

## CNR on the Rise

The College of Natural Resources has much to celebrate as fall semester approaches and we prepare for a new beginning. Freshman applicants to CNR were up almost 31%, from 1,623 to 2,124, and our freshman class has increased to 368 from 288 last year. Junior transfer applicant numbers also went up from 210 to 287, 37%, with 70 new transfer students entering this fall, compared to 48 in fall 2003. Our freshman yield, the number of students accepting admission, was higher than that for any other college on campus. It is clear that the interest in the college's undergraduate majors is on an upward swing.

### It's a Major Deal

Though the majority of incoming freshmen have yet to declare their majors, many who have already made up their minds have gravitated to one of the four most popular majors this year, choosing Nutritional Sciences, Molecular Environmental Biology, Microbial Biology, or Environmental Sciences. Based on the results of a survey administered by the CNR Office of Instruction and Student Affairs at the freshman summer orientations, undeclared students indicated interest in the broad array of majors, with Environmental Economics and Policy topping the list. Among the junior transfers, the four majors that saw the biggest numerical increases were Conservation and Resource Studies, Microbial Biology, Nutritional Sciences, and Molecular Environmental Biology, respectively.

On the other hand, our more traditional majors in Forestry and Natural Resources remain smaller than we would like. Students interested in "direct action" environmental improvement – restoration, ecosystem management, fire hazard reduction, or graduate and professional school in natural resources – should check out these professionally oriented majors. They offer the opportunity to prepare for professional certification in forestry, range, and wildlife. Plus, they include Summer Camp, noted by many graduates as their best CNR experience.

### New Offerings

Adding to the excitement of this academic year are two significant changes to the undergraduate programs

offered in CNR. First, the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology is introducing a brand new major in Molecular Toxicology that will focus on the hazardous and beneficial effects of natural and human-made toxic agents. From industrially produced environmental contaminants and designer drugs, to naturally occurring herbs and food products, this field of study applies molecular and computational methods to better comprehend how these agents interact with living organisms, and what should be done to ensure human health and safety. Students interested in declaring Molecular Toxicology as their major should contact undergraduate advisor Susan Cass at [susanc@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:susanc@nature.berkeley.edu).



The second change is that the Environmental Economics and Policy (EEP) major will open up to students in the College of Letters and Science (L&S), allowing L&S students to combine interests in economics, policy, and the environment. The EEP major has also undergone significant revision, with major requirements streamlined, and breadth requirements satisfied by the L&S Seven-Course Breadth guidelines. The major, and major advising, remains in CNR. Students in CNR will continue to be awarded a B.S. from CNR, while those in L&S will receive a B.A. from L&S.

The EEP major lets students combine their concerns for the environment and human welfare with a firm foundation in economics and policy. It is excellent preparation for students who want to pursue careers

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in law, government, international development, public policy, academia, or business. International development, along with the environmental problems that are almost always involved, is a specialty of the major, though domestic issues are also a high priority. The major helps students understand and evaluate the market forces and public policies that influence natural resource use and the environment in the U.S. and globally. Students learn how to assess the ability of public policies to alter resource use and encourage protection of the environment, and to understand processes of international economic development and problems of world hunger and poverty. The major also offers an honors program of individual research with faculty and the option of a capstone thesis. Contact Gail Vawter, [gail@are.berkeley.edu](mailto:gail@are.berkeley.edu), for more information.

As we improve our visibility on campus and beyond, reaching out to students who may want to focus their studies or research on human welfare and the environment, the CNR community will benefit from this steady growth, seeing a greater impact of the College through our ongoing success. In the meantime, let's enjoy the "best kept secret" on campus!

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

August 16	Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program applications available: <a href="http://research.berkeley.edu/urap/">http://research.berkeley.edu/urap/</a>	October 15	Environmental Alumni Network Kick-Off - all are welcome
August 25	CNR Welcome Day, 9:30 am – 2:00 pm, 159 Mulford Hall	Oct. 15-17	Homecoming and Parents Weekend
August 30	Instruction begins	October 18	Tele-BEARS Phase I begins
Sept. 7	Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program application deadline	October 21	Environmental Careers Night, co-sponsored by CNR & Career Center: <a href="http://career.berkeley.edu/">http://career.berkeley.edu/</a>
October 1	CNR Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program call for proposals	Nov. 19	CNR 30th Anniversary Celebration

**For more information go to the calendar at <http://nature.berkeley.edu>**

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Christina Wong, Conservation & Resource Studies Senior

As we all gear up for a new school year, Christina tells us about some of the highlights she experienced last year:

My junior year was really fun, exciting, and such a learning experience. Professionally, I landed an internship at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a well respected environmental organization. I also started working for the national League of Conservation Voters (LCV) where they hired me to recruit summer interns to visit swing states (New Mexico, Wisconsin, Florida, or Oregon) to help elect a pro-environmental president in the 2004 election. It was a great experience learning how to run, organize, and lead my own student group on campus called the Berkeley League of Conservation Voters. Starting a new group that focuses on grassroots organization is frustrating and difficult at times, but it was all worth it in the end because I really felt like I did my part in influencing the upcoming election. I recruited about 20 interns and so far LCV as a whole has educated 200,000 swing voters that will hopefully have an impact on the election.

Because of my efforts starting Berkeley LCV, I was fortunate enough to win a national award for environmental leadership called the Brower Youth Award, which recognized my hard work with a \$3,000 reward and a trip to Yosemite where all the award recipients will meet other Bay Area environmental leaders. After such a successful and fulfilling year working at NRDC and LCV, I'm now even more passionate about pursuing a career in an environmental field.





## ON THE FACULTY FRONT

David Winickoff joins the Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management as Assistant Professor of Bioethics and Society. David's research focuses on the convergence of law and Science and Technology Studies (STS), especially in the areas of biotechnology, public health, and the environment. His work applies legal and STS analytic tools to socio-legal problems, and aims to develop solutions and models with policy relevance.

David's ongoing projects include a comparative study of genetics databanking practices across Iceland, the USA, and the UK, and an examination of the role of science in the formation of environmental regulatory policies at the World Trade Organization. He has also worked at National Public Radio and World Resources Institute.

David holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School. He earned a second B.A. and an M.A. from Cambridge University as a Paul Mellon Fellow, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Yale University. While at Harvard Law School, David founded the Ethics, Law and Biotechnology Society, a student organization devoted to education and debate about important societal issues raised by genetics.

At Berkeley, David is excited to address core issues in bioethics and international trade politics through research, teaching, and outreach. Such core issues include equal protection, privacy, property, human rights, individual versus group rights, regulation, due process, liberalism, ethical and legal norms. "I relish the opportunity to join this great community of students and scholars, and the challenge of reaching across disciplines to engage with the big resource issues of our time."



## ALUMNI CONNECTION



Recent Alumnus Ryan Buckley (BS, Environmental Sciences 2004 & BA, Economics 2004) believes in getting involved and staying involved. His dedication to organizing around environmental issues facing UC Berkeley began as a freshman, when he coordinated the UC Berkeley Earth Day event that David Harris, another CNR alumnus, started in 2000. He coordinated the annual event from 2001 through 2003, pulling together various environmental student groups and campus departments to provide a host of environmental education activities and hands-on opportunities for the campus community to make a positive impact on the environment – anywhere from cleaning up Strawberry Creek to workshops on making notebooks from reused paper.

It didn't stop there. Under a new program established by Chancellor Berdhal, he became the campus' first Student Recycling Education Coordinator, serving from 2001 through 2003. Through this program (<http://recycle.berkeley.edu/ssec/index.html>) he helped implement the Residential Sustainability Education Coordinator Program, Recycling Week each semester, the Sustainability Summit, and many other programs aimed to provide green alternatives to everyday activities on campus.

More recently, he established the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS) (<http://recycle.berkeley.edu/sustainability/cacs>) which was awarded funding to provide a campus-wide sustainability assessment that will measure resource usage and provide recommendations on mitigating our community's environmental impact. CACS was also awarded seed funding for the new Chancellor's Green Development Fund that will enable the campus to implement off-budget environmentally friendly projects, including solar panels, permeable pavement, and efficient landscape water systems.

You can get involved! Now that he is an alumnus, Ryan has recently founded the Environmental Alumni Network, created to steer and support the Green Development Fund. Everyone is welcome – you can be a current student, alumni or friend to join. Come to the Environmental Alumni Network Kick-Off Lunch and Solar Panel Tour on Friday, October 15, 12:00pm in the MLK Student Union's Tilden Room. RSVP to Matt Fratus, Director of Alumni Relations, at (510) 643-1041 or [fratus@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:fratus@nature.berkeley.edu).

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program's 4<sup>th</sup> Summer Course in Sustainable Environmental Management

Thirty-four dedicated environmental professionals from around the world convened at UC Berkeley from June 25-July 18 for the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) summer course in *Sustainable Environmental Management*. The group represents 19 different countries from Africa, Asia, Latin America, East and West Europe and the U.S., including:

- a top irrigation engineer from Afghanistan who is leading the effort to rebuild the country's farm irrigation system,
- a forester from Nepal pushing forward with community forestry entrepreneurship in the midst of Maoist guerrilla conflict,
- women leaders from Indonesia, Zambia, and India working on food security and hunger issues,
- a Romanian environmental chemist working against difficult odds to bring Romania up to EU standards, and
- an environmental lawyer from Liberia who has recently authored the country's legislation for creating an EPA and establishing Liberia's first national park.



Together with an interdisciplinary team of UC Berkeley's top faculty, researchers and local leaders and environmentalists, the ELP group exchanged experiences, gained insights and tools, and made new partnerships. At the end of the 3- week course, each participant signed a "leadership change contract" that describes how he or she will utilize the learning at Berkeley to more effectively tackle a specific challenge back home.

The Beahrs Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) was established in August of 2000 with a generous gift from Cal alumni, Carolyn and Richard Beahrs, providing the seed funding to build an international and interdisciplinary training program for mid-career professionals. The ELP is overseen by the Center for Sustainable Resource Development, College of Natural Resources. Its co-directors are Dr. Robin Marsh and Professor David Zilberman, with CNR Professors Fortmann, de Janvry, Resh, and Gutierrez as members of the Executive Committee, along with Haas lecturer, Bill Sonnenschein.



Most participants come from developing countries and are working on programs and policies that simultaneously reduce poverty, create economic opportunity, and conserve natural resources and the environment. Understanding the trade-offs and making effective decisions based on knowledge and collaborative decision-making was the underlying theme of the entire summer course. CNR Dean Paul Ludden handed certificates to each participant at the closing dinner on July 16<sup>th</sup>, attended by Vice Provost Paul Gray.

## 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](mailto:linm@nature.berkeley.edu) or call (510) 643-4647.

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