



ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN GEOSCIENCES

Student Newsletter

Newsletter #20

October 2010



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Out of Office

Emily will be away at an advising conference October 4th—8th and will return Monday, October 11th. She will not have office hours while away, however she will have limited email availability.

For urgent matters, see Dr. Collins in O&M 204 or Roxanna Russell in O&M 202.

Environment Café

Dates for the October cafés are the 13th and 26th from 9-10:30 in O&M 109. Swing by to grab something to eat and drink, mingle with your peers, ask Dr. Collins, Emily or faculty questions, study, or do the Sudoku! The café on the 26th will be Halloween themed!!!

May 2011 Graduates

If you are planning to graduate in May 2011, please come see Emily in October to fill out any adjustment forms that are needed. That way your degree evaluation will reflect what you have left to graduate by the time you pre-register for the spring 2011 semester.

Recognition

The Environmental Programs would like to recognize and congratulate all of you who received College of Geosciences scholarships. As a reminder, the Scholarship Banquet/Tailgate is Saturday, October 16th. You should have received your invitation from me already and don't forget to RSVP by October 8th. If you have any questions, contact Rachel Rodriguez at 845-3651.

Early Preview Event

The Advisors in the College of Geosciences will be hosting again this semester the Early Schedule Preview Event. This event will allow you to view the Spring 2011 Geosciences schedule before it is even posted online! At this event, faculty will also be there to promote research and study abroad opportunities. It will be Halloween themed with free goodies! Date to be announced later, but will be at the end of October.

Facebook

If you have not already done so, please join the Environmental Programs Facebook group and add your Advisor, Emily Dykes as a friend.



Environmental Programs' Involvement Committee (EPIC)

Upcoming events for EPIC:

- EPIC general membership meeting - 8PM O&M, room 110 on OCTOBER 4
- EPIC hosts I-GEO students to Midnight Yell - FRIDAY, October 15 from 11pm to 1am
- EPIC general membership meeting - 8PM O&M, room 110 on OCTOBER 18
- EPIC table at SUSTAINABILITY DAY - OCTOBER 20 from 10AM to 2PM by HECC
- EPIC does Aggie Replant - OCTOBER 23
- EPIC dinner and movie night - 7PM other details TBA

If you have any questions about events, email the officers at epic.officers@gmail.com. For more information, visit their website epic.tamu.edu.

EPIC went hiking at McKinney State Falls Park on September 25th! IT WAS SO MUCH FUN! There was amazing scenery and some very beautiful views of Onion Creek on the south side of Austin, Texas! We were greeted by sunny skies, while College Station had a downpour!! We were glad to be out of College Station for an afternoon to enjoy the beautiful wonders of nature! Pictured to the right are EPIC members on the hiking trip.



Global Environmental Brigades (GEB)

GEB will be participating in Stream Clean Saturday, October 23, 2010. Check in for the event begins about 8:00 Saturday morning and we head over to the creek (yet to be determined at this time) about 9:00. We work until about 11:00 – 11:30 cleaning up the creek beds/banks of tailgating and construction trash that is carried by the stormwater after a rain event. Each person that participates will receive a free t-shirt and service hours.

Meetings are 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Next meeting is October 7th at 7:30 pm O&M room 112. \$15 dues for the semester are due!

Marine Resources Population Dynamics Workshop

The 8th Annual Marine Resources Population Dynamics Workshop January 3-9, 2011 in Summerland Key, Florida is offering an **all expenses paid** trip for 10-15 undergraduate students.

Do you like math? Do you have a basic understanding of ecology? Do you want to play an important role in the conservation and management of our environment and natural resources? If so, the field of population dynamics may be right for you.

In the past seven years, 106 students representing 62 colleges and universities in 27 states have participated in this workshop. All 106 replied that they would recommend this workshop to others and 74% of the participants agreed that they had developed a better sense of what they would like to do for a career because of the workshop. This event will be sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service and Virginia Tech.

For more information and to find application materials, visit our website at: <http://www.nmfs.vt.edu/workshop/info.1.09.htm>. Applications are due on **October 13, 2010.**

Scholarship Deadlines

Honors and Undergraduate Research will be hosting short informational sessions on the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and the Harry S. Truman Scholarship tomorrow (Friday, October 1st), at 3 pm and 4 pm, respectively, in Rudder 401.

The [Goldwater Scholarship](#) is open to sophomores and juniors (by time to graduation) in math, science, and engineering. Suitable applicants should have high marks (3.7+), some research experience, and an intention of pursuing graduate study and a career in research. The scholarship provides up to \$7,500 in support and **immense** national recognition.

The [Truman Scholarship](#) is open to juniors in any field of study who are likely to pursue graduate study that leads to a career in public service. Students who are considering MPA, MPSA, MPH, MIA degrees, as well as law school, are ideal candidates. Career interests can include government employment, military service, education, work in the non-profit sector, the environment, etc. The scholarship provides up to \$30,000 in support for senior year and for graduate school, access to high-level government internships, and numerous other professional development activities. Prestige is high, as only 60 to 75 Truman Scholars are selected nationwide.

Both scholarships require university nomination - the campus deadline for applications is November 4, 2010. Application instructions can be found at http://honors.tamu.edu/advising/NationalScholarships_ApplicationProcedures.shtml.

Students who cannot attend the briefings are welcome to contact the Honors and Undergraduate Research office to schedule an advising appointment.

For further information about these and other scholarships, visit <http://nationalscholarships.tamu.edu> or contact Kyle Mox, National Scholarships Coordinator at kemox@tamu.edu.

Brazil Study Abroad

Four environmental programs majors participated in the Brazil Geography and Environment study abroad program with Dr. Brannstrom during Summer II, 2010, earning credits in Field Geography (GEOG 450) and Environmental Workshop (GEOG 380). The program, offered also in 2005 and 2008, had no classroom; rather, it was structured entirely around problem-based learning (PBL) tasks in several cities stretching from Salvador to Brasilia. Students explore as far as their curiosity, personal safety, and language skills allow. The PBL tasks began with brief instructions and students having read a short text. Then, they carry out specific tasks that require them to obtain information from their surroundings, reflect on what that information means, and write their findings in journal format, making reference to the required readings. One PBL task used on prior trips involved students describing how



people created territories on a public beach in Salvador where vendors, young couples, athletes, and the elderly create discrete spaces that change over time. Students drew a sketch map and described how the beach space changed over various periods. Another task, in Barreiras, required students to map sites of open sewage and proximity to markets, restaurants, and day-care centers. (Pictured above are Victor Garcia, Bianca Garcia, Rachel Stuteville, and Manny Hernandez.)

Faculty Spotlight

Name: Dr. Will Heyman

Department: Geography

Birthday: 23 July 1965

Family: I am married to Peg and have two boys, Grayson (age 5) and Ry (age 3)

Where did you get your undergraduate, masters, and doctorate and what was it over? BS, Biology and Environmental Studies, Tufts University. MS and PhD in Marine Sciences, University of South Carolina. MS on the settlement ecology of Giant clams and sustainable aquaculture in the Marshall Islands. PhD on integrated coastal management of a 1.5 million acre ridge to reef corridor in southern Belize

How long have you taught A&M? 5 years

What courses are you teaching this semester/what courses are you teaching in the upcoming semester? I am teaching Geos 105 and Geog 330 this semester. I will be teaching Geog 330 and Geography 380, Environmental Workshop: the Local Geography of Food in spring 2011. I also run the Geography Internship program and participate as an instructor on the Dominica Study Abroad – Field and Tropical Ecology and Geography. Next fall, I will offer a stacked course on Integrated Landscape/Seascape Management.

Why do you think studying the environment is important? The environment and its health are fundamental to the quality of life for all humans and other species that inhabit the Earth. We are heading into an era of catastrophic changes of the relationships between humans and the environment and it is an exciting time to help students prepare to participate in and guide those changes.

What do you enjoy most about teaching? Helping students to see the complexities of the issues that face society. Bringing students into the field to let them experience learning first hand.

What do you find most annoying about college students? The only thing that really bothers me is when a student does not appear to appreciate what a gift it is to have a college education. It is not something to waste. I would go back and do it again in a second if I could.

What are your hobbies? I grow vegetables and cook great food. I like to hike and camp and most recently I like to take my kids kayaking and fishing. I also love to travel to interesting foreign locations. I also enjoy saltwater fishing, though much less than I used to.

What was your first job you ever had? I started working at about age 8 doing odd jobs – cleaning out basements, cleaning gutters on houses, and cutting lawns.

What did you want to be when you grew up? I always new that I wanted to work outside, particularly in tropical marine environments and that I wanted my work to be relevant to keeping those places that I love, somewhat the way that they are (or were). My dad always told me that I was going to work for 40 years so I better pick something that I like. . . Well I have indeed done that.

If you could have any super hero power, what would you have? Hmmm. I guess I would have to be Aquaman, though flying is tough to turn down. Swimming and staying underwater, at pretty much any depth and duration, without need of any equipment would be too good to pass up.

Do you have any pets? We have one dog named Bear and a cat named Midnight and another named Motor Mango. I still mourn the loss of my potlicker from Belize, named Shmuflly.

If you had a time machine, where would you go? I'd love to see the tropical Caribbean about 200 years ago. Pretty much anywhere with a coral reef would be fine but let's say specifically in the Snake Cayes in Port Honduras, Southern Belize. It would make me very happy to see this reef fully intact and healthy, teeming with corals, fish, manatee, conch and lobsters.



Faculty Spotlight Continued

If you were stuck on a deserted island, what 3 things would you want to have with you? The practical guy in me would want a good knife; drinking water or at least something that could hold drinking water; as it is easy enough build a rain catchment from most anything; and a really nice internet café.

If you had a million dollars, what would you do? I would likely pay off a good chunk, if not all of my mortgage, put another chunk away for my kids' college education, invest the bulk of the remainder in super conservative stocks, and celebrate by going out for ice cream with my family. . . I would also set aside about 10K for family trips every year.

Anything additional you would like to add? It is an honor and a pleasure to teach at TAMU, particularly in the Environmental Geosciences Program. I encourage each and every student to participate in internships, study abroad, and field courses whenever they can. Check out our Web Sites and You Tube Site

[Marine Geography](#)

[Marine Geography on You Tube](#)

<http://geography.tamu.edu/profile/WHeyman>



Interested in Graduate School?



Graduate & Professional School Day

Friday, Oct. 8 10am-2pm Rudder 1st Floor

- Visit with representatives of over 100 graduate programs and professional schools from across the nation, including Texas A&M
- Opportunity for students to ask questions & gather information
- Refreshments provided

[HireAggies.com](#)

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 **CAREER CENTER**

Environmental
Programs in the
College of
Geosciences

Texas A&M University
O&M 105

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EPAC Student Representative Corner

EPAC is accepting nominations for the ENST Student Representative. Please email your nomination, including why you want to be the Student Representative, to Emily by October 11th. This position is to fill a May graduate's term. Therefore this term will run until December 2010.

As a reminder, your current EPAC Student Representatives are:

ENST: Elizabeth Stockert

ENGS: Jeanne Eckhart and Travis Roof

Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

Upcoming Events in October

1st—Goldwater and Truman Scholarship
Informational
3pm and 4pm respectively
Rudder 401

4th-8th—Emily out of office

4th—EPIC meeting
8:00pm
O&M 110

8th—Graduate and Professional School Day
10:00am-2:00pm
Rudder 1st floor

13th—Environment Café
9-10:30
O&M 109

16th—Geosciences Scholarship Banquet

18th—Noon. Mid-semester grades due

18th—EPIC meeting
8:00pm
O&M 110

26th—Environment Café
9-10:30
O&M 109

31st—Halloween!

