



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

---

NOV/DEC 2022

### STAFF

JAZMIN RODRIGUEZ

IFEYANI WILLIAMS

ELAINE LEWINNEK  
DEPARTMENT CHAIR

---

### IN THIS ISSUE

OCAEP CLOTHING  
SWAP

ZZYZX  
RETREAT

GET YOUR HANDS  
DIRTY WITH  
LA WORKS

NEW ENST LINKEDIN  
GROUP



csufenvironmental\_studies



Greetings all! In this November/December issue, we highlight OCAEP's successful clothing swap, the ENST program's upcoming annual retreat, volunteer opportunities with LA Works on behalf of environmental studies graduate student Steven Mendoza, and the creation of our new CSUF Environmental Studies LinkedIn group.

Lastly, as we approach the end of the semester and finals, we remind everyone to be extra kind to themselves and to our peers--to take advantage of the resources on campus including The Writing Center, the Pollak Library's extended hours, and ASI's wind down events.

We wish you all a happy holiday season and a happy new year!

-Jazmin & Ifeyani

### A Few Tips to Practice Sustainability this Holiday Season

- Purchase E-gift cards in place of plastic ones.
- Shop local. This also supports your own community.
- Use recycled wrapping paper or plain paper.  
\*Many wrapping papers with embellishments cannot be recycled.
- Reuse cardboard boxes instead of purchasing gift boxes.
- Use naturally-made jute or burlap in place of synthetic-made ribbons.



# OCAEP Clothing Swap

By: Alexandra Lewandowski, president, OCAEP student chapter at CSUF

The Clothing Swap at the beginning of November was a massive hit! It was much more popular than I anticipated. It became very clear that thrifting clothing is something that many CSUF students are interested in and it helps to avoid the water waste, greenhouse gas emissions, and many other pollutants caused by the fast fashion industry.

When the Orange County Association of Environmental Professionals (OCAEP) student chapter at CSUF began planning this event in the summer, we knew that the key to success would be collaborating with other student organizations on campus. We could not have made it happen without the help of the Fullerton Fashion club, the CSUF Facilities Sustainability Office, and the American Studies Student Association. Even more, our program coordinator, Dr. Elaine Lewinnek was constantly a huge advocate for the event.

With so many donations, especially from faculty, we had a wide range of clothing styles to choose from. We started the swap with hundreds of items. Most clothes were swapped with others in the end. Afterwards, we donated more than 80 pieces of business attire to Tuffy's Career Closet, and even more to the Gender-Affirming Closet in the LGBTQ+ Center. Dr. Lewinnek stated, "It's tough to tell which were my favorite conversations at the event: the unhoused man who came by to request a warm hat, the first-year student who seriously inquired about other strategies to mitigate the environmental impacts of fast fashion, the student who was shopping for her plus-sized brother with such care and love, or just the many students who gushed over the fun of it all."

I am so proud of the success we had while increasing the visibility of the OCAEP student chapter at CSUF. So many students at the event asked when we will be hosting the event again, so we are already planning another clothing swap for next semester.



(Above) CSUF students sort through a variety of clothes and items at OCAEP's Clothing Swap.

(Right) Staff member from CSUF's Sustainability Office organizes and folds clothes as a volunteer for OCAEP's Clothing Swap.

(Below) OCAEP displays informational sign at Clothing Swap highlighting the environmental impact of the fashion industry.



(Above) CSUF student and Fashion Club member shows off all her great finds which include tops and sweaters and says that she's most excited about her new purse.

(Left) CSUF student holds up the pencil skirt she found and shares she's glad she happened to walk by with her friends.



# Zzyzx Retreat

The Environmental Studies program is hosting another overnight retreat at the historic CSU Desert Studies Center in Zzyzx, CA. The CSU Desert Studies Center is a CSU-affiliated research facility situated in the Mojave Desert off the I-15 freeway. Thousands of years ago, there used to be a lake called the Mojave Lake that filled the land when the climate was cooler. Now, in a warmer climate, there is a large mineral crust where the Mojave Lake used to be, known as Soda Springs, in addition to a variety of other structures filled with historical significance.

Several students were able to visit Zzyzx early this year during the first week of the 2022 Spring semester for the first annual Environmental Studies retreat. With the pandemic having shut down in-person classes for more than a year, many students had not been able to meet each other in person. The retreat thus provided a great way for students from different cohorts and backgrounds to bond with each other while roasting marshmallows over a bonfire, hiking, making stone soup and more. This upcoming retreat in February will include a number of similar exciting activities including flying kites, bird watching, and visiting the Mojave lava tubes.

Some of the students who attended the previous retreat shared their thoughts and experiences.



(Above) CSUF ENST students Steve, Jase, Mayra, Hannah, Martika, and Jazmin in front of Soda Springs sign in Zzyzx, CA. (Left to Right)

“There were many times that I passed the Zzyzx sign on the highway, but had no idea there was a research center there. I decided to go on the trip because I was intrigued and wanted to learn more about the area. I also wanted to connect with my classmates, and it seemed like a great opportunity to do so. I really enjoyed going to the lava tubes underground cave. I didn't realize that was there and it was really cool to be able to experience that. I did also find the retreat beneficial to connect with other students. During our walks, cleaning up, sitting around the fireplace, and playing games, we were able to chat and learn more about each other.

**It was really fun.**

*-Mayra Chavez-Tovar, ENST 2022 alumna*

“I was encouraged to join the ENST retreat in Zzyzx earlier this year because I had never been to a graduate retreat, especially during the pandemic, since we were still learning online. I also wanted to visit the CSU Desert Studies Center in Zzyzx to learn more about the Mojave desert and its involvement. My favorite activity during the retreat was the desert clean-up and visiting the Mojave lava tubes! This was a great time to bond with others and get to know other students and their interests.

*-Martika Orozco, ENST Student*

“There were a lot of great moments at the retreat! I really enjoyed the time we spent walking around Zzyzx and the trip to the lava tubes the next day. I also really enjoyed the night that we all cooked together, adding our ingredients into the soup. Cooking together and eating dinner together like an ENST family ended up being a really great part of the trip and I think really helped us all connect. My cohort had spent our entire first year online, and then remained partially online during our 3rd semester, so this retreat was a really great way to connect with classmates that we had spent 1.5 years in the program with, but not much time in-person together. We ended up being closer than ever before after going on the retreat together. It was also a great opportunity to meet or spend time with students from the new cohort (Ifeyani and Jazmin). I really enjoyed spending time with the other students in the program and with Dr. Lewinnek! I hope in the future the retreat can help the new cohort connect with the ongoing cohort in the program, as well as with any faculty or alumni that can attend the retreat. I think this will help new students feel welcome and connected with support and resources to make the most of their time in the ENST program.”

*-Jase Oesterblad, ENST 2022 alumna*



*(Above) Soda Springs Lake in Zzyzx, CA.*



*(Left) CSUF ENST students Hannah and Steve enjoy bonfire at Zzyzx ENST retreat.*



*(Below Left & Right) Students hike in Mojave desert and make their way to Mojave lava tubes.*

“The first year of grad school was online, so I was really excited for the chance to bond with everyone outside of Zoom, the classroom, and the stress of deadlines. My favorite activity was sitting around the campfire with everyone roasting marshmallows and looking at the stars. The location is so beautiful with the best sunrise and sunset. The trip was so important to forming bonds with people in the program because we could appreciate nature together and think about the concepts we learned in class. It was such a fun weekend and I built connections that have continued past graduation.”

*-Hannah Batchelor, ENST 2022 alumna*

To learn more about the history of Zzyzx and how it was acquired by California State University, join the retreat this February! More information is also available on the [CSU Desert Studies Center website](#) and [National Park Service website](#).

To sign up for the retreat on February 24-26th, email the ENST program chair, Dr. Lewinnek at [elewinnek@fullerton.edu](mailto:elewinnek@fullerton.edu) with your name, any dietary needs, mobility needs, and an emergency contact.

---

## Get Your Hands Dirty!

Guest Article By: Steven Mendoza

THE END IS NEAR is an all too familiar phrase these days. Living in California, we are bombarded with news about armageddon. We hear things about changing climates and ferocious fires without ever hearing solutions about what WE (you, me, anyone) can do about it. These topics are heavy and these issues are complex but don't worry, your friendly neighborhood Environmental Studies student is here to give you some ways to help by taking climate action!

Climate action is the process of making a difference that benefits the health of an environment and the people that live there. Climate action can take many forms, including advocating for greener policies, composting food waste, or partnering with community groups taking action. One great way you can take climate action is by volunteering with me! My name is Stevie Joe Mendoza, and I am a CSUF Environmental Studies grad student. I am also the Climate Action Coordinator at [L.A. Works](#), the largest volunteer center in Los Angeles. In partnership with California Volunteers, L.A. Works is committed to mobilizing community members through fun, impactful, and educational volunteer opportunities that benefit the health of our environment and community.



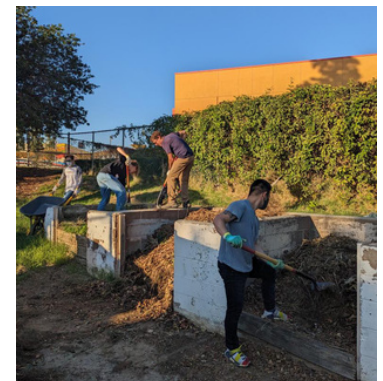
Every month starting in 2023, be on the lookout for ways to get your hands dirty and volunteer. We do everything from wildfire mitigation in the Santa Monica Mountains to planting educational gardens in city schools. Whatever your environmental interests, however much time you have, L.A. Works can help you find a volunteer opportunity to take climate action.

Check out our website at [laworks.com](http://laworks.com) or follow us on social media [@laworksnow](https://twitter.com/laworksnow) for more information on how you can get involved in climate action. For more information, or if you just want to connect, feel free to send me an email at [steven.mendoza@laworks.com](mailto:steven.mendoza@laworks.com).



(Above and Right) L.A. Works volunteers work on planting a habitat garden at Griffith Steam Middle School in East Los Angeles.

*"The volunteer team planted over 75 drought-tolerant plants which will serve to remove carbon from the atmosphere, provide food and habitat to local wildlife, and will serve as an educational tool for middle schoolers for generations to come," shares Steven Mendoza, L.A. Works Climate Action Coordinator.*



# ENST LinkedIn Group

There is a new LinkedIn Group for MS Environmental Studies alumni and current students. ENST faculty members, Dr. Danny Kim, Dr. Bo Young Park, and Dr. April Bullock started the group to encourage everyone affiliated with CSUF's Environmental Studies MS Program to network and stay in touch.

"I encourage student members to view the alumni profiles and where they work and I remind them that they can reach out to alums with questions. From my perspective, current students benefit the most from the LinkedIn group. For those who are seeking entry-level job opportunities, any relationships are relevant and useful," Dr. Kim states.

The LinkedIn group will serve as a space to learn about shared interests and professional development opportunities. In addition to group members having the ability to share job opportunities, Dr. Kim intends to use the platform to make announcements about professional meetings and conferences. Dr. Bullock also believes the group will be a great resource when organizing networking events.

The group is already at about 60 members and continues to grow every day. Recent graduates have joined in addition to current students and even alumni from several decades back, shares Dr. Bullock.

If you have not yet joined, join today and let others in the Environmental Studies MS Program know!



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

# Important Reminders

- If you have not signed up for classes for the Spring semester, do so as soon as possible. There is still room in the ENST 595T courses-- Wetlands Seminar & Environmental Education.
- Winter Recess is from December 26th, 2022 to January 2nd, 2023. Campus will be closed on these dates. Spring 2023 Semester starts on January 17th, 2023.
- If you are planning to graduate this upcoming semester (May 2023), you must apply for a graduation check by February 13th, 2023.
- Check your email regularly for Canvas announcements re: job opportunities, scholarship information, etc. and make sure your Canvas profile is set for you to receive email notifications.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

## WE NEED A NEW SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

for Spring 2023

- BUILD YOUR RESUMÉ
- EARN COURSE CREDIT
- GIVE BACK TO THE PROGRAM

Email Dr. Lewinnek @ [elewinnek@fullerton.edu](mailto:elewinnek@fullerton.edu)

The graphic features a dark blue background with a white megaphone on the right. At the top right, there is a circular logo with a cartoon elephant holding a globe. The text is in white and green.

*Thank you to everyone who contributed their time including Steven Mendoza, Alex Lewandowski, Dr. Danny Kim, Dr. April Bullock, and all of our wonderful alumni. You made this issue possible.*

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

*If you would like to join the newsletter editorial team, please email Jazmin at [jazminr6171@csu.fullerton.edu](mailto:jazminr6171@csu.fullerton.edu) for more information.*

Contact:

Jazmin Rodriguez, [jazminr6171@csu.fullerton.edu](mailto:jazminr6171@csu.fullerton.edu)

Ifeyani Williams, [ifeyani@csu.fullerton.edu](mailto:ifeyani@csu.fullerton.edu)

Dr. Lewinnek, [elewinnek@fullerton.edu](mailto:elewinnek@fullerton.edu)