

# EnviroNews

Newsletter of the Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute

Volume XVI

Fall 2002

## OLE! Outdoor Leadership Expedition

For the first time ever, the SCU Center for Student Leadership and ESI are offering a one unit course for those interested in developing their outdoor leadership skills. The course participants in ENVS 98 are, at this very moment, making final preparations for their backpacking expedition experience to Big Basin State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains this weekend. Last weekend course participants earned certification in First Aid/CPR and learned about wilderness first aid awareness from Steve and Karen Trolan. We had a great time with those scenarios! Don't forget that duct tape! Also, many thanks to Elliott Parsons from UCSC's outdoor programs for leading us on this experience! He knows some of Big Basin's secrets. If you have an interest in experiencing the beauty of nature near Santa Clara, acquiring valuable leadership and safety skills, and making new friends, apply for the next ENVS 98 expedition! The next course is planned for Spring Quarter.

### Environmental Art

Spring Quarter, Wednesday afternoons  
Instructor: Deborah Kennedy

This class will provide students with an unique opportunity to study directly with an artist focusing on environmental issues. During the class, students will first learn how contemporary artists are responding to environmental issues. The next area of research will help the class understand core environmental concepts in the field of sustainable development with a special focus on "greening the university." Students will learn about exciting developments and new possibilities for creating large-scale reforms that could substantially improve our environment. Check out <http://codesign.scu.edu/dkweb/> for some of Deborah Kennedy's art work.

### Envs Colloquia

**Every Tuesday:** Virtual Nature, 11<sup>th</sup> floor Swig  
7pm- 8pm (Various topics including study abroad,  
environmental art, and research experiences)

**Monday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>:** Michelle Marvier "Farming and  
Sustainable Agriculture" 6pm Daly Science 207

**Thursday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>:** Douglas Irwin and Lori  
Wallach "The Free Trade Debate" 7pm Mayer  
Theater

**Tuesday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>:** Amartya Sen "Globalization  
and Poverty" 7pm Mayer Theater

**Monday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>:** Neil Quinn "Waste Reduction  
and Recycling" 6pm Daly Science 207

**Thursday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>:** Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez  
Maradiaga "Globalization and the Developing  
World" 7:30pm Sobrato Hall

**Monday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>:** Speaker from Monterey Bay  
Aquarium "Sustainable Fishing" 6pm Daly Science  
207

\*\*\* To receive credit, after you attend, send  
Christine Dindia an email- [mdindia@scu.edu](mailto:mdindia@scu.edu) -  
with a few sentences describing the event.  
There will not be a sign-in.\*\*\*

### What's Inside...

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Ulistac Update .....      | 2 |
| ESF Field Trips .....     | 2 |
| Professor Briefs.....     | 3 |
| Living Simply .....       | 3 |
| Study Abroad Options..... | 4 |
| Living in Lesotho.....    | 5 |
| Calendar of Events.....   | 6 |

## ESF Field Trips

Education for a Sustainable Future is the Environmental Studies RLC located in the first three floors of Swig. If you would like to join ESF on any of the following fieldtrips, please register at <http://esf.scu.edu> under the events section.

### October 15<sup>th</sup> UCSC Farm Tour

Santa Cruz; 1pm- 5pm  
Sustainable Farming. Future requirements for food production.

### October 19<sup>th</sup> Ulistac Natural Area Restoration Project

Santa Clara; 10am - 2pm  
Restoration and cleanup of the Ulistac Natural Area (see article on the right).

### October 19<sup>th</sup> New Almaden Quicksilver Park Hike

Swig lobby; 9am - 3pm  
Hiking in the Almaden Park where the Quicksilver (Mercury) mines used to be.

### October 20<sup>th</sup> Monterey Bay Aquarium Tour

Monterey Bay Aquarium; 8am - 8pm  
Behind the scenes tour of the desalination plant and tuna feeding.

### November 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Basin Redwoods State Park Hike

Swig lobby; 8am- 8pm  
Hiking in California's oldest State Park.

### November 3<sup>rd</sup> Año Nuevo State Park Hike

Swig lobby; 8am- 8pm  
Hike in the area where the Elephant Seals breed.

### November 15<sup>th</sup> Silicon Valley Toxics Tour

Santa Clara; 1:45pm - 4pm  
Bus tour of the Superfund sites in Santa Clara County with a guide from Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.

## Buy Organic Produce and Fruit!

Join a partnership with AMO Organics Cooperative by subscribing for a weekly or bi-weekly box of organic vegetables. AMO Organics is a cooperative of former farm workers who are working together to create a viable farming co-op. The cost is \$23 for a full box (feeds 4 adults) and \$12 for a half box (feeds 2 adults), and the boxes will be delivered each Wednesday to Sobrato. For more information, call Desiree at 551-119.

## Ulistac Update

Ulistac Natural Area is just a few miles up Lafayette- a bike ride away. This 40 acre park is the last remaining open space in the city of Santa Clara. For many years volunteers have been working hard to replace exotic species of plants, trees and grasses with native ones, and to keep these native species thriving. In addition to watching the plants take root in the clay-like ground and oak saplings begin to sprout up through their protective tubes, we have seen many bird, insect and animal species flock back to the park. While the work days do include a good amount of sweat and labor, a generous portion is also spent talking about the various sightings and listening to each others tales about how the park has grown. For example....

Just a few weeks ago the kites were in evidence, calling and hunting and demonstrating how much they are putting Ulistac Natural Area to use. We saw three of them just now- one was smaller, so we're concluding that the pair in the big eucalyptus successfully drove off the crows this year and raised a baby kite. There have now been kites using UNA continually since 1996.

We've also seen six different types of butterflies, including various skippers, a Hairstreak, California Buckeye, a Monarch, and Anise Swallowtails. Blooming garden plants include California Poppy, Penstemon, California Fuchsia, St. Catherine's Lace, Verbena, Mallow, and our lone remaining surviving Woolly Bluecurl. Aside from the Kite, birds making an appearance included White Pelicans migrating high above, Red-tailed Hawk, Western Flycatcher, lots of Hummingbirds, a Kestrel, a Turkey Vulture, a Black Phoebe, a mob of Bushtits, and we heard a woodpecker.

It is an exciting time of year to come out and join the community of volunteers that will be weeding, mulching and watering the garden as the garden is prepared for the winter rains. After the first rain, a bit of planting will begin.

The next Volunteer Days are Sat.,

**October 19<sup>th</sup>** and

**November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**from 10am-2pm**

**\*\*Wear layers and bring a snack\*\***

Getting there: Take Lafayette away from campus, (across El Camino) for about 3 miles. After Sun Microsystems, turn right on Hope Dr. Hope ends (after 2 blocks) at Lick Mill. Take a left on Lick Mill and the park is on your right.

## Professor Briefs...

**Prof. Amy Shachter** was awarded a President's Recognition Award. Only four faculty received this honor this year. The award is given to professors who "set an example for students and colleagues as a teaching scholar who works to advance the mission of Santa Clara."

**Prof. Leslie Gray** has received an award from the National Science Foundation that provides \$35,000 to support "Population, Environment and Land Tenure in Burkina Faso."

This project will undertake a multi-scaled analysis of the interplay between population, environment and land tenure in southwestern Burkina Faso. It will contribute to the literature on the political ecology of population-resource interactions, on land rights and agrarian change and on environmental politics. It will help Leslie to integrate her research and teaching around issues of population, environment and poverty.

**Prof. Shana Weber** completed her Ph.D. in Environmental Science this summer from Indiana University, Bloomington. The title of her thesis is "Effects of geomorphic setting, unusual weather, and history on a forest adjacent to Monroe Reservoir, Indiana." Congrats Dr. Weber!

## Living Simply

by Kitty Lyons, written as a speech for the Spring 2002 Environmental Activism class

I recently returned from a semester-long backpacking trip in the craggy wild of Wyoming, Idaho, and Utah. My ten-person group traveled, toiled, cooked, slept, stumbled, triumphed, and existed in a remarkable harmony rare in our speeding, busy society. I took home with me the achingly beautiful canyons and silent space of Southern Utah's Redrock country, the expanse and freedom from the top of the Teton's unforgiving peaks, and that it may take me my lifetime to learn how to fly fish with grace. I have poignant memories of many a night when nothing could get me out of my negative thirty-degree sleeping bag to venture out into the snowstorm, shovel in hand, even to relieve myself. It was a wild and passionate time that surely changed me forever.

But what I valued most from my time in the outdoors was our living simply. We carried on our backs only what we needed: enough food and clothes to keep us fed and warm, a toothbrush, a journal, Nalgene's, a bowl, and a clever all-purpose invention called a "spork." This is all we needed. We followed the outdoor ethic embraced by the National Park Service, called Leave No Trace. We made sinkholes for our cooking water, carried out all of our trash, and left each site exactly as we found it.

Imagine what our world would look like if we adapted our technologies to this standard. If we woke up, finally, and saw that our wasting the Earth was simply not the right thing, for anyone. We live in a culture that encourages us to believe that we are not happy with what we have. The happiness I found living simply in the outdoors resulted in a sense of security. I had all I needed, and only wanted that which is permanent: strong friendship, great laughter, a secure sense of self, and a deep joy for life.

Living simply means practicing leaving less of your trace in your community; it means re-using your bags at the grocery store, using your own mug and water bottle at school and work, and taking care of what you own so that you can use it until it is truly used. Living simply means thinking about what you buy, what you eat, and what you own. It means being aware of your impact on the Earth. Living simply means releasing yourselves from the myths that have been ingrained in us: that the Earth is an endless resource, that it can't be ruined with toxic wastes, that it is appropriate to live with a "disposable" ethic, and that we don't need to think for ourselves. If we think for ourselves we might lead less complicated, less cluttered lives.

Living simply does not mean that you are a hippie or a liberal; it means that you are conscious, awake, and aware of what is truly rich and satisfying in life. Living simply means you care about your quality of life and the quality of the Earth you leave for your children. Try to think about it this way: you all have a responsibility to live in harmony and good health.

I challenge you to simply be aware.

## Spring Break in Baja, Mexico!

The highly successful environmental studies spring break immersion trip to Baja, Mexico will be offered again this year. The 5 unit course examines the natural history and ecology of desert and coastal ecosystems in Baja California Sur, with special attention paid to issues of development, fisheries, and sustainability. It will meet once a week during winter quarter at SCU, and spring break will be spent primarily at the School for Field Studies in Baja. Students must apply to course faculty to participate in this program- applications available online ([www.scu.edu/envs](http://www.scu.edu/envs)), or in Daly Science 204. Spring Break travel fees not included in the price of the class. Here is what one student had to say:

"I applied to the Natural History of Baja class with the hopes of gaining insight into environmental concerns for the Baja region and a greater appreciation for a foreign culture as well as the opportunity to explore the dynamic marine and desert ecosystems. I can now confidently claim that this class and the journey to Baja California Sur not only fulfilled all my expectations but also surpassed them. The class and trip were a perfect combination of the two fields I am most interested in: marine and environmental studies. Unlike other immersion trips I have participated in, this one emphasized academics as well as the immersion aspect and constantly challenged me to recognize sociological, environmental, political, and biological implications of the topics we studied. The new cultural awareness and development of knowledge that occurred to me in Baja will be something I will carry with me in future studies and interactions with others. Shana, Elizabeth, Greg, Alex, Erin and Erin, Brynn, Sam, and Steph...I couldn't have asked for a more fun-loving group to be a part of. Despite sleep deprivation and an action-packed schedule, we surrounded ourselves with each other's encouragement and laughter. I learned so much from and with all of you. Thanks for being a part of a truly inspiring learning experience!"

-Eli Strode

## Two Weeks in the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago this Summer!

Two weeks of your summer can be spent hiking through rainforests, studying Leatherback Turtles, and boating through mangrove swamps in the Caribbean, while learning about the politics involved in running two 'developed' islands filled with pristine ecosystems. Plus you can perfect your tropical drawing skills, and explore a topic of your choice. All of this for course credit!

The approximate cost, not including airfare is \$3300. For this small sum, you can earn up to 19 units, 10 during Spring Quarter in Political Science and Biology, and an additional 9 in the summer in Environmental Studies (*Spring quarter enrollment is mandatory in order to take part in the Trinidad summer portion of the program*). The courses will meet several requirements including World Cultures/Regional, Biology, Studio Art, Environmental Science/Policy, Political Science, and International Studies Minor. New this year is the field drawing course offered by artist Edward Rooks. Approximate dates are: June 17 to July 2. More specific information and applications will be available during Study Abroad Week, Oct. 21-25, or stop in the ESI or Study Abroad office at your convenience.

## Study Abroad Week

Oct. 21-25, there will be representatives from the School for Field Studies and many other programs of interest to Environmental majors. Programs include field based sites in Kenya, Costa Rica, Turks & Caicos, Australia, Canada, and Mexico. Classroom based programs are available in Europe, Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and Latin America. This would be the time to ponder which excellent and unique experience is going to fulfill your study abroad craving! Look for more details around campus!

## TNC Summer Internship

While summer may have just ended, many of us are already aching for next summer to begin. If you are interested in landing a great research-based TNC internship here at SCU, the director, Peter Kareiva, has some words of advice. "Take a stats class- any one will do." Look for more summer job information in the winter newsletter.

## Living in Lesotho

by Mary Ann Dakkak '04

I tried not to think about Africa until I got there. I tried not to expect anything, picture anything and moreover, I tried not to stress about the fact that I was going to be in Africa for two months and was not yet sure of where I'd be or what I'd be doing. So I left California on June 13th and did not come back until August 13th.

I spent 7 weeks in Lesotho, one week in South Africa, 2 days in Swaziland and 2 days in Ethiopia. Seven other university students and I lived in a rural village in Lesotho. Actually, anywhere in Lesotho would be considered rural by US standards. Only about half a dozen cities in the entire country of Lesotho have electricity and/or running water.

In Maseru, Lesotho's capital, the electricity goes out every night at around 8 p.m. The climate is arid in wintertime (June-August). It did not rain the entire 7 weeks I was there. The entire country is situated high in the mountains and is one of the only countries in Africa that has snow almost year round in some parts. Lesotho is known for its mountains and rivers. Water seems to be its only natural resource.

Because of the mountainous terrain, only twelve percent of the land in Lesotho is arable. South Africa, its neighbor on all sides, is in dire need of water. In exchange for around one billion US dollars, the Lesotho Water Project was founded to funnel water to South Africa from Lesotho with the aid of a dam. Lesotho, being one of the poorest countries, chose to take on the project because it provided jobs within the country (Lesotho has very little internal employment — most people are subsistence farmers or try to go to South Africa to find work). It also provided money for the country, and another source for electricity.

Unfortunately, building the dam destroyed roughly half of the arable land. Now half of the 12% of land that was arable has been flooded. With 12% arable land, Lesotho could only produce about a third of the food their country needed. Now this number is drastically reduced.

What's even funnier (if you can call that funny) is that the people living adjacent to the dam have no access to water. Law prohibits them from using the reservoir water. And to top that off, all the electricity is used for the resort near the dam (there's huge empty resorts near each of the three dams) and the dorms for the workers. None of the benefits go to average citizens.

Most people in Lesotho live in "rondavals" — little round huts made out of mud and topped with thatch roofs. In our village there were two wells, one in our "compound." The village store was also in our "compound." The store sold minimal necessities: bread, flour, maize meal, ground soy, notebooks, pens, little snacks and cigarettes. The village survives (barely) off subsistence farming.

The villagers, as a whole, own land near the river. They divide the land up equally and among the families. Depending on family status (rich vs. poor), they get better plots of land and can afford more fertilizers and pesticides. So although each family has an equal amount of land, harvests vary depending on how much the family can put into the land. Their main crops are corn and sorghum. Crop rotation is practiced by roughly half the people in the village, but is limited to sorghum, wheat and maize.

Families also often have small gardens near their huts. Most do not bother to grow more nutritious crops like beans or spinach. Peas are as common as is marijuana. Marijuana is one of the most abundantly grown crops because it is the most profitable. It was hard to help the people understand what a nutritious diet was and that certain crops need to be grown and put together to assure healthy diets.

Luckily, in our village, calorie count per person was usually not a problem. They have enough food, just not always the right combinations of foods for good health. The village is very community oriented and if one family's harvest is not very good, the community makes up for it. And in a big way, the people are happy with what they have. Many of them have seen electricity or flushing toilets and are not interested. Outhouses and candles are just fine. And after spending two months there, I agree.

## Calendar of Events:

### October:

- Every Tuesday: Virtual Nature, 11<sup>th</sup> floor Swig 7pm- 8pm
- Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> UCSC Farm Tour 1pm- 5pm Sustainable Farming: Future requirements for food production.
- Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> Ulistac Work Day 10am - 2pm Restoration and cleanup of the Ulistac Natural
- Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> New Almaden Quicksilver; 9am - 3pm Hike in the Almaden Park where mines used to be.
- Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> MBA Tour; 8am - 8pm Behind the scenes tour of the desalination plant and tuna feeding.
- Monday, Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>: Michelle Marvier "Farming and Sustainable Agriculture" 6pm Daly Science 207
- Thursday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>: Douglas Irwin and Lori Wallach "The Free Trade Debate" 7pm Mayer Theater
- Tuesday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>: Amartya Sen "Globalization and Poverty" 7pm Mayer Theater

### November

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Basin Redwoods State Park Swig lobby; 8am- 8pm Hiking in California's oldest State Park.
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> Ano Nuevo Swig lobby; 8am- 8pm Tour and Hike in the area where the Elephant Seals breed.
- Monday Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>: Neil Quinn "Waste Reduction and Recycling" 6pm Daly Science 207
- Thursday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>: Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga "Globalization & the Developing World" 7:30pm Sobrato Hall
- Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Silicon Valley Toxics Tour 1:45pm - 4pm Bus tour of the Superfund sites in Santa Clara County with a guide from Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition.
- Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Ulistac Work Day 10am - 2pm Restoration and cleanup of the Ulistac Natural
- Monday Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>: Speaker from Monterey Bay Aquarium "Sustainable Fishing" 6pm Daly Science 207

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Environmental Studies Institute<br>Daly Science 204<br>Santa Clara University<br>500 El Camino Real<br>Santa Clara, CA 95053 | Phone: (408) 551-7086<br>Fax: (408) 554-2312<br>ESI Email: <a href="mailto:ashachter@scu.edu">ashachter@scu.edu</a><br><a href="http://www.scu.edu/envs">www.scu.edu/envs</a> |  |
|--|---|--|