

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM

## 2013/14 NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Director

Carlos Davidson, Coordinator, ENVS Program

ENVS students made national news this summer with their fossil fuel divestment campaign. In June SF State became the first public University in the nation to divest from fossil fuels. The SF State Foundation Board voted unanimously to divest all endowment holdings in coal and tar sands immediately and set up a committee to study divesting oil and natural gas holdings. The divestment vote was the culmination of many months of outstanding activism by a group of ENVS students. Calling themselves Fossil Free SFSU, they won an ASI resolution of support, hosted a Bay Area wide divestment rally at San Francisco City Hall, met with SF State President Wong, and ultimately persuaded the university to divest. President Wong praised the students for their knowledge and dedication saying "wow - they really did their homework." Hats off to these students for inspiring all of us and showing the power of knowledge combined with activism. See the On Campus section below for more on the fantastic environmental work currently being done by ENVS students.

The Environmental Studies program relies on the help of many. I would like to thank our concentration advisors: Nancy (Sami) Reist (Broadcast & Electronic Communications Arts), Joel Kas-



siola (Political Science), Raquel Pinderhughes (Urban Studies and Planning), Jason Gurdak (Geosciences), Tomoko Komada (Chemistry), Barbara Holzman (Geography) and Glenn Fieldman. And thanks to Tyler Wescott and Raven Rutledge who have been the student representatives this year, helping give students a regular voice in our departmental meetings, to Jason Schwartz our stellar student assistant, and to Courtney Hensel who got married this year, changed her name, and makes everything run in the PACE office.

Finally, our hearts and best wishes go out to our long-time lecturer Brent Plater whose wife Rose is battling cancer. Brent is taking a leave of absence this spring to help with her care. See the story on Brent and Rose inside.

Thank you,  
Carlos Davidson

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### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Awards & Honors	2
Faculty Spotlight: Nina Roberts	3
On Campus	4-6
Alumni News	7-8
Faculty News	9-11

# Awards & Honors

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## George Feliz Memorial Scholarship

The George Feliz Memorial Scholarship in Environmental Studies is awarded each fall to an Environmental Studies major. George Feliz was SFSU's first dean of graduate studies, and was instrumental in helping San Francisco State evolve from a teacher's college to a university. Professor Feliz donated an endowment fund to support a scholarship for Environmental Studies majors with financial need.

## 2013-14 Feliz Scholarship Winner:

Michael Sanchez



Michael was born and raised in the northern region of California in Shasta and Siskiyou counties. Michael is Chicano and is proud of his family's migrant and working-class heritage. Having been raised in a region rich with the resource of water he was made aware that many in the world do not have access or rights to the resources that are rightfully theirs. He now studies in the Environmental Studies Program at SFSU with a focus in Sustainability and Social Justice. He is currently working as a Climate Scholar at the Center for Mathematics and Science Education doing research with Professor Nancy Wilkinson. Their project concerns water resiliency in the Bay Area in relation to climate change.

## Yvette Michaud Student Leadership Award

The Yvette Michaud Student Leadership Award is awarded each fall to an Environmental Studies major who demonstrates leadership in environmental causes that actively engage the San Francisco State University campus or the wider community.

## 2013-14 Michaud Award Winner: Natalie Greer



Natalie first discovered her interest in animals by taking trips with her grandmother to the San Francisco Zoo nearly every week beginning when she was three years old. That interest then turned into volunteering at the zoo starting at age 13 and her first exposure to animal conservation. It is through her love of animals that Natalie discovered her passion for the environment. While in high school when she was still working at the zoo, Natalie realized how interconnected animals and the environment are; you cannot focus on one and ignore the other. The process of completing courses in the Environmental Studies Program at SF State has only strengthened this belief. In September, Natalie completed an internship on Alcatraz where she worked under the island Biologist to monitor the Alcatraz bird population. Currently, Natalie is the first president of the new Wildlife Society student chapter on campus. Natalie also works new student orientations as a GatorAider and takes advantage of the connection with new students to inform them about sustainability at SF State. After she graduates, she hopes to find a job where she can express her interest in environmental sustainability and animal conservation. She is also planning to attend graduate school.

## 2013-14 ENVS Department Honoree

Each year the ENVS Program selects an honoree for the Honors Convocation. The honoree must have earned a high GPA, but the selection also honors broader achievements such as contributions to environmental work. This year's honoree is Kelsey Westfall.



Kelsey was raised in the beautiful Sierra foothills by parents with an affinity for nature and exploration. Her childhood was spent swimming, climbing trees and eating fresh fruits and veggies from the thriving backyard garden, hobbies that eventually paved the way for her travels across Europe and New Zealand with organic gardening and work exchange programs. Kelsey then transferred to San Francisco State University where she became a member of Fossil Free SFSU and assisted in coordinating the 2nd Annual International Divestment Convergence Conference in April, 2014. She is currently an intern at 5 Gyres Institute, researching plastic pollution on local San Francisco beaches, and looks forward to a future of environmental activism and advocacy.

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The ENVS Program would like to thank all the students who applied for the Feliz and Michaud scholarships. As always, it was an impressive group of applicants. Next year's deadline will be mid-October and we encourage all students to apply.

# Faculty Spotlight

## An Interview with Nina Roberts, Professor of Recreation, Parks & Tourism

by Jason Schwartz, ENVS Student Assistant

**JS: What and/or who inspired you to pursue recreation academically and professionally?**

NR: When I lived in New England, I was a teenager, and you know Mom and Dad kick you out of the house in summer to go find a job, right? I became a camp counselor up in a beautiful setting in western Mass. It got into my blood at that time. I had a lot of folks that I really connected with. The director was a recreation professor at a college in Massachusetts, and at the time I knew nothing about the field, that it was even a profession. That's how many people start.

**JS: How old is the field of recreation?**

NR: That's a good question. Recreation is so broad it depends on what part of recreation you might be talking about. There's the play movement, camping movement, an outdoor adventure part, a parks movement part of it, and more. Anywhere from 800 B.C. onward! If you think about it, as human beings, we all have leisure in our lives and like to play. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, is when people started to solidify what it means to be a professional and what it means in terms of standards including teaching, research, building momentum in our work as a viable discipline of study, and that sort of thing.

**JS: Tell me about your interest in race, culture, and gender in relation to the environment.**

NR: I basically live it and breathe it. As a racial minority in this work, it's taken decades for a true professional connection of more ethnic minorities to pursue outdoor education and natural resources. I'm actually mixed race – my dad's white, my mom's mixed including East Indian. So I've enjoyed different activities because that's the way my world was growing up. I didn't have the same barriers or constraints as many other people who are more mono-cultural and their culture teaches them and trains them in terms of their lifestyle, norms, and traditions. Even as a kid I loved being outside or spending time in parks and understanding how people across cultures come to recreation they enjoy. I think there's an assumption that we love the same things. You know, don't all people like to hike? Well, not necessarily. Why not? We all enjoy natural spaces very differently. For me it was more about the female-centric than it

was about the race for a long time. I started working with women and girls outdoors and doing work with just gender and then wondering what's going on with management, as you'd see mostly men managing parks. As I started to realize and understand it both from an education standpoint and pragmatically in the field, then the research came into play and more recently I started asking "Where's all the black and brown people?!" I started getting curious about the intersection of race and gender. I started to become more interested in "Whose voice is not being heard and why?" For me it's really understanding and wondering what are the barriers? The cultural connects and disconnects are huge. I try to understand that and the relationship to environmental justice. Young people need to understand what's going on and why this affects their lives - that's the relevancy thing. Relevancy is the buzz right now. It's big with the feds and other public land agencies. They say "We're not relevant to people of color?" Why do you suppose that is? Because maybe certain communities haven't received much attention in the past and now demographics are changing and you're going to be at the bottom of the totem pole – now you care? I totally enjoy talking with our agency partners about all this.

**JS: What is that in reference to - "Not relevant to people of color?"**

NR: It's been a trend of conversation around strategic planning and community engagement. We have to do more, we have to do better because we're not relevant to communities of color. "We" meaning parks and green spaces and natural resources. Most of the conversation revolves around, "Well, people of color don't come to our parks." I tell agencies you have to learn why. It doesn't mean that the parks aren't relevant. People have to understand if we want clean air and clean water, for instance, that's a common sentiment across race and gender. I don't care who you are, those are the fundamentals. Natural resources are absolutely relevant. How people of color choose to use them for recreation or leisure, or sustenance or even education is absolutely relevant. But what these land agencies don't always know is what that relationship is, what that connection is. The relevancy component has always been there



in some capacity, and it has surfaced as a new way to say: "You know what? we really need to connect with these communities – we're doing a little bit, but we're not doing a good enough job." We talk about it and say things like "Are trees relevant?" Of course they're relevant, they do x, y, and z for us as humans, plus they provide habitat for wildlife and other essential ecosystem benefits. And so if people aren't using public lands the way the managers think they ought to be used, then we must not be relevant, right? It's a matter of shifting our way of thinking and creating greater access.

**JS: So would you describe the modern usage of this term, relevancy, as bitter-sweet? Or positive or negative?**

NR: Yes, because now and then it speaks to a lot of rhetoric – "We're going to do this because we want to be relevant." 10 years later some park managers are still talking about it. That's the bittersweet part. And then they might create a plan. Where's the plan to implement the plan? What's your next step? Where's the action item? Where's the program? Where's the invitation for people of color to join your board? I can go on and on around the strategies. And that's the leadership piece. Who's part of the leadership? Who's the director? Who's the forester? It's equally necessary for park managers to continue building relationships to say "we know there's a connection here, we know you appreciate natural resources and we want to offer you a job. Have you ever thought about studying env. sciences in school or outdoor recreation, natural resources, history or journalism? And consider working for the park system?" I think we're going to see a shift in the face of our workforce. And I'll be sitting in a rocking chair somewhere, but I'm going to watch it; I'm ready.

# On Campus

## Student Groups Working on Environmental Issues

### ECO Students

ECO Students is the longest standing Environmental group at SF State. We try to raise awareness about environmental problems and solutions on campus through advocacy, events, and projects. We are also always trying to build community at SF State by planning fun excursions for members and non members to take part in. This semester, ECO Students will be planting veggies in the SFSU Sol Patch Garden, planning events for Earth Month, and building an Earth Bench. ECO Students meet every Wednesday from 7-8pm in Rosa Parks Room F. Come check us out or email [sfsuecostudents@gmail.com](mailto:sfsuecostudents@gmail.com) to get in touch with a member.

### Fossil Free SFSU

Fossil Free SFSU is a student-run climate justice organizing group working on fossil fuel divestment. We meet every Tuesday from 2:30 to 4pm in Rosa Parks F. As SFSU's administration committed to divestment in the Spring 2013 semester, we are currently working to support the larger divestment movement. Projects include hosting a convergence of the national Fossil Fuel Divestment Student Network at SFSU in April, facilitating a CSU-wide network, and following up with

SFSU administration on their commitment. You can contact us by sending an email to [fossilfreefsu@gmail.com](mailto:fossilfreefsu@gmail.com). Students interested in activism, organizing, climate change, just transition, and/or climate justice are strongly advised to get in touch.

### Real Food Challenge SFSU

We are back this semester, and we are excited about all of our upcoming projects! This semester we are working with other campuses and other green organizations at SFSU for a CSU-wide campus policy for real food by 2020! Real food is food that nourishes the body and is local, fair, ecologically sound, and humane. We are also preparing for a fun and sustainably packed Earth Month with great events such as guess which food is "real" and movie nights on campus! If you'd like to get more involved or would just like to know when our upcoming events are, please email us at [realfoodchallengefsu@gmail.com](mailto:realfoodchallengefsu@gmail.com) or like us on Facebook at Real Food Challenge SFSU! We meet every Wednesday from 6:00 to 7:00pm in the library on the second floor! We will notify you when our location changes. We hope to see you there and meet you soon!

### The Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Society student chapter at SFSU is a pre-professional student organization that connects students to opportunities to present research, learn more about animals and provides networking and training opportunities for future wildlife conservation and management fields. As a club we also take field trips to various natural sites in the Bay Area and interact with other student chapters. We meet Mondays from 12-1pm in HSS 383. Graduate and undergraduate students welcomed. For more information, email [wildlifefsu@gmail.com](mailto:wildlifefsu@gmail.com)

### SFSU Students for Justice

SFJ is a student group on campus focusing on training students in social justice activism and organizing. We are currently working to get students a subsidized BART and MUNI transit pass. We meet Tuesdays 6 - 7:30pm in HSS 268. [sfsustudentsforjustice@gmail.com](mailto:sfsustudentsforjustice@gmail.com) -- [facebook.com/groups/sfsustudentsforjustice](https://facebook.com/groups/sfsustudentsforjustice)

## Taking Back the Tap

by Cameron Bingley, ENVS major

On March 4th, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance that will essentially remove plastic water bottles from all events held on public property. After years of hard legislative and political work, President of the Board of Supervisors David Chiu successfully achieved a unanimous decision from his fellow Supervisors to enact the ban.

The City has decided that the environmentally, economically, and socially degrading plastic water bottle industry was something that we needed to protect our city from. A group of hard-working students also believe that banning plastic water bottles for campus events is a beneficial policy that is worth pursuing. Members of TGIF, a student group with

an overarching goal of securing funding for student projects that promote sustainability, are moving our campus toward a water bottle free environment.

This collaborative effort has made a lot of headway in the last couple of months. Campus Sustainability has purchased two outdoor water refill stations and twenty water refill station retrofits to be installed over the coming months to aid our reusable water bottle infrastructure. Students have successfully garnered the support of over 8 student organizations, and many campus auxiliaries. Students have also constructed a resolution that commits those who sign to phase out water bottles at events over the next 4 months, and auxiliaries such as The Insti-



Cameron at SF City Hall

tute for Civic and Community Engagement and Residential Life are already on board.

As the campaign continues piece by piece, a larger resolution is on the horizon. With more student support, we could see a campus-wide resolution pass by potentially the end of the semester.

To get involved contact: [TGIF.SFSU@gmail.com](mailto:TGIF.SFSU@gmail.com)

## On Campus

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### Fossil Fuel Divestment Convergence

In early April, Environmental Studies students in the SFSU fossil fuel divestment campaign hosted a three-day divestment conference with over 200 student divestment leaders from across the country, Canada, and the UK. It was a chance for students to network, strategize, and attend workshops on a range of fossil fuel-related issues. The conference went off without a hitch thanks to many months of hard work on fundraising, programming, travel, lodging, and food. In addition to being the local host committee and handling all the local logistics, ENVS students were also in many leadership positions including national co-chair, head of logistics, and head of outreach. The Environmental Studies Program received an \$10,000 from an anonymous donor to support the divestment convergence.



Student organizers circle up at the closing ceremony to share what they have gained from the conference. Photo credit: Yong Jung Cho

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### Join us on Facebook

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We now have an official private Facebook group for the Environmental Studies Program! This group is for students, alumni, and faculty. Job and internship opportunities will be posted and events will be advertised. Please feel free to network and discuss within the group – this is your community!

The group can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/sfsuenvs/>. You must request permission to be added.

# On Campus - Study Abroad Stories

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## Reflections After Six Months in West Africa

by Nicholas Cichetti, ESSJ Senior, CSU-OIP University of Ghana

I remember the pre-departure excitement when I was still living in San Francisco. It had two elements to it. One was having reached the peak of my frustrations with the political process in America, working 30 hours per week while simultaneously taking 18 units of classes, as well as participating in the initial campaign to divest San Francisco State from its fossil fuel endowments. The other element was that I knew that I had put myself in a situation in which I would be observing, in person, the environmental and social phenomenon that make up a developing country. In other words, I was tired of analyzing the conditions of certain places without truly knowing what these countries or cities were like and I wanted to enhance my learning experience. Throw in my love for West African music, and I knew that given the opportunity, I had no choice but to move to Ghana for a year of studying abroad.

Personally, I think it is necessary for anyone studying in ENVS or a social science discipline that focuses on social/economic development, the environment, or international affairs to study abroad in a third world country. We often – at least speaking from my own experience as a university student – get so caught up in ‘changing the world’ or ‘fighting oppression’ that we lose sight of what’s arguably the most important thing for human beings: community. Here in Ghana, I see people everyday who live in

far worse conditions than most Americans could ever imagine. Yet, everyday I am greeted by smiles, optimism, and an appreciation for what is presently available; you would never know that most folks live day-to-day, earning maybe a couple of dollars per week at most. It is my belief that this situation manifests because of the strong social relations here, thus people are able to tolerate hardship to a much greater degree.

While it is certainly a noble cause to feel empathy towards the more oppressed people of the world, it is equally as good to make the most out of what you have, wherever you are. Yes, it is true that West Africa as a region is statistically one of the most monetarily poor places on earth. However, what gets lost in that analysis is that this place is, in turn, one of the most socially rich places I’ve ever come to know. Being here, living in a country that is so often misperceived in the realms of academia and critical thought and thus misrepresented in world affairs, makes me question exactly what and who determines what constitutes a developed country, why wealth is usually limited to economics, and why even in 2014 many people seem to perpetuate the stereotype of what one of my professors calls ‘the starving African.’

That’s not to say that living in Ghana is by any means a walk in the park. The initial dietary shock – to phrase it as po-

lately as possible – and the hyper-glorification of America are just two examples of the difficult aspects of living here. However, even after just six months here, I’ve altered so many of my points of view and have learned to feel a lot more gratitude for what is presently available to me.

Go and study abroad. Do it anywhere in the world. But if you ask me, like my study abroad advisor suggested to me almost a year ago, ‘go to a place you know the littlest about, that will give you the greatest culture shock.’

I promise that you will learn more about the world through your personal observations than you ever thought possible. Most importantly, you will learn a lot more about yourself and your national identity, especially if you’re a vocal dissenter like me. And, perhaps, you’ll look forward to returning to the United States with refreshed perspectives and a less hyper-critical and negative view about the world. Always be thankful for what you have, especially those things that which we too often take for granted: paved roads, catalytic convertors, running water, an abundance of resources, and so on. And never lose sight of those nearest you, even if it seems like people across the globe are suffering greater hardships; I’ve seen the way people in Ghana take care of one another, and it’s time that we as Americans did the same.

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## Environmental Studies Career Night

In October eight alums returned to campus to discuss environmental careers with a crowd of majors. A big thanks to Charlotte Ely, Life Scientist, U.S. EPA; Johan Alfsen, Training Director, Quick Mount PV; Greg Williams, Project Manager, CH2M Hill; Woody Hastings, Renewable Energy Implementation Manager, Friends of Sonoma Clean Power; Dominique Piccinino, co-founder Branch, an eco-literacy NGO; Bryan Ting, National Director of Volunteers, The Green Festival; Marielle Earwood, Workforce Reliability Associate, SF Public Utilities Commission, Wastewater Enterprise; and Ashley Malyszka, Development Assistant, GRID Alternatives. And thank you to Mariko Hingston, Career Counselor, SFSU Career Center and Joshua Ramey-Renk, Director of Talent Acquisition and Staff Development, Sierra Club, who joined the alums in answering job and career questions.

# Alumni News

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## Updates

*Each year we ask alumni to send updates to include in the newsletter so fellow alums and current students can see where the ENVS degree has taken them since graduating from SFSU. This year we got a great response. ENVS alumni are doing amazing things across the country and the world. Thanks to all who contributed!*

### **Ty Garber, TUE 2010**

I was promoted to a FedEx courier in downtown SF shortly after I graduated. I lost that job and took a job on a crab boat out of Fisherman's Wharf. After the season ended I took the money and moved to WA state where I was hired as a research analyst for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. I oversee the commercial fishing data for the entire state.

### **Andy Nunes, ESS 2012**

I took a year off after graduating SFSU to move back home to Portland, OR. I spent that time working on my house, various urban homesteading projects, volunteering teaching math in my son's 2nd grade class and getting to know my neighbors. Currently I am attending Portland State University to complete a Graduate Certificate in Applied Statistics and the MS in Systems Science. My masters degree work will focus on an Industrial Symbiosis study of the Portland Metro area. Here is a brief excerpt from my welcome page:

In the spirit of becoming the change one wishes to see in the world, I am endeavoring in a new academic pursuit. The change I wish to see in the world is the reconciling of our industrial economy with its impact on the environment. My pursuit is the work of Industrial Ecology. Brad Allenby described Industrial Ecology as a systems-based, multidisciplinary discourse that seeks to understand emergent behavior of complex integrated human/natural systems. I am drawn to learning and applying this approach to sustainable economic re-development of industrial zoned land.

My short term goal is to identify organizations in the Portland Metro Area to collaborate and create a task-force or team to research and plan of an eco-industrial park in Portland. The intention is to cross-pollinate industrial ecology best practices in developing eco-industrial parks within the current EcoDistricts framework. More information about my work can be found on my efolio site: <http://andeynunes.myefolio.com/welcome>. Hope this finds everyone in good health and spirits.

### **Thomas Preston, ESSJ 2010**

My current employer is Groundwork Opportunities (GO) in San Francisco, CA. GO is a nonprofit 501c3 organization based in San Francisco, that invests in local leaders who have the capacity to end

poverty in their communities. GO is able to provide these leaders with the tools — visibility, training and seed funding — they need to bring their projects to scale and accelerate systemic change in their own communities and beyond. I am the Community Manager of GO, managing their crowd-funding platform and positioning the online community with solutions that can end poverty forever. GO connects our project leaders to an audience of potential supporters and philanthropists we call "GO Champions." With dedicated support from our team, GO Champions publicize and fundraise for a specific leader and their project(s). Through GO, Champions can serve our projects leaders and help them scale poverty alleviation solutions in their community that tackle the root causes of poverty. 100% of funds donated to a Champion's fundraising campaign goes directly to cause. It's an amazing organization that allows me and volunteers with GO to also travel and see these solutions first hand. Find out more about his program and others at: <http://www.goworks.org/>. SFSU helped spring-board my career, and offered me the opportunity to qualify for entry level roles in the NGO field of international development.

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## Donate to the Environmental Studies Program Fund

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We use this fund to support a variety of Environmental Studies related projects. In the last few years funds have been used to support students to attend conferences and to purchase light meters for student use in indoor lighting and energy assessments in our Campus Sustainability course.

All donations are welcome – small or large. To donate you can send a check made out to the Environmental Studies Program Fund, to Environmental Studies, SF State, 1600 Holloway Ave, SF CA 94132. Or you can donate online at <http://envs.sfsu.edu/donateENVS>. To ensure your donation reaches us, please choose Environmental Studies under School of Public Affairs from the 'I Would Like to Support' drop-down menu.

# ENVS Sprouts! (Alumni News, con't)

by Glenn Fieldman

“Baby raising,” says ENVS alum Doug Johnson (ESSJ, class of 2010), “is no joke”—especially when you’re trying to step lightly on the earth. Hilary Finck (TUE, class of 2011) seconds that: “Honestly,” she says, “it is hard to be a ‘green’ parent. I’ve been shocked at all the stuff you need when you have a kid. It’s been a little overwhelming for me since I’ve always tried to live simply and not have a bunch of stuff.” John Baldini (ESSJ, class of 2014) jokes that he and Niko’s mom Ianina “read Niko the latest IPCC report on a nightly basis.”



John Baldini and Ianina with Niko (nickname “Niko de Gallo”).

But even without going quite that far, ENVS parents agree that reducing the environmental impact of child-raising takes *time*. Disposable diapers, for instance, save time for tired parents—but they clog landfills, where they also produce methane.

Doug and Krystal Waite Johnson (ESSJ, class of 2010) have therefore decided not to use them and dress their daughter Ruby Joy in a modernized version of re-usable diapers with washable inserts instead.

Homemade baby food also takes extra time to make, but it’s the choice of the Finck and Waite-Johnson households (where you might be treated to a sweet-potato ice cube). Hilary Finck is bothered by the unrecyclable waste of prepackaged baby food, and thinks the extra time in the kitchen is worth it: “I’m pretty serious about what Henry eats,” she says. And then there’s taking the time, as the old song says, to “teach your children well.” John and Ianina are thinking ahead about that: “We’re gonna teach him to respect the earth that we all come from and that you should judge people on their character, not what they have in their wallet or what they wear on their body!!!!”



Doug Johnson, Krystal Waite Johnson, and Ruby Joy Johnson at home in San Diego.



Into the wild: Hilary Finck and son Henry.

It’s interesting that a number of environmental thinkers seem to be converging on the idea that if we are to build a more sustainable world, we need more free time—and a shorter work week. Michael Pollan, in his new book *Cooked*, argues that a good way to reduce environmental impacts is to cook “from scratch” rather than rely on processed (packaged/shipped/refrigerated etc.) food. The New Economics Foundation in the UK has just released a new book, *Time on Our Side*, based in part on evidence that people who work longer hours—and have less free time to do things like cook and walk or bike to do errands—have a larger environmental footprint. They also argue that a shorter working week would reduce unemployment by distributing work more widely—and last but not least, reduce stress and leave more time for fun.



# Faculty News

## Current ENVS Lecturers

Julio Magalhaes, ENVS 300

*What is your background for teaching the ENVS course you are teaching?*

In the first half of my career, I worked for NASA and researched the climate of other planets using spacecraft sent to Mars and Jupiter. In 2001 I became worried that our nation and the world were not taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, so I transitioned from a climate research career to a career centered on action on climate change and air pollution. For over 4-years I was the Global Warming Program Coordinator at the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter where I managed a multi-component campaign of local action on climate change. In addition, I have worked as Chief Scientist at a solar power start-up company and have worked for 12 years with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

*What do you do when you are not teaching for ENVS?*

I work at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District as a member of their Hearing Board. In this role, I evaluate, hear, and judge applications for variances from air pollution control laws and appeals of provisions in air pollution permits. Also, I regularly educate and consult with local government officials from China on the latest developments in the SF Bay Area on air pollution control and local and regional action on climate change.

*What do you do for fun?*

I love hiking and lead intermediate level (7-10 miles) group hikes with turnouts of 50-80 people every two weeks. I also love to drop-in at small jazz clubs or other venues in SF to hear established or promising jazz musicians.



Carol Silverman, ENVS 224



*What is your background for teaching the ENVS course you are teaching?*

My "day job" is as a researcher, having conducted both quantitative and qualitative research on issues as far ranging as

homeless folks with mental illness, housing, nonprofits and philanthropy and school discipline and the school to prison pipeline. I have been teaching research methods and data analysis for years, at UC Berkeley, at the University of San Francisco and at SFSU.

*What do you do when you are not teaching for ENVS?*

I am the research director at the Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, UC Berkeley School of Law.

*What do you do for fun?*

Nothing too exciting - see friends, work out, read, sew, contemplate what I will do when I finally rip out the weeds in the front of my house and replace them with something that doesn't require watering but looks good.

Robert Ovetz, ENVS 690

*What is your background for teaching the ENVS course you are teaching?*

After earning my Ph.D. in Sociology at UT-Austin and living in The Netherlands for six years, I began working on international ocean conservation policy. I ran an international campaign for the Sea Turtle Restoration Project to ban industrial long line fishing in the Pacific, launched a campaign to ban shark finning for the Humane Society International, and was the executive director of Seaflow which worked to protect ocean reserves and sanctuaries and marine mammals along the West Coast from industrial shipping. I was the Coordinator and Core Faculty in the Critical Environmental and Global Literacy Masters Program at New College of California

(formerly in San Francisco, CA)

which taught teachers to implement critical environmental and global literacy in their classroom. I have also published extensively on ocean conservation policy including a report that was published by the United Nations.



*What do you do when you are not teaching for ENVS?*

I teach Political Science at several community colleges and run a public policy advocacy training program at De Anza College. For the past several years I have been writing a book on violence in labor conflicts during the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in order to understand when social movements, including environmental movements, become violent.

*What do you do for fun?*

Acceding to Jack Kerouac's dictum that changing a poem is akin to self-censorship, poetry flows out of me without warning and without filters. I can be found playing chess and shooting archery with my daughter and biking the hills between Woodacre and Fairfax in West Marin where I live.

# Faculty News, con't

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## Brent & Rose

Brent Plater's wife, Rose Braz, is a long time organizer working on prison and environmental and climate justice issues. Rose worked with the United Nations, and was the co-founder of Critical Resistance, a grassroots organization working to end prison expansion. She is currently the Climate Campaign Director at the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) in San Francisco, most recently spearheading CBD's efforts to educate citizens and lobby politicians to oppose fracking. Rose's work has ranged from organizing rallies to testifying in climate change hearings throughout California and the U.S. In her "free" time she works on local habitat restoration projects and joins Brent for birding and other nature trips.

Late in December, with no warning or previously visible symptoms, Rose fell ill and was rushed to the hospital. Ultimately diagnosed with brain cancer, she underwent successful surgery and has just completed her initial rounds of chemotherapy. Brent wrote recently:

"Rose is doing very well at the moment. She still has some visual impairment, mostly while reading, but it is improving every day. She seems to be tolerating the chemo and radiation remarkably well. Some of Rose's large community of supporters have been helping me research treatment alternatives for this disease, and I've learned an incredible amount in the past 6 weeks. And I have met some other caregivers who have also been

researching treatment plans doggedly as I have. Together we're putting together the best possible treatment plan, one that will likely mimic the theory that transformed HIV from a fatal diagnosis to a chronic condition: multiple treatments simultaneously taken that attack the disease through distinct pathways. Keep your fingers crossed."

Thanks to faculty and staff's generous donations of sick leave and vacation time, Brent was able to take the semester off to help care for Rose. For others ways to help them out, check out their website at: <https://www.lotsahelpinghands.com/c/712473/>



## Updates

### Carlos Davidson, ENVS

It has been inspiring to work with our students on the fossil fuel divestment campaign and on the National Student Divestment Convergence. It is great to see students taking activism seriously and great to see the tremendous results. This has been a very good year teaching with research methods, campus sustainability and internship courses all very satisfying. In Campus Sustainability student assessments of energy use in campus lighting were presented to Facilities last summer. And this semester Facilities began work on hallway delamping based on the student reports. On the research front a long term project came to fruition this spring with publication of a paper showing that amphibian population declines in the western hemisphere occur on an elevational gradient with increasing declines with increasing elevation. I continue my research on climatic "refuges" for amphibian population declines in California. Finally, an updated version of my audio guide Frog and Toad Calls of the Pacific Coast has just been released by Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology as a digital download.

### Glenn Fieldman, ENVS

I was really pleased to see the first of what I envision to be a series of articles about finance and the environment published in the journal *Environmental Politics* in September. In it, I explained how US corporate decisions have come to be driven almost entirely by their performance in financial markets—a big change since the 1950s and 60s, and different from the way corporations work in European countries like Germany and Norway, where employees are represented in corporate boardrooms. Because investors in financial markets want returns in the short term, I argued, US corporations are especially prone to taking environmental risks (think BP!) and aren't investing as much as they could

and should in environmental innovation.

I and many of my neighbors in Brisbane are celebrating the end, finally, of our review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for a huge development project. EIRs are supposed to reveal the environmental impacts of a development. Several citizen committees spent many hours scrutinizing the report to see whether the consultants did it right. We turned in hundreds of pages of comments, so the city will have to send the consultants back to the drawing board. I think everybody who worked on the review is practically giddy now that we're done—just in time to see the flowers bloom on San Bruno Mountain and go out and get muddy restoring our little wetland!

### Luiz Barbosa, Geosciences

I spent the Fall semester on a productive sabbatical trip. I traveled through roads in the Amazon region such as the Transamazon Highway, through the Brazilian state of Para, and had the opportunity to visit the construction site of the Belo Monte Hydroelectric Dam, which has been the target of protests by Indigenous and other local people for damming the Xingu River and flooding forest. This was part of a field trip for a book I am writing on the impact of environmentalism on the protection of Brazilian Amazonia. The book manuscript is near completion. I also have a chapter, "Theories in Environmental Sociology," coming up in the second edition of *Twenty Lessons in Environmental Sociology*, Kenneth Gould and Tammy L. Lewis (eds), Oxford University Press. The book will be released in fall 2014.

### Jason Henderson, Geography

In 2013 I published *Street Fight: the Politics of Mobility in San Francisco*. The book examines how it is not just a struggle over what type of transportation is

best for the city of San Francisco, but an ideologically-charged politics of street space, parking policy and transit finance intertwined with housing policy and social justice. This semester I also started a new course, with support from the CSU Campus for Living Labs Grants, called Bicycle Geographies (GEOG 435).

### Joel Kassiola, Political Science

Continuing his recent work on China's environmental crisis, in December, Joel Kassiola published an essay entitled: "China's Environmental Crisis and Confucianism: Proposing a Confucian Green Theory to Save the Environment," in a volume on Chinese Environmental Governance. In addition, the new book was the fourth in a Series on "Environmental Politics and Theory," published by Palgrave Macmillan and edited by Kassiola. Also, in the Spring, 2014, Kassiola offered for the first time his new graduate Political Science course titled China's Environmental Crisis.

### Pete Palmer, Chemistry & Biochemistry

My research students and I have been very busy applying analytical instrumentation to monitor environmental pollutants in all sorts of samples. Gabriel Chu, John Dao, and Adam Leung recently completed their masters degrees and have written, submitted, and/or published manuscripts describing the use of XRF to monitor trace elements in oil, GC/MS methods to monitor pesticides in a museum collection, and DART-MS methods for rapid screening and semi-quantitative analysis of pesticides on fruits and vegetables, respectively. I gave an invited talk on regulatory applications of XRF to monitor toxic elements in consumer products in Beijing and enjoyed the foods, sights, culture, and wonderfully efficient and inexpensive subway system in Beijing China.