

Student Voices of CNR



As an undergraduate in the College of Natural Resources, I have access to a small college on a large campus. I get an amazing combination of support and freedom. CNR is a place where the passion to learn is placed on the highest pedestal. As a student, I am pushed to ask questions, to test assumptions, to find my own path to reach this ultimate goal called knowledge. CNR is a place where I found my voice. Professors want to get to know not only who I am, but what I think. They give me the tools to analyze the complex world that I see around me, so that I can analyze my role in that world. Place all of that on the amazing campus of UC Berkeley, and I find myself on the most incredible journey of my life.

- Michael Colvin, Environmental Economics and Policy Major



Four years ago I came to Cal with no idea what I was going to do. But now I'm leaving with a great education in Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology. I look back on all my struggles and realize that I've learned a lot about responsibility, discipline, and community over the years. As students of CNR, despite our different interests and goals, I believe we have all sought to find truth at Berkeley – in our studies and our relationships. It goes without saying that a big part of our identities at Cal have been shaped by our individual studies. When I committed myself to dietetics my sophomore year, I didn't know I would later have the chance to be a health education, a leader, and a mentor. While I studied the etiology of atherosclerosis, my other friends in CNR ascertained the effects of environmental toxins on frogs or sharpened their knowledge of forestry and fishery management. I've witnessed and have been inspired by the initiative and dedication to research, learning, and community service that my friends in [other majors] have brought to their work. We have all had the opportunity to find what motivates and excites us during our time here, and I'm grateful to have found my true passion for health and nutrition through my studies in dietetics and through this college.

- Christine Cho, Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology-Dietetics Major & 2005 Student Commencement Speaker

I came to CNR to do research...but I didn't really



know what that meant. I figured I'd be stuck in a lab somewhere and told to do whatever that lab wanted me to do. I probably would have been happy with that. But the moment I got here I realized that that was not the case. Instead I was given free reign and quickly began designing my own project. Fortunately, my advisor was

there from the beginning to make sure I was on the right track. I also took advantage of the many resources CNR has to offer by speaking to other faculty, graduates, undergraduates, and staff about my research. Next thing I knew, I was on a ranch in Venezuela studying the habitat requirements of a small parrot! This would not have been possible without the encouragement, advice, and aid I received from the entire CNR community.

- Timothy Bonebrake, Environmental Sciences Major

When I tell people that my major is Conservation and



Resource Studies, the usual response is a puzzled face, followed by "Come again?" It's at these moments that I realize just how much I've come to take my education for granted over the past four years. How do I explain to someone with no environmental science background the complex

and often conflicting paradigms, attitudes, and social implications of modern environmentalism? The task is no easy one. Even after dozens of classes devoted to the subject, I'm still left with many questions myself about how to best approach many environmental problems. But, when I dig a bit deeper into my knowledge base, I become aware of the evolution I have undergone during my undergraduate years at CNR – years that have continued on next page...

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provided me not with mere historical facts and pre-framed sociopolitical perspectives, but instead with the ability to think critically, to actively investigate all angles of a problem, to be creative, and most of all, to never accept the dominant paradigm. Looking around me at the people here in CNR, [there are] so many diverse individuals, with unique perspectives [who] come together in this common environment to draft possibilities for a better world, to not only philosophize on the meanings of environmentalism or resource policy, but to act positively in the community as a result of shared knowledge and passion.

- Kristen Weiss, Conservation and Resource Studies Major &
2005 Student Commencement Speaker

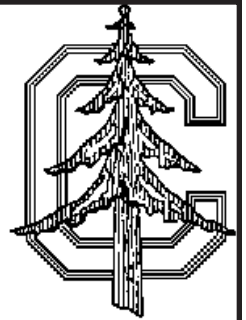
Spending four years as a CNR student undoubtedly allowed me to experience a friendly community within a large university. My interactions with fellow students, graduate student instructors, and professors in CNR courses were tremendously valuable. I have found that the faculty members in CNR are willing to take extra steps in order to help students get the most out of their academic careers. In addition, the students in CNR help to build a sense of collaboration by continually working together to get through courses. Overall, the eagerness of students and faculty to interact in and out of the classroom is what builds the CNR community.



- Kyle Emerick, Environmental Economics and Policy major

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

UC Forestry Club: Promoting Forestry on Campus and in the Community. <http://nature.berkeley.edu/forestryclub/index.htm>



This semester was an exciting and productive one for the Berkeley Forestry Club. Through the various activities we did on campus and in the community, we showed that Cal Forestry is alive and well.

The clubbers dedicated themselves to serving the community in true forester fashion. In March we headed out to the Berkeley hills to assist the Claremont Canyon Conservancy in planting redwood seedlings to reduce fuel loads of invasive and non-native species. Later that month, we talked about forestry with fifth graders at Forest Conservation Days in Skyline-Sanborn Park in Saratoga.

We hosted the Society of American Foresters (SAF) Bay Area Chapter, presenting "The Greatest Good," a documentary on 100 years of the U.S. Forest Service. We also hosted an SAF Bay Area Chapter discussion on the Forestry Institute for Teachers and the Quincy Library Group. At the Northern California SAF conference in Sacramento, Berkeley students Mike O'Brien and Sarah Murphy presented their views on how they see the future of SAF.

At Cal Day we had two booths for forestry near Sproul Plaza and at Mulford Hall, attracting students from all over campus. The California forest products commission donated 400 redwood seedlings, which we gave away to prospective students. Also at Cal Day we had a show of our logging sports paraphernalia at Mulford Hall.

We had logging sports conclaves in Redding and Humboldt, CA and in Seattle. We had oodles of Bean Feeds, and many logging sports practices which led into BBQs in Lafayette. News of our winnings in the American West Forestry Clubs (AWFC) conclave, and the Forestry Club's redwood planting were published in many local papers including, the Contra Costa Times, the Montclarion, The Journal, and the Berkeley Voice.

Yes, forestry at Berkeley is on the map once again. Our junior transfer enrollment has increased by 75%, and over 70 students applied to UC Berkeley under the forestry and natural resources major. In years to come, we hope to grow the Forestry Club and hold a prominent place on campus once again.

Erica Meta Smith
Forestry Club President

ALUMNI CONNECTION

Get connected and stay connected! @cal is the official online community for alumni of the University of California, Berkeley, and offers free services to Cal grads and attendees, and to California Alumni Association members. In addition, current students can participate in the Career Network through the Career Center.

With @cal, you can get a free berkeley.edu e-mail forwarding address that stays with you after you leave Cal. The online community features a Career Network, where you can find jobs and connect with alumni in different fields. The online Directory helps you find your classmates and friends, and you can join any of the almost 50 discussion groups – ranging from lost loves to middle-east politics.

To join @cal:

1. Go to <http://cal.berkeley.edu>
2. Click on the "New Users SIGN UP" button on the top left-hand side.
3. Verify your identity, request your PIN, and you're in!
4. Affiliate with the College of Natural Resources and your @cal homepage will provide you with CNR-specific news and events.

So, no matter how many times you move, how many times you switch e-mail addresses, or how far away you live, you can always stay in contact!

Questions? Ask Matt Fratus, Director of Alumni Relations at the College of Natural Resources, (510) 643-1041 or fratus@nature.berkeley.edu.

@cal great minds online

ON THE FACULTY FRONT



John Taylor, professor in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, recently received the 2005 CNR Distinguished Teaching Award for the value he brings to undergraduate education. The award acknowledges the efforts of faculty members in the College who have excelled in undergraduate teaching and made significant contributions to the teaching mission of the College.

Over the last 10 years in a team-taught course, PMB 102: Plant and Fungal Diversity, John has demonstrated impressive organization and a true penchant for presenting material in a style that is relevant to the daily lives of the students. He is a clear, dynamic lecturer whose presentations meld "classical" mycology with more contemporary, molecular findings extraordinarily well.

For most students, at first glance, Fungi would not seem especially interesting or relevant. But John quickly disabuses them of that notion by showing students the roles that Fungi have in their daily lives. In his lectures he cites innumerable, interesting examples spanning the range from the involvement of Fungi in foods, to disease. By coupling the lecture with an intense laboratory experience, John gives students an unrivaled chance to investigate first-hand the elements and functions of the Fungi.

Students called him "a great lecturer" and praised the fact that John made an attempt "to memorize their names." The course field trip, which involved a considerable investment of John's time, is especially appreciated by the students, several of whom asked for more of the same. Their enthusiasm in the subject, and course overall, is a testament to John's ability to enhance students' motivation to learn.

As one of the few mycologists at UC Berkeley, John has made it a major goal to ensure that students have the opportunity to learn about the Fungi. And although students at Berkeley may not realize it, there are few, if any, other institutions that offer such a unique and comprehensive overview of the Fungi.

Congratulations to John for his outstanding teaching in the College of Natural Resources!

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

June 6,13,24 CNR CalSO Freshman Orientation

Homecoming & Parents Weekend

June 9, 23 CNR CalSO Transfer Orientation

August 24 CNR Welcome Day
Sept. 30-Oct 2

For more events and detailed event information go to the calendar at <http://nature.berkeley.edu>



Making a Difference

Mona Rezapour - Taking the Lead in the College's Senior Gift Campaign

My name is Mona Rezapour, and I just graduated from the College of Natural Resources. It is hard to believe that four years went by so quickly! As a student, I benefited from the many opportunities offered through CAL, and I know that those opportunities wouldn't have been possible without the role that alumni and seniors play by giving back.

As you likely already know, CAL suffered a staggering drop in funds from the state, and as a result, many outreach programs and scholarship programs were dismantled. Without the existence of such programs, many of us would not have graduated and be looking forward to a future full of possibilities.

The College of Natural Resources has rightly earned the reputation for being an intimate and supportive place – a place where students have access to faculty and an array of learning opportunities typically unavailable at a large university. Many of these opportunities in the College are made available through the generous donations of alumni and seniors each year. Gifts to the College benefit virtually every area within the College, including scholarships and fellowships, the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, the Global Environmental Residential Theme House, and Community Outreach Programs, just to name a few.

So, whether you make a financial contribution or volunteer your time, you are helping make the College an incredible place. I encourage you to give back in any way that you can!

Sincerely,
Mona Rezapour

Give directly to the College of Natural Resources online at <http://nature.berkeley.edu/give>

Give to the University's Cal Fund online at <http://seniors.berkeley.edu>

For more information on making a gift or volunteering your time, contact Matt Fratus, Director of Annual Fund and Alumni Relations, at (510) 643-1041 or fratus@nature.berkeley.edu

CONTACT US

CNR Forum is published for the 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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