

# UCSC ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

1156 HIGH STREET  
SANTA CRUZ, CA

ENVS@UCSC.EDU  
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## GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR



Another academic year is winding down with many wonderful accomplishments from students, faculty and staff - congratulations to all! Environmental Studies has had a great year. Interest in the major is at an all-time high (we think we should send Al Gore the bill for our increased enrollments!) and we will graduate our largest class of PhDs yet (12 of them this June); though these grad students will be followed by a wonderful new cohort of 9 students hailing from all over the world. We know that our undergraduate and graduate students alike will make us proud - they will go on to graduate and professional schools, exciting careers (and scary job searches!), research appointments and teaching. In addition to handling larger classes, ENVS faculty are launching terrific new research projects and earning wonderful accolades. For example, Karen Holl was named an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow, one of just 20 nation-wide. Steve Gliessman was honored with the UCSC Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, and Deborah Letourneau was granted a Fulbright Senior Scholar Fellowship for her new projects in Colombia. Our graduate students also distinguished themselves this year with no fewer than four Fulbright Scholarships, and Michelle Olsgard (rural livelihoods in Tibet). We have new faces in the department this year, including our newest Assistant Professor, Zdravka Tzankova, an expert on coastal and marine politics and policy, and Oriana Hair, our new academic services staff. We are also very fortunate to have kept Marissa Maciel on the staff team, moving over from academic services to her new role as the graduate program coordinator. Welcome to all! We will also very sadly say goodbye to three wonderful staff, Brian Fulfroost (GIS lab manager), Tonya Haff (museum scientist and curator) and Charlene McCord (undergraduate advisor). Each is taking their extraordinary talent and energy to new and exciting endeavors, so join me in wishing them the very best. Everyone here in Environmental Studies looks forward to a great new academic year - stop in and say hello when you get a chance! - Daniel Press, Olga T. Griswold Professor and Chair of Environmental Studies

## WELCOMING NEW FACULTY, STAFF

New faculty member Zdravka Tzankova recently shared with us her research interests and personal hobbies: My interest in environmental policy and politics most broadly, and marine environmental issues in particular, started when I was working on an undergraduate degree in international relations at Mount Holyoke College. Especially formative was the semester exchange I spent at the fantastic, interdisciplinary, and field-research-oriented Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies

Program. Some of the most fun and fruitful time in my research career so far was spent doing doctoral research on the



science and politics of marine bioinvasions in Australia and the U.S., while being a part of the O'Neill & Fairfax research groups at the UC Berkeley Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.

Surfing and hiking in coastal California, and staying connected with the multiple and diverse centers of urban culture and environmental activism in the Bay Area and beyond are among my favorite ways of finding focus and inspiration for my research, teaching, and advocacy work. Zdravka Tzankova started at Environmental Studies in fall 2007.



"Juggling competing deadlines, navigating through complex bureaucracy, and executing clutch plays" are the un-written qualifications needed

in the Academic Services Coordinator position. Luckily for our department, the new person in this role has these skills and many more. Environmental Studies' newest staff member, Oriana Hair, began her position as Academic Services Coordinator in March this year. Oriana explained that the opportunity to work on campus, utilizing her skills in problem-solving & creative thinking, was perfectly matched with this position. "What's really nice is coming into contact with different people, and having to be able to answer any question," she said. Some of those questions can be a little random, for example, "how to spell a certain word, or where the Band-Aids are." Oriana had worked for seven years in special education. "I worked with preschoolers, all the way up to adults. I really loved it." Her work involved adapting classroom materials for certain learning needs, to working in someone's home, helping them adjust to independent living. "I really enjoyed the interactions and the problem solving. I would figure out what works for people and adapt everything according to that - from reading books to walking down the street." Her other interests include real estate and property management, and travel. "I've been to Morocco, France, Spain, Italy, Mexico and all over the U.S." Her visits can be filled with surprises; while traveling alone in Morocco, she saw people on the ferry crossing the Strait of Gibraltar that she new from California. Her family is rooted in the Bay Area, and she has a brother who will be graduating from UCSC this spring.



## EXCELLENT MEMBERS OF OUR DEPARTMENT SAY FAREWELL



Walking the hallways of the Environmental Studies department, you will often see smiling undergraduates holding a cookie (or two, or three), and a signed major verification form. These are telltale signs that Charlene McCord is hard at work. Between hundreds of undergraduate's emails, dozens of phone calls, and daily advising meetings, the

Undergraduate Advisor somehow has the energy to bake something for the entire department to enjoy. How did we get so lucky? Charlene McCord said that she chose to work here based on "a love of the location, the subject matter, and the job description. I fell in love with Santa Cruz while I was doing a marine biology field quarter in Bodega Bay." Having friends who lived in the area also brought her back to town frequently, and helped her decide to move from her home in Ojai (near Ventura) to Santa Cruz. "When I found the job description for the Undergraduate Advisor/Program Coordinator job, I had to jump on it." Her prior experience as a peer advisor at her alma mater UCLA, as well as her involvement in agricultural education suited her to the position. "The combination of my desire to be in Santa Cruz, continue my involvement with student advising and further my interest and experience in the realm of ecology and sustainability led me to where I am now." Unfortunately for our department, Charlene will be leaving the position in August. The University of Chicago will be gaining her as a graduate student in the doctoral program of Organismal Biology and Anatomy. Her work will focus on the hydrodynamics and biomechanics of fish. "I'm excited to continue my efforts in restoration and conservation of ecologically, commercially, and evolutionarily important species and to further my knowledge of computational techniques." It's a bittersweet departure for her, as she says she will miss her students and coworkers when she goes. "That's really what keeps me going; I'm surrounded by driven, intelligent and forward-thinking people on a day-to-day basis, which is a really unique and inspiring environment for me." With her personality, work ethic, and baking skills, she's sure to make a new group of colleagues in Chicago. However, there's one other major hurdle left to face: the weather. "I will miss the sunny days at the beach, being surrounded by beautiful mountains and majestic redwoods, the natural beauty and the academic, social and political progression that really defines UC Santa Cruz." ↗

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S AWARD WINNERS!

<b>Nathaniel Fletcher</b>	The Surfrider/Skye Ksander Memorial Award Studies
<b>Sean Gillon</b>	The David Gaines Award in Environmental
<b>John Prager</b>	The CONCUR, Inc. Scholarship
<b>Gabriel Sady</b>	The Richard Cooley-Friends Foundation International Award
<b>Stephanie Shaffer</b>	James Stuart Chanley Scholarship for Environmental Studies
<b>Stephanie Winn</b>	James Stuart Chanley Scholarship for Environmental Studies



As an undergrad majoring in environmental studies at UCSC, Tonya Haff remembers hearing about a headless Echidna in a Natural Science Museum freezer. Intimidating to some, the opportunity to look at and examine the bird was fascinating to her. This interest coupled with her curiosity drove Tonya to pursue a career as a curator. The opportunity arose in 2001, when she was hired as the UCSC Natural History Museum Curator.

Her work would be daunting: at the start of her tenure, she faced two giant freezers, full of specimens waiting to be catalogued. It took over seven years, with much help from students working in the museum, to reach the bottom of the freezers, finding birds collected in the 1970's and the fabled Echidna (no one knows what happened to its head). The impact of Tonya's work in the museum, including sorting and cataloging hundreds of species of animals, will extend past her years here. Indeed, Tonya said that her

greatest accomplishment was inspiring students and colleagues with her motivation and passion for natural history. What she loved most about her job is mentoring students, helping to "...nudge them in the right direction." Recently a student employee came in to prepare a turkey, which involved skinning the bird. The southern California native had little history handling specimens before working in the museum - and also sported long, acrylic fingernails. Tonya asked if the student was concerned that her nails might be ruined from the work. The student's response pleasantly surprised Tonya, saying, "that's OK, they actually make skinning easier." Tonya is looking forward to a new adventure in her life: earning a Ph.D. in Bird Communication from the

Australian National University. Ironically, Tonya will be 'heading' to the homeland of the Echidna that originally attracted her to working in the museum. As sure as she will miss her students and the UCSC community, she will be sorely missed as a crucial asset to the department, and as an advocate for the flora and fauna of the region. Tonya Haff's legacy will extend beyond her time in the department, with the completion of her book, "The Natural History of the UC Santa Cruz Campus." Naturalists, colleagues and environmental experts alike are lauding the text as an essential component towards understanding the local environment. The book is available for sale at the UCSC Bay Tree Bookstore, and \$2 from each sale goes towards the Environmental Studies Department book fund.

Working as both an instructor and a lab manager has been rewarding to Brian Fulfrost, our GIS and Spatial Analysis expert. However, by mid-June he will head away from our campus to work in Berkeley as a project manager. Brian will lead the Geospatial Planning Unit for DCE Planning, a consulting firm founded 13 years ago, on Shattuck Avenue near the UC Berkeley campus. He will be involved in measuring shoreline changes for the Ocean Protection Council and will oversee conservation planning projects. This new position will build on the relationships and experience he has gained from his work at ENVIS. "Working on the Atlas of Global Inequality with Ben Crow has been an amazing opportunity," he said. "I plan to continue working with him and also with Phil Howard. Food mapping of the central coast has been really tremendous – huge for me and for the lab."



After earning a Master's of Science in cultural anthropology, from the doctoral program at the University of Arizona, he started working in environmental consulting. He arrived in the Bay Area and had three goals for himself: "[To continue working in] environmental consulting, get my own radio show, and teach and run a GIS lab at a major university." Brian worked as a reporter and producer on KPFA News, working the environmental beat, (a gig he plans to continue when he returns to the East Bay). In addition, his work in environmental consulting broadened. "I worked at Stanford at Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve, and did environmental consulting for years. Some of my clients were South Bay Water and with the Goleta Water District. I did a wide variety of jobs, from environmental remediation to wetland restoration." He lived in San Francisco for a short time when the position at UCSC appeared. Now, almost eight years after arriving, Brian will be returning to the Bay Area, setting new goals for himself. "It is really hard to leave UCSC because of the work I've done in the lab, and because the students here are top notch." As well as his new career prospects, Brian has another major life event to look forward to. "I'll be getting married in October, to the most wonderful woman on the planet."

## CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2008!

### Graduate Students

Ayala-Orozco, Barbara  
Bonilla, Martha  
Bothwell, Sara  
Cohen, Rose  
Gabbe, Aaron  
Griffith, Alden  
Hagen, Joy  
Langridge, Suzanne  
Monsen, Katie  
Pisani-Gareau, Tara  
Sirrinc, Dorothy

### Undergraduates

Abramson, Haley Joan  
Aragon, Marya Vaughan  
Bartolacelli, Gina Maria  
Behrens, Maria Victoria  
Palanca  
Benham, Susan  
Ariana Tarisa Marie  
Bertovich, Jocelyn Suzanne  
Bird-Robinson, Samuel  
Summers  
Bluestein, Brian Harris  
Blumenfeld, Jonathan  
Brady, Cameron Collier  
Bremser, Joanna Kirstin  
Buoye, Hannah Virginia  
Welton  
Carroll-Beyak, Terry  
Casey, Caroline Brett  
Cepeda, Maria Rosario  
Chinn, Cameron J  
Christen, Kady V

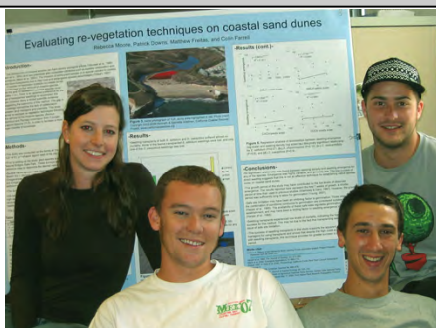
Christopher, Ian J  
Chung, Reagan Yu-Hin  
Connolly-Newman, Hayley Rose  
Cooper, Matthew G  
Dakik, Diana Sara  
Davidoff, Adam Bruno  
Derr, Bryan Edward  
Downs, Patrick James  
Drucker, Michael Edward  
Dunlap, Sinan Nils  
Earle, Justis James  
Eaton, Yvea Odette  
Eisloeffel, Hannah Marie  
Elizondo, Joaquin Dario  
Elovich, Megan Alexis  
Farrell, Colin P  
Feraru, Brian Ogrady  
Feuerlicht, Rebecca Lynn  
Fitzgerald, Alicia K  
Flett, James Saylor  
Freitas, Matthew R  
Gever, Diyanna Karinne  
Goldberg, Catherine Sanders  
Gong, Steven Ho Yun  
Halsey, Joshua Andrew  
Hampson, Erin Elizabeth E  
Hansen, Rebecca Michelle  
Hamden, Alexander Blue  
Hecox, Megan French  
Hodson, Keith Robert  
Holland-Lassiter, Nicholas Slay  
Hordynski, Konstanty Henryk  
Inman, John Franklin  
Kearsley, Amy Nicole  
Kellar, Rachel Zoe

Kenkel, Patrick Joseph  
Kennedy, Scott Andrew  
Kong, Maggie K  
Kusuda, Michael Toshimitsu  
Lechuga, Lorena G  
Lopez, Mark  
Loudon, Dylan Wallace  
Macdonough, Carrie Ann  
Marion, Orion Marker  
Martin, Lynne Marie  
Matson, Elizabeth Sophia  
McCown, Garrett Edward  
McGrath, Bridgett Michelle  
Mejia-Carranza, Stephen Spencer  
Melendrez, Adam Martin  
Middleton, Erin Ann  
Minkler, Charles  
Moore, Rebecca Lynn  
Moreno, Tiffany Nicole  
Musgrave, Emily Ann  
Nakagawa, Nicole Yoko  
Ober, Erik James  
Owre-Bell, Olivia  
Parker, Melody Krystal  
Prager, John Joseph  
Quinn, Annette Nicaulis  
Rafferty, Lynne  
Rice, Sarah Beth  
Rick, Sarah Linda  
Saenz, Danielle Erika  
Schneider, Brooke Elizabeth  
Scott, Patrick William  
Shanbrom, Evan David  
Shellenbarger, Peter F  
Siddiqi, Usman

Stanwyck, Joseph Robert  
Swenson, Amelia Marie  
Tavasiyeff, Nicholas Alexander  
Tiffany, Sara Elizabeth  
Tomasello, Anthony Christophe  
Totten, Melissa Pauline  
Varga, Tania Rosabelle  
Wandro, Daniel Robert  
Watts, Leah K  
White, Lani Ursula  
Williams, Thomas Tyler  
Woodley, Tobin Arthur  
Workman, Kelly A  
Yamamoto, Sharyl Riye  
Yu, Hoi Sin  
Zins, Sarah Marie



## INTERNS WORK WITH UCSC RESERVE



Inspired in part by their experiences in Professor Karen Holl's Environmental Studies 'Restoration Ecology' course, graduating seniors Patrick Downs, Colin Farrell, Matt Freitas, and Rebecca Moore completed a senior internship project with the UCSC Natural Reserves in June 2008 (faculty sponsor, Alden Griffith). Their project, entitled Evaluating re-vegetation techniques on coastal sand dunes, is a comprehensive case study of re-vegetation techniques for ecological restoration. Patrick, Colin, Matt and Rebecca conducted their research at UCSC's Younger Lagoon Reserve, a 26 acre ecological reserve located on the western edge of Santa Cruz. Their work included a thorough literature review, vegetation monitoring at Younger Lagoon Reserve and other nearby beaches, experimental plot design and implementation, invasive plant removal, native plant propagation, and data collection and analysis using inferential statistics.

Patrick, Colin, and Rebecca interned at Younger Lagoon Reserve in the fall of 2007 and became interested in the impacts of an invasive grass on the native beach dune vegetation. The four students joined forces in January of 2008 to investigate both re-vegetation techniques for ecological restoration *and* strategies for communicating their results to land-managers. They worked closely with reserve staff to ensure that their results and recommendations will result in management actions. Reserve staff plan to begin a beach dune restoration program in the fall of 2008 based on their work. Patrick, Colin, Matt, and Rebecca plan to submit their work to a scientific journal for publication in the summer of 2008.