

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

CHAIR'S CORNER.....

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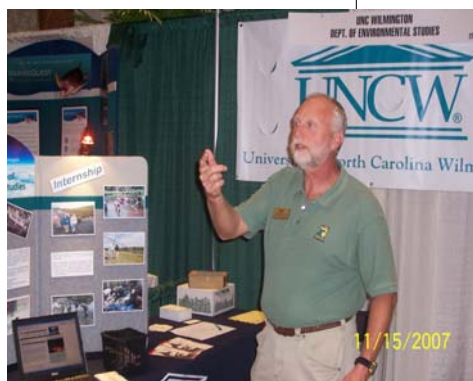
Since our last newsletter, the Department of Environmental Studies has seen a number of major changes. We moved back into Friday Hall from the trailer for the start of classes in Fall 2008. It is great to be back in a "new" building. We now have more room for faculty, students, classes and graduate students. The move coincided with the start of the graduate program and the introduction of a lab with our introductory EVS 195 class. We now have a dedicated lab to teach in, and offices for our graduate teaching assistants. The lab has proved to be a very popular addition to the curriculum. Although, it is an optional lab (separate 1 hour credit), it has filled to capacity in pre-registration every semester.

We also added several new faculty in the past year. Dr. Naikoa Aguilar-Amuchastegui joined us in Fall 2008 as our new GIS/remote sensing specialist. Naikoa has been very busy this past year developing classes, setting up the new GIS lab, and starting a number of research projects. This past spring, he was awarded a grant from South Dakota University/NASA to study sustainability of tropical forests in Central America. We all congratulate Naikoa for obtaining such competitive funding!! Dr. Rosanne Fortner started teaching part-time for us this fall. Rosanne is a recently retired professor from Ohio State. She was in the School of Natural Resources and one of her specialties is environmental education. She is currently teaching an on-line graduate course in Environmental Education and will teach another on-line course on Methods for Marine Education in Spring 2010. Also, Dr. Paul Hearty joined the faculty this fall as an associate research professor. Paul is a well know expert in global climate change and coastal geology. Paul is currently developing grants for climate modeling to the National Science Foundation and other agencies.

Students are the heart and soul of this place, and we have them in ever growing numbers. The graduate program started with its inaugural class of 21 in Fall 2008. We had our first graduate that semester with 4 more last spring. We added 16 new students this past fall and the total of MA and Certificate students is now more that 40! Our undergraduate numbers are also climbing rapidly. In Fall 2008, we had just over 200 undergraduate majors but by Fall 2009 that number had grown to over 300. This is the first time that the department has had over 300 majors!

We are offering new opportunities for our students with every new semester. We are currently waiting for approval for a new B.S. degree option in environmental conservation. We have been working in conjunction with the Department of Biology to develop this program, and I think it will be extremely popular. We hope to officially offer this program in Fall 2010. I, along with several other faculty, made a trip to Belize this past spring to meet with the folks from the University of Belize. Our mission was to develop a mutually beneficial relationship with UB. Hopefully, starting next spring we will be offering classes at UB for our and their students. We are also looking at a number of internship possibilities in both marine and terrestrial studies throughout the country.

As you can see, we have been busy around here. New facilities, faculty, students and programs makes for a very dynamic environment!! Stop by and see for yourself or let us know what you are up to!!



Jack C. Hall

CONGRATULATIONS



UNIVERSIDAD DE BOGOTÁ
JORGE TADEO LOZANO



Undergraduates in the News

Kerri Allen: Congratulations! She has been appointed to the NOAA Class of 2009 Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program.

Alyssa Halle—has been awarded the William Burr Scholarship for the Dept. of Environmental Studies for 2009-10.

Michael Schramm, Caitlin Walsh and Christina DeFrancesco have been awarded the North Carolina Department of Transportation/EVS Scholarship for 2009-10.

Brittany Williams and Andreeanne Meley have been awarded the UNCW Bookstore Textbook Scholarships.

Masters of Arts Program

Congratulations!!!

Katie Hart for being chosen the recipient of the James Leutze Scholarship.

The Department has entered into its second year of the MA Degree Program. In the Fall of 2009, we accepted 16 new graduate students into the program; which brings our total to 40 graduate students.

We currently have 7 graduate teaching assistants, one research assistant, and 2 graduate lab assistants. They are listed below:

Emily Gove (Lab Instructor): Emily is from Raleigh, North Carolina. She received her undergraduate degree in 2008 from UNCW in Environmental Science. She is in her second year of our Master's program working on the coastal management concentration.

Velu Ochoa-Riano (Lab/Seminar Instructor): Velu is from Bogota, Colombia. She received her undergraduate degree in Marine Biology from Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Colombia. Velu is in her second year of our Master's program working on the coastal management concentration. Her interests are in marine ecosystems, energy, decision making and analysis, and outreach.

Kevin Stallings (Lab Instructor): Kevin is from Pilot, North Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree in 2008 from North Carolina State University with a degree in Biology and minored in Environmental Toxicology. He is in the second year of our Master's program working on the coastal management concentration. He is currently working on a beach profiling project on Bald Head Island with Dr. Anthony Snider.

Megan Ennes (Lab Instructor): Megan is from Valparaiso, Indiana. She received her undergraduate degree in 2006 from UNCW in Marine Biology and Education. She is in her first year of our Master's program working on the environmental education concentration. Megan's interests involve making field trips more effective using pre and post visit activities.

Andy Gould (Lab Instructor): Andy is from Oxford, North Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree in 2007 from UNCW in Environmental Studies. He is in his second year of our Master's program working on the environmental education concentration. Andy is currently working on creating a nature trail for Mary C. Williams Elementary School.

Katie Hart:(Lab Instructor & Equipment Tech): Katie is from Poughkeepsie, New York. She received her undergraduate degree in 2008 from UNCW—double major in Marine Biology and Environmental Science. She is in her first year of our Master's program working on the environmental management concentration.

Marian Landon (Seminar Instructor): Marian is from Virginia. She received her undergraduate degree in 2008 from UNCW in Marine Biology. She is in her first year of our Master's program working on the coastal management concentration.

Liz Rogers (Research Assistant): Liz has lived in Washington State, Syracuse NY, Ohio and Switzerland. She received her undergraduate degree in 2007 from Ohio State University in Zoology and minored in Computer Science Engineering. She is finishing her first year in our Master's program working on the environmental management concentration. Liz is the research assistant for Dr. Jamie Rotenberg's Painted Bunting Project. She is evaluating the population of these birds in farmland in Central South Carolina. She will be determining territory size, vegetation structure/species and develop management strategies for people living in these areas. The goal of the project is to keep these birds off the endangered species list.

Jennifer Lisowski (Lab Equipment Tech): Jennifer is from Pennsylvania. She received her undergraduate degree from Long Island Uni-Southampton in Environmental Biology. She is working on the graduate certificate in EVS. Jennifer is doing an internship with the Town of Wrightsville Beach on their recycling program.



EVS Graduate Student Association

The Environmental Studies Graduate Student Association (EVS GSA) is off to a roaring start for the 2009-10 year. Your officers for this year are Stef Misner (President), Maureen Dewire (Vice-President), Amanda Hilliard (Secretary), and Loretta Bauer (Treasurer). The first official meeting of the year was an overwhelming success, combining a delicious dinner with business. The second meeting, an off-campus social, was just as successful.

Many exciting events have been planned by the EVS GSA for the upcoming year, most notably the Second Annual Oyster Roast on October 17. All are invited. The EVS GSA officers are selling tickets.

Regularly scheduled business meetings will be the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Friday Hall. These meetings will include a free provided dinner. The third Wednesday of each month will be a social gathering off campus.

The EVS GSA will also be offering travel grants to students this year. The grants are to help offset the cost of travel to conferences and seminars. They will also be entertaining requests from students for funding to assist in research and other scholarly activity.

Beautiful Environmental Studies T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies are also available through the EVS GSA. You can see the new logo to the left. The T-shirts are printed on shirts made of recycled plastic bottles!

For more information, contact the EVS GSA at evsgsa@gmail.com
Or check out their Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/EVSGSAonFacebook>

Faculty News

John Taggart: His manuscript entitled "Prescribed Burning in State Parks and Natural Areas of North Carolina and Nearby Coastal States" was published in January with *Natural Areas Journal*. John was recently awarded a grant by the Bald Head Island Conservancy to continue work on the impact of the deer population on the Island. He also just returned from presenting at the Natural Areas Conference in Vancouver, Washington.

Bob Cutting and Lawrence Cahoon (Biology & Marine Biology) have had their article, "The 'Gift' that Keeps on Giving: Global Warming Meets the Common Law," published in the *Vermont Journal of Environmental Law* (10VJEL 109).

Roger Shew: Co-editor of and an author in the Book "Atlas of Deep-Water Outcrops: AAPG Studies in Geology 56". The book received the Robert H. Dott Sr. Memorial Award for the Best Book Publication by the American Association of Petroleum Geologist for 2007. The award was presented at the 2009 AAPG Annual Conference in June in Denver, CO. Roger initiated and is the coordinator for our EVSL 195 labs and teaches a sustainability course for the department. He also teaches for Geography and Geology.

Jamie Rotenberg: Received a grant from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources entitled "Conservation of Breeding Painted Buntings". The grant's main goal is to conduct intensive bird surveys to determine breeding bird abundance and nest success for Painted Bunting and other indicator songbird species in agricultural landscapes modified by Farm Bill Conservation Practice 33 (habitat buffers) within South Carolina. Dr. Rotenberg's other project "The Painted Bunting Observer Team" was in the news on February 19, 2009. See the link below:
<http://fosterfollynews.com/news/2009Feb19PaintedBunting.php>.

Naikoa Aguilar-Amuchastegui: Received a grant from South Dakota University/NASA entitled NRA/Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences. He will be spending his summers in Central America on this project. Wiens, J; Sutter, R; Anderson, M; Blanchard, J; Barnett, A; **Aguilar-Amuchastegui, N**; Avery, C; Laine, S. 2009 Selecting and conserving lands for biodiversity: the role of remote sensing. *Remote Sensing of the Environment*. 133 (7): 1370-1381.



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

A special congratulations to **James Rabon**—our first Master of Arts Graduate from our program. He graduated in December 2008.

BS/BA Summer and Fall 2008

Baltezore, Allen	Mallindine, Jessica D.
Boswell, Darin P.	Saulet, Mark J.
Czaplijski, Geoff T.	Seed, Vivienne L. **
Dinardo, Jessica L.	Spence, Eric
Feller, Rachel A.	Strickland, Joanna M.
Griffin, Margaret F.	Thomas, Bobby W.
Guy, Lindsay M.	Weissinger, Rebecca K.
Hedgepeth, Leigh C.	Wilson, James M.
Jaskot, Russell E.	Xanthos, George
Krauszer, Jacob A.	Yrizarry, Shannon **

**Cum Laude



Master of Arts May 2009

Almeter, Andrew Leigh
Concentration in Coastal Management

Cole, Jennifer Leah
Concentration in Coastal Management

Moller, Eryn Kristine
Concentration in Individualized Option

Tavares, Mary Elizabeth
Concentration in Coastal Management

BA/BS May 2009

Bennett, Natalie D.	Bisesi, Rachel L.	Bledsole, Thomas D.
Corbet, Sean V.	Corbett, Edward H.	Cronogue, Ian A.
Edwards, Brittney M.	Flythe, William M.	Forte, Jonathan F.
Gray, Jessica D.	James, Susan R.	Lee, Alexander F.
Lucore, Leanna M.	Maher, Anthony P.	Mancusi, Christine A.
Nelson, Ashley A.	Pickett, Matthew B.	Pyatt, Whitney L.
Raynor, Cecilia L.	Riddle, Kristin M.	Rosengren, Kathryn L.
Rushing, Whitney L.	Shepard, Justin W.	Smith, Lawren C.
Stephenson, Megan	Tierney, Donna L.	Titus, Daniel L.
Upham, Allan R.	Walsh, Beth M.	Ziamba, Jonathan A.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela



It is clear the future holds great opportunities. It also holds pitfalls. The trick will be to avoid the pitfalls, seize the opportunities, and get back home by six o'clock.

Woody Allen

News From Alumni

Leigh Hedgepeth—December 2008: Recently accepted a position with the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps. Her training will commence on May 4th at the Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. She will then receive a ship assignment for three years during which she will learn how to successfully command a 208 ft. vessel and participate in and run research missions both ashore and underwater as a scuba certified officer. With her background in GIS, Leigh will most likely work on one of the hydrographic ships, performing both deep sea and coastal hydrography surveys. Leigh doubled majored in Environmental Policy and Planning and Applied Geography and received a certificate in GIS in 3 1/2 years. Way to Go!

Benjamin Andrea—2007: Has secured a position as Planner I with Pender County, NC.

Jill Foster—2004: BS with Concentration in Biology. Attended The Ohio State University for a Master's degree in Environmental Science which she received in 2006. She is working as an environmental consultant for Gresham, Smith and Partners in Columbus, Ohio. Some of her projects include wetland delineations and permitting, environmental assessments for federal agencies and other regulatory compliance tasks for various clients throughout the country.

Christopher Jon Smith—1996: He is the Director of Environmental Health with the Wilson County Health Department in North Carolina. He is responsible for the oversight of all Environmental Health Programs in the county including the food, lodging, institution, swimming pool, tattoo, child care, lead poisoning, on-site wastewater and private drinking water well programs. In addition, Mr. Smith is responsible for all Public Health Preparedness planning for Wilson County including responses to bioterrorism incidents, pandemic influenza, natural disasters and the unknown.



Alumni Let Us Hear From You

Email us with the following information at evs@uncw.edu

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

Or Visit our Website:

<http://www.uncw.edu/evs/alumnifriends-WhereAreYou.html>



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