

SUNY-ESF
DEPT. of ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Department

The Department of Environmental Studies has admitted part of its first cohort of students for its **new Environmental Studies graduate program**, to commence in Fall 2008. In a first round of admissions based on applicants who had completed applications by the February 1, 2008, preferred admissions date, a total of 15 students were admitted to the MS and MPS programs. Admittees include nine from the USA, two each from China and India, one from Kazakhstan and Korea. The applicants from India are fully funded through the **Ford Foundation International Fellowships** program.

Brenda Nordenstam has been appointed in advance as the incoming Director of Undergraduate Environmental Studies, effective at the beginning of the 2008/09 academic year. Brenda will replace **John Felleman**, who is planning to retire this summer from the position, and from the Department and ESF, after many years of service. Brenda's appointment will be for a period of one year.

Faculty members in the Department of Environmental Studies formally endorsed and actively participated in the **Focus the Nation** teach-in on global warming, held nationally on January 31, with day-long activities at ESF and Syracuse University, as well as additional events that week. **Jack Manno** and **Sharon Moran** were among early organizers of local events. **Mark Meisner** and **Sharon Moran** led break-out sessions at the local teach-in. Mark was interviewed for a couple of local television spots about the events. **Susan Senecah** convened a local showing of *The 2-Percent Solution*. **David Sonnenfeld** co-authored a op-ed article with **Rachel May** (an ES alumna) in the Syracuse *Post-Standard* newspaper.

The last week in January, the Dept. of Environmental Studies hosted a week-long visit by Professor **Arthur Mol**, Chair, Dept. of Environmental Policy, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, who gave a public talk on Biofuels and Governance Issues, made a presentation to ESF's Academic Council on the structure of multidepartmental educational programs at Wageningen University, participated in the Focus the Nation activities on January 31, and explored possibilities for collaborative educational programs between Wageningen University and ESF.

Thomas Rudel, Professor of Human Ecology and Sociology, Rutgers University, gave a brownbag talk on February 13, entitled, "From Middle to Upper Class Sprawl: Changing Patterns of Suburbanization and their Implications for Greenhouse Gas Emissions". The

talk was sponsored by the Dept. of Environmental Studies and Randolph G. Pack Environmental Institute.

Four Dept. of Environmental Studies faculty members were among 17 recipients of the Spring 2008 round of the Provost's **Faculty Travel Awards**: **Sharon Moran** was granted \$1000 towards expenses involved in her participation in the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, in Boston, in April, where she will present a research paper, chair a session, and lead a field trip; **Brenda Nordenstam** will receive \$1000 towards her expenses of participating in the annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB), in Chattanooga, TN, July 13-17, 2008, where she will present a research paper and participate in sessions of the Society's Social Science Working Group (SSWG); **Jack Manno** was granted \$500 towards expenses associated with his participation in the annual meeting of the Global Ecological Integrity Group (GEIG), July 16-19, 2008, at Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany; **Richard Smardon** will receive \$500 towards his expenses at the annual meeting of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP), March 25-28, in San Diego, CA, where he is organizer of the Environmental Studies and Research track.

Departmental Secretary, **Patty Kielecki**, is retiring in March after many years of service at ESF. Her last day in the office will be Tuesday, March 18. She begins the next chapter in her life with a first-ever vacation to Florida. A search is under way for a replacement, to begin as early as April 10. ESF retiree, **Barb Hasenstab** will temporarily fill in from March 18 through April 9. Please stop by the departmental office at 106 Marshall to wish Patty well, and later, to introduce yourself to Barb. Your understanding, patience, and cooperation during the forthcoming departmental staffing transition will be appreciated!

Faculty

In 2007, **Janine DeBaise** was elected to the executive board of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE); she attended the officers' annual retreat at the end of February. At the end of January, Janine attended the conference for the Association for Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) in New York City, where among other things, she represented ASLE at a booth at the book exhibit. Janine has been asked to serve as a reviewer for *The Brock Review*, an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal published by the Humanities Research Institute at Brock University.

John Felleman reports that the elevated Interstate 81 that bisects Syracuse is at the end of its repairable life cycle. It was built in the late 1950's/early '60's prior to advent of our current suite of mandated environmental and participatory requirements. John is in the initial stages of developing a multi-year, longitudinal case study of the numerous decisions that will emerge in the corridor's redevelopment. One alternative that has received considerable attention among local news media and others involves the first serious discussion of removing the Interstate from the city.

Myrna Hall has just received notice of acceptance for publication of a paper in *Ecological Modeling* entitled, "Spatially Explicit Models To Analyze Forest Loss and Fragmentation Between 1976 and 2020 in Southern Chile" (with Cristian Echeverria, David Coomes, and Adrian Newton). With assistance from **Bruno Takahashi**, Ph.D. Candidate, Environmental communication, Myrna recently launched the new, ESF **Center for the Urban Environment** website at: <http://www.esf.edu/cue>. On January 28th, Myrna hosted an all day workshop at ESF, on the recently completed Hydrological Simulation Program FORTRAN modeling effort for the Onondaga Lake Watershed. William Coon of the USGS who did the modeling introduced participants to the model's structure and data requirements and gave a hands-on introduction to running the model. Based on rainfall, soil, and land cover/ land use conditions the model calculates fluxes of nutrients and sediments to the tributaries and the lake itself. The workshop was well-attended with participants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Onondaga Environmental Institute, Upstate Freshwater Laboratories and ESF faculty, post-doctoral fellows, and graduate students.

Students involved with ESF's Honors Project and currently enrolled in the Honors Section of CLL 290 (**Dawnelle Jager**, Instructor) are in the process of completing a service project at food service sites such as the Samaritan Center, Meals on Wheels, the Rescue Mission, and Kid's Café. These placements were carefully chosen to provide a rich environment for inquiry and research into Food Politics, the course topic, as well as to motivate students to meaningfully serve the greater Syracuse community.

Karin Limburg, Participating Faculty member, served as external examiner on a Ph.D. dissertation defense in Belgium, and presented an invited paper at a conference there, as well. The conference, entitled, "Is There a Future for Fisheries?" asked this question quite seriously. At the request of the President of the American Fisheries Society (AFS), Karin served on a task force developing a policy statement on economic growth and fish conservation. In addition, she served on the NYS Oceans-Great Lakes Conservation Commission, Science Advisory Group for Research. Karin also served on the Syracuse Center of Excellence (CoE) Water Resources Roadmap Team.

Jack Manno has been appointed to represent the SUNY system on the Implementation Committee of the New York State Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council. See <http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/38162.html>. Manno is also a member of the Council's Science Advisory Group. Manno wrote the Preface and is co-author of a chapter in the new book forthcoming from Earthscan Press titled, *Reconciling Human Existence with Ecological Integrity*. The chapter, co-authored with Phillippe Crabbé, an economist at the University of Ottawa, is entitled, "Ecological Integrity as an Emergent Global Public Good" (<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?tabid=4359>). Manno is working with scholars from around the world through the IUCN (World Conservation Union) Environmental Law Centre in preparing a "Guide to Governance for Sustainability-Issues, Challenges and Successes," to be presented at the 2008 IUCN Congress in Barcelona. Manno is preparing two case studies: "Rediscovering the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement," and "Brightening the Covenant Chain: The Onondaga Land Rights Action and Neighbors of Onondaga Nation."

Richard Smardon presented on January 29, "Smart Growth, Comprehensive Planning and Sustainability in Central New York," as part of the Onondaga County Planning Federation Municipal Training Conference. On January 31st and February 1st, he served as one of two external reviewers for Ryerson University's Environmental Science and Policy/ Management M.S. and proposed Ph.D. programs in Toronto. In January *ENVIRONEWS*, the *International Society of Environmental Botanists Newsletter* published "Recommended Urban Forest Mixtures to Optimize Selected Environmental Benefits" by Rick (co-authored with John Domm, Allan Drew, Richard Greene, Eric Ripley, and Janet Tordesillas), which was the Energy Audit class' work from two springs ago. Also Rick just published "A comparison of Local Agenda 21 implementation in North American, European and Indian Cities" In *Management of Environmental Quality*, volume 19, No.1 pp. 118-137. This paper was originally prepared as a key note presentation for " Urban Planning and Environment; Strategies and Challenges" 30-31 January 2007 at Elphinestone College, Mumbai, India.

David Sonnenfeld is an invited speaker at an international conference on "The Sustainable Humanosphere in Asia and Africa", to be held March 12-14, 2008, at Kyoto University, Japan, March 12-14. He has been asked to discuss the relevance of Ecological Modernization Theory for addressing issues of sustainability in the forestry sector in Asia. The conference is supported by the Japanese national Global Centers of Excellence program, and Kyoto University's Center for Southeast Asia Studies. In February, David presented a talk on his work on "Environmental Reform in Asia" to the East Asia Program of the Moynihan Institute for International Relations, at Syracuse University. He has been asked to chair a new ESF search committee for an International Education Coordinator, to report to the Dean of Instruction and Graduate Studies.

Benette Whitmore and **David Sonnenfeld** have been invited to serve as members of a new, campus-wide Promotion and Tenure Guidelines Review committee. The committee commenced meeting in February, and is chaired by Don Leopold, Chair, Dept. of Environmental and Forest Biology.

Graduate Students

April Karen Baptiste, PhD Candidate, Environmental and Natural Resources Policy, has been awarded a one-year Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of African-American Studies at Syracuse University. As part of her appointment, she is currently teaching a course on Environmental Justice; April also will continue research and scholarship on environmental justice issues in her native country of Trinidad and Tobago. Recently, she gave her capstone seminar and successfully defended her research on the topic of "Evaluating Environmental Awareness: A Case Study of the Nariva Swamp, Trinidad". She is presenting part of her research at the PLACA/ LASP Conference on "Territory, Identity, and Social Justice" at the Maxwell School this week.

Kevin Bliss, PhD Candidate, Water Wetland Resources, reports that the New York State Wetlands Forum is hosting its 2008 annual conference April 9-10, in Waterloo, New York, to be followed by a field workshop on April 11. This year's theme is "Wetlands in a Changing Landscape," and features as speakers, Tom Jasikoff, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Greg Wilcox, USGS, Editor-in-Chief of *Wetlands*, the Society for Wetlands Science (SWS) journal. The Wetlands Forum is a non-profit organization whose goal is to call attention to and objectively discuss local, statewide, regional, national and global wetland-related scientific and regulatory issues applicable to New York State. Additional information on the Forum and its 2008 conference: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/>.

Sally Rock-Blake, MPS student, Environmental Communication and Participatory Processes, was appointed to a 7-year term on the Town of DeWitt Parks & Recreation Committee.

Thanh Vo, PhD Candidate, Environmental and Natural Resources Policy, has been selected to be a Knauss Fellow, Class of 2008. He is working as a specialist in the Policy, Planning and Evaluation of NOAA Ocean and Atmospheric Research Headquarters based in Silver Spring. Thanh's efforts within PPE will be focused on the evaluation of research programs within a large governmental organization. Thanh's dissertation research focuses on the processes of institutional evolution, local knowledge systems, and coastal resources in Vietnam under global change processes. Thanh's many career accomplishments include developing two environmental protection networks within Vietnam, serving as regional advisor for the Swedish Environmental Fund in Vietnam, coordinating and planning numerous environmental events in Vietnam and globally, and being the recipient of numerous awards, fellowships and grants. (Contact: Thanh.Vo.Dinh@noaa.gov, or tdvo@syr.edu).

To submit items for future issues of the SUNY-ESF Dept. of Environmental Studies Newsletter, send via e-mail to Ms. Patti Gibeault, Graduate Programs Assistant, <pagibeau@esf.edu>. For further information about the Department and its programs, see: <http://www.esf.edu/es>, or contact <es-info@esf.edu>, tel. 315.470.6636.