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Message from the Director

Dear ENVS Community,

First, welcome back to Tufts. We hope that your summer adventures went well and you’ve come back to the University with great internships, international experiences, and just plain relaxation under your belt.

As many of you know, this fall we welcome many freshman into our midst and these will be the first students to graduate under the Environmental Studies new track system. Sixty-one students indicated that they have an interest in the environment on their initial surveys. We contacted them over the summer to prepare them for all of the great environmental activities that already exist and are being planned for the future. Several have already signed up for the newsletter and are showing up in the Lunch & Learn Lecture Series presentations (ENV95) which are open to everyone on Thursdays, from 12-1pm at the Lincoln Filene Center, Tisch College.

The new system requires 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 apply to all incoming Environmental Studies students (class of 2016), but are optional for current majors.

We would also like to welcome our new professor, Ujjayant Chakravorty, to the Department of Economics. Dr. Chakravorty is Professor of Economics at Tufts University and Fellow at the Toulouse School of Economics and CESifo. He was previously Professor and Canada Research Chair at the University of Alberta and has taught at Emory University and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He research is on the economics of fossil fuels and clean energy, the effect of environmental regulation on energy prices and the economics of water resources. His current work includes modeling the supply of nuclear power, the effect of biofuel mandates on food prices and poverty and the relationship between energy and economic development. His full biography is here.

Dr. Chakravorty is the first professor to arrive in our program from the 2012 Cluster Hire and he has already had an impact on the Environmental Studies Program. He will be offering a new course on environmental economics this coming Spring 2013 (EC 08: Principles of Economics with Environmental Applications) that is the primary economics course required in the new core curriculum in the program. Dr. Chakravorty will also be presenting at our first Lunch & Learn in the Spring, is currently accepting advisees, and will become an integral member of our Environmental Studies Executive Committee.
Additionally, we would like to welcome our new intern and a current Environmental Studies student, Valerie Cleland to the ENVS program office. Ms. Cleland is co-majoring in Environmental Studies and Biology and is assisting us as we expand our program offerings and services. We are very excited to have her around. Keep an eye out for her at local events as she will be assisting us with our social media sites and events, helping with research and office tasks, as well as interviewing and writing for our newsletter.

We look forward to a strong and productive year in Environmental Studies. For more information on the new tracks, visit the newly updated website.

Sincerely,
Colin M. Orians, Director of Environmental Studies

In the Autumn, I Think of Birds Migrating South for the Winter
by J. Michael Reed

"At least the war on the environment is going well." When I saw this bumper sticker on a car a few years ago, I almost drove into Gloucester Bay. I was birding on the coast of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, with several graduate and undergraduate students. We had gone up there on a cold February day to track down an ivory gull - a beautiful snow-white gull with black eyes and legs that normally spends its time in northern Canada. Every few years, it seems, one of these stunning birds shows up on the Massachusetts coast during winter, although this was supposed to be the first in full adult plumage in the state since the 1800s.

I was doing a 5 point turn (commonly required in the narrow roads of the area) in my I'm-an-outdoors-kind-of-guy Subaru Outback, when I spotted this 10-word condemnation of the assault on the environment that has so characterized human interactions with nature. I was struck by its understated brilliance. The environment is now under attack by humans and has been for millennia. In fact,
biologists agree that we are ushering in the 6th Mass Extinction in Earth's history, and that the driving force for these extinctions is us - humans.

One of the most important driving forces in species loss is over-exploitation. When we think of large-scale killing of animals - if we think of it at all - we probably focus in this country on the late 1800s. At that time we were killing buffalo, passenger pigeons, prairie dogs, and migratory birds (such as egrets) by the hundreds of millions. We did this for a variety of reasons - food, sport, fashion, pest control, to make money. "But surely this type of wanton slaughter is a thing of the past," you say? "Is there still a war on the environment? Is there still overharvest?" you ask. Yes - fisheries are collapsing, jungles are being stripped bare of mammals, parrots are being captured, and orchids are dug up.

The reason I'm thinking such depressing thoughts at the start of the school term ...

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Telling the Climate Justice Story: A New Course for Spring 2012
by Valerie Cleland

Next semester, Dr. Jonathan Kenny will be offering an entirely new course that redefines the phrase inter-disciplinary studies here at Tufts University. *Telling the Climate Change Story* (ENV 95B) will combine everything from chemistry to theatre and will act as a bridge between the world of science and the world of storytelling.

Dr. Kenny, a chem-istry professor here at Tufts, has always had interdisciplinary interests and as an undergrad enjoyed art and philosophy as well as the hard sciences. His course was inspired by the realization that teaching the science of climate change had little effect on public policy. The people who are bearing the burdens of climate change today are not those who are responsible
This idea of climate injustice was driven home in Dr. Kenny's mind when he attended a conference in Vermont where he heard a professor from Bangladesh speak and asked afterwards what was being done about climate change education in Bangladesh. The professor told him about a boy who put his bed on pulleys so that he would stay dry when it flooded. The incredible disparity between that boy's story and the life of the average American is vast. Particularly when one considers that many Americans still claim that human-induced climate change isn't occurring. This striking contrast made Dr. Kenny ask what he could personally do about the problem of climate injustice.

Today, the popular response to climate change is to go on a low-carbon diet, but people are not talking enough about environmental justice. According to Dr. Kenny, "when people say climate change, we will say climate justice." He believes that climate justice ought to be synonymous with climate change and needs to be taught outside of the realm of science. In order to do so, he has recruited the support of professors from environmental studies, peace and justice studies, theatre, chemistry and more to teach a course that looks at environmental justice.
Anticipating Climate Disruption: Sustaining Justice, Greening Peace

The Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA) Conference Committee invites you to attend our 2012 Annual Meeting, to be held on the campus of Tufts University, in Medford from Thursday, October 4 through Saturday, October 6, in conjunction with the Tufts Initiative on Climate Change and Climate Justice. It will feature presentations from a wide range of disciplines, professions, and perspectives on the many complex issues now unfolding amidst disruptive climate change, which promises to be among the most significant social justice concerns in the 21st Century.

The keynote speaker will be Christian Parenti (Tropic of Chaos: Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence), speaking on "Climate Violence or Climate Justice?"

Plenary session panelists will include: Ken Conca (Environmental Peacemaking), Betsy Hartmann ("Don't Beat the Climate War Drums"), Ellie Perkins ("Women and Participatory Water Management"), Darlene Lombos (Community Labor United), Brandy H. M. Brooks (Director of Community Programs at The Food Project), Burt Lauderdale (Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; New Power Initiative), Wenonah Hauter (Executive Director, Food & Water Watch), Gregor Wolbring (University of Calgary; energy/water ethics), John Peck (Family Farm Defenders), Greg White (Climate Refugees or Mere Migrants: Climate-Induced Migration, Security, and Borders in a Warming World), Elena Naumova (Tufts University Initiative for the Forecasting and Modeling of Infectious Disease), Tariq Banuri (renewable energy and climate change), Eveline Shen (reproductive justice), and Julian Agyeman (Just Sustainabilities; Cultivating Food Justice).

Visit PJSA for more information.

October 4-6, 2012
Opening Registration: Thursday, October 4th at 5pm (Cabot Mezzanine)
Full conference schedule

Internships, Fellowships, and Scholarships

Project Internship Opportunity at Innovative Environmental Non-Profit Organization Boston, MA
PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE, INC.
10-03-2012 15:02:53 PM
Fall/Winter 2012 The Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) seeks an enterprising individual who thrives in a fast-paced, small organization. PSI is conducting cutting-edge work on product stewardship and sustainability, and seeks interns who have energy, enthusiasm, and creativity. PSI interns work on a variety of tasks, which allow them to become informed about current stewardship programs

Save the Harbor/Save the Bay Policy Intern
09-10-2012 16:22:41 PM
Save the Harbor/Save the Bay is led by a broad group of civic, corporate, cultural, and community leaders as well as citizens and scientists whose shared mission is to: * restore and protect Boston Harbor and Massachusetts Bay * reconnect our citizens, our communities and especially our young people to the sea * ensure the balanced read more

For more internships, visit our Education and Career blog.