



Message from the Director



It has been a busy and productive first year for me as director. The highlight has been working with our enthusiastic, committed and smart students. They are what made classes, major nights, career night, the career fair and a host of other activities a success and a pleasure. A number of our students won awards and honors (see below). We made progress on a number of fronts this year. Our curriculum reform proposal, the result of much hard work last year as well as this year, moved through four committees and will be taken up by the faculty senate first thing next fall (see below). We developed a five year hiring plan and are hoping to get approval for a search next year for a new faculty position in environmental policy and politics.

I would like to thank a number of people who helped me and the program this year.

Suzanne McNulty has been an extraordinary student assistant. She has initiated and run many of the key events we have had this year such as the career fair and career night, helped me on numerous other projects, and this Spring semester has kept the office running – amazing! Thanks to student assistants Yusef Milburn and Lawrence Torres who helped Suzanne and me. Yusef also helped update the web page and put together the newsletter. The ENVS steering committee, made up of Raquel Pinderhughes, John Hafernik, Karen Grove, Sheldon Gen, Melissa Nelson, Joel Kassiola, Sami Reist, Barbara Holzman, Jaime Kooser, Nancy Wilkinson, Nihal Oztek, Yusef Milburn, and Chad Pradmore did great work on curriculum and hiring issues. And our concentration advisors, Raquel Pinderhughes, Karen Grove, Matt La Force, Joel Kassiola, Sami Reist, and Barbara Holzman were there for students all year dispensing essential guidance. Finally, thanks to Deans Joel Kassiola and Sheldon Axler for supporting our program and special thanks to outgoing interim director Mike Vasey for answering a million questions.

Thank you!

Carlos Davidson

News & Events

Awards and Honors

This year we had an abundance of students receiving awards and honors. This year's ENVS Program Honoree is Deborah Meckler. Deborah is graduating this semester with a concentration in Natural Resource Management and Conservation and earned an SFSU amazing 3.97 GPA! She came back to school after getting her first bachelors degree in history in a previous life. The choice of honoree was not easy this year as there were many outstanding graduates with superlative grades: Kelly O'Dea, Gail Wechsler, Charlotte Ely, Scott Couture, Suzanne McNulty and Lauren Ramsey. All in all, we had 41 graduates this year and about 150 ENVS majors enrolled in the program.

Along with honoring academic achievement, we would like to honor the following students for their contributions to the environment. Suzanne McNulty received an Outstanding Student Leadership Award from the SFSU Office of Student Programs and Leadership Development. The award was for her great work with ECO-students, the environmental career fair and much much more. Charlotte Ely won a prestigious Morris Udall undergraduate scholarship in recognition of her academic excellence and environmental leadership potential. Charlotte's leadership skills are already in evidence in her work on campus composting – see below. Nihal Oztek and Holly Harrison contributed dedication and many hours of hard work to make the Career Fair a success. Valdete Cooper has continued to help, even after finishing her coursework. This spring she secured the receptacles for the campus-wide battery collection. Please share in giving our congratulations to all these students!

2006 Environmental Career Symposium and Internship/Volunteer Fair

The Environmental Career Symposium and Internship/Volunteer Fair was held on March 28, 2006. Over 35 non-profit, for profit, and government organizations were in attendance. It was estimated that more than 200 students from over 20 different majors participated. The overwhelming response from both employers and students was very positive. This event would not have been possible without the vision and leadership of Suzanne McNulty and the blood, sweat, and tears of all the students who gave their time and energy. Thank you to Deans Kassiola (BSS) and Sheldon Axler (Science and Engineering) for their financial support.

New curriculum on the way

We are hopeful that early next fall the faculty senate will approve our proposed new curriculum. If so it will go into effect right away. All students entering the program next fall and later will have to meet the requirements of the new curriculum. Students already enrolled in the program will have their choice of the curriculum in effect when they entered (so called "catalog rights") or the new curriculum (but you cant mix and match parts of the two curriculums). The new curriculum increases the opportunity for depth in the concentrations, and makes it easier to get through the program by removing seldom offered courses, and slightly reducing overall unit requirements. We will post the current proposal on the program website for everyone to see. However keep in mind that although passage by the Senate is likely, the proposal may not pass or it may pass with modifications.

Faculty Spotlight

Interviews and News on Faculty Participating in the ENVS Program



Glenn Fieldman

Why did you join SFSU and the Environmental Studies program?

I joined SFSU since 1990, mostly in the International Relations Department. I volunteered to teach an environmental studies class for the department when the professor who had taught it left in 1992. I had a long-standing interest in both international political economy and environmental issues, so the course was perfect for me. A few years later I saw a campus sign advertising a student/faculty meeting for the purpose of launching an Environmental Studies major. I attended that meeting--and many more! Helping to launch ENVS is one of the things I'm most proud of in my academic career.

Tell us about your research

I recently presented a paper at the International Studies Association meeting in San Diego called "Beyond Kyoto: Equity-based Strategies for Confronting Climate Change." In a world profoundly divided between rich and poor, we have to ensure that any strategy to reduce atmospheric carbon is fair to poor countries--that is, it must allow them room to develop so that they can improve living standards. Developing countries argue that the rich countries put most of the CO2 in the atmosphere, so the rich countries should bear the burden of cuts and costs (a logic that the leaders of the rich world refuse to accept). My paper reviewed several strategies for devising international climate arrangements that would honor this logic, and be fair.

Anyone who has taken one of your classes knows you like to read a lot. What book are you reading now, and what's it about?

I just finished Tim Flannery's new book called *The Weather Makers*. It's a very good treatment of the science of climate change, some of the historical highlights of climate change on Planet Earth, and the response of species and ecosystems to climate change, both in the fossil record and currently. It does a better job of explaining the connectedness of living things and physical processes than any other book I've read on climate change; it's a really "Gaian" view. Next is a book on global social movements, and there are whole stacks of library books on climate change politics and on U.S. foreign policy that I'm chewing my way through (but I took a time-out to read a bio of Jimi Hendrix).

What's the solution?

How many books would it take to answer that? Actually, I think we already know some of the elements of a solution; Wolfgang Sachs's 1997 book *GREENING THE NORTH* offers detailed examples of what a more sustainable society might look like. In broad terms, the solution is to understand the limits of our planet and commit ourselves individually and socially to live within them. I emphasize socially, because some of the solutions are out of the reach of individuals: individual behaviors are shaped by the design of our cities, for example--and city design in turn is partly a function of who has political power--whose voices do decision makers listen to? Arguably, in the U.S. private wealth shapes all kinds of public policy decisions, so I think that achieving sustainability cannot really happen without making changes to our political system that would give power back to the voters by taking the money out of politics, and that would open up the two-party system so that voters could

have some real choices. The "solution" for me, personally, is to ensure that I have done my best to contribute individually, academically, and politically to a solution.

Glenn Fieldman is a lecturer for Environmental Studies and the International Relations Department and regularly teaches ENVS 300 and IR 331. She can be reached at glenn@sfsu.edu.

Faculty News

Sheldon Gen

Assistant Professor of Public Administration and Political Science



Working with the Public Research Institute (PRI), Professor Sheldon Gen has completed the first phase of a 3-year, \$250,000 research contract with the SF Public Utilities Commission. The research looks at residents' perceptions of the wastewater system and preferences for its next 30 years' of development. He has also been awarded a research contract with SF Environment, looking at household environmental behaviors in San Francisco. His paper "Informing Environmental Policy Choices in a Market Economy: Promises, Pitfalls, and Lessons Being Learned in the West" has been accepted for the 3rd Sino-US International Conference for Public Administration in Beijing this summer.

Finally, he has also been named a Faculty Affiliate of the Public Research Institute and is developing a research project with PRI looking at the efficacy of public participation in environmental impact assessment.

Sheldon Gen teaches GEOG 652 Environmental Impact Analysis and ENVS 450 Environmental Law and Policy. He can be reached at sgen@sfsu.edu

Sudip Chattopadhyay

Associate Professor of Economics

Professor Chattopadhyay is currently working on an EPA-funded research project on Great Lakes water quality. The goal of the research is to assess the costs and benefits as well as policy recommendations for clean up of hazardous toxic wastes from Waukegan Harbor, Illinois. He found that the benefits of toxic cleanup and redevelopment of the lake front far outweigh the costs. The study got headline coverage in the Chicago Tribune and other newspapers. Sudip is hoping to present his research at the World Congress on the Environment, to be held in Kyoto, Japan this summer.

Sudip Chattopadhyay teaches ECON 550 Environmental Economics. He can be reached at sudip@sfsu.edu



News on Current Students and Alums

Anne Senter Earth System Science 2005

I am in my first year of the Hydrology graduate program at U.C. Davis. I am studying the relationship between salmon spawning and wood debris in streams. This summer will be my first season of field work mapping wood in the Mokelumne River for a 7 km reach near Lodi, CA. I will use a total station, GPS unit, digital camera, and tape measure to document exact locations, dimensions and descriptions of the wood from individual pieces to log jams. Working with professor, Greg Pasternack, I will use GIS and statistical analysis to look for relationships between salmon egg nests, wood locations, and stream habitat type.



Laura Shaw The Urban Environment 2003

I am an Operations Manager at Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington DC. Discovery Creek teaches children the benefits of being stewards of the environment. I am also training to be a docent at the National Botanic Garden. As for school, I'm in the process of looking into grad school in the Bay Area or DC!

Doria Robinson Humanities and the Environment



This year I have been working with the Watershed Project in Richmond as an Environmental Educator. I teach creek and marsh ecology as well as urban run-off and household hazardous waste to K-12 school kids from throughout the Bay Area. I also co-teach Teacher Workshops on curriculum development. Having been born and raised in Richmond, this has been a very meaningful experience. Many of the kids we visit get little or no science education. Most have never been to their local creeks or even to the Bay even though in some cases they live within walking distance of the Bay. I have been able to move kids from thinking marshes have something to do with marshmallows to kids being able to recognize native plants and talk about how urban run-off can affect their watershed. The light in their eyes and looks on their faces as they explore and take pride in their own watersheds is priceless!

Christopher Lockrem Environmental Sustainability & Social Justice

ECOstudents member since Fall 2005. I am an intern at the Sierra Club where I am doing work with the Community Choice Energy Alliance (CCA). Additionally, I am submitting an article to the International Relations Journal covering India's water policy, the effect it has on Bangladesh, and possible political/refugee border consequences that may come to pass.

¿Donde Esta?

As time goes on, sometimes we lose touch with friends and colleagues. Below are some ENVS alums we no longer have contact information for. If you've heard from these people, let us know: envs@sfsu.edu

- Taishi Duchicela, 2003
- Leilani Smith, 2002



ECOstudents

Food Composting and Waste Reduction Victory at Cesar Chavez

ECO-students has been working with the San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFDE) and the Cesar Chavez Student Center management to get the student center to divert its organic waste. Based on a garbage audit that ECOstudents conducted with SFDE on March 9, we learned that 75% of what the Student Center is sending to the landfill is actually organic and therefore compostable: food waste makes up 55% of that load, wax cardboard 7% and soiled food service paper containers, napkins, cups, paper towels from the bathrooms, etc. 13%. Diverting organic waste will save the Student Center money on its garbage bill, and it will drastically reduce what we are sending to the landfill.



ECOstudents envision diversion as a three phase process: The governing board just approved phase 1 in which the individual restaurants will throw their food scraps in green bins (garbage cans lined with compostable garbage bags) behind the counters. And the bathroom trash cans will become green bins to divert paper towels to composting. In phase 2, all the plastic, petroleum-based, food ware will be replaced with compostable forks, spoons, straws, to-go containers and coffee-cup tops. In phase 3, green bins will be placed in strategic locations on the Student Center floor, where San Francisco State students, faculty, and personnel can discard their napkins, food scraps, and compostable food-ware appropriately.

Campus Sustainability Teach-In

Efforts are already underway for a Fall 2006 The goal of the event will be to address the challenges and potential of working to making San Francisco State University a more sustainable campus. If you are interested in helping out please get in touch with Carlos or Suzanne.

Long Live the ECO Oak!

Thanks to the creative work of Yvette Michaud, ECOstudents now has its own official logo (as seen on the top left of this page). But Yvette didn't just stop with the logo. She worked to get ECOstudents t-shirts (using organic materials, and sweatshop-free labor), as well as putting together an awesome banner to proudly fly at all future ECOstudents events.

Coming this Fall...

As this year quickly winds down, ECOstudents is already underway with plans for the coming school year. Some of the events we have underway for next year include a beginning of the semester social, movie nights, and a Fall stuff swap. In addition to these new events, we will continue working on composting, battery recycling, and improving campus sustainability.