

THE GREEN



TITAN

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STAFF

JAZMIN RODRIGUEZ

ALEX LEWANDOWSKI

IFEYANI WILLIAMS

ELAINE LEWINNEK
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

IN THIS ISSUE

NEW COHORT
INTRODUCTION

STUDY ABROAD TRIP
HIGHLIGHTS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS &
CLUB INFORMATION



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A NEWSLETTER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM AT CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON

Welcome to the revival issue of *The Green Titan*, a newsletter brought to you by the Environmental Studies program at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Our mission is to inform and educate on the research and activities of students in the Environmental Studies Program at CSUF, on our community, ideas about sustainability, and the broader environmental field.

Last year, the 2021 cohort visited the University Archives and Special Collections Room, where we viewed physical copies of the 1970s newsletter, *Environ*, that were rediscovered by alumna, Hannah Batchelor. After reading through several issues, a few of us came together to initiate a revival of the newsletter because we saw the opportunity this could bring for a larger collaboration on environmental and sustainability topics between students, faculty, organizations, and environmental professionals. We intend to highlight topics of interest and opportunities for collaboration and share them with you so that you may be inspired in the work that you're doing, may potentially build connections, and get involved with the numerous multi-disciplinary opportunities available.

Sincerely,
Jazmin, Alex, & Ifeyani

Meet the 2022 Cohort

The eleven new students who joined the Environmental Studies program this year are impressively diverse in their academic backgrounds. There are two international students who earned their bachelor's degrees in India and traveled over 9,000 miles away to earn their master's degrees here at California State University, Fullerton. Anmol went to Panjab University, where she majored in Botany and Zoology. Prayagraj Sharma majored in Petroleum Engineering at Pandit Deendayal Petroleum University. Another student, Angela Rahrouh, received her undergraduate degree on the East Coast in Health Science at Pace University in New York.

There are also students who graduated from neighboring universities across Orange County, Los Angeles County, and San Diego County. Jin Choi received her bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies at University of California, Irvine (UCI). Dilukshi Fernando also received a bachelor's degree from UCI, where he majored in Earth System Sciences and minored in Global Sustainability. Kari McCollum earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Sustainability, with a minor in Business Management from San Diego State University. Grace Young received her bachelor's degree in Apparel Merchandising and Management at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. Cameron Houser received his bachelor's degree in Biology at California State University, Long Beach.

Additionally, several students returned to CSUF after completing their undergraduate education here. These students include Andrea Arevalo who majored in Geology, Pearl Escobar who majored in Biological Sciences, and Alisa Toh-Heng who majored in Political Science as well as minored in both Anthropology and Geography and the Environment.

A few students were able to share their career goals and what they are looking forward to in this program.

Grace Young states that she wants "to connect with

individuals and organizations to have a better understanding of how we can work together towards a more sustainable planet." Her career objective is to work in conservation management in our coastal areas.

Kari McCollum mentioned that she is looking forward to expanding her "environmental knowledge and making like-minded friends." Her career goal is to eventually become a project manager at an environmental consulting firm. Cameron Houser states she is looking forward to "learning so many different aspects of environmental studies because this is an interdisciplinary program. My career goal is to get into wildlife conservation and habitat restoration." Lastly, Jin Choi shares that she is looking forward to "research opportunities and meeting people from diverse environmental fields." Choi's career goal is to be engaged in a company or organization that pursues sustainability.

"I believe implementing sustainability is key to a healthier earth while individuals have access to resources"

Jin Choi, MS Environmental Studies Student

Coming from across the world, all students are here in the Environmental Studies program to help make a positive change in the world and create a sustainable future.

Study Abroad Highlights

Vienna

At the beginning of the summer, ENST program advisor, Dr. Nicole Seymour led Cal State Fullerton students on a study abroad trip to Vienna, Austria. Dr. Seymour taught both a writing course and another course focused on the Danube & Wien rivers. Students learned about their history, economic significance to Austria and restoration efforts.

(Cont. page 3).



In 1984, when construction began for a hydroelectric power plant in these flood plains (images to right), citizens of Austria began to seriously question the environmental responsibility of this decision. Environmental activists successfully stopped construction and designated the site as a nature preserve instead.

Bali

In July, CSUF students went to Bali, Indonesia with the ENST program chair and American Studies professor, Dr. Elaine Lewinnek.



Study Abroad group glows in their sarongs after traditional Balinese ceremony for blessing of students.

Students explored tourism and wellness industries focused on sustainability and contributed to various green activities. They planted mangroves for climate resilience (sometimes while stand-up paddleboarding), toured rice paddies, met with activists who recorded the film, [Plastic Island](#), visited a sea turtle hatchery, helped upcycle glass waste, dived at a restored coral reef, gardened at a perma-culture community farm, and volunteered with a community living atop Bali's largest garbage dump.



Above: Students in front of the Danube River in Vienna. Top right: Students pushing canoe out on river to go canoeing.



Above: Students plant mangroves to protect reef and shoreline.

Top right: Student pets rescued sea turtle at hatchery in Pemuteran.

Top right: ENST Graduate Student, Ifeyani Williams upcycles glass by turning an old bottle into a gorgeous drinking glass.



Left: Students visit the Jiwa Community Garden in Canggu, Bali to learn about permaculture and composting.

Bottom left and right: Students prepare and cook a meal in a traditional Balinese kitchen at a shelter for battered women.



Left of page: Students learn about botany and healing plants.

Costa Rica

Environmental Studies master's students Sadie Kaneg, Martika Orozco, Maria Rivera, and Calvin Nguyen all went to Costa Rica this summer for field experience with sea turtles. Sadie, Martika, Maria and Calvin visited the small town of Ostional, which is one of the few places where sea turtles come year after year to lay their eggs. Each of them conducted independent research through the BIOMA travel sea turtle field course for two weeks over the summer but at different times, thus each experience was unique in its own way. Sadie's group would go on night patrols to look for sea turtles, collect sea turtle eggs, and then move them to a protected hatchery. Sadie expressed that sea turtles are becoming more endangered every year, yet they are vitally important to the ocean environment and need to be protected. Martika shared that the field course explored the biology, physiology, and conservation of sea turtles in addition to the research aspect. She also went on night patrols to collect data on nesting grounds in Ostional from different breeds including Olive Ridley, Pacific Green, and Leatherback Sea Turtles. Martika emphasized that "by 2025, the sea turtle population is estimated to go extinct on the pacific coast due to bycatch. Olive Ridley, for instance is listed as vulnerable in the IUCN, and the town of Ostional has previously faced illegal over-harvesting of eggs and human consumption." Maria provides further details stating that the type of data collected on nesting sea turtles included counting how many eggs were laid and how long it took to lay them, measuring shell length and width, length of the flipper, as well as depth of the nest. "All this data was collected for the bigger picture, to understand sea turtle nesting and how we can help in conservation efforts with certain species. It was a really amazing experience that I would definitely recommend to other graduate and undergraduate students," states Maria.

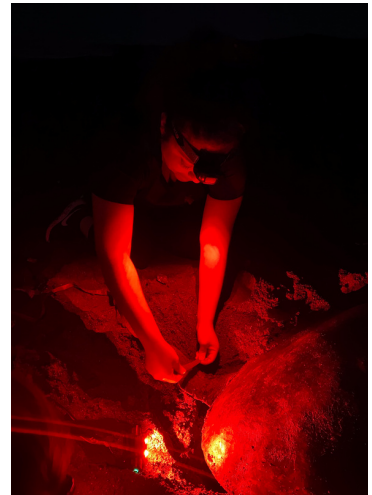


Below: ENST Graduate Student Sadie Kanneg with her Study Abroad field group.



“All this data was collected for the bigger picture, to understand sea turtle nesting and how we can help in conservation efforts”

Top Left: Turtle Sign in Ostional, Costa Rica.
Below: Olive Ridley turtle enjoying a summer day.



Above Left: ENST Graduate Student, Martika Orozco during a Night Patrol.
Above Right: ENST Graduate Student, Maria Rivera taking measurements during a Night Patrol.

Right: Turtles relax on the beach during sunset in Ostional, Costa Rica.



Left: Turtle resting during night patrol.

Far Left Side of page: National Wildlife & Conservation Area Sign.

Environmental Studies Alumni Share How They're Using Their MS Degrees

For 50 years, the Environmental Studies program at Cal State Fullerton has welcomed students of different backgrounds into this interdisciplinary that has led students to various paths in the environmental field. From education to fieldwork, consulting, policy and more, the paths alumni have taken after graduate school are diverse. Here are how some of the program's alumni are currently using their degrees.

Cristina Graciano, a 2020 alumna, is currently an Environmental Planner for Caltrans focused on ensuring projects in her district are compliant with both CEQA and NEPA. While this is not what she envisioned she'd be doing when she entered the program, Cristina shares how the program and degree essentially helped her get to where she is now.

"The core classes set a great foundation for working within the environmental field and the degree helped me gain a basic understanding of all the environmental subjects that are covered under CEQA/NEPA. However, the invaluable part for me is that the program opened my eyes to the amount of environmental jobs that are available. The courses had real-life examples that pushed me to explore my options outside of my comfort zone."

Initially, when she applied to the program, Cristina was an Associate Planner and sought the degree to prepare for higher level CEQA work in her existing position. However, upon completion of the program, she found the California Sea Grant Fellowship opportunity, a fellowship for graduate students interested in marine resources as well as relevant policy, which contributed to helping her make a career change that combines her degrees: Urban Planning and Environmental.

“The courses had real-life examples that pushed me to explore my options outside of my comfort zone”

Cameron Lukos, a 2020 alumnus, currently holds a GIS role for an Engineering firm which provides environmental and urban planning services as well. Prior to graduate school, Cameron held a GIS role elsewhere with an Environmental Science degree but came in with the goal to enhance his abilities in fieldwork, in working with different types of data and to increase his background in ecology/biology.

Although he had a GIS background initially, Cameron stated that what he learned in the program contributed to strengthening his GIS and GPS abilities via the integration of knowledge from cumulative courses and experience conducting research with a faculty member under Independent Study.

"The ability to use GIS and GPS is an integral part of engineering, planning and biological consultant work" and furthermore, "the more you know about processes [including natural ones], the more valuable you are to a firm."

Prasad Galhena, a 2022 alumnus, is currently an Environmental Scientist for a company who helps environmental engineering firms find solutions for environmental issues. He works on a myriad of projects related to wastewater treatment, hazardous waste management, and drinking water purification. Prasad knew what his long-term career goal was coming into the program so he strategically chose courses that would be relevant to the career he had in mind. As a recent graduate with courses and research fresh on his mind, Prasad voices that he often refers to his coursework archives.

OCAEP AT CSUF

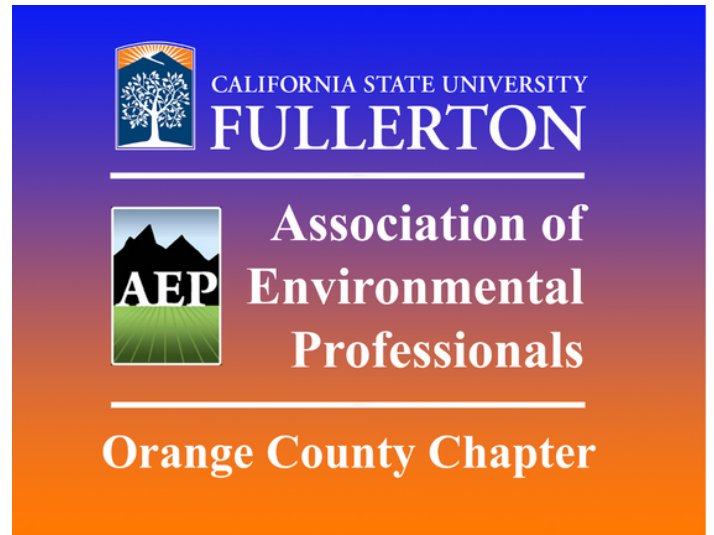
Announcement from Club President, Alexandra Lewandowski

We are off to an exciting new start this semester with our club, the Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals (OCAEP), student chapter at CSUF. The Association of Environmental Professionals is a national professional organization based in California whose goal is "to enhance, maintain, and protect the quality of the natural and human environment." Student representation at schools including CSUF, UC Irvine, and Chapman University allow students the opportunity to get involved and learn more in preparation for becoming full-time professionals.

This semester we have a whole new board, we are re-registered with Student Life and Leadership, and have reconnected with the local professional chapter of OCAEP. Plans for the semester include meeting some of these full-time professionals to learn more about different industry opportunities. Additionally, OCAEP at CSUF will be stewarding the new Campus Garden in front of the Humanities building (courtesy of the Department of Sustainability).



Lastly, we are planning a Clothing Swap for November 1st and 2nd from 4-6pm. Students will have the opportunity to bring clothes that they no longer want (in good condition, of course) and swap with others. We are hoping to provide awareness of the importance of recycling clothing and steering away from the environmentally irresponsible fast fashion industry. For more information, contact Alex Lewandowski at lewandowski@csu.fullerton.edu



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
FULLERTON

**Association of
Environmental
Professionals**

Orange County Chapter

**Join OCAEP at CSUF today!
You can join us on TitanLink
using your CSUF login
credentials.**



Thank you to everyone who contributed their thoughts and experiences. You made this issue possible. We understand that everyone is busy and thus truly appreciate your time. With that said, we hope to speak to more of you and highlight what you're involved in, so don't be surprised if we reach out!

If you have any suggestions, ideas, or would like to write a guest article, please don't hesitate to contact any of us.

Contact:

Jazmin Rodriguez, jazminr6171@csu.fullerton.edu,
Alexandra Lewandowski, lewandowski@csu.fullerton.edu
Ifeyani Williams, ifeyani@csu.fullerton.edu
Dr. Lewinnek, elewinnek@fullerton.edu