

ESE Institute Newsletter

11.10.11



Kathryn Olsen helping children make recycled magazine bead bracelets at STEMfest.

In this Issue

1. Message from the Director
2. Environmental Studies Major Receives Official Approval
3. Outreach Events
4. Green Scene
 - a. Game Day Challenge
 - b. Green Fire Film Showing
 - c. Dr. Shibata to present: Disaster Waste Characteristics and Radiation Distribution as a Result of the Great East Japan Earthquake
 - d. RecycleMania
5. Student Highlight
6. Faculty Highlight
7. Summer Study Abroad
8. Faculty Positions Open
9. Job Opportunities

WELCOME FROM Dr. SCHERER

Welcome to Environmental Studies at NIU.

We are all very excited to announce that the IBHE (see next article on Major Receives Official Approval) has approved our new BA/BS program in Environmental Studies. This degree program is unique in Illinois

in its breadth of learning and engagement opportunities for students and will provide the region and the nation with graduates prepared to take on the diverse suite of important challenges that exist in environmental quality, energy, and sustainability. Our graduates will provide needed expertise to industry, government, NGOs and academic research.

The Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy (ESE Institute) was developed with the support of NIU Strategic Planning, through the Office of the Provost, with the goal of developing the new interdisciplinary undergraduate degree that will serve to educate students with diverse interests in physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences, humanities, and engineering.


Our degree offerings include six emphases.

- Biodiversity and Environmental Restoration
- Water
- Energy studies
- Human Experience
- Environmental Policy
- Non-governmental Organizations (in association with the new degree in Community Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE))

We are comprised of a growing list of faculty associates and partners, coming from more than 12 Departments and Centers on campus. We are developing partnerships with regional industries, national laboratories, and other governmental and non-governmental agencies and anticipate a growing number of opportunities for internships and student research experience.

We always welcome visitors at our new offices in the 3rd floor of the Health Services Building.

~ Dr. Reed Scherer, Director



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES MAJOR RECEIVES OFFICIAL APPROVAL
From NIU Today (8/31/2011)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, in August, approved the new interdisciplinary major in environmental studies. This major works with NIU faculty strengths and aims to produce graduates in areas of expanding societal need.

NIU's environmental studies major will provide students with broad-based knowledge of key 21st century environmental issues, such as climate change, environmental policy, water conservation, and development of alternative energies. Program graduates will be prepared to meet environmental and energy challenges via careers in industry, small business, academic research, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and federal, state and local governments.

The environmental studies program is an example of NIU being ahead of the curve. Just this month, Gov. Pat Quinn signed a new law to further Illinois' leadership in the green industry and help ensure even stronger collaboration on sustainability issues between the state and its colleges and universities.

NIU's colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Engineering and Engineering Technology led development of the environmental studies major, first establishing the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy. The institute, launched last year, fosters multidisciplinary student and faculty research and engagement and oversees the academic major, as well as the revamped environmental studies minor.

Program courses are taught by faculty from four separate NIU colleges, representing numerous departments, including anthropology, biology, engineering, geography, geology, history, law, philosophy, political science, technology and other fields.

Students will learn to apply foundational and theoretical knowledge from engineering, the humanities and the natural and social sciences to current environmental issues and policies. Eventually, NIU intends to offer graduate studies in the subject area as well.

"So many young people are interested in environmental and sustainability issues nowadays, and more companies are seeing the need to hire employees who have knowledge and skills in subjects related to the environment, sustainability and energy, so we know the demand is out there," said Geology Professor Reed Scherer, who was recently named director of the NIU Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy.

"In recent days, we've had students flocking to the program, despite the fact that it had not been formally announced," he added. "I wouldn't be surprised if we have 100 majors within the first two years."

Scherer said the NIU program is unique, in part because the university location provides an extraordinary living laboratory.

"Most Illinois universities are located in urban or rural settings," he said. "However, NIU is positioned in a unique transition area, at a crossroads between urban to suburban and exurban to rural. We address global and national issues, but a wide range of environmental and sustainability issues exist right in our back yard, providing students with a wealth of engagement opportunities."

OUTREACH EVENTS



Dr. Scherer and Dr. Doederlin at the ENVS/ESE Open House.



Recycling dumpster at NIU's Homecoming Football game.



Bryce McMullin working the Exploring Majors Fair.



Green roof panel, lettuce plants, and volunteers at STEMfest.



Volunteers at the Camp on Campus event sponsored by Outdoor Adventures.



Great idea to use discarded tree branches.
From the Illinois Science Teachers Association Conference.

GREEN SCENE

What is going on at NIU?

Game Day Challenge



This November 15th, Northern Illinois University aims to score big for recycling at the NIU v. Ball State game by having teams of volunteers fan out across the Huskies Stadium tailgating venues to help fans recycle.

Recycling dumpsters will be stationed at each of the portable bathroom stations in the tailgating areas. Volunteers from student groups across campus will be walking around wearing safety vests or Game Day Volunteer t-shirts. The volunteers will be passing out bags and encouraging patrons to bring their recyclables to the dumpsters.

“We are very excited that Waste Management is now donating the dumpsters for recycling at home football games. Now we need our patrons to use them and keep the recyclables out of the landfill.” says

Melissa Burlingame, Program Coordinator for the NIU Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy.

The NIU Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy is organizing the tailgating recycling event in honor of America Recycles Day, the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

“We are very proud supporters of Northern Illinois University’s tailgating recycling event. Recycling is the easiest thing we can do to save energy, conserve natural resources and create green jobs,” said Brenda Pulley, Vice President of Recycling Programs at Keep America Beautiful and national program manager for America Recycles Day.

Green Fire Film Showing

Join us at the NIU Montgomery Auditorium for a screening of Green Fire!



See the first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist Aldo Leopold and his environmental legacy! Green Fire shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land continues to inform and inspire people across the country and around the world, highlighting modern projects that put Leopold's land ethic in action in a multitude of ways. The NIU Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy is hosting a screening of Green Fire for the community. Join us!

DATE: Thursday, November 17, 2011
TIME: 7:30PM
LOCATION: Terwilliger Auditorium in Montgomery Hall
ADDRESS: Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
(near the intersection of Lincoln Highway and Castle Drive)
TICKETS: Free

Disaster Waste Characteristics and Radiation Distribution as a Result of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Dr. Tomoyuki Shibata, Assistant Professor, Public Health

"The magnitude 9.0 earthquake, called "the Great East Japan Earthquake" occurred near the northeast coast of the Tohoku region in Japan on March 11, 2011 resulting in the death of 15,799 people with 4,041 still missing. In this presentation, Dr. Shibata will talk about potential long term issues (e.g. waste and radiation contamination) based on his research trip to Japan five months after the disaster".



Devastation in Japan

DATE: Thursday, November 17, 2011
TIME: 12:30PM
LOCATION: Holmes Student Center, Room 405



RecycleMania 2012 Competition

NIU will be participating in the 2012 RecycleMania Competition. More information will be available online at: <http://www.niu.edu/recycling/>.

RecycleMania is a friendly competition among college and university recycling programs in North America and Canada. During 8 weeks each spring, schools compete in different categories to see which institution can collect the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of waste per capita or have the highest recycling rate.

Whether the goal is to win the national award or simply get students excited about reducing waste, RecycleMania is a winner for all colleges involved!

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

Stephanie Bourgeois, Junior Environmental Studies Major

Stephanie Bourgeois is new to the Environmental Studies program but she is not new to environmental involvement. Originally from Grayslake, Stephanie was involved in her high school environmental club and volunteered with local forest preserves in McHenry County.

Now in her third year at NIU, Stephanie switched to a major in Environmental Studies (ENVS) as soon as she learned that the degree program was official. She had been a major in Marketing and will still earn her minor in Business Administration.

She was drawn to the ENVS major because she likes the interdisciplinary aspects of the program and that it does not only focus on the science of environmental problems. Stephanie is working on the Energy emphasis since she wants to continue her education and broaden her green technology knowledge. Marketing green technologies is one of areas where she is considering looking for a job in the future.

She's enjoying her classes: currently Environmental Science: Physical Systems and Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics. Before she switched majors, she didn't realize that environmental work is her calling and she is very happy with her decision to change majors. She says that if the graduate program is ready when she graduates that she'll jump at the opportunity to be one of the first applicants.

Stephanie works with Outdoor Adventures through Campus Recreation since she loves the outdoors and would also like to be involved in conservation work. She went on an alternative spring break to Georgia with Campus Recreation where she and other students restored trails.



Her word of wisdom to those students on the fence about choosing Environmental Studies as a major are: Environmental Studies is a growing field and more people are becoming aware of the environmental issues we are facing. She also wants to point out that she is confident there will be jobs for graduates in this field of study.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHT

Dr. David Murphy, Assistant Professor of Environmental/Natural Resource Economics

Grew Up: Morristown, New Jersey

Childhood Memory: He has always been interested in science and it is the only class he was perpetually good at in school.

Favorite Book or Movie: The film *End of Suburbia*. The books *Long Emergency* by John Counselor, and *The Party's Over* by Richard Heinburg.

Funny: He played lead guitar in a band during his graduate studies but he never once learned the lead to any of the cover songs the band played.

Joined NIU's Faculty: 2011

Environmental Inspiration: He feels that humans have an obligation to treat the earth better and that we need to realize that we are one part of a much larger system.

Interested in NIU ENVS: Dr. Murphy liked the Environmental Studies curriculum, the people, and the apparent growth in the program.

Research Summary: His research looks at how energy process and supply impact economic growth.

Student Opportunities: Students interested in using GIS to map natural gas production in the Pennsylvania Marcellus shale. Students interested in creating a historic energy return on investment from California oil and gas fields.





STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITY

Public Health and Health Programs in Indonesia

June 4-22, 2012

This is a three-week program open to a wide academic audience, including students of public health, nursing, pre-med, nutrition, geography, environmental studies, and Southeast Asian studies. This program builds on the summer 2011 research project in Makassar, Indonesia conducted by Assistant Public Health professor Tomoyuki Shibata (tshibata@niu.edu) in cooperation with Hasanuddin University. Contact Professor Shibata if planning to attend. Find their group on facebook: NIU Study Abroad in Indonesia.



FACULTY POSITIONS OPEN

Assistant Professor of Energy and Environmental Technology

- Successful candidates are expected to teach undergraduate courses in the new Energy and Environmental Technology program and graduate and undergraduate courses in the Department of Technology. The candidate will also be expected to advise students, develop laboratories and industrial contacts, conduct scholarly research, initiate grant activities, as well as serve on committees representing the University, the Department, and the Institute.

Assistant Professor in Applied Environmental Anthropology

- Responsibilities will include teaching two courses per semester with one in Environmental Studies and one in Anthropology, as well as directing graduate students and advising undergraduates. Teaching expectations include both graduate and undergraduate courses.

Assistant Professor in Conservation Biology/Restoration Ecology

- Research expectations associated with this position include establishment of an active extramurally-funded research program in BIOS that has multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary components that contribute to research programs within ENVS. Graduate student mentorship will include both M.S. and Ph.D. students in BIOS and, eventually, ENVS. Teaching duties will include courses in BIOS (e.g., BIOS 406/506 Conservation Biology) and ENVS (e.g., ENVS 302 Environmental Science II: Biological Systems) which are central to both programs.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND INTERNSHIPS

Chicagoland Environmental Network

Chicagoenvironment.org is a resource for anyone interested in nature or conservation-related activities in northeastern Illinois and surrounding areas. CEN organizations are involved in important work, including habitat restoration; wetland, prairie, and watershed projects; urban gardening; energy conservation; composting, wildlife conservation; and recycling.

Eco.org

Focuses on helping quality job candidates looking for green jobs connect with eco-employers who care about the environment and have green jobs to fill.

Ecoemploy.com

Covers environmental employment in the USA and Canada, including natural, green, and science listings.

Environmental Career Center


Environmentalcareer.com assists individuals and employers alike, in matching top candidates with today's top green employers.

Environmental Career Opportunities

Ecojobs.com lists environmental job vacancies are from all sectors of the job-market including non-profits, corporations, professional firms, institutions, and Federal, state and local governments.

Green Jobs

Greenjobs.com was launched in 2004 to focus specifically on all aspects of employment in renewable energy worldwide. Greenjobs is staffed and supported by people with a long experience in the field of renewable energy (RE).



Persons with a disability who may need assistance at any ESE event may contact office manager Ruthann Yeaton at 815-753-6563 or ryeaton@niu.edu. To no longer receive this newsletter, please reply to this e-mail with a request to remove your name. Thank you.

Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability, and Energy
Northern Illinois University • DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-6563 (office) • envs@niu.edu (e-mail) • www.niu.edu/ese