



Environmental Studies Program 2011 Newsletter

Message from the Director

Winter Greetings to all from my new position as Director of the ENVS Program! As you read this newsletter you will see that our great students, alumni and faculty are hard at work making the world a better place. The Environmental Studies Program is in transition as the SFSU campus is in the process of reorganization due to budget cuts. As I write this the ENVS Program is in its new home within the College of Health and Human Services under the direction of Dean Don Taylor. The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences was eliminated in the summertime reorganization of SFSU along with the College of Creative Arts. In the Spring, we believe that the ENVS Program will be part of a larger school of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement within the college, along with the Departments of Urban Studies and Planning, Public Administration and Criminal Justice Studies and the Institute for Community and Civic Engagement. We look forward to new and continued collaborations with these departments along with an enriched focus on community engagement. Dr. Jerry Eisman, current Director of the Institute, will assume the duties of Director of the School.

Environmental Studies continues to grow and flourish; last year we were granted impacted status so we can control the number of students admitted to the major. Although this may seem counterproductive to our goal of creating an informed citizenry, it is the practical result of the lack of funding to the CSU system. The students who do get into the major represent a diversity of interests, experiences, and goals in

terms of the contributions that they want to make to society. I continue to be encouraged and inspired by their passion, energy and commitment.

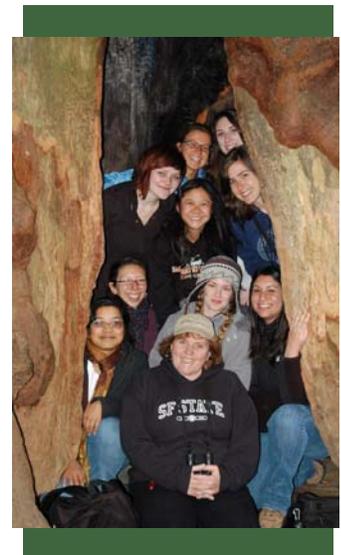
Last Spring the Academic Senate included within the new General Education Requirements a new Environmental Sustainability requirement. I was happy to propose this requirement as an amendment to the GE policy and was grateful for the support of many of our Associated Faculty and majors. This means that every SFSU graduate will have taken a class that addressed environmental sustainability in some fashion. It is exciting to know that the University understands and values the necessity of creating a sustainable world and that all SFSU students will be better informed on this critical issue.

We are making new connections with National Parks Conservancy and National Parks Service in connecting students with research, internship and job opportunities and are continuing to strengthen and build our connections with the EPA and the SF Department of Environment. We will be working this Spring to create new and advance current collaborations within and outside the University.

Thanks to Courtney Rump for all her work as AOC this year and thanks to our many student assistants.

I wish you all peace, good health and great success in 2012!

Barbara Holzman
ENVS Program Director



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AWARDS & HONORS	2
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: BRENT PLATER	3
FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: KAREN GROVE	4
CAMPUS EVENTS: EAT-IN	5
ALUMNI NEWS	6
FACULTY NEWS	7-8

Awards & Honors

George Feliz Memorial Scholarship

The George Feliz Memorial Scholarship in Environmental Studies is awarded each fall to an Environmental Studies major. George Feliz was SFSU's first dean of graduate studies, and was instrumental in helping San Francisco State evolve from a teacher's college to a university. Professor Feliz donated an endowment fund to support a scholarship for Environmental Studies majors with financial need.

2011 Feliz Scholarship Winner: Andy Nunes

Andy is a sustainable building advisor and returning student at San Francisco State University. He has a unique blend of 15 years of experience spanning the wastewater industry, electrical construction, and green building. In 2010-2011 he served as the LEED AP consultant for Roebuck Construction on the Park and Presidio Branch Library Renovation projects. Andy is the author of *Conserving the Future While Preserving the Past: A Case Study of Eco-renovations in Two Historic San Francisco Public Libraries* which was completed as part of his internship with SF Environment's Green Building Program. He will earn his BS-Earth System Science with an emphasis in Chemical Analysis in Spring 2012. Upon graduation he plans to apply for a research position at the



Institute for Sustainable Solutions in Portland, OR. He enjoys cooking, gardening and spending time with his 7-yr old son.

2010 Feliz Scholarship Winner: Jeanette Sasek



Jeanette was attracted to the Environmental Studies major because of her experiences growing up in rural Northern California. Though she is a city dweller now,

her childhood was spent surrounded by nature where she became a keen observer of natural cycles. She grew up near the agriculture-rich Central Valley, and remembers gazing at the farmland through the car window. One day she realized that farmland had been completely taken over by a sea of houses; row upon row of identical suburban dwellings, miles away from any town. Observations like these, along with her classes relating to the urban environment, have led to her interest in sustainable urban development, transportation and land use planning.

During her time at SF State, Jeanette worked with Professor Raquel Pinderhughes on Roots of Success. This is an environmental literacy curriculum which aims to give those with limited proficiency in English, math and computer literacy a competitive advantage in the emerging green collar economy. After graduation, Jeanette plans to continue working with Roots of Success as the curriculum is continuing to be developed and expanded.

2010-2011 ENVS Department Honoree

Each year the ENVS Program selects an honoree for the Honors Convocation. The honoree must have earned a high GPA, but the selection also honors broader achievements such as contributions to environmental work. Last year's honoree was Ray Rothwell.

Ray's passion for environmental and social justice issues began in San Diego—his adopted hometown. Since transferring to SF State in the fall of 2009 Ray has stayed active on campus and in the community, serving as the Environmental Studies Student Representative and as a volunteer project leader in the Bayview. He also served as a leader in ECO Students, where he helped the group receive a CSSA Greenovation Fund grant to build a community garden on campus. Over the summer Ray worked with the EPA and NASA to develop action plans for environmental justice communities and tribal groups affected by hazardous materials production and disposal. Ray has returned to SF State this fall to study for an MS in Geographic Information Science and is now employed by the EPA.



The ENVS Program would like to thank all the students who applied for our awards and also to thank those who served on the scholarship selection committee: Glenn Fieldman, chair, Joel Kassiola, Gretchen LeBuhn, and Barbara Holzman.

Faculty Spotlight

An Interview with Brent Plater, ENVS Lecturer

by Dominique Piccinino, ENVS Student Assistant

Brent Plater is a lecturer here at SFSU in the Environmental Studies Department, teaching Intro to Environmental Studies, Environmental Law and Policy, and Environmental Justice. Outside of SFSU, he is an active environmental lawyer and has started the non-profit Wild Equity Institute, which focuses on connecting conservation and environmental justice movements together. Having taken many ENVS courses here at SFSU, his classes are amongst the most challenging, but also the most rewarding.

DP: Tell me about your background leading up to this point in your life.

BP: Well, it was “eighteen-dicketity two” when I was raised in Michigan, in a suburb of Detroit. If you’ve seen 8-Mile with Eminem, I was raised in 16-mile, so twice as far from the MM in many respects. I almost joined the Marine Corps out of high school, like most of my friends, but I had a career counselor take me aside and offered to get me into college. I agreed that if he got me in, I would go. Somehow, he got me into Michigan Tech University’s School of Natural Resources and Environmental Science. . .and it changed my life. Then I went on to law school at UC Berkeley, and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

DP: What drew you to teaching?

BP: I always liked being in college. I feel really lucky to be on the path that I am, and teaching provides an opportunity to share that with others. I also get students who are interested in the things I’m interested in, so it makes it more enjoyable. I enjoy teaching, and would like to teach more here at SFSU, but I don’t enjoy grading. . .

DP: What is a day in the life of an environmental lawyer?

BP: A typical day is spent in front of a computer screen with a stack of papers, alone. Other lawyers have direct clients that you need to deal with immediately, but environmental law is an isolating practice. It’s very bookish: reading, writing on your own and being there with your thoughts. Law school is for nerds, but one of the nerdiest laws is environmental law.

DP: From your perspective, what are the most pressing environmental issues today?

BP: The root causes are still the main problem- consumerism, over-population, inequity. I’ve always disliked bullies, and that’s what struck me as what’s happening with the planet and with people. It’s inequity not just against each other but against the planet. If everyone consumed like Americans, we would need 5 planets to sustain us. We are out competing against everything else out there. In my day-to-day life I work on root causes. Campaigns don’t necessarily work on root causes because they are harder to solve than superficial ones. Having said that, there are lots of local things in the Bay Area to work on that are hard to reconcile: local food can impact open space, solar power can impact the wildness of the desert, etc. Those are difficult questions to grapple with, but we still have the opportunity to do the right thing and find the right solution.



DP: What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment as a teacher or lawyer?

BP: I don’t feel like anybody has accomplished much. There’s more CO² in the atmosphere, more species are extinct, and more disproportionate harm. We have won many battles, but the war is far from over. It is sad that people adapt to strange conditions, and don’t acknowledge what is lost; it’s concerning. I don’t feel very accomplished in that sense. If the environmental movement was a sports team we would have been fired 8 times over with new head coaches. That’s maybe why I teach, to pawn off all my failures onto you guys (*grins*).

DP: Any advice for students to become involved in environmental issues?

BP: Volunteer. Figure out what you believe, that will help you shape what you need to know, what you need to find out about, and to break into the field. Volunteer with an organization that follows your beliefs. Somewhere along the way you’ll get a job. That’s how I’ve gotten all my jobs, even here, more or less.

Photo caption: Brent Plater and the Contra Costa Wallflower.

Faculty Spotlight

An Interview with Karen Grove, Professor of Geosciences

by Dominique Piccinino, ENVS Student Assistant

Karen Grove has been a professor of Geology in the Geosciences Department here at SFSU for 22 years. She received her Masters in Geology from University of Maryland, and went on to get her Ph.D. from Stanford. Among her many accomplishments, she was also part of faculty group who helped create the Environmental Studies Program at SFSU. Her cheery disposition always leaves with you a little pep in your step.



DP: It is very interesting how the Environmental Studies Program came to be, can you tell me how it started and became what it is today?

KG: The program grew out of a group of students who came back from a conference back east and wanted to start an Environmental Studies program like other colleges. It was an interesting project with people that really had no experience or power. There were a lot of discussions where everyone had their input into it; very much a grassroots endeavor.

From the beginning, around 1993 or 1994, a core group of about ten faculty members and students met once a week. The frame for the program was we couldn't create more classes, we had to have classes that were already available. Then once the program got going and got momentum, then ENVS courses were created. ENVS 300 was the only one created in the beginning, and then it took a few years to get CHEM 380, and ENVS 450, 680 and 690. The Earth System Science concentration came out of my interest but ironically I have never taught in the program, I only advise for ESS.

The deans at the time, Jim Kelly and Joel Kassiola in BSS, were really supportive and helped pushed it through on campus. It got through our department pretty easily, then higher administration took it over. I was on sabbatical when the decision was made for the program, but I saw Kassiola and he yelled: "We are approved!" It was really an exciting moment.

DP: Some students graduate from the Environmental Studies Program and go on to receive their Masters in Geosciences here. Why do you think this is, and what can students do with a Masters in Geosciences?

KG: Probably because there are a lot of topics related to Environmental Studies that can be further pursued in the Geosciences. Such as effects of climate change on ground water supplies, how much fog drip could add to the water supply, coastal erosion right out here at Ocean Beach, restoring rivers because a lot of fish habitat is degraded due to the watershed feeding into them and destroying them. But not so many geologists here work with the petroleum industry.

DP: What are some highlights of being a professor?

KG: I love learning and I love flexibility. It's really great working with students; without question the highlight of my job. And I enjoy being able to teach what classes I want and when I want, and still have time to work on my own projects. I also got the grad program for Geology here by writing the proposal. It's been cool to see it grow. I guess I've given birth to a few things here (*laughs*). It feels good to look back and say yeah, I had some impact.

Photo caption: Karen at the white chalk cliffs in southern England.

Donate to Environmental Studies

We use donations to support a variety of Environmental Studies related projects. In the last few years funds have been used to support a student organized Earth Day event, to provide partial scholarships for students to attend the UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference, and to support the Focus the Nation, Climate Change Teach-in. In the future we hope to use donation money to fund student scholarships and research/travel grants.

All donations are welcome - small or large. To donate you can send a check made out to the Environmental Studies Program Fund, to Environmental Studies, San Francisco State, 1600 Holloway Ave, SF CA 94132. You can also donate online at: <http://envs.sfsu.edu/donate.html>. To ensure your donation reaches us, please choose Environmental Studies Program from the 'I Would Like to Support' drop-down menu. Thanks for supporting the ENVS Program!

Campus Events: Eat-In

Food For Thought: Students Bring Sustainable Agriculture to SFSU

by Ivy Anderson

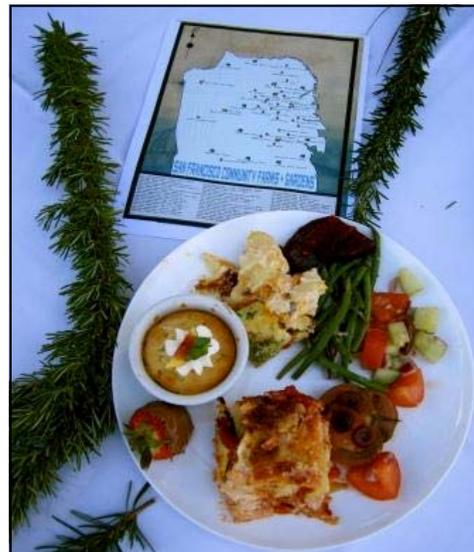
On November 4, 2010, over 120 students, faculty, and staff gathered together in the San Francisco State University Quad to enjoy an organic, locally sourced meal together. This first ever "Eat-In" (a play on the term "Sit-In") was conceptualized and organized by two San Francisco State Students: Davin Wentworth-Thrasher, an Engineering major and Project Coordinator of the campus Grounds department, and myself, Ivy Anderson, an Environmental Studies major and member of the ECO Students campus club.

My inspiration for the "Eat-In" came directly from my education at SFSU. The idea came after Hans Meihoefer, professor of Geography of Agriculture and Food Supplies, gave a particularly inspirational lecture about the importance of reclaiming locally autonomous food production. As I became more educated about the issue of sustainable agriculture and its global impacts, I became critical of the lack of sustainable and healthy food choices available on campus. The resources we have available are great - a farmer's market every Thursday, organic coffee at Café 101, a small community garden, and a host of supportive faculty and student organizations. However, I was convinced that we as a campus community deserved better, and that we were sitting on a well of untapped potential.

I dreamed of serving an all local, organic meal to students, faculty, and staff for an affordable price. The act of eating is easily taken for granted, but it is a daily opportunity to practice the ideals of ecological, social, and economic sustainability and equity. I hoped that the "Eat-In" would instill the idea that we deserve access to high-quality organic, local, and affordable food at S.F.S.U. on a daily basis for any and all to enjoy.

What began as a nebulous idea soon became a successful and impactful event. The process of organizing the "Eat-In" occurred with a level of support and ease that I did not initially expect. Davin and I worked with ECO Students and the Sustainability Coordinators of the campus and of Cesar Chavez Student Center to do the basic planning and outreach. All of the catering was carried out by the Vista Room, a fine dining restaurant located in Burk Hall which acts as a hands-on lab for dietetics and hospitality management students. The Vista Room put their normal operations on hold for the day in order to serve the local, organic, vegetarian meal. They were an indispensable resource and we will certainly continue working with them in the future.

The Eat-In occurred again in the Spring of 2011, with 150 attendees, and although I am graduating this semester, I have high



hopes that my fellow students will continue to work to build a culture of sustainability here at SFSU. Why don't we have a more visible and robust community garden? Why not serve local produce in the student center? Food is just one aspect of campus sustainability, and we need to set our sights high. These are all questions that deserve answers and action. Students should feel empowered to ask these questions and to demand meaningful answers.

I know that if I can turn my dream event into reality over the course of a semester, all of us environmental studies students are equipped with the power and tools necessary to make our campus a vision of vibrant sustainability.



The line of people waiting to Eat In.

A Note from your ENVS Student Representative
Meet Michelle Gallemore, your Fall 2011/Spring 2012 ENVS Student Representative. Michelle is an EVNS major, concentration in Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice. She transferred from Fresno City College to San Francisco State University in Spring 2011. Michelle is involved in Eco Students and is launching a Take Back the Tap campaign on campus in Spring 2012. You can meet with Michelle, to talk about your concerns as an ENVS major and to be informed about what is discussed at faculty meetings. Meeting day and times will be sent out within the general ENVS emails. If you are unable to attend and would like to still get in contact with Michelle, her email is mgallemo@mail.sfsu.edu.

Alumni News

Olivia Collins (ESSJ 2009)

Since graduating I saved up money for a 5 month environmental internship in India which took place in the fall and winter of 2010-11. I worked in a small village in Punjab, doing mostly environmental education. It was a grueling but enlightening trip. Upon returning In February, I looked for months for a job in my field with no luck. I took a restaurant job and recently pleaded with Seacology, a Berkeley non-profit that does island conservation world-wide, to take me in as a volunteer. I guess I got lucky because my timing was right and they have since taken me on with possibility of future part-time employment!!! So there is hope afterall :) I'm glad to see the program is still growing. I still think very fondly of my time at SFSU in the department of ENVS. In my opinion, some of the best professors in one of the best programs ever despite the commute from Oakland.

Albert Kochaphum (TUE 2009)

After I graduated I went to Bangalore, India on a "supposed" volunteer-ship, which ended up being a scam, beware of the name "Voluntary Service for Peace". However, through a stroke of chance and initiative, I met with a person from a legitimate NGO called CHF-International India which allowed me to express my interest in GIS and what I could do with it. After proving my GIS proficiency, I got a job with CHF-International India for about 10 months. There I did two major activities, 1) setup a geodatabase for census in a slum, and 2) mapped and digitized about 220 slums in Bangalore. During this time, engaged with a consulting firm, Alchemy Urban Systems,

that then took notice of my GIS skills, and when I had to leave India (due to visa issues), they contacted me to work for them. I then went back to Bangalore to work for the firm, Alchemy, for about 6 months. I got back to the United States around Spring of 2011 and have spent my time volunteering and am now applying to grad school for 2012, and look to the faculty and staff here at SF State as a great inspiration and resource! I have focused on Sustainable Regional Transportation in Asia for the Urban Poor. My end goal is to work in the realm of international development to foster equity and sustainability for low-income citizens in the world.

Taylor Nairn (NRMC 2009)

I graduated from SFSU with a B.S. in Environmental Science, with a concentration in Natural Resource Management and Conservation in 2009. Last Winter, I started working at the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, whose offices are on Crissy Field. I'm assistant for administrative duties, as well as their Ocean Climate Initiative, which develops strategies for climate monitoring and policy for the marine sanctuary.

Kyle Pfeiffer (ESSJ 2010)

I am currently working seasonally for the US Forest Service doing wild land fire fighting in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. This winter I will be getting my Dive Master certifications and working in the Caribbean. I like the seasonal lifestyle and will continue it. My plan is to continue working for the forest service and possibly do reef conservancy or just dive/travel in the offseason.

Becca Shelton (NRMC 2010)

I am currently a grad student working towards a Professional Masters of Science in Marine Biology through the Three Seas Program (Northeastern). Currently in Nahant, MA studying various marine subjects and scientific research diving. Will move to Panama in January and then Friday Harbor in March and then participate in a 6 month research internship TBD. I'm hoping to end up studying elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) and possibly scientific communication.

Bryan Ting (NRMC 2008)

Current Job Title: Regional Volunteer Manager and San Francisco Marketing Coordinator. Job prospects in community organizing dried up near graduation at the height of the crash at the end of 2008. I reinvented myself into an event planner and started interning at the Green Festival. I worked as an event consultant and various other jobs since and recently have been working full-time for the Green Festival recruiting and managing volunteers for the Los Angeles and San Francisco Green Festivals and on the ground/local marketing for the San Francisco festival.

Jacklyn Vargo (NRMC 2009)

I graduated 2009 with a concentration in Natural Resources and Conservation. I've worked a variety of places since then, such as California State Parks as a Snowy Plover Monitor, and at the YMCA as a childcare teacher, but after volunteering at a wildlife rehabilitation center, I was able to find my true calling. I currently am working as a Wildlife Technician with the SPCA and Humane Society, rehabilitating wildlife that the public or animal officers bring in.



Want to keep up with fellow alums? Check out our official ENVS Alumni Facebook page! On Facebook, search SFSU Environmental Studies Alumni.

Faculty News

Carlos Davidson, ENV5

I am on sabbatical this fall working with collaborators at U.C. Davis studying causes of population declines of the Cascades Frog in northern California. With a graduate student in biology I am running an experiment to see if exposure to low levels of the pesticide endosulfan makes Cascades Frogs more susceptible to the fungal disease associated with global frog extinctions. In addition I have been chairing the City of Pacifica's Climate Action Plan Task Force working to draft a Climate Action Plan - we are almost done with our proposed plan. I will back in the spring teaching Intro to Environmental Studies, Research Methods and Campus Sustainability.

Glenn Fieldman, ENV5

For the last year I've been very absorbed in what's turning out to be a large research project on corporate governance. The term not only refers to the specific laws (corporate law, financial law, and labor law) but also to the broader relations which, combined, constitute the environment in which corporations make decisions. Using the 'corporate governance' frame, I wrote a paper on the Deepwater Horizon accident for the International Relations Association annual convention last March—and got an immediate request from Ashgate, an academic publisher, to write a book proposal. I decided to write another couple of articles on corporate governance before doing a book proposal, and the first of these papers, on corporate ecological modernization, is nearly finished. Meanwhile, an article I wrote on climate adaptation was published in the summer of 2011 in the journal *Climate and Development*—and subsequently got a nice write-up from David Roberts of *Grist*, the online environmental news magazine. In other news, the Energy Strategy committee for the city of Brisbane, of which I'm a member, has been busy encouraging Brisbane residents to get the variety of rebates now available for home energy upgrades—insulation, energy efficient appliances, and double-paned

windows—before the funding expires. Every upgraded home means fewer CO2 emissions, so we've held a community energy forum and an 'Energy Ambassador Party' at which guests could see how a home energy audit works and how much a leaky home can be improved by energy upgrades. And, although I'm not much of an artist (as my students can attest from my classroom sketches) people said that my cardboard 'leaky house' exhibit for the Brisbane Community Festival got the point across—and I had a good time building it.

Joel Kassiola, Political Science

Joel is delighted to return to the Environmental Studies Program. After 16 years of being Dean of the (now-dissolved) College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and being the Coordinator of the ESSJ Concentration within ENV5, returning to the faculty of Political Science full-time means that he can devote his full attention and energies to advancing ESSJ and the ENV5 Program as a whole. In addition, returning to teaching and research full-time gives Professor Kassiola the opportunity to pursue his two main sources of professional rewards: teaching and research on China's environmental crisis. He will be able to teach more courses and to create new courses such as a new Politics in the Twentieth Century course (PLSI 353) that will focus on Neo-Liberalism as well as writing which is always a focus in Professor Kassiola's courses. On the research side, he has continued to focus on the environmental crisis in China by co-editing and contributing to a book on China's Environmental Crisis published by Palgrave Macmillan and co-edited with a colleague in Political Science. He just finished a chapter on Confucian Political Thought and the Environment for a volume to be published in the future on Western Political Theory and the Environment. He also published an article on Environmental Ethics and its power to save the world from environmental catastrophe for a Polish Philosophy journal and an entry in the new Sage Encyclopedia on green philoso-

phy and politics in China.

Professor Kassiola's new office is HSS 353 and he looks forward to meeting all ESSJ students and other ENV5 majors.

Kathy McAfee, Int'l Relations

I recently took part in two exciting conferences. "Nature Inc.", in July in Den Haag, brought international scholars to address the treatment of nature as a tradable commodity in global environmental policy. My talk was about how global carbon-offset markets can deepen inequalities without curbing total greenhouse-gas emissions. Selected papers, including mine, will comprise the Jan. 2012 issue of *Development and Change*. I gave a talk in Geneva in October at "Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social Dimension", organized by the UN Research Institute on Social Development. Mine is among the papers to be published in *Development* in 2012. Both events brought bigger-than-expected audiences and participants from many countries and involved lively debates. I learned a lot!

Jason Gurdak, Geosciences

I've been collaborating on the UNESCO project Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change (GRAPHIC), which strives to advance sustainable global groundwater resources in the face of climate change. We recently published an invited review paper on climate change and groundwater in the *Journal of Hydrology*. I was co-editor on the book *Climate change effects on groundwater resources: A global synthesis of findings and recommendations*, which we're officially launching in early 2012 at the World Water Forum in Marseille. Master student Amber Kuss (now at NASA Ames) published an excerpt from her thesis in *HydroVisions* about the effects of El Niño and other climate variability on groundwater levels in the Central Valley aquifer. Master student Michelle Newcomer is presenting her research at the

Faculty News, con't.

American Geophysical Union (AGU) fall meeting on recharge beneath low impact design (LID) features. LIDs are being installed on campus and around San Francisco to enhance infiltration and mitigate the effects of urbanization on stormwater.

Melissa K. Nelson, American Indian Studies

Nelson enjoyed a productive academic year 2010 - 2011 serving as the Anne Ray Resident Scholar at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, NM and is happy to be back at SFSU full-time this fall. While on her fellowship she completed four articles and essays by invitation including "The Future of Native Studies: A Modest Manifesto" *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, Volume 35, No. 1, Spring 2011 and "Red and Green: The Merging of the Indigenous and Environmental Movements and the Renewal of Traditional Ecological Knowledge" for *Green Fire Times* special issue on Native American Green/Indigenous Solutions. Nelson also made great progress on her book manuscript *Still Singing: The Eco-Cultural Revitalization of the Southern Paiute Salt Song Trail* and is in discussion with publishers. Nelson also completed a new documentary film, "Circle of Stories," co-produced with Philomath Films. Through the Cultural Conservancy, Nelson co-produced and hosts this new film honoring four remarkable Native American storytellers from the Four Directions. This film was just nominated for "Best Documentary Short" by the American Indian Film Institute. Nelson is also managing a multi-faceted Tribal Canoe Revitalization Project and plans to develop a course around this project involving Native and Western sciences and related fields. She is enjoying teaching a remarkable group of students in her AIS 520: "Before the Wilderness - American Indian Ecology" course.

Nina Roberts, RPT

Dr. Nina Roberts, Associate Professor of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism received a SFSU grant from the Community Service Learning Program, a unit within the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement for spring 2012. Funds have been awarded for the development and integration of community service learning components into the cross-listed class with the Environmental Studies Program called RPT/ENVS 640 "Recreation Use of National Parks and Protected Areas". Additionally, she and Dr. Tendai Chitewere, Liberal Studies, have co-authored a paper titled *Speaking of Justice: Exploring Ethnic Minority Perspectives of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area* published in a special issue focusing on environmental justice in a journal called *Environmental Practice*, December 2011. Nina is also working with an inter-agency team of professionals and scholars, led by the US Forest Service, on a federal transit planning grant that includes exploring ways to address the barriers that California's underserved populations face in pursuing their outdoor-recreation preferences.

Peter Palmer, Chemistry

Pete Palmer (Professor in the Chemistry Dept) published a manuscript on "Energy-Dispersive X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometry - A Long Overdue Addition to the Chemistry Curriculum" in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. He gave a plenary talk on FDA use of XRF to monitor foods, drugs, and other consumer products at the Denver X-Ray Conference, and he and his students gave 8 additional presentations over the past year. His group is currently working on a number of case studies involving the use of XRF to measure lead in soil, lead in Mexican candy products, and mercury in face cream.



A few photos from Spring 2011 Natural Resource Management class at Muir Woods (above) and Sequoia National Park (below).



Contact Us:

Environmental Studies Program SFSU
1600 Holloway Avenue, HSS 236 San
Francisco, California 94132
P 415-338-1149 F 415-338-2880
envs@sfsu.edu