

EnviroNews

Newsletter of the Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute

Volume XXIII

Winter 2005

Upcoming Spring 2005 Courses

ENVS 160: Spirituality and Sustainability – TR 3:40 – 5:25 p.m. NEW CLASS

This class will investigate the global challenge of leading human society toward a more sustainable future through the lenses of spirituality and environmental leadership. Students will assess their own ecological footprint, and then engage friends and the campus community in learning more about how we can respond, and how to develop spiritualities that will nourish us for this difficult task. We will draw from Christian, Buddhist, and Hindu spiritual traditions to investigate the potential of consciousness to facilitate social transformation. Final projects will contribute to the campus sustainability plan. More info: kwerner@scu.edu. **This course fulfills the second level Religious Studies requirement.**

ENVS 130: Environmental Art: Theory and Practice – T 2:15-5:25 p.m.

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.

Also this Spring:

ENVS 98: Outdoor Leadership Expedition (OLE)
ENVS 145: Environmental Technology
HIST 85: U.S. Environmental History
BIOL 150: Conservation Biology

CHEM 1: Environmental Chemistry
CENG 139: Groundwater Hydrology
ECON 101: Resources, Food and the Environment
POLI 130: Global Environmental Politics

Check out our new website!

Our thanks to Timmy King '05 who laid out the new site, and to the ESI faculty and staff for editing the content!

www.scu.edu/envs

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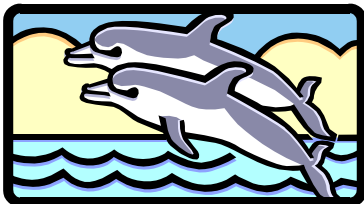
Environmental Vocation Interns Begin Their Work

by Keith Douglass Warner OFM

The ESI's newest internship began in December with an opening retreat. First we visited the Diocese of Stockton to begin a workplan for helping with their environmental justice education project. The Diocese is going to hold an EJ Sunday this May, with an EJ message being delivered from every pulpit, and our interns are going to help parishioners and youth learn more about the meaning of EJ and how they can promote environmental justice. The ultimate goal is to help the faith community in the Central Valley respond through action and advocacy to improve the region's air, land, and water quality.

We then traveled to the Monterey Bay: out on to it, where we saw one Humpbacked Whale, and hundreds of Risso's Dolphins displaying their ability to play! We proceeded to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office, where we learned about the history of public participation in that region, and how it led to the establishment of the largest marine sanctuary in the country. This year the MBNMS will be conducting a series of public meetings to guide the revision of their management plan. Interns will be facilitating input to this process by members of these local faith communities.

The eight interns will travel to their work sites about once a month, usually with a fellow SCU intern. The first few months will be a time for learning about local issues and the organization of the faith community, and planning a series of educational activities and events for the spring quarter. It's not too early for anyone interested in an environmental studies or science major to figure out how you could be an Environmental Vocation Intern next year! More info? Contact kwerner@scu.edu.



ESI Seminar Series Winter 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. Refreshments are served starting at 11:45 am.

Here is the schedule for Winter Quarter 2005:

January 7 Peter Kareiva, Ph.D. *Lead Scientist, The Nature Conservancy and Director of Conservation Programs, Environmental Studies Institute, Santa Clara University*
Why Should a Businessman Care about Biodiversity?

January 21 Jon Christensen *Science Writer and Environmental Journalist; Graduate Fellow, American History and History of Science, Medicine and Technology, Stanford University*
Why Should Journalists Care about Science?

February 4 Betsy Herbert, Ph.D. *UC Santa Cruz, Graduate Program in Environmental Studies*
Forest Ecosystem Services: How West Coast Public Water
Utilities Manage Forests for Water Quality

February 18 Tracey L. Kahan, Ph.D. *Associate Professor and Chair, Psychology Department, Santa Clara University*
The Place of Nature Spirituality in Eco-psychology

March 4 Grey F. Hayes, Ph.D. *Coastal Training Program Coordinator, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve*
Interdisciplinary Training: Overcoming Institutional Barriers to Improve our Common Future

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

SCU Commits to Sustainable Building Practices

By Michelle Marvier

Clean-running electric carts have replaced the air-clogging diesel trucks once used by university gardeners, solar panels are popping up on the roofs of dorms, and reclaimed water is being used to keep the SCU landscape green. All around our campus there are signs that SCU is deeply committed to making its operations more environmentally-friendly and less wasteful. Already SCU has made great strides in terms of reducing energy use, improving recycling efforts, and encouraging the use of public transportation and carpooling. Now Santa Clara University has made an important decision to incorporate environmentally sustainable materials and fixtures in the construction of all new campus buildings.

The concept of "environmental sustainability" challenges each of us to consider how our consumption patterns and daily habits affect the health of the environment - both today and into the future. On a personal level, we each decide things like where to set our home's thermostat and whether to drive to work instead of walking. And the effects of all these choices add up. If we fail to consider sustainability, our collective over-consumption of resources will make it harder for future generations to live healthy productive lives. As an institution employing nearly 1500 faculty and staff and serving over 8000 students, the decisions made by SCU can have a big impact on environmental health and resource use.

Recognizing the vital importance of environmental sustainability, SCU has committed to construct all of its new buildings in accordance with LEED standards. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. LEED is a voluntary, national rating system that provides a framework for assessing the environmental sustainability of buildings. The system deals with aspects of building design, construction, and operation in relation to site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selections, and indoor air quality. Projects earn points based on voluntary choices pertaining to sustainability and conservation.

Here at SCU there are several new buildings in the works, including a new business school, a larger undergraduate library, and a Jesuit residence. In addition, there will be a new student commons building, to be placed in Kennedy Mall between Swig and McLaughlin. All of these buildings are currently being designed in accordance with LEED standards.

But, won't this be really expensive?

Surprisingly, the answer is no. While some items may have a higher initial cost, eco-friendly choices can produce significant savings over the life of the building. For instance, the underfloor heating and cooling system for the new Business School building has an initial cost about 20% higher than the traditional above ceiling system. However, the energy savings provides a payback in about eight years. And if we look beyond eight years, the underfloor system will actually be less expensive than the traditional version. Steve Brodie, a consultant to SCU's Planning and Projects explains, "Green features being considered for a project are evaluated on initial costs as well as long term or 'life cycle' costs. By looking at the longer term, greening of a project frequently results in no added cost over the short term and significant cost savings over the projected life of the project."

In other cases, such as formaldehyde-free materials, the initial costs are about equal with vastly improved indoor air quality. Designing and building eco-friendly buildings strives to achieve the maximum environmental benefit possible within the economic constraints and our social responsibilities. According to Joe Sugg, Assistant Vice President for University Operations, "The more we pursue eco-friendly goals, the more we are finding that the building life cycle cost and performance benefits far outweigh the initial cost increases."

Where can I learn more about sustainable practices?

US Green Building Council – <http://www.usgbc.org>

Ways to improve the environmental sustainability of your own household:

EcoGoods – <http://www.ecogoods.com/>

E – The Environmental Magazine – <http://www.emagazine.com/>

Restoration Work Days at Ulistac Natural Area

Ulistac work days are generally on the 1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday of each month. Here's the schedule for Winter and Spring Quarters –

Feb 5th (Sat), 10am-2pm
Feb 20th (Sun), 10am-2pm
Mar 5th (Sat), 10am-2pm
Mar 20th (Sun), 10am-2pm

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

Note: April 2nd will be a Demonstration gardening during the Wildflower Walk, 10am-2pm

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 ¼-acre Bird and Butterfly Garden, oak woodlands and wetlands. Directions to Ulistac are on the Restoration Project's website.

Internship Opportunities (may be available for credit)

Environmental Law and Policy Internship Opportunity
Interested in environmental policy? Would you like to learn of possible careers in Environmental Policy and Law? Interns needed for Spring 2005. Contact Terry Trumbull at terryt1011@aol.com or (650) 328-9081

Santa Clara Valley Water District has an opportunity for an intern to help people use water more efficiently both inside and outside the home. The job involves customer service, program marketing, scheduling and/or conducting on-site inspections, data analysis, staffing outreach events, and any other general office work as needed. For additional details, contact Jeannine Larabee at jlarabee@valleywater.org or call (408) 265-2607 x3201.

The **Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society** is seeking an Education and Outreach Intern for Spring 2005 to 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. Various other tasks will include: field trip coordination, development of curriculum & classroom materials, hands-on fieldwork, and school outreach. For questions or more details, please contact Kim Yuan-Farrell, SCVAS Programs Coordinator. Resumes and cover letters may be emailed or faxed. Phone: (408) 252-3740; Fax: (408) 252-2850; Email: programs@scvas.org

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



Listen Up!

Did you know that an environmental news show exists on KSCU?? Known as Environmental Voices, the show airs at 8:00 pm on Sunday evenings on KSCU 103.3 FM. Content includes local and national environmental news headlines compiled by Holly Zuluaga (Sophomore Delphi member); The Community Voice by Waide Hicks (Junior, Cypress member); the College Lorax by James Driscoll (First-year Delphi member); and BioSphere by Shana Weber, an essay addressing a wide range of technological, environmental, and consumer issues.



Get Involved in Environmental Issues On and Off Campus

Who: Interested students

What: Join the G.R.E.E.N! CLUB (SCU's student environmental club)

When: We meet on Mondays at 7:00 pm

Where: Swig's 11th floor lounge.

Upcoming Events include: Muir Woods plant restoration (February), Earth Week Festival (April), Great Green Gallop (May).

Questions? Contact Cathy Harkness '05: (650) 279-9469 or csharkness@yahoo.com

Other Ways to Get Involved Off Campus... at Ulistac!

Habitat Restoration

- Come learn about CA native plants and how to cultivate them:
 - At twice-monthly work sessions—1st Saturday and 3rd Sunday
 - Schedule a restoration session just for your group or class
- Become a small group leader, or even lead a restoration session yourself!

Docent Program

- Learn to be a park docent.
- Help coordinate the Docent Program.

Field Trip Program

- Be a field trip leader for elementary school students.
- Help coordinate the Field Trip Program, recruiting new field trip leaders and advertising the program in local schools.
- Help develop new field trip activities, using the teaching tools in our office...we want to design new lessons specific to Ulistac that meet the state curriculum standards.

2nd Annual Wildflower Walk

- Help us plan and promote our annual Earth Day celebration: an "open house" with booths for local environmental and community organizations; park tours; demonstration gardening; games and activities for families; and a raffle.
- Attend the Wildflower Walk!
- Volunteer at the event!



Events on Campus

"Then and Now...Rephotographing History", an exhibit by Dr. Shana Weber of the SCU Environmental Studies Institute, is on display in the main lobby of Orradre Library during Winter Quarter 2005.

The exhibit displays reprints from a nationally acclaimed rephotography project (with permission) to demonstrate what rephotography is all about, and also images from a preliminary rephotographic analysis of SCU using Archives photographs as a baseline. Check it out! It is our hope that this exhibit might spark an interest among SCU community members to pursue SCU rephotography further.

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Ethics at Noon: "What Catholic Environmental Ethics Says About Our Debt to the Future", Dr. Keith Warner, OFM, Faith, Ethics & Vocation Project Director, SCU Environmental Studies Institute; Dr. Shana Weber, Director of Campus and Community Programs, SCU Environmental Studies Institute, 12 p.m. Wednesday, March 2, Wiegand Room, Arts and Sciences Building.

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"The Future of Food: Legal and Ethical Challenges." The Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University School of Law's High Tech Law Institute, and the Santa Clara Journal of International Law will host a biotechnology conference this spring. Conference topics will include whether we should have genetically modified foods, how we should regulate them, and whether they are necessary to feed the world. Dr. Michelle Marvier will be part of a distinguished group of experts discussing these topics. This conference is open to the general public and is free for students and faculty at Santa Clara University. Friday, April 15, 2005, Williman Room, Benson Memorial Center

For additional information and to register, check out the Markkula Center's web site at:
<http://www.scu.edu/ethics/practicing/focusareas/medical/conference.html>.

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