

Blue and Gold Make Green

The College of Natural Resources (CNR) is essentially UC Berkeley's college of the environment. From nutrition to global warming, biotechnology to sustainable forestry, environmental justice to energy, no other college is better positioned to address matters that are most significant to our society in the coming years. There isn't a more exciting time to study the biological, social, and ecological challenges associated with protecting our natural resources and the environment.

Discover the forest through the trees with a major in Forestry and Natural Resources (Cal Forestry since 1914), or explore the links among social justice, policy, and politics with a major in Society and Environment (new starting fall 2006). Highlighted below are the majors offered in CNR that cover classic to contemporary studies of the environment.

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Major	Academic Benefits
<p>Society & Environment (S&E) Concentration areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - U.S. Environmental Policy & Management - Global Environmental Politics - Environmental Justice & Development <p>Undergraduate Advisor: Shandrika Combs 129 Mulford Hall scombs@nature.berkeley.edu Tel: (510) 642-6730 http://espm.berkeley.edu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn the main approaches and theory for environmental social sciences, including how social science tools and theories can be applied to environmental problems • Explore how social and cultural processes and institutions influence – and are influenced by – natural resources and environmental phenomena • Study policy, politics, and social justice concerns from an environmental perspective • Choose an upper division concentration area in U.S. Environmental Policy and Management, Global Environmental Politics, or Environmental Justice and Development • Prepare for graduate school, law school, or a career in public policy, environmental consulting, teaching, or related fields
<p>Forestry & Natural Resources (FNR) Concentration areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forestry & Natural Sciences (Professional Forestry Specialization, or Natural Sciences Specialization) - Human Dimensions of Natural Resources <p>Undergraduate Advisor: Shandrika Combs 129 Mulford Hall scombs@nature.berkeley.edu Tel: (510) 642-6730 http://espm.berkeley.edu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquire interdisciplinary skills in the ecology, stewardship, and management of ecosystems such as forests, woodlands, and grasslands • Choose to study topics including wildlife biology, ecosystem restoration, fire science, environmental justice, remote sensing and Global Information Systems (GIS), and rural sociology • Become well prepared for the California professional forester's licensing examination (UC Berkeley graduates have the highest success rate for passing the rigorous exam) • Benefit from hands-on instruction at the 8-week forestry summer field program in the northern Sierra Nevada, surrounded by huge conifer trees and hundreds of acres of public Forest Service land • Gain practical experience conducting independent research or projects with faculty in the lab or in the field at any of UC Berkeley's five research forests • Graduate from a forestry program with longstanding history and position yourself for employment success among an established network of Cal alumni

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<p>Environmental Sciences (ES) Concentration areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Biological Sciences- Physical Sciences- Social Sciences <p>Undergraduate Advisor: Siska Philips 245 Mulford Hall es-help@nature.berkeley.edu Tel: (510) 642-0542 http://environmentalsciences.berkeley.edu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pursue an environmental major grounded in the biological, physical, or social sciences, and be able to make choices about the focus and direction of your studies• Take classes from many different departments to gain a broad, interdisciplinary understanding of environmental issues and problems• Work with a faculty mentor to conduct a senior thesis research project on the topic of your choice• Pursue graduate studies or a career in the natural sciences, public health and health sciences, environmental policy, or law
<p>Conservation & Resource Studies (CRS)</p> <p>Undergraduate Advisor: Maire Lanigan 131 Mulford Hall mlanigan@nature.berkeley.edu Tel: (510) 642-4249 http://espm.berkeley.edu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Combine your broad, cross-disciplinary interests in science, social science and humanities, or a variety of those areas• Pursue your interests in the environment and human welfare• Study the interactions among resources, population, energy, technology, and cultural values• Work closely with faculty to create your own major• Prepare for graduate school or a range of careers with an environmental leaning

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kyle Birchard, Environmental Economics & Policy Major



At the College of Natural Resources, there is much time and effort put on the process of reviewing transfer applications. Once the admitted transfer students arrive on campus, it is extremely important to the advisors, administrators and faculty of CNR to make students' experiences as successful as possible in their brief time here. An interview with Kyle Birchard, a transfer student in Environmental Economics and Policy, went as follows:

"My transition from a part-time community college student to a full-time CNR undergrad went largely according to my expectations. I had researched the EEP program fairly extensively, so I felt prepared for pretty much anything.

The most helpful resources in my transition were the people. In particular, my advisor, Gail Vawter, did a wonderful job in letting me know what I had to do in order to meet the requirements of the program. Also providing much help were the fourth-year students I met, who recommended classes and professors and shared their enthusiasm for the EEP program and Cal in general. In fact, the enthusiasm of nearly everyone in EEP is the best part of the major.

My advice to prospective transfer students would be to take care of all your math requirements before starting the program - I couldn't imagine taking calculus, statistics and EEP 100 all at once!"

This interview further underscores how CNR manages to create a helpful and supportive environment for our transfer students. Ideally, CNR will continue to attract students like Kyle Birchard!

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Kristi Bischel takes on Costa Rica with her memories of Forestry Camp

In 2004, Kristi Bischel graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in MOLECULAR ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY after benefitting from all of the resources of the larger university within the smaller college setting of CNR. Describing her experience at CNR as very enjoyable, she also believes that the MEB major was exactly what she wanted because it allowed her "to take classes in a wide range of biology subjects and explore many areas of biology." Avoiding the other "common" biology majors offered at UC Berkeley, Kristi opted for the more unique MEB major and the inimitable experiences of the Forestry minor and Forestry Camp.

Shortly after graduating from CNR, Kristi was hired as a biological science technician for the Pacific Southwest Research Station of the USDA Forest Service by using her contacts at CNR to her best advantage. Applying the skills that she gained participating in undergraduate research and Forestry Camp to succeed at the USDA Forest Service, she will soon return to school to get her M.S. degree. In the meantime, Kristi has been living and working in Costa Rica as an office manager since January 2006, flexing her resourceful muscles to draw upon the "other skills (organization, computer skills, etc.) that were honed by [her overall] experience at UCB."

Citing her times at Forestry Camp and performing research for a CNR professor as key to landing her first job, she also stresses how both experiences were very valuable on a personal level. In general, her "favorite experience at CNR was [her] summer at

Forestry Camp – taking intensive classes, living in the outdoors, a very unique experience." Kristi also took advantage of other campus opportunities in order to round out her undergraduate years. Finding time to participate on the water polo club team, she also enjoyed taking P.E. classes in martial arts, resistance training, and dance.

Congratulations to Kristi Bischel in her post-CNR success, and good luck to her in her future plans!



Kristi Bischel graduated from UC Berkeley in 2004 with a degree in MEB, and has fond memories of her experiences at CNR and

ON THE FACULTY FRONT

Professor Inez Fung leads the Berkeley Institute of the Environment to future success.



*Dr. Inez Fung,
Co-Director, BIE*

The Berkeley Institute of the Environment (BIE) is a new research unit on the UC Berkeley campus, having been established in 2005. Working directly with CNR and other departments on campus, BIE "strives to establish the University of California at Berkeley as the premier teaching and research institution for environmental

science, technology, management and policy," and will continue to gain credibility through the efforts of its directors, faculty, staff and students. Inez Fung, as Co-Director of BIE, represents a faculty member whose hard work and success as a researcher and teacher will allow for the institute to break new grounds at UC Berkeley and CNR.

In the division of Ecosystem Sciences in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at CNR, Professor Fung's research is carried out under the idea that "the climate of the Earth is intimately tied to the composition of the atmosphere and the dynamics of the underlying surface, [and] the atmosphere and land surface exchange energy, water and other trace substances on all space and time scales." She focuses on the numerous aspects of biosphere-atmosphere interaction, and she hopes to predict how atmospheric composition may evolve in the future. Her research on the physics of climate change, ecosystem dynamics, and biogeochemical cycles also contributes to the accomplishments of the Earth and Planetary Science Department. Professor Fung is also one of ten female scientists who are featured in "Women's Adventures in Science," a book series written for middle school students.

Currently, BIE is proud to announce that their co-director "was honored as a leading climate expert whose computer modeling has shown recently that the Earth may lose its ability to absorb much of the greenhouse gas that is raising global temperatures" in the December 2005 issue of *Scientific American*. Combined with the efforts of the staff of BIE in their introduction of BIE to the public on Cal Day on April 22nd, Professor Fung's intelligence and tenacity will truly make a difference in the success of BIE and its new role at UC Berkeley.

CONTACT US

CNR Forum is published for prospective and current students, faculty, staff, alumni, emeriti, retirees, and friends of the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley. We welcome comments, news, and story suggestions. Please e-mail us at linm@nature.berkeley.edu or call (510) 643-4647.

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Layout/Graphics: Anna Gazdowicz
Photo Credits: Courtesy of Interviewees

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Habitat for Humanity East Bay encourages CNR students to get involved

Habitat for Humanity has developed a reputation for maintaining compassion for those less fortunate by constructing and providing homes through both organizational and volunteer efforts. Habitat for Humanity East Bay has been building green in East Oakland, West Oakland, Richmond, Fremont, Alameda, and Livermore since 1988, recently accomplishing a 100th-home milestone. Working with environmentally-sustainable materials and methods, our local chapter represents the virtues of the overall organization by putting forth considerable effort to offer homes to our fellow East Bay dwellers who greatly need them.



Eliza Schissel, the Volunteer Programs Manager for Habitat for Humanity East Bay, provided a thorough background of the organization in order for us to understand how both the CNR and UC Berkeley communities can contribute. The organization has been successful in the East Bay due to its partnerships “with the faith community and with many congregations, including First Congregational Church of Berkeley, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, and Temple Sinai in Oakland,” as well as with some local high schools. Ms.

Schissel stressed that the success of providing affordable housing for families has been through the combined efforts of many Alameda County associations and Habitat for Humanity East Bay, and therefore it is very important to preserve the involvement of outside organizations and volunteers.

To get involved, students may consider joining Cal Berkeley’s Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter and help plan volunteer, fundraising, education, and advocacy events in the Berkeley community. Ms. Schissel described how recently, the Cal chapter “participated in Act!Speak!Build!, a national Habitat week of student service, by holding a speakers forum and a Habitat trivia game on campus,” as well as recruiting 75 students to participate in “Berkeley Build Day,” raising over \$4,000 from their hard work on the Livermore construction site. Currently, the Cal chapter is planning another Berkeley Build Day for the fall semester that they hope will be even more lucrative. Learn more about Cal Berkeley’s Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapter at:

<http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~habitat/>. Individually, students may also get involved by participating on build days through the East Bay chapter by registering on the website: www.habitatEB.org. Students may also consider joining some of the committees of Habitat for Humanity in order to get involved “behind the scenes.”

Lastly, various students, faculty, and staff members from CNR will be volunteering with Habitat for Humanity on April 29th in Livermore. This partnership will demonstrate CNR’s desire to make a difference outside of the UC Berkeley community and beyond. If you would like to participate, please email Anna Gazdowicz at annagaz@nature.berkeley.edu.