

# EnviroNews

Newsletter of Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute

Volume XXVI

Spring/Summer 2006

## ESI Adds New Courses to its Offerings

The Environmental Studies Institute (ESI) will be offering summer courses again! They fulfill requirements both for Environmental Studies/Science majors and minors, and for the Core requirements:

### Session 1:

ENVS 120 Intro to Environment Law & Regulation in the U.S. - TR 6:00-9:00 pm  
-- fulfills U.S. core

### Session 2:

ENVS 1 Intro to Environmental Science - MW 6:00-9:00 pm  
-- fulfills Non-lab Natural Science core

A new curriculum was introduced earlier this year, which allows Environmental Studies majors to choose a concentration in Environmental Economics, Environmental Policy & Law, or Sustainable Development. The new curriculum will apply to majors and minors that declare in the 06-07 academic year. Those who declare in the 05-06 academic year can choose whether take the new curriculum or stay under the current curriculum.

An introductory cluster has been developed, ENVS 11, 12, and 13, which are complementary and can be taken in any order. ENVS 11 (Intro to Environmental Science) provide in-depth coverage of the ecology relevant to today's pressing environmental concerns. ENVS 12 (Intro to Environmental Studies) will provide an introduction to the social science dimensions of environmental issues. ENVS 13 (Soil, Water, and Air) will provide an introduction to geologic processes, soils, biogeochemical cycles, surface and below ground hydrology, and atmospheric science.

In addition, new classes are being offered in the 2006-07 academic year starting this fall, giving majors and minors an opportunity to fulfill more of their requirements. They all fulfill requirements for

Environmental Studies or Science majors and minors, and may also fulfill core requirements. Check the schedule of classes for more information. The detailed course descriptions for the new classes, designated by an asterisk (\*) can be found on page 3.

ENVS 11\*: Intro to Environmental Science -- fulfills Non-lab Natural Science core

ENVS 98: Outdoor Leadership Expedition

ENVS 127\*: Environmental Health

ENVS 130: Environmental Art -- fulfills Fine Arts core

ENVS 142\*: Environmental & Nature Writing -- fulfills 3rd Writing core

ENVS 146: Sustainable Development in Latin America -- fulfills Area Studies/Regional core

ENVS 161: The Moral Vision of Cesar Chavez (previously called Ethics of Envrnmnt, Ag & Food) -- fulfills Religious Studies 3rd Course

ENVS 162: Environmental Justice Practicum -- fulfills Religious Studies 3rd Course

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## Spring/Summer 2006 Restoration Work Days at Ulistac Natural Area

Ulistac Natural Area is a community-driven venture, which means the project flourishes only because volunteers have logged thousands of hours working on the project. The restoration schedule follows. (Please note the change in hours from last quarter.)

### MAY

Saturday, May 6th, 9am-1pm  
Sunday, May 21st, 9am-1pm

### JUNE

Saturday, June 3rd, 9am-1pm  
Sunday, June 18th, 9am-1pm

### JULY

Saturday, July 1st, 9am-1pm  
Sunday, July 16th, 9am-1pm

### AUGUST

Saturday, August 5th, 9am-1pm  
Sunday, August 20th, 9am-1pm

#### 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 contacts:

Outreach Coordinator: Lindsey Cromwell,  
lcromwell@scu.edu  
Phone: (408) 554-5419

*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](http://www.scu.edu/envs/ulistac)*



## ESI Seminar Series

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 Environmental Studies colloquia credit.

All seminars take place every other Friday, unless noted otherwise, from 12 noon – 1 pm in the new **Kennedy Commons**.

Here is the schedule for Spring 2006:

### April 21

"A Changing World: Antarctica and Global Warming"  
**Ted Cheeseman**, Ecologist, Co-Expedition Leader, Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris

### April 28

"In Search of the red pandas...Yes. There is another panda"  
**Brian H. Williams, M. Sc.**, Executive Director and Founder of The Red Panda Project

### May 12

"Mapping Historical Landscape Patterns to Guide Environmental Management of Streams, Wetlands, and Woodlands in California's Santa Clara Valley"  
**Robin Grossinger**, Environmental Scientist, Director of the Historical Ecology Program, San Francisco Estuary Institute

### May 19

"The Politics of Energy and the Environment and Human Consequences"  
**A.J. (Nino) Amato**, President and Director of the Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group (WIEG)

### June 2

"Bugs for Justice: Using applied ecology to improve arthropod biological control for social benefit"  
**Keith Douglass Warner, OFM**, Director of Faith, Ethics, and Vocation Project in Environmental Studies at Santa Clara University  
**Alex Hazelhurst, '06**, Environmental Studies and Political Science major

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

## New Fall Classes - Course Descriptions

### **ENVS 11: Intro to Environmental Science**

Today's global environment is subjected to unprecedented pressures and changes. Our challenge, as humans, is to learn how to live on the planet sustainably. This course explores basic concepts in ecology such as population growth, species interactions, and community/ecosystem processes, then relates these concepts to the environmental problems facing humanity. More specifically, environmental threats such as population pressure, resource exploitation, pollution, global climate change, extinction and emerging infectious diseases are examined and the debates surrounding various approaches to resolving these issues are presented.

### **ENVS 127: Introduction to Environmental Health**

This course provides an introduction to the field of environmental health, including epidemiology, toxicology, and environmental policy and regulation. Specific topics will include water and air quality, food safety, waste disposal, ionizing and non-ionizing radiation, and occupational health. In addition, diseases that develop in relation to environmental conditions are highlighted.

### **ENVS 142: Environmental and Nature Writing**

Students in this course will compose a finished article for publication in a magazine or journal after having engaged in market research, analysis of submission guidelines for select periodicals, discourse analysis, and correspondence with editors. Students may choose to participate in either discourse, that of environmental writing or that of nature writing, and may elect to write for either a general or scholarly audience. Students will actually mail a manuscript to an editor on the final day of class. Cross-listed with ENGL 174, Nonfiction writing

### **ENVS 146: Perspectives for Sustainable Rural Development in Latin America**

This course will offer a cross-disciplinary examination of the perspectives for "sustainable development" in rural areas of Latin America. We will use diverse points of view to look at interactions between poverty, development, and environmental degradation. While there is no single, universally accepted definition of sustainable development, a central goal of this course is that each student come away with the ability to understand the key elements that distinguish different discourses on this subject (that is, what are they really saying?).

## What is Environmental Art?

You can find out in the ENVS 130 course called, "Environmental Art: Theory and Practice." This course, normally offered in the Spring, will be offered this Fall.

Contemporary environmental artists seek to preserve and restore the natural world by creating artworks that address ecological challenges and point toward positive solutions to these dilemmas. In this course students work and study with an environmental artist. After a review of contemporary environmental art, students write brief papers on current ecological challenges and then work in small groups to create conceptually-based installations (site-specific sculptures) on campus that relate to these issues. Students learn techniques for creative thinking, transforming ideas into art, and basic art skills. This course fulfills the fine arts requirement and is valuable for future teachers and people who are active in environmental movements.

## Become an Outdoor Leader!

ENVS 98- Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE) will be offered in Fall. This is a great opportunity to learn about responsible outdoor recreation and gain leadership skills!

OLE is a two-unit academic course offered on a pass/no pass basis for those who welcome the opportunity to explore the natural world, gain safety and outdoor technical skills, learn about the environment, and develop leadership skills. For more information, please stop by the ESI house, located behind the Arts & Sciences Building.



## **Sustainability Update**

### **Santa Clara University Hires First Sustainability Coordinator**

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - In an effort to continue to improve upon its environmental sustainability programs, Santa Clara University hired its first Sustainability Coordinator. Lindsey Cromwell, a 2004 SCU alumna, recently joined the Environmental Studies Institute at SCU with the mission of coordinating and promoting the implementation of the university's Comprehensive Policy on Sustainability. This policy confirms the university's commitment to embrace sustainability and serve as a leader in sustainable practices through environmental stewardship, education, and service.

Santa Clara University recently dedicated Kennedy Commons, the university's first "green" building. In addition to building this "living model" of sustainable design, SCU community members have been busy bringing the university's Sustainability Policy to life:

- The university's recycling program has been named one of the best in Silicon Valley.
- 151 waterfree urinals have been installed on campus, resulting in an average reduction of 40,000 gallons of water per urinal per year.
- Besides offering organic and vegetarian menu options, Bon Appétit, the food service provider on campus, uses Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch guidelines when deciding which seafood to serve.
- The Chemistry Department has modified its laboratory exercises to use reagents and produce wastes that are less toxic to people and the environment.
- Recent campus events include the Save Seafood Tour by Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program, an exhibit about sustainable building practices entitled "Future Cities and Sustainable Development", and numerous lectures and seminars discussing sustainability.

For more information about current campus sustainability projects at SCU, visit <http://www.scu.edu/sustainability>

The Sustainability Coordinator will help advance campus sustainability efforts by connecting the forces behind these efforts and uniting departments and organizations with the common goal of "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs". The coordinator will also develop and implement sustainability resources and workshops for students, faculty, and staff. Such workshops will create a venue to develop and implement faculty and staff initiatives such as "green" event planning and purchasing, as well as programs related to student life.

"We see Lindsey's position as the catalyst for realizing the synergy of campus initiatives necessary to advance our sustainability culture to the next level," said Joe Sugg, Assistant Vice president of University Operations.

## **Green Construction: the view from inside the industry**

**A presentation by Jim Losch and a LEED certified project engineer from Hallmark Construction  
Thursday May 25, 5:30-6:30, in Kennedy Commons**

Jim Losch, former chair of the SCU board of fellows, will share an insider's perspectives on green construction, sustainable building, and LEED certification. Jim Losch is chairman and founder of Hallmark Construction. Also presenting will be Colleen Ciucci, a recently-LEED certified project engineer. This informal presentation will provide insight into green design and construction, and sustainability ethics.

Please RSVP to Keith Douglass Warner OFM, [kwarners@scu.edu](mailto:kwarners@scu.edu). Beverages provided.

## RLC Residents: There is still time to recycle your way to the lead!

The Recycling Team will soon reward members of the RLC with the best recycling efforts this year... so pick up the pace and take the lead! The following is a helpful reminder about recycling at SCU:

Items for recycle containers:

- Beverage containers: plastic, glass, and aluminum
- Paper: white, mixed, newspaper, cereal boxes
- Metals: cans, misc. metals

Items to be placed next to recycle containers:

- Flattened cardboard boxes
- Electronics: televisions, computers, computer monitors, refrigerators, and telephones

Items to be placed in intercampus mail envelopes sent to Facilities:

- Batteries (all except for car batteries)
- Ink and toner cartridges

Items that cannot currently be recycled at SCU:

- Food containers: pizza boxes, six-pack boxes, yogurt containers
- Certain beverage containers: milk cartons, juice boxes, cups of any kind
- Paper products with metal/plastic attached (i.e. spiral bound books)

Please call the Recycling Team at x4750 with questions to develop and implement faculty and staff initiatives such as "green" event planning and purchasing, as well as programs related to student life.

## Environmental Volunteer Opportunities

The Environmental Action Program is one of the many ways students can get involved in environmental opportunities! Here are the current offerings:

**Owl's Clover Organic Garden** - we need help! We are finally getting started on SCU's organic garden, located behind the sustainable Kennedy Commons building. We need volunteers to weed, plant, water, harvest and provide your own gardening expertise.

**Hidden Villa Organic Farm** - Lead tours of the farm for local schoolchildren. Volunteer one morning per week, working with wonderful people, many farm animals and an organic tasting garden. The farm is located in Los Altos Hills, and a car is available for your use.

**Humane Society of Silicon Valley** - Bathe and socialize homeless animals, clean their cages and provide general support around the shelter. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you who miss your pets. Again, a car is available for your use.

If interested in any of these opportunities, please contact Meredith Swinehart at [MSwinehart@scu.edu](mailto:MSwinehart@scu.edu).

### Mark your calendars!

#### 4th Annual Successfest

Friday, June 2nd at 3:30-5:00 pm  
in the Kennedy Commons

Join us for a year-end celebration of ESI accomplishments!  
Includes a poster session in the Foyer

Contact Jeannette Sacman at ESI for more information ([jmsacman@scu.edu](mailto:jmsacman@scu.edu)).

## Internship Opportunities

◆ **Campaign to Save the Environment** is a national effort to build support for environmental organizations across the country. We run campaigns for the Sierra Club, the State PIRGs, the State Environmental Groups, and others. As a member of our staff, you will fundraise and build membership for our partner groups, and educate and activate citizens on environmental issues. You will also have the opportunity to organize press conferences and build coalitions with other non-profit organizations.

To learn more, or to apply, call 1-800-75-EARTH. Or visit us online at: [www.jobsfortheenvironment.org](http://www.jobsfortheenvironment.org)

◆ **EPA Internship supporting the Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership** - The Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program is a voluntary state-federal partnership that encourages states to develop and implement cost-effective clean energy and environmental strategies that help further both environmental and clean energy goals and achieve public health and economic benefits. The intern will be responsible for working in coordination with EPA

program and communications staff to develop and publish web content related to state and local clean energy and climate change programs. For more information, please contact Steve Dunn at [dunn.stevev@epa.gov](mailto:dunn.stevev@epa.gov).

◆ **NASA Ames Research Summer Internship** - The Pollution Prevention, Sustainability and Environmental Management System Team has an internship position available to support two projects.

1. EFR Follow-up - This project will involve organizing and inputting findings data, tracking corrective actions and conducting trend analysis.

2. Sustainability Report - The second project will be to start developing a sustainability report for NASA Ames Research Center.

Additional details about this internship are available at the ESI Office.

For more information or to apply: Please send resume and a writing sample to Justine Burt at [jburt@mail.arc.nasa.gov](mailto:jburt@mail.arc.nasa.gov) by May 22nd.

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