



Environmental Studies Newsletter

March 2009

DEPARTMENT

In November, the Department launched the **John Felleman 21st Century Environmental Challenge Fund**, in honor of John's retirement from more than 35 years of teaching at ESF. The fund will benefit Environmental Studies students and programs, and is a tribute to Professor Felleman's lifelong commitment to advancing interdisciplinary environmental education and solving pressing environmental issues. The Department applauds the creation of this fund and invites former students, colleagues and friends to join in honoring John. Tax-deductible contributions to the John Felleman 21st Century Environmental Challenge Fund can be made to the ESF College Foundation through its [website](#). The names of all donors to the Fund will be given to Professor Emeritus Felleman in a framed dedication document.

Spring semester, the Department of Environmental Studies and Randolph G. Pack Environmental Institute have sponsored several public talks. On February 12, William J. Donlon Visiting Professor Kirk Emerson presented "Collaborative Governance and Global Warming: Can We Change More than the Climate?" to a standing-room-only audience. William Sunderlin, of the Rights and Resources Group, Washington, D.C., gave a well-received talk on March 16, entitled "Global Forest Tenure, Rights and Resources." Peter Little, Ph.D. Candidate in Applied Anthropology at Oregon State University, visits ESF on Tuesday, April 21 and will talk about his field research on community participation in environmental toxics remediation in Endicott, New York.

Three Environmental Studies core faculty members are on leave spring semester: **Janine DeBaise** (sabbatical), **Sharon Moran** (Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Faculty Fellow), and **Susan Senecah** (Stakeholder Involvement Coordinator, NY Department of State, Coastal Ecosystem-Based Management Team).

In January, fresh back from his sabbatical, **Richard Smardon** began serving as Graduate Studies Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Studies' two new masters programs.

Several new Visiting Faculty members join us this semester: William J. Donlon Visiting Scholar, **Kirk Emerson**, from Tucson, Arizona, is teaching "Collaborative Governance for Environmental and Natural Resources Management" in an innovative format of three intensive weekends. **Holly Dobbins**, finishing up her

PhD at Syracuse University's Maxwell School, is teaching "Government and the Environment." **Neil Patterson, Jr.**, Tuscarora Nation Environmental Program Director, Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force delegate, and ESF graduate student, is teaching "Introduction to Native Peoples, Lands and Cultures". And **Carlos Gavilondo**, lawyer and ESF-ENRP doctoral student, is teaching "Land Use Law."

Colin Beier, Research Associate at ESF's Adirondack Environmental Center, in February became an affiliated faculty member in the Environmental Studies masters' programs. Dr. Beier's research interests include climate change impacts on forest communities; forest ecosystem services; wilderness conservation; policy and management of U.S. national forests; and the adaptive capacity of public institutions.

Three Environmental Studies affiliated graduate students completed their studies in December 2008: Erika Sheen, Mary Witkowski and Guihan Wu. On March 5, the department held its first annual spring graduate student representative elections. **Nidhi Pasi**, **Madison Quinn**, and **Lixi Kong** were elected by acclamation as representatives to departmental meetings (Pasi) and the Graduate Studies Committee (Quinn and Kong). Quinn is also currently representing Environmental Studies graduate students in ESF's Graduate Students Association (GSA). **Sara Darkwa** and **Imran Khalid** have been serving this year on the Graduate Studies Committee; Khalid has recently been appointed to the new ESF Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

In Fall 2008, Environmental Studies undergrads formed a new, Environmental Studies Student Organization (ESSO). ES undergrad student reps, **Christopher De Francesco** and **Shaylyn Decker** are the organization's first President and Vice-President, respectively. **Benette Whitmore** is faculty advisor. For further information, see: <http://www.esf.edu/es/esso.htm>.

Two **new departmental blogs** were launched late in 2008: "ES Majors Info", of interest to undergraduates (see: <http://esmajors.blogspot.com/>); and "ES Grad Info" for ES-affiliated graduate students (see: <http://esgradinfo.blogspot.com/>). Check them out periodically for job, fellowship, internship, new course, and other information. A **new listserv**, "ES-Announce", has been established for community members and others interested in receiving e-mail announcements of departmentally sponsored events and activities. For further information, contact <envsty@esf.edu> or 315.470.6636.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

Earlier this month, the ESF Faculty Committee on Instruction approved a number of curriculum changes for Environmental Studies degree programs, effective for students entering in Fall 2009. Two option areas in the **B.S. Environmental Studies** program have been redefined:

- The Environmental Communication and Culture option will become the "**Environmental Communication, Culture and Writing**" option. The

new, expanded option will include courses in environmental writing, environmental literature, environmental journalism, and creative non-fiction in the sciences. A new "Survey of Environmental Writing" course is proposed to begin in Fall 2009.

- The Environmental Policy option will become the "**Environmental Policy, Planning and Law**" option. A redefined undergraduate core course, EST 426, Sustainable Community Planning, is proposed to begin in Fall 2009. Students interested in law school or graduate planning programs may find this option of interest.

In addition to these changes, beginning with students entering in Fall 2009, all Environmental Studies majors will be required to take a new, senior capstone course, EST 494 (Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies) in their final spring semester.

Also effective for students entering in Fall 2009, two curriculum changes have been made to the Environmental Studies masters' degree programs:

- EST 626, Concepts of Sustainable Development, will become a required rather than optional course for the **MS Environmental Studies**.
- Students in the **MPS Environmental Studies** program will be required to give a formal presentation on their capstone project as part of their degree requirements.

FACULTY AND STAFF

At the annual conference for the Society of Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSA) in Charlotte, North Carolina, in November, **Janine DeBaise** presented "Snake Dreams", a chapter from her manuscript of creative non-fiction. In February, she traveled to Chicago to attend the annual conference of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs. One of DeBaise's poems has been selected for the 2009 Syracuse Poster Project, a collaboration between poets and artists sponsored by the Downtown Committee of Syracuse. In June, she will present a paper entitled "The Virtues of the Virtual: Using Blogs to Communicate Place across Space", at the conference for the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) in Victoria, Canada.

This fall, **Myrna Hall's** urban ecology class conducted aquatic macroinvertebrate sampling in Onondaga Creek, and quantitatively assessed opportunities for urban forest enhancement on the Near West Side of Syracuse. Students also participated in the Partnership for Onondaga Creek's citizen survey exploring people's willingness to implement green infrastructure for hydrological run-off mitigation, working closely with **Brenda Nordenstam** and recent ES-affiliated ENRP doctoral graduate, **April Karen Baptiste**. In December, with her husband, **Charles Hall**, Hall taught a two-week intensive course in spatial ecosystem analysis at the Universidad Nacional de Rio Cuarto (UNRC), Cordoba, Argentina. This course is a required course of the Masters in Agricultural Sciences at UNRC, and is taught every three years. Hall presented her findings on expanding impervious surfaces and their impact on New York City Catskill/ Delaware

Watershed stream nutrient concentrations and annual loads at the NYC Watershed Science and Technology Symposium, the NY State GIS Conference, and the Delaware County Science Advisory Board. The peer-reviewed report to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) of the three-year study undertaken with colleagues Rene Germain of ESF, Mary Tyrrell and Neil Sampson of the Yale Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry, and graduate students from both institutions is available at: <http://www.esf.edu/es/hall/water.pdf>.

Patrick Lawler served as Acting Chair from January 3-19, and again March 7-15. In the first period, **David Sonnenfeld** was Visiting Professor in the Department of Public Administration and Politics, University of Malaya (UM), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and keynote speaker at the international conference on "Public Private Partnerships in Development" at UM. In the latter period, Sonnenfeld returned to the Environmental Policy Group, Department of Social Sciences, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, as guest lecturer and research associate.

The new book, *Governance for Sustainability: Issues, Challenges, Successes* was released in October by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Environmental Law Project at its quadrennial meeting in Barcelona in October. It contains two chapters with **Jack Manno** as lead author:

- **Manno, J.**, and I. Powless, Jr. 2008. "Brightening the Covenant Chain: The Onondaga Land Rights Action and Neighbors of Onondaga Nation." pp. 149-158 in *Governance for Sustainability - Issues, Challenges, Successes*, eds. K. Bosselman, R. Engel, and P. Taylor. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN
- **Manno, J.**, and G. Krantzberg. 2008. "Rediscovering the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement."

Manno was the first speaker at this year's Ecological Economics lecture series. His talk on January 26 was "Commoditization and Oppression: A Social Theory to Explain Certain Features of Political Economy and Ecological Economics." He was the discussant for the panel titled, "Non-governmental approaches to environmental mobilization: lessons from around the world," at this year's annual conference of the International Studies Association, February 15-18. A reception for the new *Oxford International Encyclopedia of Peace* was held February 16 at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. The four volume series will be out in October 2009 and contains an entry by Jack, entitled "Water and Peace."

In October, **Mark Meisner** gave a guest lecture entitled "Domesticating Nature in the Media Landscape" as part of the Syracuse University Department of Geography Colloquium Series. In November, Meisner visited Vienna, Austria at the invitation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank's Communication for Governance & Accountability Program. He was invited to be the lead presenter for a session on "Learning from the Global Environmental Movement" which was part of a three-day learning event for anti-corruption agencies entitled "Using Communication Approaches and Techniques

to Support Anti-Corruption Efforts." His presentation, "Media Lessons from the Environmental Movement," at the Vienna International Centre (United Nations Headquarters) was well received and he learned a whole lot about the global fight against corruption. In February, Meisner participated as an invited panelist at "fast:slow food, a casual conversation" at the Syracuse University School of Architecture. This was a project of the School of Architecture's newly formed Transdisciplinary Media Studio. His talk was entitled "The Fastest Food of All" and focused on the problems with, and representation of, corn ethanol.

Brenda Nordenstam is ESF's liaison to the Disaster Preparedness Symposium sponsored by the Upstate New York Society for Risk Analysis (NYSRA) and held at ESF on March 26. Brenda is an officer in the Upstate NYSRA, and a co-planner on the SRA committee.

Rick Smardon presented a paper on "Revitalizing and Restoration of Rivers, Creeks and Streams in North America" as part of the Northeastern Urban Research Organizational Network meeting at Boston College, February 9-10. In March, he participated in a roundtable discussion on recognition/ accreditation of integrated environmental studies programs at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. He reports that he did see the beach, but it was cold!!

David Sonnenfeld's new book, *The Ecological Modernisation Reader: Environmental Reform in Theory and Practice* (London: Routledge), with Arthur Mol and Gert Spaargaren, eds., is slated for publication in June. The volume will be distributed worldwide in both cloth and paper editions. Sonnenfeld is organizing a session on "Environment and Social Theory: Perspectives in the New World (dis)Order", for the International Sociological Association's XVIIth World Congress of Sociology, in Gothenburg, Sweden, in July 2010, also with Mol. Sonnenfeld's three-year term as (elected) Secretary-Treasurer of the American Sociological Association's Section on Environment and Technology will be completed in August of this year. In February, he submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation for a collaborative graduate research and training grant on "Ethics Education in Environmental Science and Engineering", with co-PIs Dianne Quigley, Ph.D. Candidate in Religion, Syracuse University; and Phil Brown, Professor of Sociology and Interim Director of Environmental Studies, Brown University.

Benette Whitmore completed her sabbatical in December. While on leave, she successfully completed her Ph.D. comprehensive examination in Educational Foundations at Syracuse University; commenced her doctoral research on the connections between literature, consumption, and social status in the context of a superstore bookseller; and edited a writing resource guide for teachers and students in the ESF in the High School program.

As part of his duties with the Great Lakes Research Consortium, **Khristopher Dodson** hosted a series of five "Community Conversations" to review the draft plan, "Ecosystem-based Management: Our Waters, Our Communities, Our Future. Taking Bold Action Now to Achieve Long-term Sustainability of New York's Ocean and Great Lakes." Dodson engaged students in his class, CMN

493/ EST 696, Environmental Communication Workshop, in planning, obtaining sponsors, and publicizing the events. Students participated in the events as note-takers and greeters. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to engage directly in public participation dimensions of New York State's legislative system.

Mary Ann Keenan is participating in a committee implementing Chemistry Professor David Johnson's Composting our Waste (COW) project, part of ESF's Green Campus Initiative. See: <http://www.esf.edu/greencampus/>.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Kevin Bliss, ES-affiliated GPES Ph.D. candidate, is proud to report the birth of his daughter, Isabel Louise, on November 20, 2008, at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse. Isabel weighed 8lbs. 5oz, and is doing well. Momma, Silvia Figari Bliss, of Peru, is completing her Ph.D. in Education at Syracuse University. As President of the NY State Wetlands Forum, Bliss invites all interested parties to the network's 15th annual conference. This year's event is being held at the Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel in Poughkeepsie NY on April 7 & 8. The conference consists of numerous individual talks on the subject of wetland science and management, a round table regulatory panel, several guided field trips, and exhibitor displays. Additional information is available at the Forum web site: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org>. Students are encouraged to contact Bliss if interested in presenting at this conference, and to request a waiver of student admission fees: <kebliss@syr.edu>.

Hang Ryeol Na, ES-affiliated Ph.D. student in the Environmental and Natural Resources Policy program, displayed a poster, 'A Comparative Study of the Radioactive Waste Policy of USA and South Korea', at a meeting of the Central New York Chapter of Air and Waste Management Association (CNY AWMA), held in Marshall Hall, on November 13, 2008. Na also wrote a short essay, 'He lives what he teaches & teaches what he lives', about what he learned at a meeting of his major professor, **Jack Manno**, and his graduate students. It was published in the January 30, 2009, edition of *The Knothole*, ESF's student newspaper.

On February 10, 2009, **Hilary Smith**, ES-affiliated GPES MS student, attended the annual Student Lobby Day in Albany, NY, an all-day event aimed at lobbying the NY State Assembly on proposed cuts to student financial aid programs and other matters. Along with four other students, Hilary represented ESF's C-STEP program. Meetings were held with State assemblymen Albert (Al) Stirpe and David Townsend, Jr. A representative of Governor Patterson also met with the group. There is a proposed 50 percent budget cut for C-STEP programs that would adversely effect programs offered by ESF's Multicultural Affairs Office. Hilary argued on behalf of C-STEP, lauding the benefits of these programs especially for financially disadvantaged students.

ALUMNI

In February, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton traveled to Beijing to discuss, among other things, cooperation on environmental, energy, and climate change between the US and China. A key participant in these talks was ESF alumnus, Professor **Ye Qi**, of Tsinghua University. Qi studied completed his Ph.D. in Environmental Science at ESF in 1994, with **Charles Hall**, ES Biological Applications Option Coordinator and faculty member in the Department of Environmental Forestry and Biology. See: [ESF News Release](#).

This issue of the *Environmental Studies Newsletter* was edited by Christine Crysler and David Sonnenfeld. Submit items for future issues 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.