

# EnviroNews

**Newsletter of the Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute**

**Volume XXI**

**Spring 2004**

## **New Fall 2004 Courses**

### **ENVS 196: Sustainable Development in Costa Rica – Thursdays 11:50-1:35 p.m.**

This course will first familiarize students with some of the many issues of sustainable development in Costa Rica through guest lectures from different disciplinary perspectives. Students will then have the opportunity to supplement their academic work with field-based experiences in **Costa Rica** over the Thanksgiving Break holiday.

### **ENVS 161: Catholic Social Teaching: Balancing the Ethics of Environment, Agriculture and Food – TR 9:55-11:40 a.m.**

The fundamental aim of this course is to introduce Catholic theological perspectives on agriculture, the environment, and food. Dramatic changes have taken place in our modern agrofood system over the past century, and modern agriculture now threatens the environmental resource base upon which it depends. Students in this course will learn about the development of Catholic social teaching and how it tries to balance food provision and environmental stewardship. **This class fulfills the second Religious Studies requirement.**

### **ENVS 162: Environmental Justice Practicum – TR 1:45-3:30 p.m.**

This course investigates what Environmental Justice means in California's Central Valley. Students will take two field trips to the Northern San Joaquin Valley to investigate how the Stockton Diocese is starting up an environmental justice education project. The final project for this class will result in a web-based educational tool to assist this project. Students will analyze the theological roots and implications of Environmental Justice, using this region as a "learning laboratory." **This class fulfills the third Religious Studies requirement.**

#### **Also this Fall:**

ENVS 39: Drawing From Nature (must be concurrently enrolled in ENVS 196)

ENVS 98: Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE)

ECON 134: African Economic Development

HIST 184: American Historical Geography

POLI 146: African Politics

### **Pizza & Advising + Costa Rica info session**

Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 pm, Alumni Sci 120

Get advice on classes and  
learn about new programs!

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## Winter Workshops on Environmental Purchasing for Computers Get Results

As a result of a series of workshops held during winter quarter at SCU, the university's Information Services department will now incorporate environmental guidelines into its purchasing of personal computers and networking equipment. SCU's head of Information Services, Ron Danielson, is also taking the lead in educating other Jesuit universities on the issue. He will present the university's guidelines at the upcoming Conference of Information Technology Managers of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Milwaukee.

The Environmental Studies Institute, Information Services, and the Center for Science, Technology and Society co-sponsored the workshops, which were facilitated by Associate Professor of Communication Chad Raphael.

The workshops aimed to help SCU and other university electronics buyers assess the feasibility and desirability of incorporating environmental purchasing criteria into their decision-making about equipment on their campuses. Attendees heard from the major stakeholders in the issue – including environmental groups, computer industry representatives, and advisors to other organizations that have implemented green purchasing criteria.

The workshops also drew concerned information technology buyers from eight other Bay Area universities, seeking information on how they could minimize the downstream impacts of their electronics purchasing.

### **Workshop 1: The Impact of E-Waste**

At the first workshop, on January 26, speakers addressed the problems posed by electronic waste (or e-waste). Ted Smith and Sheila Davis, of the Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, a local environmental organization, discussed e-waste's toll on the environment and human health in the USA and abroad. They noted that much e-waste is exported to Asian countries with lax enforcement of environmental laws and an abundance of low-wage labor that disassemble machines under hazardous conditions. Domestic e-waste is often handled by prison labor, who do not enjoy the same rights and health protections as free workers. Smith and Davis

( See E-waste workshops on p.3)

## Restoration Work Days and Internships at Ulistac Natural Area

Please note that starting in May, work days are from 9:00-1:00pm\*

Sunday, April 18th, 2004 10:00am - 2:00pm  
Saturday, May 1st, 2004 9:00 am - 1:00pm  
Sunday, May 16th, 2004 9:00am - 1:00pm  
Saturday, June 5th, 2004 9:00 am - 1:00pm  
Sunday, June 20th, 2004 9:00 am - 1:00pm

Please Note:

- There is NO experience necessary to volunteer!
- Make sure to wear long pants and sturdy work shoes (Leave the flip-flops at home!)
- Sunscreen and hats are also recommended.
- Bring a lunch and bottle of water if you plan to stay for the whole time.
- Gloves and tools are provided.

There are several internship opportunities available at Ulistac, including a communications intern and education interns. Please contact Kelly Crowley at the Ulistac Outreach Center for details.

Check our website for other ways to get involved!  
[www.scu.edu/envs/ulistac](http://www.scu.edu/envs/ulistac)

**Ulistac Outreach Center is located in Swig 103  
Phone (408) 554-5419**

**Office Hours: 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Outreach Coordinator: Kelly Crowley,  
[kcrowley@scu.edu](mailto: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 ¾-acre Bird and Butterfly Garden, oak woodlands and wetlands. Directions to Ulistac are on the Restoration Project's website.*



## Environmental Purchasing for Computers

also addressed the mounting costs to universities of e-waste recycling and disposing. Larry King, of Hewlett-Packard (H-P), then outlined H-P's work on redesigning products and packaging to minimize environmental impacts throughout products' lifecycles, how H-P handles old electronics at its state-of-the-art facilities, as well as current economic trends that affect recycling. King also agreed with Smith and Davis that California's new e-waste recycling law, while offering a few helpful first steps at funding a system for dealing with e-waste responsibly, would not do enough to encourage manufacturers to produce less toxic and more easily recycled materials in the first place. Thus, all felt that institutional customers such as universities have an important role to play in creating demand for more environmentally benign products.

### **Workshop 2: Adopting Environmental Purchasing Criteria for Information Technology**

The second workshop, on February 9, focused on environmental purchasing criteria. Smith and Davis returned to discuss the benefits to human health and to universities of incorporating green criteria into their buying decisions. Mamta Khanna, from the Oakland-based Center for Environmental Health, then introduced a set of electronics purchasing guidelines developed by healthcare advocates for use by hospitals. Anne Peters, a consultant with Gracestone, Inc, discussed how buyers could implement environmental purchasing criteria in their own organizations. Drawing on lessons learned from advising the City of Denver, Colorado on their adoption of green buying guidelines, Peters talked about the pros and cons of incorporating in contracts with computer vendors a variety of options for dealing with old equipment, including reuse, resale, recycling and responsible disposal. All presenters emphasized the importance of getting vendors to agree to take back their equipment and to specify terms for handling it responsibly.

### **Workshop 3: How Industry is Addressing Environmental Purchasing Criteria for Information Technology**

The third workshop, on March 8, focused on the European Union's (EU's) new laws requiring manufacturers to take back old electronics from consumers and to phase out the use of some of the most toxic materials, as well as how vendors are addressing the European standards and green buying criteria in the USA. Ron Danielson delivered a presentation prepared by John Burke of Extreme Networks, on the European legislation. Christopher Altobell of H-P and Todd Arbogast of Dell then discussed the impact of the EU mandates and of institutional buyers' demands for take-back and other contract provisions on equipment cost, performance, compatibility, warranties, servicing and maintenance. Presenters agreed that vendors prefer a national solution to the e-waste problem in the USA that would offer manufacturers a single set of expectations, rather than a patchwork of state laws and institutional contracts that set different standards for toxics reduction, take-back, and so forth. Because a national agreement is unlikely any time soon, it appeared that university buyers would be more likely to win environmental improvements by employing common environmental criteria, such as the Healthcare Without Harm guidelines, or those adopted by the Western States Contracting Alliance.

For more information on the workshops, including the speakers' presentations and a list of resources for university purchasers, see the ESI web site at <http://www.scu.edu/envs/epc/epc.htm>.

Special thanks are due to ESI's Jeannette Sacman for researching Bay Area university computer purchasers and helping to organize the workshops, and to Timmy King for putting the workshop materials on ESI's web site.



earth day  2004

## Earth Week Coming Soon! Week of April 18th

SCU will celebrate Earth Day on Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> with an Earth Day Fair at the Santa Clara Mall. Other events throughout the week include:

- Environmental Activism Workshop (Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Environmental Student Thesis Presentations (Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>)
- Environmental Documentary
- Workday at Ulistac (Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Party Celebrating the Earth with Live Bands

If you would like to help or want more information, email [MPenkert@scu.edu](mailto:MPenkert@scu.edu) or [STarpley@scu.edu](mailto:STarpley@scu.edu)



### Other Local Earth Day Events

April 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am-5:00 pm – Arastradero Preserve Trail Day, Palo Alto. Re-routing a steep section of the Redtail Loop Trail and repairing eroded areas of the trail. Volunteers can join morning, afternoon or both sessions. Contact David Tex Houston, 650-962-9876 ext.347 or [DavidH@Acterra.org](mailto:DavidH@Acterra.org) for more information.

April 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am-12:00 noon – California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2004 Restoration and Cleanup at Alum Rock Park, San Jose. Tree and shrub planting around the visitor center and Youth Science institute; trail maintenance; creek cleanup; playground maintenance; litter cleanup. Contact Jane Lawson (408) 277-4539 for more information.

April 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am-12:00 noon – California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2004 Restoration and Cleanup at Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Weeding and clearing brush in the Rhododendron Dell, Strawberry Hill, speedway Meadow, and Oak Woodlands areas. Various meeting locations. Contact Kristin Bowman at (415) 753-7265 for more information.

April 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am-12:00 noon – California State Parks Foundation's Earth Day 2004 Restoration and Cleanup at East Shore State Park. Shoreline cleanup and non-native fennel removal. Contact Kathleen Fusek at (510) 544-2515.



### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Celebration of Success

June 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30-5:30 pm in the  
Wiegand Room, Arts & Sciences Building  
Will include a poster session in the Foyer



# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Outdoor Leadership Expedition

**ENVS 98 Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE)** will be offered this 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 individuals who welcome the opportunity to explore the natural world, gain safety and outdoor technical skills, learn about the environment, and develop leadership skills. You will participate in hands-on leadership initiatives like backpacking and low-impact camping while integrating relevant academic content to achieve the course objectives. For more information, please contact the ESI office (Daly 204).



## Costa Rica in the Fall

**ENVS 196 Sustainable Development in Costa Rica** will be offered in the Fall. Here are the details:

- Credit: 5 units upper division, and includes a 1 week trip to Costa Rica during Thanksgiving Break.
- Interested students should fill out an application by May 3, 2004. Applications are now available at the ESI office (Daly 204).
- Cost: ~\$1700 which includes airfare, food and lodging, and in-country transportation.
- Deposit of \$500 due from accepted students by June 1, 2004.

More information will be provided at the **Information Session on Wednesday, May 5, 2004** at 5:30 p.m. in Alumni Science 120.

## Internship Opportunities (may be available for credit)

**BioSite** representatives will be on campus at the Earth Day Fair on April 21<sup>st</sup> to talk so students about opportunities at the Children's Discovery Museum. Contact: Terri Fagundes at [tfagundes@cdm.org](mailto:tfagundes@cdm.org)

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

**Santa Clara Valley Water District** has ongoing internships available in their Leaking Underground Storage Tank Oversight Program (LUSTOP). LUSTOP is a Water District program which provides regulatory oversight for investigation and remediation of fuel leak sites in Santa Clara County. For additional details, see the listing at the ESI Office.

**Ulistac Natural Area** has internship opportunities available. Contact Kelly Crowley at the Ulistac Outreach Center in Swig 103, by phone at (408) 554-5419, or by email at [kcrowley@scu.edu](mailto:kcrowley@scu.edu).

The **Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project** has three internships available: Project Assistant, GPS Specialist, and Research Assistant. Details of each position are available at the ESI office or on the Acterra website (<http://www.acterra.org/jobs/>). To apply, contact Janet Myers at (650) 868-3999 or email [janandrew@yahoo.com](mailto:janandrew@yahoo.com).

*See more internship listings on p. 6*

## STUDENTS WANTED

### Summer Conservation Science Intern for The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is seeking to hire a sophomore or junior to work on conservation studies aimed at studying the impact of human land use changes on biodiversity, with special emphasis on predicting future threats. The bulk of the work will involve assembling a data base, library research, report writing, synthesizing and analyzing data, and graphically summarizing data. There will be occasional fieldwork as well. Salary ranges between \$12 and \$15 per hour, depending on skills.

**To apply:** Please send resume to both Dr. Michelle Marvier (mmarvier@scu.edu) and Dr. Peter Kareiva (pkareiva@tnc.org). Include relevant computer, database, and statistical skills, as well as coursework in social sciences or natural sciences. Write one paragraph describing why you are interested in this position. Position starts mid-June and lasts until mid-September, with the option of continuing part-time through the next school year. Deadline to apply is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## More Internship Opportunities

**Oregon Museum of Science and Industry** in Portland, OR: Seeks intern to assist in teaching ecology, geology, paleontology, cultural history, astronomy marine biology and outdoor/wilderness skills to all ages in week to two-week long residential field programs. To apply, send resume, letter of interest and list of references to: Travis Southworth-Neumeyer, OMSI Science Camps, 1945 SE Water Ave., Portland, OR 97214 or email [sciencecamps@omsi.edu](mailto:sciencecamps@omsi.edu). Closing date 06/14/04.

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary:** The MBNMS accepts applications year-round. Applications are available on the website at <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/educate/internships/internform.html>. Internships are listed on their website at <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/educate/internships/welcome.html> and include Research Internships, Education and Outreach Internships, and Resource Protection Internships.

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