

EnviroNews

Newsletter of Santa Clara University Environmental Studies Institute
Volume XXV Fall 2007

ESI Welcomes New Faculty, Staff and Student Workers

Patrick Archie joins ESI as Lecturer in Environmental Studies. Patrick is currently wrapping up his Ph.D. dissertation at UC Berkeley where he has been studying agroecology and alternative agricultural land tenure in California. He has also been involved with the student garden and local community development initiatives in urban agriculture.

John Farnsworth joins ESI as a Lecturer in Environmental Writing and Literature. John comes to us from the English Department, where he continues to teach composition and literature courses with an environmental focus. John is also faculty co-director of the CyPhi Residential Learning Community. John holds an MFA in writing from Antioch University, and just completed an interdisciplinary MLA at Stanford University, where he concentrated in Environmental Rhetoric.

Leah Nakasaki joins ESI as our new Senior Administrative Assistant. Leah recently completed her Bachelors of Science in Journalism at San Jose State University. Her most recent position was with the City of San Jose. Please stop by ESI and welcome Leah to her new post!

Rui Yu joins ESI as our new lab technician. Her duties include the setup and maintenance of all computers in ESI's new GIS lab. She also helps facilitate lectures held in the lab and assists students working with ArcGIS. She is currently an MBA student in the Leavey School of Business.

Tracey Mangin is the new Recycling Intern for SCU. Although employed by Facilities, Tracey spends a good deal of time here at ESI, working closely with our Sustainability Coordinator, Lindsey Cromwell. Responsibilities of her position include implementing student life projects, improving recycling programs and tracking recycling rates on campus.



**Campus Sustainability Day
Wednesday, October 24!**

Check out the day's events on 3

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Are you interested in Environmental Justice issues?

If so, you should know about all three of these exciting course offerings:

ETHN 156 Race, Gender and Environmental Justice will be offered Winter quarter 2008. This course will examine the relationships between racial formation, gender, and class within the context of environmental problems and the distribution of resources. We will examine various theoretical approaches to addressing environmental injustices, the differences between "traditional" environmentalism and environmental justice, the use of empirical evidence, and efforts by governments, workers, and activists--particularly women of color activists--to resolve ecological problems. The course will also consider activities that may lead to a more equitable distribution of the costs and benefits of economic development, more sustainable forms of production, and economic dynamics that influence public health discrepancies by gender and race. While this course focuses on communities of color in the U.S., it also addresses binational and global instances of environmental injustice. Instructor: Perlita Dicochea

COMM 120 Environmental Communication will be offered during the 2008-2009 academic year. This course introduces students to tools for analyzing and engaging in public discourse about the environment. Special attention is paid to issues of environmental justice – such as population and immigration, electronic waste, and exposure to toxics – which profoundly affect low-income people and people of color. Students will learn methods for analyzing environmental communication in the mass media, such as framing, rhetoric and argumentation, discourse, ideology, and social construction. This course is distinguished from others on environmental justice by its focus on tools and strategies for communicating about inequalities of environmental harms and benefits, especially through public advocacy campaigns. Instructor: Chad Raphael

ENVS 162 Environmental Justice Practicum is currently meeting (Fall 2007). This course surveys the religious, ethical, legal and political meanings of Environmental Justice in California's Central Valley. The course uses environmental ethics and eco-theology as interpretive lenses for interpreting the efforts of grassroots and faith community leaders to promote environmental protection and social justice. The final assignment develops an educational tool that can contribute to the education initiative by the Stockton Diocese. Fulfills the 3rd level course for the religious studies requirement. Instructor: Keith Warner

Environmental Studies Institute SEMINAR SERIES

Fall 2007



FRIDAYS AT NOON
Casa Italiana Commons

September 28
Richard Gertman, Principal,
Environmental Planning Consultants
"Rethinking Recycling"



October 12
David Hawkins and Karen Payne,
Co-Founders, Wild Zones
"No Child Left Inside: New
Approaches to Environmental
Education"



October 26
Tim Galarneau,
UCSC Food Systems Working Group
Coordinator, CASFS, UC Santa Cruz
"Sustainable University Food Systems"



November 9
Gary Gardner, Director of Research,
World Watch Institute & SCU Alumnus
"Inspiring Progress: Religion's
Contributions to Sustainable
Development"



**Seminars are 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in
Casa Italiana Commons.**

Join us for coffee and cookies at 11:45 am
If you have a disability and require reasonable
accommodations please call 408-551-7086 at least 48 hours
before the event date.

Visit our website at <http://www.scu.edu/envs/>

Additional Speaker Presentations at SCU:

Oct 31 5:00 pm
**David Raichlen Assistant Professor of Anthropology,
University of Arizona**
"Are two legs better than four? New approaches to studying
human locomotor evolution"

Nov 13 5:00 pm
**Michelle Bezanson, Assistant Professor of
Anthropology, SCU**
"Trees vs. treadmills: understanding primate locomotor
adaptations"
For more information contact, Michelle Bezanson at
MBezanson@scu.edu.

Mark your calendars for...

Campus Sustainability Day

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

A celebration of our achievements in sustainability.
Join us on October 24 to celebrate not only the efforts of our campus community, but also efforts of Bay Area businesses and non-profit organizations.

Resource Fair: Sustainability on Campus and in Our Community

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Commons at Kennedy Mall.

Participating SCU organizations:

- GREEN Club
- Sustainable Living Undergraduate Research Project
- Bottom Line and Beyond
- Dining Services by Bon Appétit
- University Library (check out their used book sale!)
- Conservation Psychology

Participating Bay Area organizations:

- Sustainovation
- Acterra
- Silicon Valley Power
- Middlebrook Gardens
- Sustainable Silicon Valley
- Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Panel Discussion: Doing Good and Doing Well

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm, Commons at Kennedy Mall

Introduction by: Barry Posner, Dean of Leavey School of Business
Moderated by: Michael Clossen, Executive Director, Acterra

Panelists:

- Ephigenie Banaynal, Palm, Inc.
- Nedjip Tozun, d.light design
- Maisie Greenawalt, Bon Appétit Management Company
- Rick Row, Sustainable Silicon Valley
- Representative from Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Campus Sustainability Day Events Are Co-Sponsored By:

Sustainability at SCU, ESI, Leavey School of Business, Acterra, Net Impact SCU

All events are free and open to the public. Join us!

Other Events Associated with Campus Sustainability Day

- Ethics At Noon** “The Ethical Dimensions of Shipping Hazardous Waste to Developing Countries” presented by Dr. Wil Burns, Senior Fellow, International Environmental Law. Oct. 24, in the Wiegand Room.
- University Library Used Book Sale** 10:00 am – 4:00 pm Oct. 24, at the Santa Clara Mall.
- ESI Seminar Series** “Sustainable University Food Systems,” presented by Tim Galarneau, UCSC Food Systems Working Group Coordinator, CASFS, UC Santa Cruz. Oct. 26 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in the Casa Italiana Commons.
Events through the week of 10/22-10/26.
- Sustainability at SCU lunchtime workshop series** Monday through Friday, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm in the Commons at Kennedy Mall. Topics include: worm bin composting, organic gardening, Eco-Crafting: Paper Maché with recycled materials, SCU CO₂ emissions reduction strategy, and tips about organizing “green” events at SCU.
- Ethics Chalk-Talk** Share your thoughts on the special issue at the Chalk-Talk board in Benson Center.

For more information, visit www.scu.edu/sustainability

Upcoming Winter 2008 Courses

ENVS 197 Environmental Fixes: Cures or Cons? W 7:00–8:30 pm

Biofuels, hydrogen, certified timber, organic agriculture – are these truly viable solutions to the world’s most pressing environmental crises? Or are we just grasping for the easiest fixes that will generate the least amount of political resistance? In this seminar we will critically examine these and other so-called solutions to environmental problems; delving into their hidden costs and the thinly veiled agendas of their supporters. Instructor: Sean Watts

ENVS 142b-Environmental and Nature Writing (Baja) R 1:45–3:30 pm

This course engages students in ecocritical reading and writing about the natural history of Baja California Sur. The on-campus portion of the course prepares students to engage in first-hand explorations of the environment in and around the Sea of Cortez. During the on-site portion of the course, students will compile extensive field notes in preparation for the composition of their own natural histories. Taught in conjunction with ENVS 144. Fulfills the 3rd writing core requirement. Prerequisites: ENGL 1 & 2. Enrollment by application only. Travel fees required. Instructor: John Farnsworth

ENVS 144 -Natural History of Baja T 1:45–3:30 pm

Baja California is a land of extremes, of great beauty, and of incredible biological diversity. Humans have inhabited Baja for many thousands of years but have only recently begun to transform it. This course will examine the challenges of sustainable development in a resource rich but ecologically fragile environment. Students will study the natural history of Baja with an emphasis on Espiritu Santo Island, where we will spend several days sea kayaking and studying the local flora, fauna, geology, and marine ecology over spring break. Taught in conjunction with ENVS 142b. Fulfills the world (regional/area studies) core requirement. Enrollment by application only. Travel fees required. Instructor: Patrick Archie

Baja Itinerary Announced

Organized as a collaborative venture between ESI and SCU International Programs, ENVS 144 and ENVS 142b will spend Spring Break of 2008 on a sea kayak expedition to Isla Espiritu Santo, a desert island in Mexico’s Sea of Cortez that experts consider one of the finest kayak destinations in the world.

The expedition will begin in Los Cabos San Jose, near the southeastern tip of the Baja peninsula and then move to a base camp in the foothills of the Sierra de la Laguna. There, expedition members will explore a local canyon system with spectacular waterfalls. The expedition will then make its way to La Paz, where we will experience local culture and learn about the political ecology of the region. On the following day we will transfer to Isla Espiritu Santo via high-speed motor boat, where we will refresh our kayak rescue skills (taught in Stephens Creek Reservoir during the Winter quarter). From there on we’ll be camping on the beach, exploring sections of coastline and small offshore islands where numerous seabirds nest.

During a lay-day halfway through the expedition, participants will participate in an environmental service project and snorkel on a beautiful offshore island that hosts a large sea lion rookery. During the final three days of the expedition we will attempt to pass around the north end of the Isla Espiritu Santo and explore its east coast, which is characterized by towering cliffs, turquoise water and amazing snorkeling. The following day we’ll return to La Paz, spending the night there before transferring back to Los Cabos for the flight home, just in time to start the Spring quarter.

Students can qualify to participate in this expedition by enrolling in ENVS 142b, Environmental Writing, and ENVS 144, Natural History of Baja California, during the Winter quarter. Enrollment will be by instructor permission and will require a short application.

Cost for the expedition (\$1,170) includes meals, lodging and transportation within Mexico, but not airfare to Los Cabos. For more information or to request an application, contact jfarnsworth@scu.edu or jparchie@scu.edu.

Also this Winter:

ANTH 145: Historical Ecology	ENVS 110: Statistics for Environ Science	ECON 1e: Microecon (w/enviro focus)
ENVS 12: Intro Environ Studies	ENVS 120: Intro U.S. Environmental Law	ECON 111: Econ of the Environment
ENVS 20: Water Wars of CA	ENVS 145: Environmental Technology	ETHN 156: Race, Gender, Env Justice
ENVS 50: World Geography	ENVS 160: Spirituality & Sustainability	CENG 160: GIS in Water Resources
ENVS 101: Capstone Seminar	PHIL 9: Ethical Issues & Environment	POLI 167: Making Public Policy

Internship & Research Opportunities

◆ **Slow the Flow** is an environmental education program that focuses on south bay watersheds, water conservation in relation to wetland habitats at the Refuge, recycled water, and the effects of the nearby San Jose/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant, one of the largest wastewater treatment plants in the state. Interns will help the Slow the Flow Program Coordinator implement, prepare, cleanup, and develop Slow the Flow programs including classroom presentations, field trips, weekend programs, special events, and outreach events. For more information, please call Tina Simmons, Slow the Flow Program Coordinator, at (408) 262-5513 voicemail ext. 104 or email her at sfbay_slowtheflow@yahoo.com.

◆ **Research Assistant** needed to help SJSU Professor, with study on the behavioral response of wintering ducks to human trail use in South San Francisco Bay salt ponds. This position will begin in late-September 2007 and will extend through early-April 2008. Weekly time commitment is approximately 10-15 hours. The main field site will be Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge in Alviso, CA. The Research Assistant will mainly assist with fieldwork, data entry, and volunteer coordination. If interested, please send an email to Heather White at number1schmead@yahoo.com.

◆ **Research Assistant** needed to conduct research on the Convention on Biological Diversity and related biodiversity issues (Est. 80 hours of research over the next two quarters). If interested, please send a letter of interest, a copy of your CV and a writing sample to: Dr. Wil Burns, Senior Fellow, International Environmental Law by Oct 17. wburns@scu.edu

SLURP it up!

The Sustainable Living Undergraduate Research Project, SLURP, a project jointly sponsored by ESI and the CyPhi Residential Learning Community is underway.

SLURP's goal is to promote a culture of sustainability within the residential learning communities of SCU. The project plans to conduct rigorous undergraduate research, and model a more sustainable community within a residence hall.

A community of 32 SLURPers has taken over the 7th floor of Swig Hall, and is lining up research projects to be conducted this winter. Research partnerships have been established with the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, St. Claire's Catholic School, SCU Residence Life, and Bon Appetite Corporation's "Low Carbon Diet" research initiative. SLURP will also assist the SCU Facilities Department in its efforts to reduce the university's carbon footprint over the next few years.

In the spring quarter, SLURP members will enroll in ENVS 95/195, where they will compile data from their studies with an eye toward publication and conference presentation.

Project director John Farnsworth is organizing an interdisciplinary faculty advisory board. Grant moneys have been requested to pay stipends to members of the faculty who will serve as mentors for the project that fall within their research specialty.

For more information, email jfarnsworth@scu.edu.

ESI Says Farewell to Virginia Matzek

Last spring, Dr. Virginia Matzek accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Environmental Studies at California State University, Sacramento. Virginia developed and taught one of ESI's most popular courses for non-majors, *The Joy of Garbage*. She also taught field courses such as *Restoration Ecology*, *Natural History of Baja*, *California Plant Communities*, and just this past summer she traveled with SCU students to Costa Rica where she taught *Biology of the Tropics*. Virginia's contributions extended far beyond her teaching. For example, she was a co-founder of ESI's Sustainability Across the Curriculum project, which is helping SCU instructors from a wide variety of disciplines to incorporate sustainability into their courses. Virginia will be missed, and we wish her great success in her new position!



The Penstemon Project: Sustainability Across the SCU Curriculum

To create a stronger campus community around environmental and sustainability issues, ESI has initiated a new series of summer workshops designed to help participating faculty to develop a new class or modify an existing class around issues of sustainability.

The first phase of the workshop occurred on June 20-22, 2007, and participants recently attended a follow-up meeting to discuss experiences and outcomes.

The first workshop was a mix of discussions, small group brainstorming sessions and presentations by outside experts. The sessions addressed ways of engaging environmental issues and assessing student learning outcomes. One of the tricky issues was how to present sustainability in very different disciplines. We presented different models for engaging environmental issues and discussed how to introduce environmental issues into course content through new readings, new assignments or new units or modules.

External speakers illustrated the hidden ecology of our urban world and also demonstrated different pedagogical styles, giving insights to workshop participants about how they could teach environmental issues in their own classes. For more information about the Penstemon Project, please visit our website at:
<http://cms.scu.edu/cas/environmentalstudies/Penstemon-Project.cfm>

Faculty leaders of the Penstemon Project: Leslie Gray, John Farnsworth, Virginia Matzek, Sherry Booth, & Dennis Gordon

EnviroNews is prepared by Leah Nakasaki. Comments or Suggestions? Send to lnakasaki@scu.edu.

www.scu.edu/envs

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