

EnviroNews

Newsletter of the Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute

Volume XXIII

Spring 2005

ESI Offers Summer Courses

ESI will be offering summer courses for the first time this year. The ENVS summer offerings will give students the opportunity to take courses that fulfill both the ENVS major and the core curriculum. The classes that are being offered, ENVS 120 & ENVS 130, are usually offered only once each year or once every other year, so having them as an option in summer will give students more flexibility in their course choices.

ENVS 120: Introduction to Environmental Law – TR 6:00-9:00 pm

An introduction to the U.S. legal system's approach to environmental protection. Topics include the roles of legislatures and environmental agencies at the federal, state and local levels; the independent role of the judiciary in establishing environmental law; specific statutes such as the Clean Air Act. **This course fulfills the United States core requirement.**

ENVS 130: Environmental Art: Theory and Practice – TR 1:00-4:00 pm

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 especially valuable for future teachers.

For fall course offerings, see p. 2.



Earth Day at SCU is April 20!

Check out the Earth Week calendar of events on p. 5

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Restoration Work Days at Ulistac Natural Area

The remaining work days at Ulistac this spring are`

April 17th (Sun), 9am-1pm
May 7th (Sat), 9am-1pm
May 15th (Sun), 9am-1pm
June 4th (Sat), 9am-1pm

Additional information:

- There is NO experience necessary to volunteer!
- 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
Office Hours: Tues.-Fri 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
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 ¾-acre Bird and Butterfly Garden, oak woodlands and wetlands. Directions to Ulistac are on the Restoration Project's website.



Fall 2005 Courses

NEW COURSE!

ENVS 146: Sustainable Development in Latin America – Mondays 3:30-6:30 p.m.

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?). **This class fulfills the World Cultures regional requirement.**

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

This course uses the life, spirituality, and work for justice of César Chavez to introduce the dramatic changes that have taken place in our modern agrofood system over the past century, especially here in California. This course will provide an overview of Catholic perspectives on agriculture, the food system, and sustainability, and examine how Chavez went about achieving his vision. It will feature speakers who knew Chavez, and class assignments will carry forward his spiritual vision. More info: kwarnar@scu.edu. **This class fulfills the second Religious Studies requirement.**

Other Fall offerings:

ENVS 1: Intro to Environmental Science
ENVS 98: Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE)
ENVS 161: Ethics of Environment, Agriculture & Food
COMM 120A: Environmental Communication
PHIL 9: Ethical Issues and the Environment
ECON 101: Resources, Food & the Environment
CENG 143: Environmental Engineering

Environmental Vocation Internship Orientation

Looking for an internship in community-based environmental education?

Learn more about the Environmental Vocation Internship at the upcoming orientation

When: Tuesday, May 3

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Swig 11th floor Sky Lounge.

For more information, search "environmental vocation" on the SCU website or email Keith Warner OFM at kwarnar@scu.edu.

The Sustainability Initiative's "Committee on Student Life"

The Efforts of ENVS 99

This past Winter quarter, the student of ENVS 99 (Special Topics in Environmental Studies) took part in the Campus Sustainability Initiative. Their goal was to examine the campus as a whole and offer suggestions to make the campus more sustainable in its operations. The students decided to focus their energy on the dining services on campus. This involved not only listening to guest speakers, but actually meeting and talking with decision makers. These events helped the students to understand the way dining services operates on campus and how to go about suggesting change. Their efforts culminated in the creation of the "Sustainability Guide to Campus Dining Services."

When asked about their final product and whether it's an effective tool to stimulate change, one student remarked, "Yes... I hope it's used as we intend it to be and that future actions are taken as we indicated."

Here is an excerpt of the committee on student life's final project:

Have you ever wanted to see some sustainable oriented changes on the SCU campus? As part of the campus-wide Sustainability Initiative, the Environmental Studies 99 Committee on Student Life is comprised of students who are interested in helping SCU strive to create a more sustainable campus. By combining energy, creativity, and a desire to make a difference, we are working to revamp some of the organizations that affect the campus, students, and earth.

The main focus of the committee so far has been to help Bon Appetit move in an even more sustainable direction. We, as students, realize that we have a large impact on the environment through the products and services we use on campus. Each week, we get together to brainstorm about sustainability issues and possible solutions. Not only are we offering suggestions for ways to reduce our impact, but we are also willing to serve as a resource for Bon Appetit, doing research where necessary and offering a student's perspective. A few of the options we have pursued so far include offering reusable products over disposable ones, getting a fruit bar in Market Square, and promoting the purchase of fair trade coffee. Everything we have discussed is ultimately part of an effort to reduce waste that is produced through using campus dining facilities. The class is also concerned with helping Bon Appetit make these changes without creating costs for the company or creating backlash from the student body. Efforts are still in progress, but we've already seen very exciting changes. The enthusiasm of Bon Appetit to become more sustainable has been evident, and we have been told that soon Bon Appetit will be converting the current to-go containers from plastic to a material that is biodegradable. The changes that are being made are a huge positive step towards making SCU a more environmentally friendly campus.

Although the scope of our 10-week class is limited, we hope to leave behind a guide that will help future students and even other campuses move in the direction of sustainability. Some of our suggestions for future directions include looking into environmentally friendly cleaning supplies for use in the residence halls and selling green products (like Tupperware, recycled paper products, and canvas bags) in campus stores. We also hope to initiate motivation for an on-going environmental education campaign that would be run by the GREEN club and other willing SCU students. By continually promoting and discussing sustainability, we hope to cause a stir in the campus community. Defining and reaching small goals are the first steps to making long-term sustainable changes on the Santa Clara campus.

The "Sustainability Guide to Campus Dining Services" was edited by Tessa Carter ('05) and compiled by the ENVS 99 class: Ashley Allison ('08), Christy Arrington ('09), Theresa Bichsel ('08), Alyssa Carroll ('08), Tessa Carter ('05), Rose Hacking ('08), Josh Peterson ('08), and Meredith Swinehart ('06). Dr. Shana Weber has been teaching this class for the last 2 years and has been involved with sustainability issues on campus.



Santa Clara University, Half Turbine Partner

Santa Clara University showed its commitment to being a community leader with its recent purchase of 1,608 MWhs of 100 percent renewable energy through Santa Clara Green Power. This amount is equal to the annual output of half of a large wind turbine. This leadership is highly commendable.

In addition to being recognized as a community leader in the Santa Clara Green Power program, Santa Clara University will become a partner in the EPA Green Power Partnership. The EPA Green Power Partnership is the federal recognition body supporting organizations that voluntarily power their businesses with renewable energy. Santa Clara University joins over 100 Colleges and Universities in the United States supporting green power.

Santa Clara Green Power is a mix of 97.5 percent wind and 2.5 percent solar, both of which do not emit air pollutants nor do they contribute to global warming. The wind energy is generated from wind farms in Northern and Southern California; the solar energy is generated from solar projects in the Bay Area and right here in Santa Clara.

Rather than directly buying electricity generated from wind and solar power resources, customers in this program purchase renewable energy credits. In turn, Santa Clara Green Power purchases renewable energy credits from newly constructed wind turbine facilities and solar photovoltaic projects to match consumer consumption. Companies that produce energy without negative environmental impacts earn credits for each kilowatt-hour they produce.

The additional cost of securing renewable energy credits for Santa Clara is one of the lowest in the country, only a penny and half per kilowatt-hour (1.5 cents/kWh) above the standard electricity rate. A portion of the Green Power rate supports new solar facilities in Santa Clara, such as the recently completed Haman Elementary School.

The environmental impact of participation in the program is significant. Santa Clara University's choice to support renewable energy prevents more than 1.6 million pounds of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The environmental benefits are equivalent to planting 217 acres of trees or not driving 140 cars for a year.

Santa Clara businesses may sign up for Santa Clara Green Power by registering through the secure webpage; by sending an e-mail with name, address, phone number and account number; or by calling 408-244-SAVE (7283).

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Mark your calendars! 3rd Annual Successfest

May 25th at 3:30-5:00 pm in the
Wiegand Room, Arts & Sciences Building.
Includes a poster session in the Foyer!





Earth Week at SCU: April 18th-22nd

Monday April 18th: "Islam and the Environment"

A presentation by Aroba Hafeez ('06)

7:30pm – Swig 11th floor lounge. Free coffee/food!

Tuesday April 19th: Star gazing

At Castle Rock state park

6:30 pm – Meet at 6:30 in front of Swig. (RSVP required)

Wednesday April 20th: EARTH DAY FESTIVAL!!!

At Santa Clara Mall (in front of Benson fountain)

10am-4pm – Events include: Tie-dye, free bike tune-ups, paper making, candle making, free vegetarian food, raffle, vendor booths, job perspectives, campus sustainability projects, and much, MUCH MORE!!!

Thursday April 21st: "Should SCU Have a Sustainability Requirement?"

An interactive panel of student and staff

7pm – Swig 11th floor lounge. Free food/coffee.

Friday April 22nd: Trash Audit with Lucky!

Come find out what is in your trash, and what can be recycled.

11am-3pm – Alviso Street (between Swig and Benson).

Friday April 22nd – Saturday April 23rd: Bike Trip (optional) to Santa Cruz and Camping at New Brighton State Beach.

Meet 5pm Return Saturday afternoon/early evening. \$10 to camp. (RSVP required)

For more information or to RSVP for any of the events please contact Cathy Harkness (csharkness@yahoo.com).

See other local Earth Day events on page 6.

ESI Seminar Series Spring 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.

The seminars take place every other Friday from noon – 1:00 pm in the Casa Italiana Commons. Light refreshments are served starting at 11:45 am.

Here is the schedule for Spring Quarter 2005:

April 1 Sean Watts, Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology, UC Santa Barbara

The Role of Root Herbivores in Structuring Plant Communities and the Restoration of Native Grasslands

April 15 Leslie Gray, Ph.D., ESI and Department of Political Science, SCU

Cotton, Poverty and the Environment in Burkina Faso

April 29 Max Boykoff, Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz

Media Treatment of Global Climate Change

May 13 Nancy Unger, Ph.D., ESI, Women's Studies, and History, SCU

Beyond "Nature's Housekeepers": American Women and Gender in Environmental History

May 27 Dustin Mulvaney Environmental Studies, UC Santa Cruz

A Political Ecology of Genetically Engineered Rice in California

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



Other Local Earth Day Events

April 15th: Santa Clara Arbor Day/Earth Day, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Triton Museum, 1505 Warburton Ave., Santa Clara (www.ci.santa-clara.ca.us)

April 22nd: Earth Day Sunrise Ceremony, 6:00 am at Baylands Nature Preserve, 2900 Embarcadero Rd., Palo Alto (www.acterra.org)

April 22nd: Sunnyvale Earth Day Celebration, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at Plaza del Sol, 200 W. Evelyn Ave., Sunnyvale (www.sunnyvalerecycles.org)

April 23rd: Great American Litter Pick Up, 8:30 am – 11:00 am at various sites in San Jose (www.sjmayor.org)

April 23rd: Spring in Guadalupe Gardens, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Columbus Park, Taylor & Spring St., San Jose (www.grpg.org)

April 23rd: Hidden Villa Special Earth Day Programs, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Rd., Los Altos (www.hiddenvilla.org)

April 23rd: 33rd Annual Wildflower Show, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm at Mission College, 3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara (www.cnps-sv.org)

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