Alumni: we want to hear from you! Please send us updates and stories about where you have been since you graduated from KU. Please email us at env-studies@ku.edu, or write to us at:
Environmental Studies Program, University of Kansas, 1460 Jayhawk Blvd, Rm. 252, Lawrence, KS 66045.

A year of important change, and more opportunities on the horizon.

Dear new and returning students, alumni, and friends of the Environmental Studies Program: I first want to welcome our students and faculty to campus for the start of another academic year. I look forward to meeting those new to campus and to renewing contact with those returning from what I hope were productive and rewarding summer activities.

Our goal remains to be KU’s center of interdisciplinary training in the analysis of environmental issues, providing our students with the tools to take action to address those issues. We accomplish this with our program’s teaching, programming, outreach, internships, and the outstanding research of our award-winning students and faculty. Our students, faculty, and staff continually facilitate the kinds of personal and institutional interactions across campus that contribute to building our interdisciplinary program. When we say interdisciplinary, we mean it.

Read on, and you’ll see how we engage uniquely with people in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, professional schools and research centers here at the Lawrence KU campus, and even at K-State! You’ll see highlights from the past year, and you’ll get a sense of what lies ahead for the program.

It requires teamwork to address today’s environmental problems, whether local, regional, or global. We are grateful to have you on our team, and we welcome your input to, and support of, our efforts.

Sincerely,
J. Christopher Brown
Director

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Advising and staff updates 3
Freiburg study abroad program 6
The Faculty Files 7-8
Big achievers in Environmental Studies

England Porter, May 2009 graduate, and Margaret Tran, senior from Derby, are featured as KU Women of Distinction in the 2009-2010 Calendar edition. Porter spearheaded the Potter Lake Project, and she participated in the Campus Fruit Tree Initiative last year. Tran was instrumental in creating and planting the Rain Garden next to the Ambler Student Recreation Center. Also, she was nominated for both the Udall and Truman scholarships. Both students have made important contributions to environmental awareness on campus and beyond. Tran, along with Jason Hering, senior from Hutchinson, received Harvey S. Nelson awards.

In addition, thanks to the generous bequest by Ruben Zadigan, the Environmental Studies Program is able to offer various scholarships and awards to high-achieving, hard-working and devoted students majoring in Environmental Studies. Some students received awards based on economic need. Others were rewarded for their leadership and exemplary service to the community. Students with high GPAs (3.5 and above) received academic merit-based awards. Finally, students were awarded funding for undergraduate research and to enable participation in Environmental Study Abroad programs.

RUBEN ZADIGAN SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS: 2009 - 2010

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tips for students
what you need to know to maximize the impact of your education at KU and beyond.

plan ahead

- don’t wait to set that advising appointment! beat the rush during advising season by coming in early. planning your course load ahead will also save you headaches in the long run.

- sketch a sample 4-year-plan. figure out which courses you will need to complete your degree. not every course you need will be offered every semester - some are fall or spring only, with limited seating.

electives

- look beyond the green. search beyond courses with the word “environment” in the title. many courses have environmental content that is not explicit in the title. investigate, talk to your friends with other majors. you may never know - that physics course could turn out to be very pertinent to your interests!

- pick a focus that interests you. as you take courses, try and narrow your focus on topics such as food policy, aquatic ecology, etc. program faculty can help you decide which electives are best for you.

jobs & internships

- talk to faculty. the program hosts a series of faculty chats: last year, chris brown, karl brooks, and dorothy daley talked with groups of students about research, teaching and career opportunities. attend one of these chats and bring questions.

- sign up for internship credit. by enrolling in EVRN 490, you can work quickly towards degree completion - all while gaining valuable experience for the job market. see the internship coordinator for details.

New Program advising staff

Owen Marciano is our new Advising Specialist in the Environmental Studies Program. Owen recently moved to Lawrence from Minneapolis, MN, where he was an advisor at the University of Minnesota. He is excited to be at KU and to work with all of our students and faculty!

Owen will be holding office hours in the Environmental Studies department (252 Snow) on Wednesdays, Fridays, and the 2nd and 4th Thursdays throughout the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 semesters. If you have any questions about your degree progress at this point, or if you would like to set up an appointment with Owen, please call (785) 864-8902 or send him an email (ohmarciano@ku.edu). Faculty are also welcome to contact him with questions related to student advising.

A big THANK YOU is in order to Heidi Hulse, our outgoing advisor. She has moved to KU’s new Center for Global and International Studies. From Heidi, “I’d like to express my sincere thanks to the students, faculty and staff of the Environmental Studies Program. I learned something new about the environment every day!” We wish Heidi all the best in her new position!

INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR

Jennifer Kongs, the former Internship Coordinator for Environmental Studies, will be embarking on a six month expedition to El Salvador. Lydia Gibson, a senior in Environmental Studies, will be taking her place.

More details about internships are available on page 5. Thanks to Jennifer for all her hard work, and buen viaje. Welcome, Lydia!
Honors Presentations and Research Proposals

A priority of the Program is to engage undergraduates in research. Program honors students presented their research and findings to faculty and fellow students in Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 research symposia.

Last year, Environmental Studies started a program to award scholarships to support undergraduate research projects. If you are interested in getting involved in research, contact a faculty member whose work interests you.

To pursue honors in Environmental Studies: first, meet with a faculty member whose interests mesh with yours. Discuss potential research topics and deadlines. Then obtain a permission number to enroll in independent study, EVRN 624, with your faculty supervisor. The following semester, enroll in EVRN 625 (honors research). At the end of the semester, present your topic either at the undergraduate research symposium or at the Environmental Studies departmental honors presentations.

**FALL 2008:**

Michelle Bond, “Reclamation and re-vegetation of lead and zinc mined lands.”
Kelly Kindscher

Brian Sifton, “Climate change responses on a local level: the role of the Cool Cities Program.”
Stacey White

**SPRING 2009:**

Jennifer Kongs, “Community food security: the potential for Lawrence, Kansas.”
Shannon O’Lear

Christopher Wichman, “Tracing the History of U.S. Farm Policy: A Case for Sustainable Rural Kansas Communities.”
Dorothy Daley

**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FUNDED BEGINNING SUMMER 2009:**

Ryan Callihan is conducting an assessment of Kansas reservoirs, with emphasis on the stream riparian zones in the watershed above Pomona Lake. His faculty mentor is Mark Jakubauskas.

Lydia Gibson is analyzing the impact of Community Advisory Groups under the supervision of Dorothy Daley.

Samuel Gleeson is evaluating the efficacy of restoration efforts after crown fires in the Ponderosa Pine ecosystems. He is working with Kelly Kindscher.

Both Jason Hering and Shane Johnston are assisting faculty mentor Shannon O’Lear in research on resource conflicts, toxins and waste for an upcoming book.

Jacquelyn Murdock is studying the social and environmental implications of agroindustrial sugarcane production in Brazil, with Chris Brown.

Michael Schaetzel is testing various biomass waste materials in an effort to contribute data to the US Dept of Energy’s biomass database, with the guidance of Chris Brown and Oswald Chong.

Kimberly Tate is examining different botanical aspects of plants to determine their potential use as medicines to help animals. She is supervised by Kindscher.

Margaret Tran is researching community gardening under the tutelage of Kelly Kindscher.
Internships provide an opportunity for students in the Environmental Studies program to get real hands-on experience working in a field they are passionate about - and get class credit for doing it! There is no better way to find out if a certain career path is for you than to try it out. Internships are often the beginning of successful careers. We also want to thank and recognize our internship supervisors for their important contributions to our program.

**GETTING CREDIT FOR YOUR WORK:**

1. **FIND AN INTERNSHIP.** Internship opportunities are usually posted on our website. Check the site for postings and lists of internship providers such as the Student Conservation Association, National Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, etc. Consult with the Internship Coordinator for advice on how to search for internships.

2. **FILL OUT AN APPLICATION.** Applications to receive credit for internships in Environmental Studies are available on our website and in the office. Credit hours earned depend on the number of real-time hours worked: the ratio is 80 real hours per 1 credit hour. You may count up to 8 credit hours of EVRN 490 towards your degree.

3. **SUMMARIZE YOUR EXPERIENCE.** At the end of the semester, write a final report (between 1800 - 3000 words) about what you did during your internship work. Your supervisor will also turn in a brief summary of your job performance. After these reports are processed, you will receive a grade of "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory" for EVRN 490.
Students experience life abroad in Freiburg, Germany

Seventeen KU students, including eleven EVRN majors, joined Professors Dietrich Earnhart and Stacey White (Environmental Studies Associate Director) on a four-week Study Abroad experience in Freiburg, Germany this past June. Freiburg is widely regarded as one of the greenest cities in Europe, and it provides a fantastic setting for studying environmental issues. Students took two courses, one in Environmental Economics and the other on Sustainable Cities. Course field trips included an organic winery, a hike in the Black Forest, The European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, and the self-proclaimed “most environmentally friendly private hotel in the world.”

Stacey White notes that “one of my very favorite parts of this terrific experience was to be able to show students first-hand some of the environmental planning innovations I teach about in the U.S. For example, U.S. planners talk about mixed use, walkable development, and Germans live it. I am anxious to go back in 2011.”

FREIBURG: Study abroad students enjoy a hike on a scenic hillside, June 2009.

Post-hike picnic in the Black Forest.

The class on a tour of the European Parliament.

Students at the classroom center.
New Program Structure Expands Faculty Participation

The 2009-2010 academic year will be the first full year the program operates under a new structure that expands faculty participation in program governance. The program’s main body is comprised of a Governance Faculty, with 16 professors from 11 departments on campus. The program also counts on the teaching and research contributions from a large and diverse group of courtesy faculty involving 27 professors from 16 departments. More will be joining this academic year, allowing the program to build larger networks of faculty whose research and teaching focus on the environment. A full list of faculty and their affiliations follows:

ANTHROPOLOGY
• Jane Gibson

ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING
• Shannon Criss
• Stacey Swearingen White

ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCE
• Nathaniel Brunsell
• David Mechem

CIVIL, ARCHITECTURAL, & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING
• Oswald Chong
• Jie Han
• Dennis Lane

ECONOMICS
• Dietrich Earnhart

ECOLOGY & EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY
• Ford Ballantyne
• Sharon Billings
• Jerry deNoyelles
• Edward Martinko
• A Townsend Peterson
• Jorge Soberon
• Joy Ward

ENGLISH
• Byron Caminero-Santangelo
• Marjorie Swann

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
• Robert Hagen
• Kathleen Nuckolls

GEOGRAPHY
• Chris Brown

• So-Min Cheong
• Stephen Egbert
• Johannes Feddema
• Peter Herlihy
• Daniel Hirmas
• Xingong Li
• Garth Myers
• Shannon O’Lear
• Kees van der Veen

GEOLOGY
• Rick Devlin
• David Fowle

HISTORY
• Karl Brooks
• Greg Cushman
• William Tsutsui
• Donald Worster

JOURNALISM
• Simran Sethi

KANSAS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
• Mark Jakubauskas
• Kelly Kindscher
• Ed Martinko

LAW
• Robert Glicksman

POLITICAL SCIENCE
• Dorothy Daley
• Don Haider-Markel

SOCIOLOGY
• Eric Hanley
• Joane Nagel

SPENCER ART MUSEUM
• Saralyn Reece Hardy
AWARDS AND HONORS:

Shannon O’Lear, Geography, and Byron Caminero-Santangelo, English, were recipients of Kemper Awards for excellence in teaching. O’Lear received the Kemper in 2008 and Caminero-Santangelo was a Fall 2009 recipient.

In addition to the Kemper, Caminero-Santangelo was also named a Keeler Faculty Intra-University Professor for 2009-10, along with Joane Nagel of Sociology. The Keeler professorship provides recipients with opportunities to expand interdisciplinary research and collaboration.

David Mechem of Atmospheric Science received a J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award in 2009. Finally, Joy Ward of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology was honored with the White House Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT
DAVID FOWLE
GOVERNANCE FACULTY, GEOLOGY

Fowle was recently funded by NSF for a project entitled Lake Matano, Indonesia: A Modern Observatory of Ancient Ocean Biogeochemistry. The lake is situated on the Sulawesi Island of Indonesia. It is between one and four million years old and is the eight deepest lake in the world.

His group has been actively sampling Lake Matano for the past six years in part to study the impact of the mining of nickel and chromium rich soils in its catchment. Beyond their environmental work on the lake, the high iron concentrations, low concentration of sulfur, deep penetration of light, and other physical and chemical characteristics make Lake Matano a strong modern analogue for the chemistry and biology of Archean and early Proterozoic Oceans. He believes that this lake is the best modern analogue of these ancient oceans and provides a living laboratory to investigate the nature and kinetics of biogeochemical processes active in the Earth’s early history.

Professor Byron Caminero-Santangelo (far right) receives a Kemper Award. The William T. Kemper awards recognize outstanding teachers and advisors for their service to the campus and community.
Last year, Environmental Studies worked with other units across campus to bring faculty from other universities to KU for lectures and meetings with both undergraduate and graduate students:

• Christian Brannstrom, Texas A&M; “Environmental Governance in Brazil’s Soy Belt.” Geography, Center of Latin American Studies

• Ian Cook, University of Exeter, UK; “The life and times of tropical fruit stories.” Geography

• Daniel Sui, Texas A&M, “Is neogeography really new?” Geography

• John Randolph, Virginia Tech; “Toward sustainability of energy, water, and land through a whole community approach.” KU Student Senate, NSF IGERT C-Change, Architecture & Urban Planning, Center for Environmental Policy IPSR, KU Environments

• Richard Mabion, Green for All Academy; “Race, justice, and the environment: getting a place at the table.” Center for Sustainability

• Rucha Ghate, Institute for Research and Development, Nagphur, India; “Decentralization - panacea to halt degradation?” Geography, International Programs, Center for Global and International Studies

• Ed Casey, SUNY-Stone Brook; "Approaching the Edges of Land in Art, Geography, and Philosophy." Kansas African Studies Center

• Richard Somerville, Scripps Institute of Oceanography at UC-San Diego; “Global Warming: What Should We Know and What Should We Do?” IGERT C-Change

• Theresa Selfa, Jason Bergtold and Jeffrey Peterson, K-State; “Agriculture, water quality and food issues.” Center for Environmental Policy IPSR
Professors build links between KU and Mongolia

Professors from KU’s Environmental Studies Program are leading an effort to build research and education programs linking KU with people and institutions in Mongolia.

Last year, approximately 30 professors signed on to an initiative to bring greater focus to currently disparate activities having to do with the country. From the Geology faculty’s great interest in processes forming mineral deposits there, to Natural History Museum projects to study biodiversity, to social scientists interested in studying development and environmental policy, a wide range of interests were brought to the same table to find areas of overlap and to generate ideas for new interdisciplinary projects.

One outcome has been a project financed by KU’s Interdisciplinary Research Initiative In Nature and Culture sponsored by The Commons. The project’s coordinators are Chris Brown, Environmental Studies Program Director, David Fowle (Geology and Environmental Studies governance faculty member), and John Kennedy (Political Science). They will be coordinating panel discussions related to building an interdisciplinary socio-cultural environmental research center in Mongolia. The Center would involve professors there from the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities, local people and non-governmental organizations, government and industry, initially focused on the mitigation of the human and environmental costs of mining.

Based on a model already developed by Kennedy in China and Somalia, the Center seeks to assist Mongolian citizens, professors, and others to address issues of interest to them with actions based on interdisciplinary research. The seed funding provided by The Commons at KU will allow others across campus with interest in Mongolia to be involved in the project.

Environmental Studies, interdisciplinary home of NSF-funded graduate training grant

Environmental Studies is the interdisciplinary curricular home of a new graduate student training program at the University of Kansas. The National Science Foundation is funding graduate students on campuses across the country in an initiative called IGERT (Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship). An IGERT program has been established at KU with a focus on climate change, called C-CHANGE: Climate Change, Humans and Nature in the Global Environment.

Dr. Joane Nagel, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, is leading the C-CHANGE program at KU.

Students selected to participate in the IGERT C-Change program take four courses over four semesters, team-taught by faculty from a variety of disciplines ranging from the social and natural sciences to engineering and urban planning. Each course focuses on interdisciplinary examinations of climate change issues, as well as systematic study of science policy.

The first course in fall 2008, entitled “Climate Change, Ecological Change, Social Change”, examined the history of climate change from geoscience, bioscience, and social science perspectives, exploring the ways that different disciplines approach understanding climate change and its impact on natural and human systems and how these understandings have changed over time. The course was team-taught by Greg Cushman (History), Luiz Gonzalez (Geology), and Joy Ward (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology), all courtesy faculty members of Environmental Studies.

The Spring 2009 IGERT seminar brought the IGERT trainees together with seven Urban Planning master’s students. Co-taught by Drs. Stacey White (Environmental Studies Associate Director and Urban Planning), Johannes Feddema (Geography), and Kelly Kindscher (Kansas Biological Survey), the class focused on relationships between energy use and climate change, and specifically on how higher education can play a leadership role in climate change response. Students conducted a greenhouse gas inventory for the KU Lawrence Campus, and out of that developed a climate action plan called “CAP KU.” This plan analyzed Energy/Electricity, Buildings and Transportation on campus and made recommendations for reducing the greenhouse gas impacts of each.

The fall 2009 course involves the students with Town Peterson and Jorge Soberón (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Natural History Museum, Nate Brunsell (Geography), and Chris Brown (Geography and Environmental Studies) in a course called “Climates & Borders - Monarch Butterflies & Local Economies in Mexico”. The final course in the IGERT curriculum in Spring 2010 is “Mapping the Ice Sheet Retreat in Greenland”, involving Dave Braaten (Geography), Sharon Billings (Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Kansas Biological Survey), and Joane Nagel (Sociology).
STUDENT GROUPS

Want to get involved on campus, but don’t know where to start? Try getting your feet wet and joining one of many environmental student groups at KU!

For a complete listing of student groups, visit the Student Involvement & Leadership Center website at http://www.ku.edu/students/organizations.shtml

Students at work in the KU Student Rain Garden, in front of Ambler Student Recreation Center. Photo courtesy of Center for Sustainability and University Relations.

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABILITY:
Jeff Severin, (785) 864-5804
http://www.sustainability.ku.edu/

ENVIRONS:
Ryan Callihan, environs@ku.edu
http://groups.ku.edu/~environs/

ECOJUSTICE:
Jason Hering, Jason711@ku.edu
http://groups.ku.edu/~ecmku/ecojustice.shtml

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOCIETY:
Ezra Huscher, ezh@ku.edu

KUBIOCLUB:
KUBioClub@hotmail.com
http://groups.ku.edu/~bioclub/

EMERGING GREEN BUILDERS:
Marshall Hilton, mhilton@ku.edu

STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD:
Sonia Marcinkowski, soniamar@ku.edu

STUDENTS FOR GREEN CHEMISTRY & ENGINEERING (CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL CATALYSIS):
https://rhodium.cebc.ku.edu/index.shtml
DONATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Your generous donations make it possible for us to offer special programs and events, in addition to funding many of the activities you read about in our newsletter. We need your help to maintain and expand these programs!

You can contribute a number of ways:

On the web:

Or send check or money order to:
Gift Processing Dept.
KU Endowment
PO Box 928
Lawrence, KS 66044-0928

and indicate that your contribution should go to “Environmental Studies Program” on the memo.

Thank you for your support!