



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM 2012 NEWSLETTER

Message from the Director

Gerald Eisman, Director, School of Public Affairs & Civic Engagement

As the new Director of the School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE), it is my great pleasure to offer warm greetings to the students, colleagues, alumni, community partners and others who read our Environmental Studies Program Newsletter. It has been a challenging year for all of us - with budget cuts, university reorganization, and space reassignments - but I can faithfully report that we have come through it with renewed commitment to the ENVIS program, and we can now turn to looking at new opportunities to revitalize, strengthen and grow. Below I want to highlight some of the opportunities that are already emerging with a few comments from point of view of where we would like to go.

First, our undergraduate program is currently undergoing a curricular revision. Much of the revision is being driven by a new mandate from the CSU Chancellor's Office that all BA degrees provide a pathway for students to *complete the major in 45 or fewer units*. (There is a similar mandate concerning the size of BS degrees which we will have to address next year.) Currently, the ENVIS program offers three BA concentrations. The Environmental Sustainability & Social Justice concentration currently weighs in at 56-71 units, The Urban Environment at 56-68 units, and Humanities and the Environment at 57-72. So, you can see we have a challenge before us, but we have taken the opportunity to not only cut requirements but also to reexamine strengths and weaknesses of the program. Central to the new BA degree will be the elimination of the three concentrations and reorganization into a single BA degree with three emphases instead.

This will simplify the program which we hope to roll out for incoming students next year. (Existing students will be able to choose which program to follow.)

Second, our reorganization into PACE is already bearing fruit. The Public Administration program offers a Masters degree (MPA), the only graduate level degree in the four programs that make up PACE (Environmental Studies, Public Administration, Criminal Justice Studies, and Urban Studies and Planning). But our integration into a single School has encouraged us to think differently, specifically that the MPA is *the graduate degree of PACE*. And thus this year, Public Administration has developed a new curriculum that includes two new elective emphases, Criminal Justice Administration and Environmental Administration. Once approved the new program will provide an advanced degree opportunity for professionals involved in the environmental area.

Finally, the proximity to the Institute for Civic and Community Engagement is also opening opportunities for collaboration on community based projects. ICCE serves to connect faculty, students and staff of the university with community agencies who serve the public good and already underway are a number of projects in which the Environmental Studies community can participate.

So, as you can see we are moving forward. It is privilege to serve as Director, and I invite all of you to write to me with any ideas or opportunities that you would like us to consider.

Regards,
Jerry

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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.

2012 Feliz Scholarship Winner:



Lubomira Raykova

Lubomira's interest in environmental issues dates back to when she was a child in her native country, Bulgaria. During the cold war, Bulgarian industries relied on heavy toxic chemicals used in agriculture and manufacturing. Few laws if any existed to protect the waters, air and soil, which resulted in heavy toxic pollution of the natural systems. Nuclear power plants were built. Pollution and environmental degradation were immense. In 1986, The Chernobyl nuclear plant in nearby Ukraine exploded and the radiation from it affected many countries in the region, including Bulgaria. Cancer and birth defect rates skyrocketed during the next decade. Thus, it came as no surprise that the first movement to protest the old regime was, in fact, the environmental movement in Bulgaria. The first calls for change, the first protests and

organizing in the 1980's against the old system, came from a small group of intellectuals, poets, writers and scientists, who saw the need to preserve the natural resources and life and stop the ongoing pollution and environmental degradation. The political movement followed and joined the environmental protests. These themes and events were a part of Lubomira's life growing up and played a major role in shaping her views and values. Today, she is a full time student at SFSU, majoring in Environmental Studies, Natural Resource Management and Conservation, and hoping to graduate in December 2013. Lubomira likes to volunteer, to hike, to be outdoors and to spend time with her four-year old daughter, friends and family.

The ENVS Program would like to thank all the students who applied for this scholarship, it was an impressive group of applicants. We would also like to thank those who served on the scholarship selection committee: Glenn Fieldman, Carlos Davidson, and Gerald Eisman.

2011-2012 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 Cory Starbird Singer.



Cory S. Singer was born and raised in California where she spent much of her free time as a child playing outdoors, first in the Sierra Nevada and then in Monterey Bay and Big Sur. Her time outdoors fostered a deep appreciation for the natural environment and as she grew older she felt a strong need to be involved in conservation efforts. Cory transferred to SF State in the fall of 2009 where she became highly interested in ecology. While at SF State she worked as a Teacher's Assistant for the Environmental Studies Department and hosted a symposium for interdisciplinary conservation. Cory has also volunteered for the Wild Equity Institute and has been working with a SF State researcher on amphibian conservation since the winter of 2010. Since graduating in January of 2012, Cory has been working as a biological technician for an environmental consulting firm where she is able to apply the knowledge gained through her education at SF State. Cory will be returning to SF State in the fall of 2012 to begin the Master's program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology and to continue her work with amphibians. Her thesis work will be funded by a research grant that was awarded to her by Save the Redwoods League.

Faculty Spotlight

An Interview with Raquel Pinderhughes, Professor of Urban Studies & Planning

by Michael Zambrano, ENVS Student Assistant



Raquel Pinderhughes is Professor and Chair of the Department of Urban Studies & Planning, and is the advisor for the Urban Environment concentration in ENVS. Raquel has been teaching at San Francisco State since 1991. She earned her degree in Urban Sociology with a focus on Urban Planning from the Graduate Center of New York.

MZ: What inspired you to be involved with Urban Planning?

RP: My inspiration comes from the fact that I grew up in a community plagued by environmental and social problems. From an early age I wanted to try and ensure the improvement of people's quality of life, especially in communities like the one I grew up in. I also was a part of a family that was very active in trying to make the world better. My father was part of the union movement and my mother was very active in the social justice and peace movement. I grew up in the period of the Vietnam War, Apartheid, and the Civil Rights Movement which inspired me and others to create change.

MZ: Could you tell us about some work you have done with Van Jones and Green Jobs?

RP: Van Jones and I were involved in a movement to ensure that low-income people and communities would benefit from the transition to a more sustainable society. We agreed that if we did not intervene as a social movement then the green economy benefits could potentially be accrued to higher income communities almost exclusively. My goal in my work is to ensure that low-income people get the training, skills

and information they need to understand and participate in the transition to a more sustainable, healthy and just economy. In this way communities can receive wages that support families, which will then lead to occupational opportunities that will ensure they do not get stuck in low-end jobs. It is also important that these people participate in the improvement of the quality of life for those in their communities. With that said, decision makers can potentially help us with the implementation of policies that will make it harder for gentrification to occur. This is a very holistic and comprehensive approach to improving the quality of life for low-income people and it should not be understood as providing people with entry level jobs, which could be a problematic understanding. We are trying to level the playing field, as Van would say. I am not sure if we will get there, however, the goal is that by improving the people's access to skills and knowledge you empower them and enable them to move in the world in ways that are different than they would if they didn't have that knowledge and set of skills.

MZ: With your expertise and knowledge how do you feel that you give back to your students and community?

RP: I feel like I give back every single day. I have organized my entire working and activist life around students and around young people. Through teaching I give my students skills and knowledge to participate in the world. I inspire my students to be involved and understand that collectively we can have a tremendous amount of impact. I try to give students an optimistic and positive view of

the world. I also try to ensure that students are put into situations where

they have the maximum amount of responsibility and use their skills to their full potential. As the chair of the department I use this position to help students to solve problems. Many students come to me with barriers and my job is to help them overcome those barriers and I take that very seriously. I try to connect students with one another to build strong bonds and give them assignments that have a great impact and will contribute to the world in direct ways. Lastly, I educate my students about job opportunities and higher education in their desired fields. I feel it is very important to try and maintain close contact with my students.

MZ: Do you have any special people who have inspired you in the work you do today?

RP: I have been inspired by many different people over the course of a lifetime. I was very inspired by my parents who were social justice activists at the core and who very much communicated those ideas and values to me. I am inspired by my husband and my children who exemplify social justice in their own lives. Lastly I am very inspired by my students at San Francisco State who truly demonstrate the desire to give back to the places that they came from and those who are going to school to primarily make the world a better place.

Donate to Environmental Studies

We use donation money to support a variety of Environmental Studies related projects. In the last few years funds have been used to support student organized events and to provide partial scholarships for students to attend conferences. 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, go to envs.sfsu.edu/donateENVS. 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!

Local Events: 2012 Bioneers Conference

This October the Environmental Studies program was able to offer passes to 15 SFSU students for the 2012 Bioneers Conference in San Rafael. This conference is an acclaimed national event where leaders and citizens come together to connect about social and ecological diversity and transformation. Here is what some of our students had to say about their experiences at the conference:

"The conference was very interesting. There was a lot of positive energy and there were some really incredible speakers. I was able to meet Annie Leonard, author of *the Story of Stuff* which was absolutely great. Many of the speakers were very motivating and its nice to be around such innovation, great energy, and passionate individuals. It was a great experience and I really appreciate the ENVS department for letting us share this experience."

-Sharon Daraphonhdeth



"The Bioneers conference was an amazing experience! it was very inspiring to hear so many great speakers talk about current relevant issues. I enjoyed a lot to be able to share my environmental concerns among like minded people that were very enthusiastic about making a change in the world!"

-Rigoberto Rodriguez



Bill McKibben was everywhere there. In ENVS 690 we are reading *Deep Economy* by McKibben which is an excellent and informative book on the dysfunction of society and loss of community and how to reclaim society from an over-dose of hyper-individualism. Seeing the author speak forcefully about the need to act now because it will soon be too late to rectify the negative

impacts of the economy on the environment, the idea of finite resources and sinks and how that shapes our lives was amazing. McKibben is also in charge of 350.org - his t-shirt publicizes it. Thanks for the invite.

-Jade S.

This conference takes place annually and we highly recommend that students attend if they are able. It is a great event with plenty of educational and networking opportunities. For more information, please see the Bioneers website at www.bioneers.org.



Many thanks to Jade for the photos!

ENVS Career Night

In October six alums returned to campus to discuss environmental careers with a crowd of majors. A big thanks to Andrea Deleon, Recycling Specialist, Cascadia Consulting; Eric Rutledge, Administrative Assistant, Coastside Land Trust, Ejan Petrie, Fisheries Technician, Dept. of Fish and Game - Ocean Salmon Project, Ashley Malyszka, Contract Organizer, 350.org, Winona Azure, Editor and Blogger, Akvo Foundation, and Johan Alfsen, Training Director, Quick Mount PV. And thank you to Mariko Hingston, Career Counselor, SFSU Career Center who joined the alums in answering job and career questions. The strongest message to come out of the evening was the importance of internships. Five of the six alums said they got their jobs as a result of the internships they did as majors! We hope to hold this type of event each school year. Alumni interested in participating are more than welcome and we encourage all current students to attend, especially those approaching graduation.

Alumni News

Each year we ask alumni to send updates to include in the newsletter so fellow alums and current students can see where the ENVS degree has taken them since graduating from SFSU. This year we got a great response. ENVS alumni are doing amazing things across the country and the world. Thanks to all who contributed!

Casey Batchelder (NRM, 2008)

For the past 4 years since graduating, I have been a Park Ranger for both the US Forest Service and US Bureau of Reclamation. Currently I am a S.C.E.P. student at New Melones Lake working towards my Master of Science in Recreation at CSU East Bay. A few of my job responsibilities include, shift leading, fee program manager, natural resource manager, camp host coordinator, entrance station coordinator, scheduling and overseeing and training seasonal park rangers.

Maria Cevallos (NRM, 2011)

Since I left SFSU, it has been really hard to find a job with my major, even though I have a BS in ENVS. Experience counts a lot in the real world so I have to start from somewhere, and the best way is to get an internship and then work my way up. After 6 months of unemployment I got an internship with NPS.

Olivia Collins (ESSJ, 2009)

I interned in India for 6 months, doing environmental work. Then volunteered at Seacology in Berkeley throughout 2011-2012, worked hard to save money, and am now going to grad school, back in my home town, to do an environmental assessment master's in Montreal, at Concordia University.

JR Earnest (HUM, 2011)

I'm currently working as a park ranger at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park here in San Francisco. Becoming a park ranger has been a goal of mine for a long time and was essentially what I wanted to do after school. I did an internship at the park as a seasonal position which then led to a temporary position while I finished my de-

gree, which then led to the permanent position I now have. It's been a crazy, and usually fun, ride getting here and I couldn't have done it without the people at SFSU. I hope everyone in the department is doing well!

Aaron Echols (NRM, 2010)

Since graduating from SFSU in January 2010, I had a dream of walking from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Crest Trail and embarked just a few months later in April. Upon completing the 5-month journey, I got my first job as seasonal Assistant Preserve Manager with the Center for Natural Lands Management working on 15 different land preserves all over Riverside and Orange Counties. After my term, I moved to San Luis Obispo to work as a Restoration Specialist with the SLO Land Conservancy, another 6-month seasonal position. I am currently working with Channel Islands Restoration as their Invasive Plant Technician where I spend 5-day tours on the Channel Islands, though I am primarily stationed on Anacapa Island.

Jen Eiden (ESSJ, 2011)

Two months after I graduated from SFSU, I left my job at Victoria's Secret and started working as a Veterinary Receptionist for Redwood Veterinary Hospital in Vallejo, CA, and have now been employed there for close to a year. I moved to Walnut Creek in September and have been happily living there ever since. I am currently hard at work every day looking for a job that utilizes my degree to the fullest. I hope to be working in the environmental or social justice field in the near future and plan to take advantage of any opportunity that comes my way.

Mackenzie Greene-Powell (ESSJ, 2010)

At the beginning of this year, I switched jobs and I am now the coordinator of a full length training program for 20 youth from Burma. This program, the Network for Environment and Economic Development (<http://www.need-burma.org/>) is a model farm and training center where over 10 months the students learn a variety of subjects such as Economics,

Environmental Science, Sustainable Agriculture, Renewable Energy, Appropriate Technology (These awesome mud-brick houses using recycled wood!), Community Organizing and Community Development among many others. With the current change of the political situation in Burma, the country faces an unprecedented rush of multinational companies investing in this "under-developed" market. The next five years and how this mass of foreign investment is managed, sustainably or not, will have a huge impact on the future of the people, their conflict and the environment in Burma for decades.

Since graduating from the ENVS program at SFSU I've found that working abroad, particularly with environmental issues in Asia, has been an incredible experience. The best way to prevent the environmental problems America experienced is to push for a more sustainable development path before a country invests fully in non-sustainable technology. The fact that I majored in Environmental Studies with a focus on Social Justice is amazing because that is exactly the work I am doing now!

Sorry that was longer than a "short paragraph" but I'm proud of the work and thankful to the SFSU ENVS program for leading me in this direction!

Liz Holland (ESSJ, 2010)

Following graduation in Spring 2010, I moved back home to Los Angeles and took an internship in the Environmental Health & Safety department at a large manufacturing company. I did this until November when I went on a 3 week long trip to Europe where I visited Italy and France. In May 2011 I started work as the Community Recycling Coordinator at a small waste company in Compton. I educate Compton residents about how to properly recycle and help businesses set up recycling programs. In August I moved to Denver, CO to start a new adventure. I am currently looking for a position in the sustainability/environmental field and am excited to be living in a place that is very open to the green movement.

Alumni News, con't

Deborah Meckler (NRM, 2006)

As an older grad (late 50's), I spent a year looking for work, finally found a job with a DC-based environmental consulting firm working on EIS's for military base closures. Left there when they closed a local office. Got a job with a non-profit land trust, worked in land stewardship. Recently lost that as a result of the land trust's financial troubles. I still hope to work with them on a contract basis to start a green burial cemetery.

Ejan Petrie (TUE, 2012)

Not much has happened since I left school. I'm looking for a permanent position with a state or federal environmental regulatory agency. In the meantime I'm working for Cal Fish and Game as part of the Ocean Salmon Project, which is aimed at increasing populations of King Salmon along the California coast. I observe commercial salmon offloading, take data, measure, and cut the heads off of hatchery tagged salmon, which are missing their adipose fin. The salmon have microscopic tags in their heads, which are read under a microscope at Fish and Game's Santa Rosa lab. From the tags, we can tell which broad stock the fish came from, which hatchery they came from, how much they grew since they were released, and how far they migrated. Most of the Environmental Scientists that work for Fish and Game have paid their dues by holding similar positions as Scientific Aids or Fisheries Technicians.

Clemens Roessner (NRM, 2011)

After graduating from SFSU last spring, I moved to London to pursue a Msc. degree in Environmental Management at King's College. I will graduate this fall and am currently applying for jobs in environmental consulting. I hope that my career will bring me back to San Francisco one day...

Eric Rutledge (NRM, 2011)

Great news from an ENVS NRM Class of 2011 alumnus: I just accepted an offer as an Administrative Assistant at the Coastside Land Trust in Half Moon

Bay! The mission of the CLT is to preserve the open space along the San Mateo County coastline. I interned with them my last semester at SF State for the internship graduation requirement. I have been continuously employed in the NRM field since graduating. Thank you to all the professors and staff of the ENVS program for an outstanding education! Another ENVS alumni success story!

Laura Shaw (TUE, 2003)

I finished the ENVS program in 2003 and it has set me up for a world of opportunities. First, I moved to WDC and completed an internship at Discovery Creek Children's Museum of Washington where I taught environmental education to children. This internship set me up with a position at the Museum in Operations Management then I transitioned into wanting to learn more about accounting. I then became the Staff Accountant at American Rivers for the next two years. At the turn of the economy in 2008, I decided to move back to the Bay and get my MBA at Mills. In the program, I interned at One PacificCoast Bank where I conducted their Community Impact Assessment for their borrowers. Working in a banking environment peaked my interest in financial services. Through support of the Financial Women's Association of SF coupled with my interest in Corporate Social Responsibility, I decided to enter the financial services industry because it makes the most impact on society. I hope to transition into Sustainable Agribusiness lending in the years to come in order to positively impact our future food resources. The degree in ENVS created the beginning of a wonderful path and has always given me a holistic view of society and different ways I can positively impact society. I continue to participate in urban gardening, maintain a strong interest in environmental economics and give back to the community through Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship where I teach high school students how to write business plans.

Marissa Speer (HUM, 2010)

I spent two months this spring in the

western Appalachians apprenticing with two practicing herbalists on a land project about an hour NE of Asheville, NC. I helped them wildcraft, garden, make tinctures, salves and flower essences, prepare for an herb fair where they sold potted plants and prepared plant medicine, as well as with other land & house projects. All the houses are built by folks who started the land project using natural building techniques. It is off the grid with some solar power, composting toilets, and abundant spring water. The plants they use for medicine are mostly wildcrafted from the land where they live or surrounding areas rather than cultivated, though we did grow some herbs with veggies in a few gardens. I plan to continue my study of plant medicine in a more formal school as my next step with the goal of establishing my own practice.

Jamaica Thacker (ESSJ, 2008)

After graduating, I stayed on as the Green Cleaning Specialist for the Custodial Department at SFSU, then decided to travel to South East Asia for 3 months. Traveling was a great experience but when I returned, I returned to a slow economy and was unemployed for a while and then did temporary work to stay afloat. About a year after returning from South East Asia, I landed an internship at the City of Hayward as the Schools Recycling Coordinator. The internship was supposed to last a year, but I was offered the opportunity to stay longer. Without my extra-curricular activities at SFSU, I wouldn't be where I am today. All of my experience working in the field of my interest on campus and volunteering as an Eco Student at the Student Center, implementing the front of the house compost program, definitely paid off and gave me the experience, knowledge and confidence to work in the field of recycling. I am happy every day I go to work because I do what I love. I am humbled by the thought that I am able to work in the field that I went to college for, SFSU was a good investment. Thanks to all the staff and faculty in the Environmental Studies Program!

Faculty News

Carlos Davidson, ENVS

I am teaching a new course this semester which I am really enjoying - ENVS 224 Research Methods for Environmental Studies. On the research front, I have started a new project looking at climate "refuges" from amphibian population declines in California. In the tropics studies have found that some declining species are surviving in their driest and hottest sites. I am studying whether the same pattern may hold in California. My research on pesticide residues in Cascades frogs in northern California was published this fall in the journal *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry*. I continue to work with faculty from the University Sustainability Committee on the new SFSU sustainability general education requirement which will come into effect in 2014.

Glenn Fieldman, ENVS

It's widely acknowledged that the workings of capitalism as a political-economic system have changed profoundly over about the last thirty years. The inauguration of the Reagan administration in 1980 is usually used as the starting point of these changes, although they actually began somewhat earlier than that, in the 1970s. The change that gets much of the attention is the relationship between government and private corporations; it's become much harder politically for government to regulate private activity; even the existing regulatory laws and agencies (like the EPA) are being challenged. But other changes have also occurred; I'm especially interested in the ways that the internal decision-making mechanisms of corporations have changed. Since the 1980s corporations have been 'financialized' or reoriented to 'maximize shareholder value'—that is, to increase profits that can be paid to shareholders in the form of dividends, and to appreciate the value of their stocks, which rewards shareholders when they sell the stock. My research suggests that benefits to shareholders have come at the cost of society: financialized corporations invest less in environmentally beneficial innovation than they otherwise would; layoffs, union busting and inadequate worker training have increased the environmental risks of activities like deepwater

drilling; and corporations bent on maximizing shareholder value have become more resistant to government oversight and regulation. In 2011 I presented a paper at the International Studies Association annual convention on financialization and environmental risk, and recently submitted an article on financialization and corporate innovation to the journal *Environmental Politics*.

I was recently reappointed by the Brisbane City Council to the city's Open Space and Ecology Committee, and last spring I was asked to serve a second term as chair. Brisbane is located on the lower slopes of ecologically important San Bruno Mountain, which has significant remnants of relatively intact coastal grassland and scrub ecosystems and is habitat for three federally listed endangered species and the host plants on which they depend. The committee educates the public about threats to the mountain ecosystem, such as off-trail bicycle use and invasive plants, and makes recommendations to the Council concerning, for example, maintenance of city-owned open space. Brisbane's city limits extend all the way to San Francisco Bay, and developers have plans for a large piece of bayside property that was once used for industrial purposes and part of which was used as a landfill. In accord with California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the city has commissioned an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed development. The Open Space and Ecology Committee proposed a number of questions that the report ought to address, such as the potential for renewable energy generation and wetlands restoration on the site, an assessment of ways to remediate and/or contain 'legacy' toxic chemicals, and the transportation impacts if the developers' proposal is accepted. The committee is now preparing to review the finished report, which is due to be released by December 2012. The city council's decision on development in the 'Brisbane Baylands' is one of the most significant decisions it will ever make, so we want to make sure that they're as fully apprised as possible about the potential environmental impacts of the project. It's exciting to be part of that.

Logan Hennessy, Liberal Studies

I have a publication coming out in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* on the transformation of indigenous environments during the cooperative socialist period in Guyana (early '70s through mid '80s). I argue that the government's policies spatially and ethnically homogenized the territory and identity of distinct Amerindian peoples. Seeking to exploit natural resources, the ensuing development projects disenfranchised this diverse population both during this time period and through legacies of central dominance. I am also finishing another publication on the farce of "sustainable mining." Looking at both large- and small-scale mining projects, I expose the logical fallacies of this concept and argue that sustainability in this sector requires significant interdisciplinary cooperation and research along with the respect for free, prior, informed consent of affected communities. Finally, this past summer I attended the Rio+20 Earth Summit to continue exploring the role of indigenous peoples in UN environmental policy making. I am writing a new article on this work, which started with the run-up to the UNFCCC Copenhagen round of negotiations in 2009.

Joel Kassiola, Political Science

In June, 2012, I travelled to Beijing, China to attend a Conference on China's Environmental Governance, and to give a paper on my most recent research topic: Confucian Green Theory, where I try to use Confucian thought to generate a green theory that can sustainably guide China's development. The Conference was held at the country's Astronautic and Aeronautic University, Beihang University, which had airplane and missile shells on campus along with the Olympic Weightlifting Stadium and outdoor exercise park. It was a most interesting venue and surprisingly beautiful campus where 50% of the campus is wooded park. It was a fascinating conference, where a representative of China's Ministry of Environmental Protection gave a paper on the Ministry's next five-year environmental protection policies, on a lovely and impressive campus, with warm hosts.

Faculty News, con't.

Kathy McAfee, International Relations

There's a lot of impressive new research and policy debate about the connections between the global food, financial, and climate crises. After the US mortgage meltdown, many investors shifted their money into food commodities and land. This, along with biofuel subsidies, has contributed to big jumps in world food prices and consequent increases in hunger. Land-grabbing by corporations, speculators, and governments, who buy or lease land in the tropics and sub-tropics for export crops, is forcing more farmers and indigenous communities off their lands in Latin America, South and Southeast Asia, and Africa. Added to this is green grabbing. Certain big environmental NGOs and for-profit investors are taking control of forested land not just to conserve it but to sell the ecosystem services of those forests in carbon-offset markets and biodiversity banks.

My own research on such schemes indicates that they don't meet either their development or their environmental goals. But, more promising approaches are being developed by rural social movements and their allies among

scholars, other environmental NGOs, some governments, and the UN.. Two of my articles about the problems with 'market solutions' to environmental crisis were published in this year: (2012) The Contradictory Logic of Global Ecosystem-Services Markets, *Development and Change* 43:1 and (2012) Nature in the Market-World: Ecosystem Services and Inequality, in *Development* 55:1, 25-33. I'm working on a new article about the conflicts at the recent Rio+20 Earth Summit over market-based 'green-economy' strategies and alternatives to them. I've given talks about these issues on other campuses and at the Association of American Geographers, International Studies Association, and Latin American Studies Association conferences, as well as an international conference on land grabbing and a conference on Climate Change and Development at UC Santa Cruz.

Nina S. Roberts, Recreation, Parks, & Tourism (RPT)

I have been exploring ways to address transportation barriers that California's under-resourced populations face in pursuing outdoor recreation opportuni-

ties on parks and public lands. I am working with an interagency team of land managers as well as scholars from Chico State and CSU at Channel Islands. This federal transit planning grant was awarded by the US Forest Service. Additionally, the fall of 2012 was filled with a variety of conference presentations relating to my work with cultural diversity, park visitation, and community engagement. I presented at such forums as Black Environmental Thought, the Nat'l Recreation and Park Association, and the Association for Experiential Education. I am in the process of working on a manuscript with my RPT colleague, Dr. Jackson Wilson, in collaboration with Drew McAdams, Chief of Programs of the SFSU Pacific Leadership Institute. This paper is based on a study reflecting lessons learned from a research collaboration between academics and an adventure challenge course practitioner. As a keynote presenter at many state and national conferences, I have recently been invited to be the opening keynote at the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education conference in April 2013.

ECOSTudents

ECOSTudents (Environmentally Concerned Organization of Students) is the only SICC recognized, environmentally-focused student organization at SF State. Our goal is to educate peers about current environmental and social justice issues. We work on campus, in the San Francisco community, and with national organizations to achieve these goals. One of our past campaigns was Take Back the Tap, which informed students about issues surrounding bottled water use and secured the purchase and future installation of water bottle refill stations around campus. This semester you might have seen us supporting Campus Sustainability Day with a Scavenger Hunt that informed students about the various areas on campus that exhibit sustainable practices and encourage sustainable behavior, including the Bike Barn, bios-wales, and the recently established community garden behind Hensil Hall. In the future you will find us hosting an Earth Day celebration, a Bike to School Day, and hopefully, student-driven campaigns. We encourage all students, of all different majors, to join us on Tuesday evenings from 5-6PM in the Cesar Chavez Student Center, Rosa Parks Room E, for our weekly meeting. For more information regarding these meetings, our group, projects, or campaigns, please contact our Communications Coordinator at sfsuecostudents@gmail.com. In addition to that, don't forget to catch us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/SFSUECOSTUDENTS>. You can also Twitter us or look for our postings on the Student Life at SFState Facebook page. There are many ways to get involved with ECOSTudents, so please contact us with your interest!