecture topics include plant and animal adaptations to the desert, coastal ecosystems, marine life, and sustainable fisheries; fieldwork during spring break will expand upon these topics. Admission to the course is by application ONLY. Interested participants should come to the MANDATORY information session Monday, October 24, at 5 pm, in the Environmental Studies Institute. Info: Virginia Matzek (vmatzek@scu.edu) or Elizabeth Dahlhoff (edahlhoff@scu.edu).

Spring ground breaking for new building at Santa Clara University showcases sustainable design

Straw bale walls, photovoltaic cells, recycled textiles, and furniture featuring locally harvested wood are some features that will be a part of the new Kennedy Commons building on SCU's Mission campus.

San Francisco architectural firm of Kaplan Mclaughlin Diaz (KMD) has been commissioned to design the new building, which will be the ultimate "green" building on campus and an example of SCU's commitment to stewardship of the environment and promoting awareness of sustainability.

The 7,500-square foot building will be a flexible multipurpose space that will include meeting rooms, a kitchen, classrooms, and office and lecture space for faculty and students. Situated in the current concrete Kennedy Mall area on campus, the facility will also have open area for outdoor programming and social events to support the adjacent student residence halls.

"The new building will be the neighborhood center for the students- a place where they can get together to watch a movie, study for finals, or eat pizza," said Joe Sugg, vice president for operations at SCU. The construction of the project will begin this spring and is scheduled to be completed by the early fall.

"The Commons Building will represent one of the first entirely 'green' academic buildings in the U.S. It will represent a landmark design in terms of academic institutions becoming more up to date with sustainable architecture," said Liz Chaney, KMD's academic group director.

"Sustainable architecture means that the building is designed with the goal of reducing its impact on the environment," said Michelle Marvier, assistant professor and executive director of SCU's Environmental Studies Institute. "Methods to achieve this goal include incorporating recycled materials in the construction phase, choosing materials to minimize polluting emissions, and incorporating technologies that increase energy efficiency," Marvier said.

Sean Huang, KMD's design principal said, "The design of the Commons Building works in harmony with the mission style of architecture that is central to SCU's thematic campus design. Part of the challenge was to rediscover and revive the inherent vision of the mission style of architecture, as it was first used for warmer climates, and integrating sustainable elements from the past with new technologies to create iconographic design that provides a sense of excitement, flexibility, transparency and modernity. The building uses a multitude of green materials to create a highly functional and flexible environment that uses the latest energy efficient technology such: as straw bale walls, raised flooring, and natural ventilation."

Huang also added that the building will accommodate smart classrooms with the latest technology, but will also be designed with movable walls to create flexibility and a variety of experiences.

"Santa Clara University is amending our design guidelines to incorporate sustainable architecture in future campus renovations and freestanding buildings. We are proud to be working with KMD and we are committed to becoming one of the first completely green academic institutions in the U.S.," Sugg said.

Excerpted from a SCU press release on February 24, 2005. The full article can be viewed on the SCU website: <http://www.scu.edu/news/releases/release.cfm?month=0205&story=sustainability>

Other related sites:

Sustainability: www.scu.edu/sustainability

Kennedy Commons: www.scu.edu/sustainability/commons

Webcam: www.scu.edu/webcams/commons.cfm



Campus Programs

The GREEN Club meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm in the Swig Sky Lounge (11th floor). GREEN stands for Grass Roots Environmental Efforts Now! GREEN just launched a new website which has their events updated regularly. Check it out at www.scugreen.org! For additional information about the GREEN club, email info@scugreen.org.

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The Department of Education now offers a MA in Interdisciplinary Studies with an Environmental Literacy and Ethics Emphasis. For further details, check the department's website at: <http://www.scu.edu/ecppm/education/>

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You may have noticed some new **recycling containers** on the grounds around campus. As part of SCU's commitment to sustainability, the Recycling team in the Facilities department has worked hard to get these recycling towers on campus. You'll notice that they complement the trash towers. They are designed to take cans, as well as plastic and glass bottles.

Job and Internship Opportunities (may be available for credit)

Internships are now listed on the ESI website as we hear of them. There is a link to the internship webpage from the ESI homepage at www.scu.edu/envs. Current job and internship opportunities include:

Research Assistant in Hydrology, Water Resources – Assist Prof. Ed Maurer with research related to water resources, hydrology, and GIS. Duties include: Compilation of hydrologic data (rainfall, snowfall, air temperature records) from a variety of sources, analysis of data using spreadsheets and other software, and potentially some work with geographical information systems software. Qualifications: 1) At least one class that covered water resources and the hydrologic cycle, 2) Enthusiasm for learning computer software, 3) Computer programming and application skills. Previous experience with hydraulics, hydrology or GIS software or spatial analysis is a plus, but not necessary. To apply, send a cover letter (giving your major, expected graduation date, qualifications, interest) and a resume to Dr. Ed Maurer, Civil Engineering Dept., SCU emaurer@engr.scu.edu; (408) 554-2178.

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Recycling Department — A student is needed to work 20 hrs a week, including four hours on Saturday. Hours are flexible during the rest of the week. Contact Lucky at (408) 554-4750 for information. This job has also been posted with Career Services.

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BioSITE Science Program Facilitator — Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose is now accepting applications for BioSITE Science Program Facilitators. BioS.I.T.E. (Students Investigating Their Environment) is an environmental science program offered by the Museum for 3rd and 4th grade students from two local schools, focusing on study of the Guadalupe River. Facilitators work with groups of 6-7 students in two-hour outdoor sessions, and are the primary instructors for these students, guiding their learning and discovery in topics related to water quality, animal and plant life, river ecology, and conservation ecology. Contact Patience Davidson at (408) 298-5437 x223 for additional information.

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Conservation Internships are available through the Student Conservation Association (SCA). Local opportunities are currently available at **Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Point Reyes National Seashore, and Don Edwards SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge**. Get onto their website for additional information: www.thesca.org/explore.cfm. Use the search wizard to find the best position for you.

Job Opening for Assistant Professor

The Environmental Studies Institute (ESI) at Santa Clara University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Environmental Physical Geography/Geology. We are seeking to fill out the Institute's program with a more physically-based environmental scientist who has strong interdisciplinary interests. Applicants must have a Ph.D. in environmental science, physical geography, environmental geology, or related discipline. Research experience in resource management, water resources, soil resources, or climatology is desirable, especially if incorporating GIS. Candidates must have a research plan with clear opportunities to involve undergraduates. The ideal candidate will have teaching experience and be able to teach introduction to environmental science, lower division earth science, GIS, and an upper division course in his or her area of expertise.

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- A. Planning and teaching a total of 6 quarter courses per year, including Introduction to Environmental Science, lower division Earth Science, GIS, and additional courses within area of expertise.
- B. Fulfilling all responsibilities associated with assigned courses, including:
 - a. Conducting all assigned class meetings and individual conferences with students.
 - b. Holding weekly office hours on campus.
 - c. Submitting student grades by the designated deadline.
 - d. Fulfilling other instructional or academic duties as may be assigned by the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences or the Director of the Environmental Studies Institute.
- C. Perform research in some area of geology or physical geography that will engage undergraduates and lead to sustained publication of results in reputable, peer-reviewed journals.
- D. Pursue external funding for individual and departmental research and teaching objectives.
- E. Serve the Environmental Studies Institute, the College, and the University in such capacities as needed, appropriate to rank and years of service at SCU.

A link to the full job posting can be found on the ESI website at www.scu.edu/envs.

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