

# EcoNews

Published by the Ecology Graduate Student Association

Printed on Recycled Paper.

June 1991

## IMPORTANT MEETINGS

### EGSA

Wednesday, June 5  
5:30 pm  
2120J Wickson Hall

**COME AND GET FREE PIZZA  
AFTER THE MEETING**

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### GRADUATE GROUP IN ECOLOGY

Annual Meeting  
Thursday, June 6  
2:10 - 4:30 pm  
2124 Wickson Hall

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**Come to both of these meetings  
to hear what's been happening in  
the group and to become involved with  
future activities.**

### GGE CHAIR ON SABBATICAL

Ted Foin will be on sabbatical from June 18 to  
September 18. If you need anything, see Silvia.

### NEW EGSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ray Sauvajot, Catherine McCarthy, John Breen, Catherine  
McCalvin, and Emily Schwalen are the EGSA reps. for next  
year. Feel free to contact any of them if you have ques-  
tions about GGE or graduate student issues.

### OUTSTANDING PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to **Deborah Elliott-  
Fisk** and **Ted Foin** for being selected  
"Outstanding Professors of the Year"  
by Ecology graduate students.

If you would like to join them for a dinner  
celebration please contact Catherine  
McCalvin (2-5363, 3-8613).

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### Happy Hour at Sudwerks!!

*For Ecology Graduate Students*

Friday 4:00 pm, June 7

Cheap beer, fries and other eats, too

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### LETTER TO THE DEAN

In April a group of 57 Ecology graduate  
students sent a letter to Dean Greenwood  
expressing their concern over the cancel-  
lation of Ecology 200B. On May 13,  
EGSA received a reply from the Dean.  
These letters have been reproduced on the  
following page of *EcoNews*.

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### MAIL TO:

## ECOLOGY 200B LETTER TO THE DEAN AND RESPONSE

Dear Dean Greenwood,

The cancellation of Ecology 200B on extremely short notice in the Spring quarter of 1991 has seriously disrupted course programs for many students in the Graduate Group in Ecology. Those students have been forced to look for suitable replacement courses; these have been difficult to arrange at this late date. Although we strongly urge that Ecology 200B be offered next year, it will be extremely inconvenient for some of us if it is held in the winter quarter, due to the number of other courses which we must take at that time. The ability of graduate students to schedule course and field work in the face of these sudden changes has been impaired.

Ecology 200B is an essential part of the core curriculum of the Graduate Group in Ecology; it has the potential to contribute significantly to the unification of this group of interdisciplinary graduate students. This course will expose students to a broad array of ecological theory and applications, which will foster within the group a common set of ecological principles. Our ability to function well professionally, and to interact with other specialists in the diverse fields of ecology, as well as in other disciplines, depends on a sound basis of theory. The core curriculum is critical to the future of Ecology at Davis. We urge you to support the Graduate Group in Ecology in offering Ecology 200A and B.

A continuing problem in graduate groups is the lack of formal recognition for the efforts of faculty in developing new curricula, teaching group courses, or otherwise contributing to the group. Graduate group faculty are required to fulfill all of their departmental responsibilities as well as their graduate group commitments, the latter without adequate recognition.

Dr. Deborah Elliot-Fisk led the teaching of Ecology 200A very successfully; we wish to endorse her dedication to organizing this team-taught course, and to request that you encourage the Geography Department and the College of Letters and Science to facilitate her continued leadership of Ecology 200A and B.

Respectfully

*undersigned by 57 Ecology Graduate Students.*

Dear Graduate Students:

I have received the letter of April 24, 1991. I share with you the concern and disappointment that you express over the inability of the Graduate Group to offer Ecology 200B. A number of events, including the lack of availability of critical faculty to teach this course precipitated this particular difficulty. You will be happy to know that Professor Elliott-Fisk, Associate Dean Don Curry, and I have discussed this and we will be discussing strategies with Professor Ted Foin, the appropriate Deans and faculty members in an attempt to assure that both the timely offering and appropriate staffing for this course can be possible for next year.

Once again, I appreciate you taking the time to express your concerns and I look forward to a satisfactory solution to this vexing problem for the 1991-92 year.

Sincerely,

*MRC Greenwood*

M.R.C. GREENWOOD  
Dean