

*ESRM travels to Mexico's Costa Alegre as part
of a coastal restoration collaboration*

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Highlighting Mexico field study course

The ESRM program has distinguished itself through its emphasis on field studies and applied research in everything from mud snails to shorebirds, water quality and restoration. While much of this work occurs in the Ventura County area, our program also allows students opportunities to study away from home. While New Orleans has been one area where the ESRM program has had extensive field experience (more on that in future newsletters), the program has also partnered with the English program to develop a field experience in La Manzanilla Mexico. Located on Mexico's Pacific Coast in the state of Jalisco, this quiet resort town is the perfect location to immerse students in a unique coastal ecosystem that includes a large stand of mangrove that is home to over 100 saltwater crocodiles, tropical birds, and a various species uniquely adapted to life in a coastal wetland.

Here is an excerpt from a story written by English major Rachel Jordan about her experience in La Manzanilla:

CSUCI emphasizes "learning by doing" and that is exactly what this trip was all about. Students went into the wilderness and actually experienced using the tools and doing the research that will be the basis for a study to develop ecotourism. Whether it was mapping with a GPS system, using a densiometer to measure the canopy cover in the mangroves, or snorkeling along the reef to conduct fish surveys, the students of CSUCI were learning what it was like to do environmental research. The learning, however, did not stop when we stepped out of the mangroves. Each student would share and talk about their personal experience in their specific modules. You don't have to be a science major to appreciate and be concerned about how the environment is being affected, just like you don't have to be an

English major to appreciate a good book. This trip epitomized a learning community. If I had not gone on this trip, I would not have had the opportunity to hear and learn the opinions and breadth of knowledge about the environment along with the research we were doing with the other students. In an amazing collaboration, all 25 of us came together to work and learn all that we could.

Realizing that there is an obligation to leave something positive in our wake when we travel to communities like this, students are also engaged with various local projects that have included recycling, working in the local school to plant trees and to help establish a library, painting murals that convey conservation messages, and mangrove reforestation.

Our last visit to Mexico included a new partnership with the University of Guadalajara's Coastal Studies Program at La Gloria Research Station. Here, students were engaged in the collection and release of Olive Ridley sea turtles, mist netting and banding birds in dry tropical forest, and water quality monitoring in nearby Estero El Chorro.





Student research efforts

CSUCI ESRM students Kevin Schallert and Evan Locke have been working with the California Mediterranean Research Learning Center of the National Park Service for the past 2 years. Both Evan and Kevin have been assisting with a variety of research projects including intertidal research as part of the multi-agency rocky intertidal network (MARINe) monitoring project.

Faculty led undergraduate research

A number of new undergraduate research projects have been evolving since the spring semester. New projects include:

Monitoring invasive mud snails on the Santa Clara River

A New Zealand Mud Snail inventory and assessment of the Santa Clara River. This collaboration between ESRM, UC Santa Barbara, and UC Extension established monitoring sites and protocols to document the recent invasion of these non-native aquatic snails and any subsequent spread. Heather Graham, Jennifer Ormond, and Joe Zev have assisted with field monitoring, laboratory identification, and experimental growth studies.

Monitoring water quality along our coast

We are reaching the end of a year-long coordinated monitoring project with UC Santa Barbara, the Santa Monica Resource Conservation District, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and the Tijuana National Estuary. This Bight '08 project has sampled water quality and algal blooms in our local estuaries every month. Students Jennifer Ormond, Andrew Domingos, Nick Seldon, Nick Steffen and others have led crews into our wetlands battling the mud and tides to get the data that will help set upcoming nutrient runoff standards for the state in a few short years.

ESRM doing inventory and monitoring on Anacapa Island

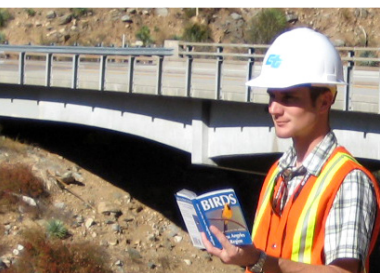
ESRM and the National Park Service have entered into a cooperative agreement to bring students to work on research and monitoring on the Channel Islands. In June, 2009, Cathy Schwemm and Chris Cogan mentored four students on a project to monitor the effects of iceplant removal on Anacapa Island. During the fall, 2009 semester ESRM will be initiating a field methods class, and a large portion of the class will be devoted to continuing these efforts. Students will spend several weekends on Anacapa collecting additional data on vegetation, small mammal abundance, soil composition, and seed bank and invertebrate diversity. The results will be provided to NPS as part of their iceplant removal plan. ESRM senior Alexa Johnson will be the student research assistant on this new collaboration.

Minerals Management Service project begins its third year

Shorebird Inventory of Ventura County beaches is on-going with new ESRM research assistants Amanda Goldstein and Lisa Winfrey taking over from Chris Kahler (ESRM '06 graduate) and Christina Fahim (Biology '09 graduate & pictured at left). Contact professors Don Rodriguez or Angela Chapman (Biology) if you are interested in working on this exciting project. The goal is to expand the project onto Santa Rosa Island in years to come.



Alumni profiles



Eric Hanson (2006)

I graduated with an ESRM degree in the fall of 2007. Thanks to the two teachers who taught the majority of upper division classes, while at CSUCI I became interested in hydrology, the impacts of altering streams on water quality and habitat restoration. While at Channel Islands I was fortunate enough to travel to New Orleans to learn about the environmental and social impacts of Hurricane Katrina. This made me realize the ESRM major is about more than trees and birds, it's about people and how humans interact with the natural environment. I decided I wanted to work in the construction field, helping guide planners and engineers navigate the realities of CEQA and NEPA. In the summer of 2008 I was lucky enough to get hired with the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as an environmental planner/field biologist. Working as a biologist for the state I travel all over L.A. and Ventura County performing a variety of biological resource survey and monitoring tasks. I may be doing a spotted owl survey in the Los Padres National Forest on Monday and water quality monitoring in the Revlon Slough Tuesday. As an environmental planner I coordinate with resource agencies, acquire permits and ensure that when projects are designed and planned they take environmental impacts into account and comply with CEQA/NEPA guidelines. It is also my responsibility to ensure contractors and state workers comply with all environmental permit requirements. The best part of my job is the opportunity to design re-vegetation and habitat restoration plans that are implemented once a construction project is completed. The department I work in (Environmental Planning) organizes numerous river and beach clean-ups each year in both L.A. and Ventura County. We are always looking for volunteers. If you have any questions about career opportunities in the Department of Transportation or information about volunteer opportunities I can be contacted at eric_hanson@dot.ca.gov.



Chris Kahler (2007)

During my senior year at CSUCI I was recruited to be part of the ESRM research project to monitor shorebirds along the Ventura County coastline through a grant from the Minerals Management Service. This experience changed my life and ignited a passion for birds. My interest in ornithology and endangered species conservation led me to my current position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I am currently the coordinator for the Snowy Plover and Least Tern conservation program in the county. My role is to train volunteers to assist with conservation efforts to protect breeding habitat along the Ventura County coastline and to work with the public and local schools to educate others on the importance of habitat preservation.



Chad Lousen (2007)

Since I graduated in spring 2007, I have been contracted by Vaughn Management Services as an Environmental Protection Specialist III for NAVSEA (Naval Surface Warfare Center) at Port Hueneme, Naval Base Ventura County. I have held the position for over 8 months, and things have been going really well. I run the Environmental Quality Assessment program for NAVSEA which assesses the organizations compliance with Federal, State and Local Environmental Regulations. Key programs I assess are hazardous materials management and control, hazardous waste management, storm water pollution prevention, water quality, air quality, solid waste and resource recovery, NEPA, Natural Resources Management, & ozone depleting substances.



Colleen Mehlberg

Recent Graduate Colleen Mehlberg has just wrapped up a year of SCEP employment with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We are happy to report that she has recently accepted a regular fulltime employee permanent position with Fish and Wildlife working on Biological Opinions for endangered species assessment throughout our region. For her capstone, Colleen worked on tracking bacterial blooms in Ventura County waterways as a member of a rapid water quality assessment lab at UCLA. Colleen works with many stakeholders including government agencies, local municipalities, and private landowners to conserve and protect federally endangered and threatened species. She feels like the work USFWS does every day will help our future grandkids grow up on a planet that is still home to these amazing creatures and plants. Colleen is thankful that "CSUCI gave me the background knowledge, skills, and confidence to help me obtain this incredible job."



Recent student accomplishments

Thomson, Garrick (2008) Current and Historical Shorebird Populations in Ventura County, California and the Role of Human Disturbance in Limiting Foraging Behavior. Paper presented at the 22nd Annual CSU Student Research Competition. California State University, East Bay. May 2-3.

Chapman, Angela, Rodriguez, Donald, Fahim, Christina, Goldstein, Amanda, and Winfrey, Lisa (2009). A Comparison of Current and Historical Shorebird Populations in Ventura County poster presentation at the Southern California Academy of Sciences Annual Conference. Loyola Marymount University. Palos Verde, CA. May 29-30.

ESRM involvement in the celebration of student research

On May 7, 2009 sixteen ESRM seniors took part in the CSUCI SAGE Undergraduate Research Symposium at the John Spoor Broome Library Exhibition Hall. The event showcased faculty mentored student research at CSUCI. Students presenting posters of their senior capstone projects were:

Bolduc, Allison "The Channel Islands Marine Ecosystem and Sea Urchin Populations"

Bolduc, Amanda "Algae Biofuel – the next alternative fuel Ventura County public perception"

Boring, Rebecca "A conflict resolution for the Freeman Water Diversion Dispute"

Dennis, Joshua "Assessing Sustainability Literacy at CSUCI"

Hedlund, Scott "An Assessment of Passive Restoration in the Ventura River Preserve Citrus Grove"

Holmes, Mary "Firescaping: Determining resistant vegetation for effective application in fire hazard management"

Madison, Tim "Does a Correlation Exist Between Knowledge and Support of Wind Power in Ventura County"?

Martin, Heather "New Zealand Mud Snail Research in the Santa Clara Watershed"

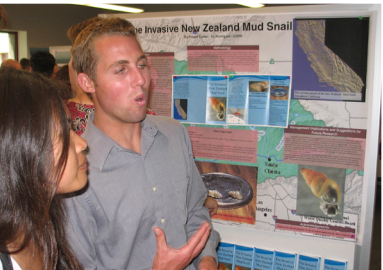
Mehlberg, Colleen "How Bacterial Water Quality Varies in Relation to Storm Drains in the Ventura Harbor"

Newton, Aaron "Cataloging of Invasive Tamarisk in the Malibu Creek Watershed"

Ormond, Jennifer "Using benthic macroinvertebrates to evaluate agricultural land-use impacts on water quality: A Santa Clara River Watershed Study"

Seldon, Nick "Public Valuation of Marine Ecosystem Health"

Cano, Rebecca, Brock Warmuth and Heather Martin "Critical habitat for Hawaii's humpback whales"



Student research (continued)

Oral Presentations

Fahim, Christina, Lisa Winfrey, Amanda Goldstein, Dr. Donald Rodriguez and Dr. Angela Chapman
"A Comparison of Current and Historical Shorebird Populations in Ventura County"

Martin, Heather. 2009. "New Zealand Mud Snail Research in the Santa Clara River Watershed"

Mehlberg, Colleen "How Bacterial Water Quality Varies in Relation to Storm Drains in the Ventura Harbor"

Ormond, Jennifer "Using benthic macro-invertebrates to evaluate land-use impacts on water quality: A Santa Clara River Watershed Study"

ESRM New Orleans Project was also highlighted with the following student projects:

Burton, Heather. 2009. New Orleans: Lower Ninth Ward. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Gamboa, Judy, Therese Abad, and Lisa Winfrey. 2009. Four Years Later: Post-Katrina Devastation in Buras, Louisiana. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Garfinkel, Samantha. 2009. New Orleans Devastation and Flooding. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Harrison, Steve. 2009. Woodlands Trail and Park, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana Invasive Plant Surveys. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Hickland, Tayler. 2009. Scenes of Louisiana. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Stalcup, Derek. 2009. The Culture and History of New Orleans's Rock 'n Bowl. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Yannoulatos, Mikaj. 2009. Geo-Tagged Photo Poster. ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Donahue, Bailey and Samantha Garfinkel. 2009. Vegetarian Jambalaya (Cooking Demonstration). ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Goldstein, Amanda. 2009. Gumbo (Cooking Demonstration). ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Gort, Jei. 2009. Wetlands, Music and Hope: New Orleans 2009 (Video). ESRM 492 Poster Session.

Lee, Paul and Reed Kraemer. 2009. Service in New Orleans (Video Slideshow). ESRM 492 Poster Session.



Formation of ESRM sponsored "Green Generation Student Club"

Is CSUCI truly a Green Campus? How can we become involved with our community and educating future generations about sustainability? What are some new and innovative ways to be Green and live sustainable lives? The Green Generation Club (GGC) asks questions such as these, and is dedicated to collaboratively working together to execute such ideas. Consisting of a diverse group of students, GGC attempts to encompass all students who have a passion for preserving and learning about our Earth, what it means to be Green, how to live sustainably, and the obstacles that exist when change is brought forth. In our early stages of being a club, GGC sets out to strive for hard work and perseverance, because "we can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them" (Einstein). Currently GGC is working on becoming a part of community programs, attending Campus Development meetings, and integrating true sustainability into CSUCI's master plan. Interested students should contact club secretary Lyndsey Schroeder (lyndsey.schroeder279@dolphin.csuci.edu) for more information.

ESRM Spring Lecture Series launched Spring 2009

We launched our inaugural Environmental Science and Resource Management Program's Spring Speaker Series this past year. This free seminar open to the community as a whole brings a wide variety of scholars, artists, managers, and leaders to our CSU Channel Islands campus. The diversity and breadth of our speakers mirror our program's educational goals and are one component of our overall mission to graduate students who can both understand the complexity of the environmental challenges we face and provide concrete, in-depth solutions to resolve them.

Speakers ranged from journalist and author Dan Koepfel to the former head of the National Park Services Marine Research to the Vice President of Pac-West



ESRM Career Fair

New adjunct faculty member Dr. Linda O'Hirok is organizing a career fair for ESRM majors and interested alumni on Tuesday October 27 from 10-3 pm. Prospective employers and internship providers from the private sector (environmental consultants Impact Sciences, NCER, etc), governmental (federal, state, county, local) agencies, quasi-governmental (water agencies) and non governmental organizations (the Nature Conservancy, Ojai Valley Land Trust) will be represented.

Welcome BBQ

The Green Generation Club (GGC) is sponsoring a Welcome Back BBQ for ESRM majors, and students interested in the major, friends, and related faculty. ESRM faculty will be flipping burgers, so come and get acquainted with new friends or catch up with old ones. The BBQ will be Thursday September 24th at Pitts Park on Flynn Rd. (the same location as last year's) in Camarillo at 5pm. The club will buy the big ticket items and then count on the members to bring the side dishes, chips, dessert, etc.

Faculty accomplishments

Publications

Anderson, Sean, Cagan Sekercioglu, and Onder Cirik. 2009. Kuyucuk Lake, Turkey: RIS final Supporting Report. Report to United Nations Ramsar Committee.

Buisson, E., S. Anderson, K. Holl, E. Corcket, G. Hayes, A. Peteers, and T. Dutoit. 2008. Re-introducing native perennial bunchgrass *Nassella pulchra* to degraded California coastal prairies. *Applied Vegetation Science* 11(2):195-204

Cogan, Christopher B., Brian J. Todd, Peter Lawton, and Thomas T. Noji. 2008. The Role of Marine Habitat Mapping in Ecosystem-Based Management. Proceedings of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Annual Science Conference 2008, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. 22 September 2008. <http://www.ices.dk/products/CMdocs/CM-2008/G/G1208.pdf>

Cogan, Christopher B., and Thomas T. Noji. 2008. Marine Classification, Mapping, and Biodiversity Analysis. In: Brian Todd and Gary Greene, eds. *Marine Benthic Habitat Mapping*. Geological Association of Canada, St. John's, NL, Canada.

Roberts, Nina S., Rodriguez, Donald A., (2008). Use of Multiple Methods: An Examination of Constraints Effecting Ethnic Minority Visitor Use of National Parks and Management Implications. *Ethnic Studies Review*, Winter, vol. 31 (2):35-71

Selected Conference Presentations

Anderson, Sean. 2008. Wetland Assessment Methods: standardized, cost-effective techniques to assess wetland community composition and function. 2008 Headwaters to Ocean Conference. Long Beach, California.

Anderson, Sean. 2008. Southern California Seafood Sustainability. 89th Annual Western Society of Naturalists Meeting. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Anderson, Sean. 2009. The Value of Phased, Experimental Approaches to Wetland and Grassland Restoration: Lessons from Southern California to Central Asia. 3rd Annual National Conference on Ecological Restoration.

Anderson, Sean, Cagan Sekercioglu, Mehmet A. Kirpik, Emrah Coban, Onder Cirik, Sedat Inak, Yakup Sasmaz. 2009. Phased, Experimental Wetland and Grassland Restoration in the Anatolian Steppes of Eastern Turkey: the Kars-Igdir Biodiversity Project. 23rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology. Beijing, China.

Cogan, Christopher B. 2008. Marine GIS for Ecosystem-based Management. Invited presentation to the GIS Day Annual Conference for Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Ventura College, Ventura, CA. Nov 21, 2008.

Cogan, Christopher B., Brian J. Todd, Peter Lawton, and Thomas T. Noji. 2008. The Role of Marine Habitat Mapping in Ecosystem-Based Management. Paper presentation to: International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Annual Science Conference 2008, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. 22 September 2008



Faculty accomplishments (continued)

Rodriguez, Donald A. and Pacheco, Pilar. (2009). Building a commitment to parks through service integration: Creating a Park University learning community. Paper presented to the George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites: Rethinking Protected Areas in a Changing World. Portland, Oregon, March 2-6.

Rodriguez, Donald A., Angela Chapman, Greg Sanders, Christopher Kahler, and Garrick Thomsen. (2008). A comparison of current and historical shorebird populations in Ventura County, CA. Poster presented at the 7th California Islands Symposium. February 5-7 Mandalay Embassy Suites Hotel, Oxnard CA.

Other faculty accomplishments include

Maximus Award Outstanding Faculty of the Year - Don Rodriguez

Maximus Award Outstanding Faculty of the Year (finalist) – Sean Anderson

SAGE Faculty Research Mentor of the Year Award – Don Rodriguez

Designation of Lake Kuyucuk, Turkey as a United Nations Wetland of International Importance (a so-called Ramsar Site) – Sean Anderson & his colleagues at Kuzey Doga
European Union's EDEN Award for top Sustainable Tourism Site (Lake Kuyucuk, Turkey) – Sean Anderson & his colleagues at Kuzey Doga

