



# Environmental Studies Student Association Update

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California State University Fullerton

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## Construction-Related Effects on the Threatened California Gnatcatcher

By Kevin Livergood, MS, CSUF ENST Graduate Fall 2007

My Masters Project examined the effects of construction-related disturbances on the breeding success of a population of California gnatcatchers (*Poliptila californica*) that occur in San Clemente, California. The species has been heavily impacted by the expansion of development in southern California and is now listed as "threatened" under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The primary reason why the gnatcatcher has been so affected by urban sprawl is because it occupies a small range of habitat along the coastal plain that contains enormously valuable and highly sought after land that is ideal for development.



*Photo by Scott Streit, 2000*

The overall objective of the study was to determine whether the California gnatcatcher's breeding success was affected by active construction adjacent to occupied habitat, where active noise-reducing measures were implemented. If the gnatcatcher proved to be more resilient to temporary disturbances during the nesting season, then financial resources could more effectively be appropriated to protect the species where it is most vulnerable instead of directing resources into noise-reducing sound walls of questionable efficacy. The case study resulted in an analysis of nest depredation rates, nest success, nest abandonment, clutch size and number of broods during the 2006 and 2007 breeding seasons.

Significant differences in breeding success were recorded during the two seasons, but they were attributable not to changes in construction activity or sound levels, but to a reduction in resources available to the breeding pairs as a result of changes in weather (drought) and the removal of non-native plants associated with the habitat restoration program on site. The findings of the case study supported the existing research in that even at the height of construction when noise levels were at their loudest, the most affected gnatcatchers still successfully reproduced when sufficient habitat was available.

The Wildlife Agencies regularly require developers to install costly sound walls in an effort to preserve the conditions best suited to nesting gnatcatchers; however, it remains to be proven that noise has a negative impact on their breeding success. The case study concluded that in place of expensive sound walls, perhaps the financial resources could be diverted to additional habitat creation or enhancement prior to construction and to greater coordination between habitat restoration and species preservation teams in the phasing of non-native habitat removal, especially during critical periods such as the breeding season.

## National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) Conference

By Erin Saverio-Seibert

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) is an organization that unites professionals from many disciplines within the environmental field. Every year, NAEP holds a four-day conference, during which association members discuss their projects, research, practices, and experiences.

This year, we were fortunate to have the conference held in our backyard, San Diego. A number of CSUF ENST students joined me in attending the conference from March 25-28, 2008, with the help of ENST program funds. It was an invaluable experience for me, as I made important professional contacts for potential future jobs and I discovered the vast opportunities that lie ahead of graduate school.

Among the many sessions that I attended, including ones on environmental careers and habitat restoration, I found one on the topic of climate change to be rather intriguing and inspiring. Lawrence Goldenhersh, of Enviance ([www.enviance.com](http://www.enviance.com)), revealed the high potential for expanding opportunities in the environmental consulting field due to imminent, stricter government regulations on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Consultants, Goldenhersh said, will need to present clients with auditable, verifiable, standardized emissions data to assist businesses in calculating their carbon footprint. This session was just one of the many that emphasized the growing importance of, and demand for, environmental professionals in this time of increasing global awareness of environ-

mental issues.

Next year, the NAEP Conference will be held in Arizona, while the California AEP will take place in San Francisco. Check [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org) and [www.califaep.org](http://www.califaep.org) for further details.



Mike Dummer, Michael Condie, Erin Saverio-Seibert, Christina Sprankles, Talia Rothfleisch

## The Internship at the United Nations University, Institute of Advanced Studies

By Momoe Kanada

From December 2007 through February 2008, I had an opportunity to work for the United Nations University as an intern. The United Nations University functions as a think-tank for the United Nations. The Institute of Advanced Studies, located in Yokohama, Japan, engages in multidisciplinary and policy-oriented research to promote strategic approaches for sustainable develop-

ment. Under supervision, I was assigned to the urban research team and assisted the current research topic of urban land use change in Tokyo. The purpose of the research was to understand how the increase of meat consumption affects the agriculture and land use in the Tokyo area. My responsibility was to collect and organize the necessary data, translate it into English,

and create charts and tables for the analysis. The three months were valuable and inspiring. It was also exciting to attend meetings and learn how they arrange public workshops or prepare for the worldwide conventions like the Convention on Biological Diversity. For more information, please visit [www.unu.edu](http://www.unu.edu)

## Environmental Studies Student Association (ESSA): WE ARE BACK!!!

The ESSA was on a brief hiatus, but we are actively planning and hosting various events. At the end of the Fall 2007 semester, we hosted a catered holiday party at Brownstone Café in downtown Fullerton. This semester we have participated in bringing Lance Simmens, from the Climate Project, to our campus for a presentation on climate change and a dialog with a panel of CSUF professors. We also went hiking

in Aliso and Wood Canyons with the Sierra Club and participated in the Fullerton Arboretum's Green Scene Plant and Garden Show. At the end of this semester we will host another party, so stay tuned for details.

**More ESSA fun events to come in Fall 2008, so please make sure to join us!**

### The ESSA really wants your participation and input!

Each of you has opinions and suggestions that would help make the ESSA beneficial to all of us. The ESSA is created by and for us Environmental Studies students, so the more participation we have the better. The intent of the ESSA is to provide a supportive, fun, and friendly environment for all ENST students, because the truth is that we are all in this together. Please email us at [essacsuf@yahoo.com](mailto:essacsuf@yahoo.com) for information on meetings and events.



## ***Environmentally Speaking***

Painting by Sama Wareh, ENST Student

[www.warehart.com](http://www.warehart.com)

### **You Can Own a Print of this Painting!**

If you would like to purchase a print of Sama Wareh's *Environmentally Speaking* painting, please contact the Environmental Studies Student Association (ESSA) at [essacsuf@yahoo.com](mailto:essacsuf@yahoo.com) and we can arrange to send you one. The words on the ladder say, "For Every Action Nature Reacts." A very appropriate message for our program! We are asking \$15 for each print and proceeds will go to the ESSA for funding events, which we hope you will attend. We would like to thank Sama for sharing her art with us!

### **Environmental Art Show: Fall 2008**

During the Fall semester of 2008, Sama and the ESSA are planning to sponsor an environmental art show. We will call for submissions of any art piece that demonstrates global warming, consumption, animal rights, corporate responsibility, conservation, or any other environmentally-related topic. Please contact the ESSA or Sama Wareh ([samawareh@gmail.com](mailto:samawareh@gmail.com)) if you are interested in participating.

## *Nature Sleeping*

By Sama Wareh  
www.WarehArt.com

*I had been sleeping for twenty years,  
I woke up to the worst of my fears,  
As my foot hit the dirt,  
There was not a tree in sight,  
And when the sun descended,  
You could not tell it was night,  
All the lights from the city shone so bright,  
A forewarning of what was to be our plight,  
They muted the moon,  
And eclipsed the stars,  
I could not even see,  
All the fumes from the cars,  
And I could not breathe,  
I was choking on fumes,  
The sky was turning smitten with suffocation,  
An irreversible sight looms,  
I closed my eyes again and opened them,  
Hoping it was only part of my imagination,  
To my disenchantment,  
It was reality,  
My heart fell in frustration,  
And discovered they cut down my giant Coast live oak tree,  
It was the one I built a fort on when I was just a kid,  
I wiped my tears away,  
Could not believe what they did,  
Perhaps a visit to the zoo would be able to tell me what's left,  
That only made me realize how horribly humans are capable of theft,  
The zoo shrunk for there were only three animals to show,  
The rest was a long list of animals you never got to know,  
Including all marine life, wolves, and deer,  
Mountain lions became a myth,  
That were killed off because of fear,  
So many houses,  
Coupled side by side,  
Clones of each other,  
Originality died,  
Not a bird in sight,*

*Not a wildflower in bloom,  
Only manicured grass,  
In constant groom,  
It was December and the temperature was ninety five,  
It was hard for everything to stay alive,  
The ocean was black,  
Garnished with signs that read  
"no swimming allowed"  
The only park that had ever been preserved,  
People ten years in advance,  
Had reserved,  
To be able to see what the big deal was all about,  
What the paintings used to show,  
Of evergreens and forest,  
and the stars strong glow,  
what a wild bird looks like,  
and the inner and outer strength,  
you inherit from a well-earned hike,  
So that kids can wonder,  
"Who were the careless people who left nothing for us?"  
and humans can finally understand "what's the big fuss?"  
Twenty years of sleep,  
Were spent wide awake,  
Thinking that the one thing I could do,  
Would have no impact,  
Learning that I was actually responsible,  
Was a harsh fact,  
I would be held accountable,  
On the day of judgment,  
God will say to me,  
Protecting the environment,  
Was part of your duty,  
How many plastic cups you went through,  
Without a second thought,  
It's hard to claim ignorance,  
When you had been taught,  
That nature is a sacred gift,  
Intricately woven for mankind,  
And that people are truly remembered,  
By what they left behind.*



ESSA Hike with the Sierra Club, April 2008

# Message from the New Coordinator: John Bock

Hello from the new Coordinator! As many of you know, I began as the Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program in late January. I've come into this position at a time of change and development in the ENST program, and I would like to thank my predecessor Dr. Bob Voeks for his work in our Program Performance Review and in developing the program to this point. I'd also like to thank our Associate Coordinator, Steve Kim, for his work as Acting Coordinator during the transition.

You might be curious about the Program Performance Review. Every seven years a program or department has both internal and external evaluation to gauge its strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities, and to develop a plan for the next seven years. The review team identified four areas that we will be working on over the next while. First, we will analyze and refine our curriculum in a more logical format that is clearer for students and ensures courses will be taught according to a predictable schedule. We will be working with our constitu-

ent departments on this as well as refining the scheduling of our own courses. We will be introducing new methods of course delivery such as via television, online, and hybrid (half online, half in-person) courses. Second, we will work to maximize the opportunities provided by the new Center for Remote Sensing and Environmental Analysis. Third, we will work to integrate faculty from constituent departments into ENST so that they consider it a second home. Next year we have full-time faculty members in Geography, Health Sciences, History, Political Science, and Sociology who will be partly based in ENST. We will work to encourage them to take an active role as mentors and teachers, and there will be opportunities for students to get to know these new faculty members. Lastly, we will begin the exploration of adding an undergraduate minor and/or major. Right now this just means that a committee will start evaluating the costs and benefits of such an addition. I will keep you posted on progress.

I also want each one of you to know that my door is open. I greatly value your insights and ideas, and please know that your comments are carefully considered. My office hours vary by semester. You can find them on the ENST or Anthropology websites, but also please know that I am available by appointment. All you need to do is email me at [jbocck@fullerton.edu](mailto:jbocck@fullerton.edu) with some suggested times. We will be having a Reception/Recognition Ceremony at the Biological Anthropology Lab, McCarthy Hall 428, immediately following our Commencement ceremony in the Performing Arts Little Theatre.

Also, the students in ESSA are hard at work providing opportunities for student engagement. Please join them and join in the fun. One of the best parts of graduate school can be belonging to a community of like-minded, or at least like-interested, people. I wish you all the best for the end of the semester, and I look forward to seeing you at Commencement.

## ATHGO Conference Global Warming: Change Your Attitude, Not the Weather!

By Mark Casias

ATHGO's fifth annual Global Forum was held at UCLA's Tom Bradley International Hall from February 27 through March 1, 2008. Over 200 students and young entrepreneurs convened to discuss the science behind climate change and propose possible solutions. Throughout the four-day event the students had the opportunity to listen to various expert opinions from panels of corporate executives and climate change scientists.

The format for the forum was set from the start. We were immediately assigned to groups and met our colleagues with whom we would work closely in order to produce a Policy Proposal and a Business Model to present at the end of the conference. Each day we listened to a diverse group of experts ranging from the Embassy of Germany, to the Director of Energy Efficiency at Southern California Edison, to the Nobel Peace Prize winning IPCC. It was an exciting dynamic that took place. In my opinion, the questions posed by students to the panelists were the most interesting interaction at the conference. The young people at this forum had very relevant and challenging questions for the experts. This gave me great encouragement that our generation will be able to

face and address the grave consequences of climate change. I also appreciated the experts being approachable in a less formal setting after the discussions. At breaks throughout the conference we were able to approach these very respectable individuals with personal inquiries and get into more detail on specific issues that interested us. Also, during these breaks we were able to network with fellow students and the experts. It was an amazing opportunity to take advantage of. During the "IPCC VIP Reception" I spoke with Dr. Tim Foresman about the challenges America faces in making the shift from a fossil fuel dependent society, and with Dr. Christian Stocks – Consul General of Germany – about the idiosyncrasies of German politics that led to their aggressive policies in confronting climate change.

Each group composed a Policy and Business Proposal, drawing from the resources at the conference. My group included the other two CSUF students, Mike Dummer and Dhaval Patel, and five other individuals from Canada, Oman, and eastern United States. Each of us was assigned a role to best allocate our talents. I was the 'strategic

advisor' for the business model. To say the least, we had very disparate opinions. In the end we worked hard to come to a compromise and present a cohesive and coherent message in each proposal. To our surprise, our group came in First Place. I was very proud of our accomplishment, especially since CSUF was well represented in our group.

The ATHGO conference was an intense and rewarding four days. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I intend to maintain the relationships I made there and utilize the skills I acquired during the forum.



*ENST Students at Conference*

California State University Fullerton  
Environmental Studies Program  
PO Box 6846  
Fullerton, CA 92834

For More Information about the ENST program contact either of the following:  
John Bock, Coordinator (jbock@fullerton.edu)  
Steven Kim, Associate Coordinator  
Phone: 714-278-5646  
Fax: 714-278-5223  
Email: stevenkim@fullerton.edu



**MASTERS PROGRAM**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**

**Are You an ENST Alumnus?**

If so, we would like to hear from you. What have you been doing since you graduated? We are proud of our past and present students and we would like to stay in touch. For more information, contact John Bock or Steven Kim (contact info above).

**2007 & 2008 Graduates**

**This has been a great year for the ENST Program and we have had a fantastic group of students successfully complete the graduate degree program. Congratulations to everyone for a job well done!**

**Fall 2007**

Megan Anduri  
Araceli Anguiano  
Evelyn Brown  
Ryan Cordero  
Veva Ebbs  
Joshua Hoover  
Emiko Ishihara  
Katsumi Keeler  
Kevin Livergood  
Jason Manack  
Bill Maurer  
Amber Semrow  
Matthew Shook

**Spring 2008 Candi-  
dates**

Melody Aimar  
Patricia Bair  
Norma Chaure  
Kimberly Cover

**Spring 2008, Cont'd**

Nguyen Hai Le  
Melissa Harding  
Ching Chau Hon  
Momoe Kanada  
Natalie Likens  
Eric Monzon  
Claire Schneider  
Andrew Smith  
Benjamin Smith  
Jamie Stahl  
Soren Thomas  
Asma Wasim  
Reza Yeganehshakib

**Summer 2008 Candi-  
dates**

Justin Luedy  
Kazutaka Otani  
Dimple Patel

**We Are On the Web!**

<http://hss.fullerton.edu/envstud/>

***MS in Environmental Studies Program***

*The Environmental Studies (ENST) Program represents a large and academically diverse interdisciplinary program. The breadth and flexibility of the ENST Program has acted as a magnet for academically and professionally high-quality students.*

*Enrollment has traditionally been strong, placing the ENST Program among the largest graduate programs on campus. Rather than conforming to a rigidly-defined curriculum, students are encouraged to craft a graduate study plan that meets both the core requirements of the ENST Program, and allows them to pursue courses in other departments that suit their own vocational or intellectual goals.*

*Students concentrate in one of the following: Environmental Science, Environmental Policy and Planning, or Environmental Education and Communication.*