

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

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## CHAIR'S CORNER.....

Hello from our new home, Natural Science Building 2 (AKA—the trailer) in the parking lot overlooking Wagoner Hall. We have settled into our new digs and are teaching classes here as usual. We are a bit tight for space (we call it cozy) but we will survive until the renovation of Friday Hall is done. For those of you who remember Friday Hall, it is undergoing major changes. From the outside nothing looks different but inside what you remember is gone. I recently went on a tour of the building and both first and second floors are now one big room. No offices, no labs, no bathrooms, no walls—nothing, just a big room at this point. The project manager says it is on schedule and with no major disasters should be done by this October or November. This means we may be in our new space by next spring. Keep your fingers crossed (we are) that they will be done on time.

As you can see from this issue, the EVS department is a busy place. We are in the process of hiring another faculty member to start this fall. This search is going well and we will have a coastal management/policy specialist on board this fall. We are also welcoming Michael Voiland to the department. Mike is the current North Carolina Sea Grant director and has been given an appointment in our department as a visiting research scientist. Mike has agreed to teach classes for us on a periodic basis and will join our faculty when he leaves his position at Sea Grant. We are thrilled to have both of these new positions.

New space and faculty will allow us to offer a wider range of classes for our current students and to implement the graduate program. Along with new classes we have been given an endowed scholarship for undergraduates which starts this fall. This was an unexpected but very welcome surprise and we look forward to awarding this to our outstanding undergraduate students. Jeff Hill has nearly finished our proposal to establish a graduate program in EVS. We are looking for approval of the proposal and to start the program in the fall of 2008.

This is an exciting time to be in the EVS program. We are growing and changing almost daily it seems. I am very proud of the accomplishments of our outstanding faculty and students. Please let us know what you are doing and we will pass it along in the newsletter to the other alums.

*Jack C. Hall*



Photo Taken by Brian Germick



A very Faustian choice is upon us: whether to accept our corrosive and risky behavior as the unavoidable price of population and economic growth, or to take stock of ourselves and search for a new environmental ethic.

### **E. O. Wilson**

## *New Scholarship*

We are happy to announce the establishment of The William Burr Scholarship in Environmental Studies. The scholarship is due to the generosity of philanthropists Mark Griffis and Dave Robertson, Wilmington residents. The first award will be given in the Fall 2007, a minimum amount of \$1,100. The EVS Dept. will convene a committee to select the recipient. This is a merit scholarship; the recipient must have a GPA of 3.0.

Department Chair, Jack Hall, is quoted as saying "This scholarship will allow the Department of Environmental Studies, for the first time, to reward our current high quality students and to attract new students to our program. We are very excited for our students and our program."

## *EVS Speaker Series*

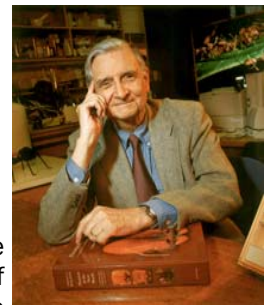
### **E.O. Wilson, "The Future of Life"**

Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7 pm, Kenan Auditorium

Presented by UNCW Presents, Honors Scholars and Environmental Studies Department

Edward O. Wilson is one of the most highly respected scientists in the world today. Hailed as "the new Darwin" by Thomas Wolfe, and one of "America's 25 Most Influential People" by TIME Magazine, he has twice received the Pulitzer Prize. Considered by many to be the father of the modern environmental movement, he has made enormous contributions to the field of conservation. Today he continues entomological and environmental research at the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Tickets are free to UNCW students, faculty and staff; \$7 public. Call Kenan Box Office 910.962.3500 or 800.732.3643.



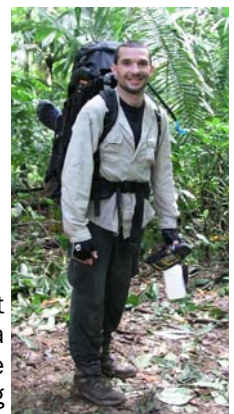
### **Sam Meacham, Director of CINDAQ A.C.**

#### **"Exploring the Uncharted Underwater Caverns of the Yucatan Peninsula"**

Wednesday, March 14, 2007 at 7 pm, Dobo Hall, Room 134

Presented by the Environmental Studies Department

Sam Meacham is the Director of CINDAQ A.C., a Mexico-based non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the freshwater resources of Quintana Roo through exploration, scientific study and education. He is also the Director of Scientific and Educational programs for the award winning ecotourism company Alltournative. Originally from Austin, Texas, Sam has lived in Quintana Roo for the past 12 years. As a cave diver, Meacham has maintained a passionate determination to understand the complex dynamics of the Yucatan Peninsula's karst aquifer, as well as the people affected by it.



# Welcome

## Welcome

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Michael P. Voiland, Executive Director of the North Carolina Sea Grant Program, as a Research Associate Professor in our department. Dr. Voiland has been director of Sea Grant since July 2006. He received his Ph.D. from State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse; field of study—Natural Resource Management. He brings with him vast experience in state and federal environmental management and policy as well as a broad scientific background in physical sciences.

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## Master's Degree Program

Breaking news on the Master's degree in Environmental Studies. The Environmental Studies Department, in conjunction with the Graduate School, has received a grant from the Sloan Foundation to fund the development and implementation of the program. The grant was funded at the level of \$29,500 which will significantly help the department in its efforts to create a high quality graduate program. Planning for the program is continuing with the start date anticipated to be in the fall of 2008. For further information, please contact Jeffery Hill at hillj@uncw.edu or 910.962.3264.

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## Grants/Research

*Dr. Jamie Rotenberg's* article "**Ecological Role of a Tree (*Gmelina Arborea*) Plantation in Guatemala: An Assessment of an Alternative Land Use for Tropical Avian Conservation**" was published in *The Auk*, Vol. 124, No. 1, Jan. 2007.

*Dr. John Taggart* has completed an article entitled "**Management of Feral Horses at the North Carolina National Estuarine Research Reserve**" and will be submitted to the *Natural Areas Journal* this month. He has recently served as a judge for the New Hanover County Soil and Water Conservation District stewardship development awards presented on January 25. Dr. Taggart was also an evaluator for 14 state proposals submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation programs for FY 2008 funding. He is currently serving on two committees: Division of Parks and Recreation Research, and NC Natural Heritage Program.



*Drs. Hill and Buerger*, in conjunction with Dr. James Herstine, Department of Health and Applied Human Sciences, are working on a grant funded by the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. The focus of the grant is threefold: 1) to perform a baseline inventory of environmental impacts caused by visitor use on Buckridge, Bald Head Woods and Bird Island Coastal Reserves; 2) survey visitor use on Currituck Banks, Rachel Carson and Masonboro National Estuarine Research Reserves and Bird Island Coastal Reserve; and 3) to develop an interpretive trail in Bald Head Woods Coastal Reserve in conjunction with Dr. Hill's Environmental Education and Interpretation students and Dr. Buerger's Advanced Natural Resource and Wildland Management students.

*Dr. Hall and Bob Cutting* submitted an article entitled "**Requirements for a Workable Intern/Practicum Program in the Environmental Sciences: Experience for Careers and Graduate School**" to *The Journal of Geoscience Education*. They were recently notified another article they wrote and was co-authored with Dr. Cahoon in Biology, was published in the book *Environmental Engineering & Economics*. The article is entitled "**Property Rights: Generators versus Receptors**".

## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

### Summer 2006

Allen, Aimee Lynne  
 Bevill, Aaron Samuel  
 Dinkins, Ashley Elizabeth  
 Floyd, Nancy Elizabeth  
 Good, Cecilia A.



### December 2006

Anderson, Jamie Mikaela  
 Castleberry, Gabriel Lee  
 Cone, Robert William  
 Cross, Charles Evans  
 Dawson, Braxton Bragg  
 Gordon, Andrew G.  
 Himberger, Paul Andrew  
 Huffman, Steven Andrew  
 Humber, Holleigh Nicole  
 lery, Brittany Marie  
 Little, Thomas Stark

Lundy, Burrows Taylor  
 Merritt, Charles Stewart  
 Milles, Donnarie Paige  
 Morris, Kathryn Ruth  
 Noval, Rosanna Christine  
 Pait, Karen Elizabeth  
 River, Brandy Lee  
 Rogers, Adrienne M.  
 Shoemaker, Sally Elizabeth  
 Short, Adam Tucker  
 Wilson, Devin Reiser

Winfield, Robert Ludlam

### Graduate Certificate Program

James Oree Rabon  
 Melinda Mimi Hauptmann

*Alumni Let Us Hear From You*

Email us with the following information at [evs@uncw.edu](mailto:evs@uncw.edu)

**Name**  
**Address**  
**Email**  
**Graduation Year/Degree**  
**Employer/Position/Title**  
**News for the Next Newsletter**

We will have a section in the next newsletter on where and what our alumni are doing, so let us hear from you.

You have brains in you head.  
 You have feet in your shoes.  
 You can steer yourself in any  
 direction you choose.

You're on your own  
 And you know what you know.  
 You are the guy who'll decide  
 where to go.

~Dr. Seuss



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