Message from the Director

Greetings!

It has been exciting these past few months for the Environmental Studies Program. At the beginning of March the Deans of Arts and Sciences announced that the support of Interdisciplinary Studies is a key mission for Tufts. With this, they proposed that A&S should support cluster hires in an interdisciplinary field and they chose Environmental Studies Program to pilot the initiative. During the summer of 2011, Tufts will begin the efforts necessary to hire new faculty within a department that contributes to the Environmental Studies curriculum.

They chose Environmental Studies for several reasons. First, our program builds on existing strengths within A&S and across the entire university. Second, student interest in the field is strong and likely to get even stronger as time progresses. Finally, those working in environmental studies work in the arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences so any department within A&S can participate. The Deans of Arts and Sciences expect to make one hire in the Arts and Humanities, one in the Social Sciences and one in the Natural Sciences.

I am so pleased that ENVS was selected to pilot this initiative and look forward to welcoming the new faculty to Tufts University. As I imagine the many ways these faculty will engage students in their research and in the classroom, I cannot help but feel that this will be viewed as an historic event in the Environmental Studies Program.

Colin Orians

Sincerely,
Colin M. Orians, Director

Faculty Profile: Richard M. Vogel
by Nathalie Schiels
According to Professor Richard Vogel, the value of developing an interdisciplinary language cannot be overstated. Environmental Studies program students, through their exposure to a broad range of disciplines including economics, political science, engineering, chemistry and biology, are thus well equipped to play an important role in decision-making positions after graduation. Without the ability to speak across multiple disciplines, Professor Vogel fears that students will become too entrenched in a narrow field which prevents dialogue and creative problem-solving. Professor Vogel is a testament to the importance of interdisciplinary connections.

While speaking about his engineering consulting work with the World Bank in South Africa on the Zambezi River watershed, Professor Vogel demonstrated the value of interdisciplinary language as watershed conflicts and challenges must be addressed from multiple perspectives; more specifically, infrastructure must be engineered and designed to fit the needs of the local community, which means that planners must take into account cultural norms and practices, local hydrology, weather patterns, and local and national economic forces.

In addition to teaching Hydrology & Water Resources (CEE 112)
and Environmental Statistics (CEE 202), Professor Vogel is also director of *Water: Systems, Science & Society (WSSS)*, a certificate program for graduate students. This interdisciplinary program encourages students to form connections between different graduate schools in order to better equip them to solve water resource conflicts in the 21st century. Research and course areas cover science, technology, conflict, diplomacy, nutrition, public health, watershed management, agriculture, and economic and systems analysis. Professor Vogel explained that the students in the WSSS program are basically "us (meaning Tufts students) in five to ten years." They're combining their backgrounds in the fields of diplomacy, engineering, urban planning, health, ecology and economics to envision solutions to today's and tomorrow's problems surrounding water resources.

Lastly, Professor Vogel highlighted the new field of hydromorphology, which he defined as the "morphing of the hydrosphere due to role and influence of human interference." The inherently interdisciplinary field looks at the effect human action has had on water resource distribution, movement, and contamination.

Using mathematical approaches to watershed management, such as watershed modeling, engineers and ecologists can determine the environmental quality of a watershed, such as our local Mystic River Watershed, and study the impact humans have had on the watershed through development and industrialization.

Students, from both a Liberal Arts and an Engineering background, who are interested in this growing field should consider taking Professor Vogel's Hydrology & Water Resources course being offered in the Fall 2011 semester.

**The Environment in the News**

**BP Profit Falls as Costs of Gulf of Mexico Spill Outweigh Higher Oil Prices**, By Julia Werdigier, April 27, 2011

**Southern storm system spawns dozens of tornadoes, killing 280 people in 6 states** By Associated Press, Updated: Thursday, April 28

**EPA proposes stricter controls on water pollution** By Juliet Eilperin, Published: April 27

**Old crab traps removed from Chesapeake Bay area by the thousands** By Cory Nealon, Daily Press, April 29, 2011

**New Jersey Solar Installations Leave Some Neighborhood Residents Sore** By Andrew Michler, April 28, 2011

**Which industries and activities emit the most carbon?** By guardian.co.uk, April 28, 2011

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Internships

**Summer Internship with the Youth Energy Efficiency Project in Cambridge**
An intern with an interest in community sustainability is needed to coordinate a team of 14-15 year olds participating in the *Youth Energy Efficiency Project*. The project will provide a learning experience for six to eight students. The teens will learn about energy efficiency and climate adaptation from interviewing local organizations and officials involved in these fields. Hands-on activities will include developing a short presentation for speaking to middle-schoolers at neighborhood camp programs, updating a YouTube video about the Cambridge Energy Alliance, conducting an energy efficiency audit, and assisting with installation of energy efficiency measures at several non-profit organizations. The project will introduce students to what the City is doing to save energy, and the practical measures that students and their families can take to lower energy use. Visits will be planned to businesses and universities in Cambridge that have undertaken renewable energy generation and/or energy efficiency steps in their operations, and have research projects on climate adaptation.

The project will be based at the Cambridge Community Center from July 1-August 12, weekdays, 9 AM-1 PM with a few additional hours during the week as necessary for planning and preparation. The internship is currently an unpaid position. For further information, contact youthenergyproject2011@hotmail.com.

Additional Internships

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Jobs

**Student Career Employment Program - Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA)**
The Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance (OECA) manages a national criminal enforcement, forensic and training program. OECA also manages the Agency's regulatory, site remediation, and federal facilities enforcement and compliance assurance programs.

- [Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Web Site...](#)

Additional Jobs

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Events

**Environmental Studies Lunch & Learn Program**
The ENVS Lunch & Learn Program began in 2011 to create opportunities for environmentally-minded undergraduate students, faculty, and interested staff to communicate and interact on environmental issues. Tufts University alumni, graduate students, and faculty, not to mention undergraduates who are actively participating in interesting research and internship topics, have become an integral part of the program, by participating as lecturers and serving as a resource for ideas on future lecture topics. While our last Lunch & Learn for the semester will be held on occurred today, April 28th, we look forward to an exciting fall and spring 2011-12 season. Come fall 2011, the Lunch & Learn lectures can be taken as part of Special Topics in Environmental Studies (ENV 95) with additional requirments. If you are interested in participating in the Lunch & Learn program as a guest lecturer/participant, contact Ann Greaney-Williams, Program Coordinator.

**6th Biannual Tufts Environmental Community Brunch!**
May 2, 2011, 11:00am to 1:00pm, Tufts Institute of the Environment, located in the rear garden level of Miller Hall, next to the RezQuad Café
The Tufts Institute of the Environment and Environmental Studies Program welcome you to our annual end of the semester brunch!

- Come meet others in the Tufts community who are interested in environmental issues
- Connect with fellow students in the Environmental Studies Program
- Make important connections with other environmental programs at Tufts
- Meet attending environmentally focused faculty and advisors

For more information, or any food allergies, contact Emily Geosling at 617.627.72973 or emily.geosling@tufts.edu.

Sponsored by the Tufts Institute of the Environment, the Environmental Studies Program, the Office of Sustainability, and Tufts Recycles!

**Additional Environmental Events**