

EnviroNews

Newsletter of Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute

Volume XXV

Winter 2006

New Spring 2006 Courses

The Environmental Studies Institute (ESI) is offering new courses this spring! They all fulfill requirements for Environmental Studies/Science majors and minors, and may also fulfill core requirements. Check the schedule of classes for more information. The detailed course descriptions can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

- ENVS 122: US Environmental Policy - TR 1:45 - 3:30 pm
- ENVS 123: Communication of Environmental Science - MW 3:30 - 5:15 pm
- ENVS 147: Third World Environment & Development - MW 2:15 - 4:00 pm
- ENVS 151: Restoration Ecology L&L - TR 11:50 am - 1:35 pm (also cross-listed with BIOL 151)

Also offered this Spring:

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| ENVS 98: Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE) | CHEM 1: Environmental Chemistry |
| ENVS 145: Environmental Technology | HIST 184: American Historical Geography |
| ENVS 160: Spirituality and Sustainability | PHYS 9: Intro to Earth Science |
| BIOL 5: Endangered Ecosystems L&L | POLI 50: World Geography |
| BIOL 131: Agroecology | CENG 143: Environmental Engineering L&L |

Registration begins on Feb. 16th. Check with the ESI Office if pre-registration is available for any of these classes.

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Pizza and Advising

There will be an open advising session on
Monday, February 13th
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!

Winter 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:

JANUARY

Saturday, January 7th, 10am-2pm
Sunday, January 15th, 10am-2pm

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 4th, 10am-2pm
Sunday, February 19th, 10am-2pm

MARCH

Saturday, March 4th, 10am-2pm
Sunday, March 19th, 10am-2pm

*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

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 Casa Italiana Commons.

Here is the schedule for Winter 2006:

January 20

“Global Environmental Trends and a Blueprint for a More Sustainable Future”

Justine Burt, Manager, Sustainability and EMS,
NASA-AMES Research Center

February 3

Water Matters in the West: Two Case Studies: Modeling regional-scale pesticide leaching in the San Joaquin Valley and what drives earlier spring snowmelt runoff across western North America?

Iris Stewart-Frey, PhD USGS, Menlo Park

February 6 (Monday)

“Dynamic Geomorphic Processes, Human Impacts, and Floodplain Restoration”

Joan Florsheim, PhD Associate Research Geologist,
Department of Geology, UC Davis

February 10

“The Origin and Evolution of Waterfalls in Unsteady Landscapes: A Case Study from the Waipaoa River, New Zealand”

Benjamin Crosby, PhD candidate, MIT,
Geomorphology

February 17

“Human Migration and Sustainable Resource Use”

Susan Cassels, PhD Postdoctoral Research Associate,
Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington

March 3

Investing in Natural Capital: Social Forestry in Northern India

Anamaria Nino-Murcia, Senior Associate, Business for Social Responsibility

March 17

TBA

Clara Nicholls, PhD UC Berkeley

New Spring Classes - Course Descriptions

ENVS 122: US Environmental Policy - This course will focus on US Environmental Policy between 1960 and 2006, highlighting the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and global warming. We will use these four foci to gain an understanding of how policy is formulated, how one might measure its consequences, and the role of communication and politics in moving policy forward (or blocking policy advances). We all aim to make a difference, and this course will focus on major policy junctures, and analyze how those differences were made, or not made. We will not be discussing the legal aspects, but rather how these acts came to be, and the ongoing policy debates surrounding their administration and implementation.

ENVS 123: Communication of Environmental Science - Some of the most complex issues being faced by us politically at the moment are tied to some of the most complex scientific debates. Issues of climate change, biodiversity, habitat preservation, guaranteed fresh water supply, etc. at the cutting edge of environmental science - and yet frequently political decisions (for our own and for future generations) must be made on the basis of incomplete knowledge. In this course, we examine how scientists, activists and politicians communicate with each other and with the public on environmental matters.

ENVS 147: Third World Environment & Development - ENVS 147 will investigate the intersection of environment and development in the Third World, concentrating on experiences of people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, who constitute much of the world's population. The course will examine three core topics: meanings and measures of Third World development and environment interactions, frameworks for understanding human-environment relationships (including political ecology, globalization, famine and world hunger, sustainability, population and gender) and case studies of development interventions and their consequences (including fair trade, forestry, water use, protected areas, urbanization and oil extraction).

ENVS 151: Restoration Ecology L&L - This course examines the science and practice of restoring degraded ecosystems, with an emphasis on plant ecology. Through a number of case studies in different ecosystems, as well as fieldwork at Ulistac Natural Area, students will grapple with several basic questions: How do we decide what to restore? How do we restore it? And how do we know if we're finished? Students will learn to read the scientific literature, write in scientific style, and critically judge the success of restoration projects in meeting goals of biodiversity and ecosystem function. Lab section required.

Other Campus Events

◆ **Reconstructing Early Historical Landscapes in the Northern Santa Clara Valley** by Dr. Alan K. Brown

March 9th, 7:30 pm in Daly Science 206.

Dr. Alan K. Brown is a pioneering researcher in the study of the historical landscapes of the San Francisco Bay Area.

◆ The **Save Seafood Tour** is coming to SCU! The program will include a movie presentation, panel discussion and a sustainable dessert reception. The Save Seafood Tour is an educational piece to the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch. The program's main goal is to educate about the problems with marine life populations and how, we as a community, can help replenish them through safe seafood purchasing. All this takes place on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at 7 pm in the Kennedy Commons.

Outdoor Leadership Expedition

ENVS 98- Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE) will be offered in Spring. 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 contact the ESI house, located behind the Arts & Sciences Building.



Student Experiences

The Place to Be Last Fall: The Green Festival

by Amy Chan

The Festival drew a wide variety of interests into its doors November 5th and 6th. Students from Santa Clara, including students from Cypress Residential Learning Community, took the Caltrain together. Some even carried their bikes on board hoping to take a break during the day and bike to the Golden Gate Bridge and to receive a discount on their Green Festival admission fee. Inside the San Francisco Concourse Center hundreds of exhibitors lined the halls with useful information to learn about a variety goods such as hand-made tapestries, organic clothing to sell, and even fresh food to try. I joined Oxfam America at their booth as an exhibitor for a majority of the morning.

Oxfam, an organization committed to creating lasting solutions to global poverty, hunger, and social injustice, was holding an exhibit to advocate for fairer international trade rules. The highlight of my experience at the Festival was having the opportunity to meet Paul Rice, President and CEO of TransFair USA.

TransFair USA is the only third-party certifier of Fair Trade products in the United States. Rice presented the current challenges agricultural producers of products such as coffee, bananas, and even rice are facing worldwide and how Fair Trade Certification is working to awaken consumers, empowering farmers, and build new solutions to address the devastated international agricultural market. I heard positive feedback about the festival from Santa Clara students, including students from the GREEN club who are working towards promoting more Fair Trade awareness and advocating for more Fair Trade products on campus. If you missed the Festival stay tuned for this spring when SCU will have their own mini Green Festival on campus, Wednesday, April 19th, 2006.

Study Abroad in Kenya

by Chrissy Mogren

My study abroad experience in Kenya was, in a word, amazing! Whenever anyone asks about what I did or how it was, that is all I can say. It would take three and a half months to describe to anyone what I did for the past three and a half months as each day was its own adventure. Set in the Amboseli ecosystem, the Kilimanjaro Bush Camp lays at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro and in a hub of wildlife habitats and dispersal areas, making it ideal for studies in conservation biology and wildlife management. Working closely with local Maasai, the Center for Wildlife Management Studies works to promote conservation in an area with multitudinous human wildlife conflicts. This is facilitated through student conducted directed research projects that aim at assessing the current condition of wildlife in the area and work to help Maasai find alternate sources of income conducive to conservation efforts.

I worked with a team of nine other students and our Kenyan Professor, John Kiringe, to assess human and elephant impacts on woody vegetation in Kimana Group Ranch where we were located. Despite hours in the heat, cold, and mud, harassment by a 3 ton African elephant, and traipsing over hyena dens, we had a blast. Our data indicated that both humans and elephants displace one another and that all humans are causing more damage to the vegetation. Clear cutting of forests to make room for agriculture, as well as harvesting essential woody resources needed for survival, is rapidly eliminating the natural habitats of elephants and forcing them into more densely populated areas, further exacerbating human wildlife conflicts. The data we generated will be used in an on-going 5 year study in the region incorporating areas of wildlife management, wildlife ecology, and environmental policy.

I found the Kenyan staff and our neighbors to be incredibly friendly and they made the transition to life in the bush much easier. I made lifelong friends with students and staff alike, as well as a few Kenyan pen pals I met while conducting community service projects. What I learned about environmental issues and policies as well as my own growth in how I interact in professional and casual relationships are invaluable and I would strongly recommend the SFS program to anyone planning on studying abroad, no matter their major. Everyone can benefit from exposure to pressing environmental issues and the people who depend on their outcomes.

Chrissy Mogren is a junior and a double major in Anthropology and Biology (Evolution and Ecology emphasis).

Sustainability Update

Dedication of Kennedy Commons

There will be an open house and dedication ceremony of the Kennedy Commons on Saturday, February 25, 2006 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Come explore the "Green" Aspects of Santa Clara's newest building! For questions and to RSVP, contact Julie Stone at jcstone@scu.edu.

Future Cities and Sustainable Development

Orradre Library's newest exhibit is the result of a collaborative effort among the University Library, Civil Engineering Department, Environmental Studies Department, Cypress Residential Learning Community and University Operations, to present a display about sustainable building practices, in conjunction with the Future City Competition (<http://www.futurecity.org/>) to be held on campus January 28, 2006. The display highlights SCU's "green" building currently under construction, and informs visitors about the value of recycling, and using energy-efficient products.

The Future City Competition is part of the events leading up to National Engineers Week, February 19-25th (<http://eweek.org/>). In the Future City competition, students create a model city that would work in harmony with the environment instead of against it - a city that is "sustainable" rather than "harmful" to the environment, using recycled materials and energy efficient power. Teams of seventh and eighth grade students will be using SimCity software to design their city models, and then construct physical models of them. The contest is judged based on a computer evaluation of the city, the computer city design, the city model, team presentations and project essays/abstracts written by the students on their project.

The regional winner will be invited to participate in the national competition in Washington, D.C. Feb. 22nd. Watch for the winning model(s) to be displayed in the University Library's lobby the week of January 30th.

Thank you to Steve Chisea (Civil Engineering), Virginia Matzek and Sean Watts (Environmental Studies), Joe Sugg (Operations), Lester Deanes (Cypress RLC) and Susan Boyd (Orradre Library) for their contributions to this project.

For more information about the exhibit and links to related websites, go to <http://www.scu.edu/library/info/news/exhibits/futurecities.html>.

Waterfree Urinals on Campus

The installation of Falcon Waterfree Urinals on campus began last month just after the start of the Christmas/New Years break. As of today, 65 waterfree urinals have replaced the traditional water flush devices. By the end of this month over 130 urinals will have been installed. In addition, seven pilot waterfree urinals have been installed in the Dunne Residence Hall. The introduction of this technology into the residence hall living environment will initiate a test program that will eventually determine the feasibility of using this technology in our residence halls.

You are probably asking, why convert to waterfree urinals? Some of the environmental benefits [from Falcon Waterfree Technologies]:

- As much as five (5) percent of fresh water consumed is currently used to carry away urine. By using this touch-free, completely hygienic system we are helping the environment to conserve an average of 40,000 gallons per urinal per year.
- Water does not need to be pumped to the urinal or away from it to the water treatment facility, thus conserving energy.
- The energy savings realized contribute to reduced carbon dioxide emissions.
- Reducing the load on treatment plants minimizes the need for costly water treatment capacity increases and reduces the incidence of overflow events.
- Reduces the urinal maintenance and repair costs in labor and materials.
- Conversion to this technology supports the University sustainability initiative.

The reduction in water consumption by the University as result of the installation of this technology is significant.

Eco Opportunities on Campus

There are a few opportunities for anyone to get involved in environmental issues on campus. The GREEN Club is SCU's student environmental club. They meet on Monday nights at 7:30 pm at 11th floor Swig. They are currently planning for Earth Week on campus, so if you are interested, check out their meetings. You can also get more info on their website: www.scugreen.org.

The EAP (Environmental Action Program) offers volunteer opportunities at Hidden Villa, SCU's organic garden, and The Silicon Valley Humane Society. Hidden Villa is starting volunteer training soon, so if you are interested contact Meredith Swinehart at mwinehart@scu.edu.

Internship Opportunities

◆ **GreenCitizen Center Intern-to-Hire** - The intern will be involved in all operations of the GreenCitizen Palo Alto center, including customer education about the value of recycling, addressing customer issues, assisting in marketing campaigns, and more. GreenCitizen is revolutionizing the global recovery, de-manufacturing, recycling, and accountability of end-of-life electronics for consumers and organization, saving the earth from harmful electronic waste. For more information or to apply, contact Glenn Fajardo at notjustajob@greencitizen.com.

◆ **Chicago Botanic Garden's Conservation and Land Management Internship Program** - 5-month paid internship working with the Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service predominantly in the western states. Interns will get hands-on experience in conservation biology and natural resource management. Check the website for details: <http://chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/blm>. Deadline to apply is March 1, 2006. Contact Dr. Lara Jefferson at ljefferson@chicagobotanic.org for more information.

◆ **Santa Clara Valley Audobon Society (SCVAS) Education and Outreach Intern** - The Education and

Outreach Intern will support SCVAS' children's environmental education programs. The primary tasks of the intern will be to support and/or develop programs for the following education projects: Wetlands Discovery Program and Teacher Resource Center. Other various tasks will include: field trip coordination, development of curriculum & classroom materials, hands-on fieldwork, school outreach, and Earth Day Festival support. For more information, contact Kim Yuan-Farrell, SCVAS Programs Coordinator, at programs@scvas.org

◆ **The Nature Conservancy** - The Nature Conservancy's worldwide headquarters seeks interns year-round for its Government Relations Department to assist with research, writing, and administrative tasks. As a fully integrated member of the Government Relations team, interns will be given the opportunity to research grant opportunities, compile information on conservation-related public policy, assemble appropriations notebooks, and attend hearings on Capitol Hill. In addition to the everyday workload of the division, great efforts are made towards educating interns about the organization as a whole through meetings, informational interviews, lunchtime lectures, and other events. Deadline to apply is March 15, 2006 for the summer position. For more information, contact Eleanor Morris at grjobs@tnc.org.

<p><i>Environmental Studies Institute</i> <i>Santa Clara University</i> <i>500 El Camino Real</i> <i>Santa Clara, CA 95053</i></p>	<p><i>Phone: (408) 551-7086</i> <i>Fax: (408) 554-2312</i> <i>Email: esi@scu.edu</i> <i>Website: www.scu.edu/envs</i></p>	
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EnviroNews is prepared by Jeannette Sacman. [Comments or Suggestions? Send to jmsacman@scu.edu.](mailto:jmsacman@scu.edu)

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