



Environmental Studies Newsletter

October 2008

DEPARTMENT

ESF's Department of Environmental Studies welcomes **23 new graduate students** this semester. They have joined us from Bolivia, China, India, Kazakhstan, S. Korea, Palestine, and the Philippines, as well as from various locations in the United States. Fifteen students make up the inaugural cohort of the Department's new Environmental Studies graduate program. Other new graduate students are working with ES faculty in ESF's interdepartmental Environmental and Natural Resources Policy (ENRP) doctoral program and the Graduate Program in Environmental Science (GPES). The incoming students include three Fulbright Fellows and two Ford Fellows.

The Department of Environmental Studies and Randolph G. Pack Environmental Institute are co-sponsoring the joint Syracuse University – College of Environmental Science and Forestry **Sustainability Leadership Seminar** during the fall semester, dedicated to exploring opportunities for cross-campus collaboration in sustainability research, teaching and service. Nineteen faculty members from as many disciplines, each partnered with a student, met at the Minnowbrook Conference Center for a weekend-long retreat in September, and continue to meet biweekly. **Jack Manno** and ES Adjunct Faculty member, **Steve Brechin**, co-facilitate the seminar. **David Sonnenfeld** and **Hang Ryeol Na** also are participating.

Visiting Faculty member, **Zac Moore**, and the Department of Environmental Studies present a speaker series on "Environmental Discourse and Advocacy". To date, guests in this stimulating series have included Professor Thomas Boudreau, Syracuse University, talking on "The Curse of Prometheus? Political Discourse and Climate Catastrophe at the United Nations"; Dr. Richard Grossman, speaking on "Why Shouldn't Nature Have Constitutional Rights?: A Report from the Front Lines"; and Zac Moore and Louise Poindexter, discussing "Environmental Justice with or without Environmental Experts?". Upcoming talks include Sabrina Wells, Citizens Environmental Coalition, on "Organizing Zero Waste Initiatives in New York", Wednesday, **November 12, 2008**; and cultural artist and activist Andrew Boyd discussing his approach to "Culture Jamming Environmental Communication", scheduled for Tuesday, **November 18, 2008**. For further information on these talks, please contact Zac Moore at <zdmooore@yahoo.com> or the Department of Environmental Studies at <envsty@esf.edu> or 315.470.6636.

Environmental Studies faculty members, **Jack Manno** and **Sharon Moran**, are participants and co-organizers of a SUNY 'Conversations in the Disciplines' conference, **November 7-8, 2008**, at ESF. Entitled, "**Conversations on the**

Land: Indigenous and Scientific Principles for Sustainability," this exchange brings together scholars from a range of perspectives and indigenous thinkers and leaders from throughout New York State to think and work together about ecological sustainability. Participants will explore how to bring the power of two great intellectual traditions to bear for greater environmental sustainability.

Dr. Lotsmart Fonjung, Senior Lecturer of Geography and Gender Studies, and Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Social and Management Sciences, at the University of Buea, Cameroon, will visit the Department of Environmental Studies and ESF on November 24-25, 2008. Dr. Fonjung will present a public lecture on "Challenges to Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Cameroon," beginning at 4:00 pm, Tuesday, **November 25, 2008**. To learn more about Dr. Fonjung and his work on gender and natural resources in Africa, please see his [website](#). For further information about his upcoming talk, please contact the departmental office at <envsty@esf.edu> or 315.470.6636.

Brenda Nordenstam is the Department's new Undergraduate Studies Coordinator. She is joined by **Mark Meisner**, Environmental Communication and Culture option coordinator; **Jack Manno**, Environmental Policy option coordinator; and **Charles Hall**, Biological Applications option coordinator; **Patrick Lawler**, Writing Program Director; **Chris Chrysler**, Departmental Secretary; **Christopher DeFrancesco**, junior ES major; and **Shaylyn Decker**, sophomore ES major, in the department's Undergraduate Studies Committee. Graduate students **Sarah Darkwa** and **Imran Khalid** join ES faculty on the Department's Graduate Studies Committee; **Jack Manno** is acting chair of that committee.

Three ES faculty members are on sabbatical/ professional leave this semester: **Benette Whitmore** was granted a sabbatical leave to advance research efforts for her Ph.D. in Educational Foundations at Syracuse University. During his sabbatical leave, **Richard Smardon** has submitted corrected page proofs for one book, and begun field research for another. **Susan Senecah**, has been granted a professional leave to work as Coordinator of Stakeholder Involvement with the New York Department of State's new Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management Team. Whitmore and Smardon return to active teaching in January 2009; Senecah in January 2010.

Chris Chrysler joined the Department of Environmental Studies as Secretary this past spring. Previously with the Great Lakes Research Center, Chris brings extensive administrative and research support experience to the department. Already holding a Master's of Library Science degree, Chris currently is working to complete her second Master's, in Social Science, from Syracuse University. This fall, Chris began actively assisting in undergraduate advising for the department's Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies degree program.

Through a cooperative arrangement with the Department of Landscape Architecture, and with support from the Kennedy family, **Mary O'Halloran** continues to support undergraduate advising in the department's Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies degree program. This fall, Mary is advising all

incoming first-year Environmental Studies students, along with incoming Landscape Architecture students.

A new **Environmental Studies Announcements** listserv has been set up for citizens, scholars, and others in the central New York region interested in learning about guest speakers and other events sponsored by the Dept. of Environmental Studies. To be added to the list, please contact the Department at <envsty@esf.edu> or 315.470.6636.

In October, Departmental faculty approved **new departmental bylaws**, revised for the first time since 2001. Among the changes in the new bylaws are provisions for increased student involvement in many aspects of departmental governance, and the formation of a new Qualified Faculty Committee, to strengthen input from and communication with the Department's visiting faculty members. The new bylaws also formalize and integrate ESF's Writing Program Council as a standing departmental committee. The bylaws are available for reference and review on the departmental website, at: <<http://www.esf.edu/es/documents/ES-bylaws-100208.pdf>>.

FACULTY

Steve Brechin, ES Adjunct Faculty member, and Professor of Sociology at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University is the winner of the 2008 Merit Award of the Natural Resources Research Group (NRRG), within the Rural Sociological Society (RSS). The award is given annually to recognize outstanding contributions to the field of natural resource sociology. The award can be given to recognize a lifetime of achievement, or the award can be given to celebrate a particularly significant discrete research, education, outreach, or service achievement. Reviewers cited Dr. Brechin's "insistence on the importance of organizational dynamics in understanding the ways in which people manage natural resources" and his work on "resident peoples in parks, and the ethical and economic dilemmas entailed in establishing" and managing protected areas. The award was presented at the RSS annual meeting in Manchester, NH, on July 30, 2008.

Janine DeBaise will be attending the annual conference for the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA) on November 13, in Charlotte, North Carolina. Janine will present "Snake Dreams" – an excerpt from her manuscript of creative non-fiction.

On September 29, 2008, the *Syracuse Post-Standard* published the first issue of a new, bimonthly *Green* magazine, including several articles featuring ESF. The magazine is an outgrowth of Visiting Faculty member **Khris Dodson's** master's project, the publication of a prototype regional, environmental magazine, entitled *Envi*. Khris has a nice center spread article in the first issue of *Green*, alongside a profile of ESF President Cornelius Murphy. An online version of the new magazine supplement is available at: <http://www.syracuse.com/green/>.

John Felleman, previous coordinator of the Department's Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies program, and former director of ESF's Graduate Program in Environmental Science, retired on October 2, 2008, after more than three decades at ESF. John will teach EST 550, Environmental Impact Assessment, in Spring 2009, and remains active in research, including on community involvement in discussions related to the possible replacement or removal of Interstate 81 through central Syracuse.

Dawnelle Jager conducted a campus wide interactive workshop with Sarah Vonhof on understanding and avoiding plagiarism on October 22.

The upcoming issue of the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* (v35, n1) features an article involving several ES faculty and students: **Jack Manno, Richard Smardon, Susana del Granado** and **Emily Cloyd**. Their article is entitled, "The development and use of computer models in Great Lakes decision-making: a retrospective analysis." The final report from a research project between the Dept. of Environmental Studies and the McMaster University Center for Engineering and Public Policy has been submitted to the Joyce Foundation. The report by Gail Krantzberg and Jack Manno is entitled, *Great Lakes Governance: Future Models Present Solutions*.

Jack Manno's review of the book "NGO Diplomacy: The Influence of Nongovernmental Organizations in International Environmental Negotiations" appears in *Global Environmental Politics*, Vol. 8, #2 2008. Jack Manno and colleagues have published two chapters in the recently released IUCN publication, *Governance for Sustainability - Issues, Challenges and Successes* (2008), edited by K. Bosselman, R. Engell, and P. Taylor. The two chapters are: J. Manno and G. Krantzberg, "Rediscovering the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement"; and J. Manno and I. Powless, "Brightening the Covenant Chain: The Onondaga Land Rights Action and Neighbors of Onondaga Nation". The volume appears in the IUCN's Environmental Law and Policy Series Vol.70, Bonn/Germany.

In April, **Sharon Moran** attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, in Boston, where she presented a research paper, "Stream Restoration and Environmental Equity." She also led a field exploration entitled "Standing on Water," exploring the complex structures – both physical and institutional – maintaining Boston's groundwater levels and preventing building collapse. In July, she published an article on alternatives to septic systems. The full citation is: Moran, Sharon. 2008. "Under the Lawn: Engaging the Water Cycle," *Ethics, Place, and Culture*, 11(2) June, 129-145. In August, she was awarded a \$5000 grant for a survey project entitled "Technologies for Sustainable Water: Innovations and Architects." With funding from the Sustainable Business Program at Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management, Sharon will work with **Brenda Nordenstam** and Tim Stenson (SU-Architecture) to explore barriers to use of water conserving technologies by architects. It is an election year, and Sharon hosted two candidates for Congress, Dan Maffei and Howie Hawkins, in her undergraduate class, EST 221, Introduction to American Government. In October, Sharon received a Dr. Nuala

McGann Drescher award by the New York State/United University Professions Joint Labor Management Committee. The grant will enable additional research and writing opportunities, including a trip to Warsaw, Poland, to examine emerging water management practices.

In May, **Richard Sardon** presented a keynote speech on "Urban Recreation Park Sustainability in an Asian Context," at the 8th International Conference of Sports and Leisure, at National Taiwan University. Rick was guest of honor at a reunion of ESF students from Taiwan, held in conjunction with that conference. While in Taiwan, he also gave talks on "Sustaining the World's Wetlands" at the Chinese Culture University, Ming Dou University, and Dayea University. ESF alumni **Ching Li** and **Tsai-Ming Lee** were among Rick's many hosts.

David Sonnenfeld is contributing editor of two recently published scholarly journal special issues: "Communities, Natural Resources, and Environments," *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, vol. 13, no. 5 (July 2008), Routledge; and "Globalisation and Environmental Governance: Is Another World Possible?" *Global Environmental Change: Human and Policy Dimensions*, vol. 18, no. 3 (August 2008), Elsevier. With co-editors, Arthur Mol and Gert Spaargaren, this month Sonnenfeld is submitting a new book manuscript, *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice*, to Routledge for review for publication next year. In early January, 2009, Sonnenfeld will be a keynote speaker at the "International Conference on Public-Private Partnership for Development", at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Graduate Students

Hang Ryeol Na, Ph.D. candidate, Environmental and Natural Resources Policy gave a presentation on the "Nuclear Energy Assistance Project for North Korea" at the 17th Symposium on Development and Social Transformation, April 7-11, 2008, organized by Syracuse University's Maxwell School. Following up on the art show of North Korean paintings last December, Hang organized and had the first preparatory meeting on May 31, 2008, for establishing an NGO tentatively called Open Forest Foundation, which will work for reforestation in North Korea. Hang also participated in a cyber-seminar on Environmentally Induced Population Displacements. August 18-29, 2008 organized by Population-Environment Research Network (PERN) in collaboration with the Environmental Change and Security Program of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and contributed a brief comment about interrelation of land degradation, famine and refugees of North Korea. Hang, as one of the co-authors, submitted a poster titled Center City Baltimore Weather (WX) Observations: Opportunities and Challenges to the 10th Baltimore Ecosystem Study (BES) annual meeting at the University of Maryland, October 15 & 16, 2008. BES is one of the National Science Foundation's Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Networks sites.

Ning Sun, Ph.D. candidate, Environmental and Community Land Planning, presented a research paper, "GWLF-based Modeling of Runoff: A Case Study at the Trout Creek in the Cannonsville Basin, 1997-2007," at the 24th Annual New York State GIS conference, October 6, 2008.

Bruno Takahashi, Ph.D. candidate, Environmental Communication and Participatory Processes, had an article, "Framing Climate Change: A Comparative Analysis of a US and a Canadian Newspaper," published in the Special Issue on Climate Change Communication of the *International Journal of Sustainability Communication*, June 2008. It may be accessed at: <http://www.ijsc-online.org/en/index.php>. Bruno also presented his MS thesis, "Social Marketing for the Environment: A Comparative Analysis of Theory and Practice," at the World Social Marketing Conference, in Brighton, UK, on September 29 and 30, 2008; he received an ESF graduate student travel grant for this. Bruno will be interviewed on "Sabor Latino", La Liga's Radio Show (that's the Spanish Action League) on November 11 (the program runs from 6 to 8 pm at Nova FM 105.1). The discussion will focus on issues of Green Infrastructure in Syracuse's near West Side area. The link is: <http://www.nova1051.com/pages/laliga.html>.

Submit items for future issues of the *Environmental Studies Newsletter* to Patti Gibeault <pagibeau@esf.edu>. For further information about ESF's Department of Environmental Studies and its programs, see: <http://www.esf.edu/es>, or contact <es-info@esf.edu>, tel. +1.315.470.6636.