Environmental Studies Program
Newsletter
April-May 2012

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Opening Message
Dear ENVS community,

Admittedly, we've been very busy during the past two months in Environmental Studies and have fallen slightly behind on our newsletters. There is quite a lot of changes occurring, including the approval of our new curriculum and graduation.

On April 11, 2012, the Tufts University Faculty of Arts and Sciences voted to approve changes to the Environmental Studies Program that have been in the works for over a year. Beginning in the fall 2012, the Environmental Studies major will be changing to incorporate the feedback of current students, faculty, and an independent review by the National Council for Science Education (NCSE). These changes will both offer students more flexibility in choosing their courses and create a more specialized, rigorous program overall.

The new system will require that students complete five core courses, rather than the previous eight, plus five courses in any one track, rather than the previous three. The new curriculum requirements will apply to all incoming Environmental Studies students (class of 2016), but are optional for current majors.

The five required core classes are designed to help students master basic scientific principles of environmental processes, examine interactions between technology and the environment, and explore the societal context for implementing environmental policy. In addition, there are four possible track options: (1) Environmental Science; (2) Sustainability, Policy, and Equity; (3) Environmental Communication; and (4) a self-designed track. This last track allows a student to put together a group of courses related to his or her particular environmental interest—for example, renewable energy. Meanwhile, the non-credit internship will still be required.

The Environmental Studies Department recognizes these revised and new track options will require a greater need for faculty advising, and in the process we have increased the number and diversity of our advising faculty and have begun the process of making ENVS a more communicative and inclusive environment for both our faculty and students.

New advisors to the program include:
Professor Ujjayant Chakravorty, Economics
Associate Professor Al Robbat, Chemistry
Professor Modhumita Roy, English
Assistant Professor Patrick Forber, Philosophy
Associate Professor David Gute, Civil & Environmental Engineering
We would like to thank all of our new and existing ENVS Advisors and Executive Committee members for their voluntary service to the environmental community here at Tufts.

In addition to the new track system and advisors, we would like to congratulate our recent graduates. On May 20th, thirty-eight of our ENVS majors participated in the 2012 graduation ceremonies. Of those graduating, approximately 82% of the graduates were women; approximately 63% completed the Science and Society track, and the remainder completed the Environmental Science track. We are very proud of our students and a full list of the graduates is presented in a subsection of this newsletter below. Over the summer, we will be revising the Environmental Studies website to reflect the exciting changes (http://as.tufts.edu/environmentalstudies/). We look forward to the incoming freshman, many of which have already indicated their interest in environmental and sustainability issues.

Sincerely,
Ann Greaney-Williams
ENVS Program Coordinator

Faculty Profile: Nimah Mazaheri
by Nathalie Schils

As mentioned in our opening message, Assistant Professor Nimah Mazaheri was recently appointed as an advisor for Environmental Studies majors. Mazaheri teaches several classes in the Department of Political Science at Tufts University, which he joined last September. His research focuses on development issues in oil dependent states, particularly Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as coal-producing states in India. His research is situated in the political economy literature on the "resource curse," which examines why natural resource-rich countries often experience negative development outcomes.

One research question Professor Mazaheri is particularly interested in is how communities from which natural resources are taken are affected by this extraction. He says that increased demand for energy has brought oil and energy issues to the
foreground in both academic study and the practice of politics and policymaking. International efforts to increase transparency have also allowed the public to better serve as a watchdog for governments that are pursuing unfair or unsustainable extraction policies, however it is unclear what the impact of these efforts will be. The only thing that is certain is that oil and energy issues will continue to play an important role in comparative political economy studies.

Mazaheri began as an English major at the University of Dayton, gradually earning two Masters in International Studies (2004) and Political Science (2006), one at Depaul University and the University of Washington, respectively. He later earned his PhD from the University of Washington in Political Science and served as a Research Fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Dubai Initiative. He has taught here at Tufts University since the fall 2011. A full list of his accomplishments is available here http://ase.tufts.edu/polsci/faculty/mazaheri/index.htm.

Students who are interested in how oil and energy issues affect aspects of politics, policymaking, economics, and society should consider taking one of Mazaheri's classes or seeking him out as an advisor for Environmental Studies majors. Both of his courses, The Political Economy of Developing Countries and The Politics of Oil and Energy are being taught during the fall 2012 semester, and satisfy requirements for the Environment and Society Track (old Track III) and the new Track II: Sustainability, Policy, and Equity.

Congratulations to Our Graduates

Congratulations to the Class of 2012

Alex Bob (Environment and Society/ Political Science)
Sarabeth Buckley (Environmental Science/ Biology)
Lydia L. Chevalier (Environment and Society/ Psychology)
Amada K. Chuzi (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Paige Haines Colton (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Elliott S. Engelmann (Environment and Society/ Political Science)
Mary K. Ferrill (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Alexander M. Freedman (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Tessa Gellerson (Environment and Society/ Biology)
Jordana K. Hanselman (Environment and Society/ Philosophy)
Chelsea R. Hogan (Environmental Science/ Chemistry)
Kristen E. Jones (Environmental Science/ Biology)
Hannah Piazza Kahler (Environmental Science/ Anthropology)
Lauren Morrell Kidd (Environmental Science/ Chemistry)
Lindsey M. Kirchoff (Environment and Society/ English)
Elizabeth N. Lynch (Environment and Society/ Archaeology)
Sara T. Matasci (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Caroline G. Melhado (Environmental Science/ Anthropology)
Katherine G. Myers (Environment and Society/ Art History)
Cassandra M. Pastorelle (Environmental Science/ Spanish)
Frederike Pieper (Environment and Society/ Anthropology)
Aleta A. Pierce (Environment and Society/ Biology)
Cailin Rae (Environment and Society/ Art History)
Rachel A. Rhodes (Environmental Science/ International Relations)
Daphne C. Ryan (Environmental Science/ Biology)
Jibade M. Sandiford (Environment and Society/ Political Science)
Katherine A. Sawyer (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Nathalie Schils (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Natalie Selzer (Environment and Society/ English)
Alana B. Siegner (Environment and Society/ International Relations)
Christopher T. Smith (Environmental Science/ Computer Science)
Sejal Soni (Environmental Science/ Geology)
Rebekah N. Stiles (Environment and Society/ Architectural Studies)
Andrew W. Thorne (Environment and Society/ Political Science)
Lisa M. Tran (Environmental Science/ French)
Frances C. Wilburn (Environmental Science/ Biochemistry)
Rachel A. Wolber (Environment and Society/ International Relations)

Two of the students above are receiving combined 5-year degrees. Their official completion dates will be in 2013, but they participated in the May 2012 ceremony.

Internships, Fellowships, and Scholarships

There are many internship and job opportunities being sent our way now that summer is fast approaching. Visit the Education and Careers blog for regular updates.