

# EcoNews

Published by the Ecology Graduate Student Association

Printed on Recycled Paper.

March 1995

## DES Computer Facility Change

The set-up of the DES computer facility may be changing in the near future. EGSA has three computers (PCs) in 2120D Wickson, which are hooked up to the net. All members of EGSA are welcome to use them. These computers may be moving to another room on the second floor (2147 Wickson). A meeting was recently held on this issue. For more information – and to hear the advantages of the move – come to:

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* THE MARCH EGSA MEETING \*  
\* at which there will be, courtesy of Ted, \*  
\* PIZZA. \*  
\* 5:30 pm MARCH 15 \*  
\* 2120 Wickson \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## GGE Excomm Notes, Feb. 1 1995

**Announcements.** Jim Richards has agreed to become Chair of the Basic and Theoretical AOE. • Block grant allocation has been made (\$181,000) and work-study (\$69,000). • Graduate studies is now allowing Population Biology applicants to be considered by Ecology, and vice versa, if applicants request it.

**Faculty Membership.** Marc Mangel and Sharon Strauss have been approved for membership in GGE.

**Ecology 205.** Several students have not been allowed to take PBG 200B. So ECL 205 (community ecology) will be offered again starting next year (winter term) and will be taught by Rick Karban.

**EGSA.** AOE representatives as of 2/95:

Agricultural Ecology: Barney Caton  
Basic and Theoretical: Lara Hansen  
Conservation: Martha Hoopes and Chris Wilcox  
Ecotoxicology: Steve Detwiler  
Restoration Ecology: Andy Dyer  
Systems and Landscape: Jeffrey Kennedy

## There are still no AOE reps for:

Environmental Policy Analysis, Functional Ecology, or Human Ecology. Please consider being a rep for your AOE! Come to the March meeting if you want to find out what it's about.

## Nominations are now being accepted for the TEACHING AWARD for OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENTS.

Anyone can make a nomination. Information on the procedure is available at the information desk in the MU, in the Academic Senate Office (356 Mrak), and at the Loan Desk in Shields Library. DEADLINE is Wed., March 22.

**JASTRO-SHIELDS** Evaluations are available for anyone who applied. Go to Silvia's office to look at them.

Advance note of **SILVIA'S VACATION:** She will be gone April 13–24th! She is going to Mexico to visit her folks.

How about a **SPRING PARTY??** It's a tradition in the grad group! Anyone interested should give Silvia a call and give her your input as to when and where this party should be.

Ok, everyone. I know the tons of headers at the beginning of our email from GGE are annoying. My next task is to set it up so that won't happen anymore. I aim to get it figured out soon as the term ends... Meanwhile, as part of my position in EGSA, I will be having office hours in the EGSA office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 to noon for the duration of potential prospectives' visits. – J. Soha

**RETURN ADDRESS: EGSA, Division of  
Environmental Studies, Wickson Hall**

**MAIL TO:**

## CHANGE IN \$\$ AWARD POLICY

For those of you who did not see this in email from Silvia: the Awards Committee of the GGE has decided to shift the focus of fellowships from supporting new students to supporting continuing students. Highest priority will be given to students who are beginning thesis research and show the most potential for productivity.

As for incoming students, while support from other sources is not a prerequisite for admission, students who come in with a "suitable support package" worked out for at least the first year may be given priority.

The reasoning behind this policy change includes: 1. One-year fellowships for incoming students are risky since these students have only one term (fall quarter) to demonstrate whether they merit renewal. The committee found it to be poor policy to recruit on one-year fellowships. 2. It is desirable to develop support packages for continuing students whose accomplishments merit it: these students have had one or two years to demonstrate their merit, and are at a critical time in their research development.

This policy will be implemented this year. The next block grant allocations probably will go primarily to students in their 2nd-4th years, with perhaps 1 or 2 year grants to the very best of the incoming students. Any questions or concerns, contact Ted Foin.

### GSA Notes, Feb. 1 1995

Nobody from EGSA attended the February meeting. The relevant item taken from the minutes is: GSA has a travel fund for which we are all eligible to apply, to pay for travel to conferences at which we are presenting papers. Apply by March 31st for travel between July and December. Travel awards can be made retroactively, too. An application is available for copying, pinned to the wall above the desk in the EGSA office. Or contact GSA for more information.

### GSA Notes, Mar. 1 1995

**Depressing federal cuts.** Proposed: 18.7 billion total cuts from education, including Stafford Loan interest break while in school, work study program eliminated, limited NSF growth and funding, more!

**A protest?** On Mar. 29, there will be a campus-wide protest of federal research \$ cuts. More info from [jareich@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jareich@ucdavis.edu).

**Grad info on net.** Subscribe to the GSA newsgroup (through TIN: [gsa.ucd](mailto:gsa.ucd)) and GSA listserver ([gsa@ucd.edu](mailto:gsa@ucd.edu)).

**Winter social.** During finals week, TBA.

**Nominations.** Wanted by Mar. 15 for grad student or faculty speakers at commencement. Contact GSA.

## \* New feature of EcoNews \* Ecology Graduate Student Profile

### *Craig Kirkpatrick*

Craig Kirkpatrick (home department Anthropology) studies the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey, an endangered species endemic to China. He chose this study organism, in 1988, for many reasons: nobody had ever studied it, and it was likely to show interesting ecological adaptations, being a monkey living in conifer forests. Also, as a "charismatic mega-vertebrate," it was sure to help him raise research funds as well as conservation awareness.

Over the past 3 years, Craig has conducted research at Baimaxueshan Nature Reserve in Yunnan Province. One and a half years of that time have been actual field work. His site is at the southeastern edge of the Himalayas, so is quite rugged and beautiful. Currently, he is writing up his findings on the monkey's natural history. One of his findings is that the monkey feeds primarily on lichen, and he is now faced with the task of figuring out what drives this peculiar choice of food. This summer, he will analyze plant samples collected in the field for nutritional components.

The part of his work Craig feels to be most important will not find its way into his dissertation, however. Since beginning his research in 1988, he has become the *de facto* coordinator for conservation efforts on the Yunnan snub-nosed monkey. He writes grant applications to WWF (they fund others - not him!), works with media people, and helps the reserve come up with simple research projects. What he does, really, is keep reserve workers, Chinese Academy of Sciences researchers, media folks, and staff members of conservation organizations in contact with one another and focused on a common goal. This, he says, is surprisingly difficult work.

Craig's proudest accomplishment at Davis? Being a founder of the Lesbian and Gay Graduate Student Association back in 1991. The best class he ever took here? Rick Karban's ENT 225, the field course at Bodega. The post-dissertation future? Uncertain, but one day-dream is to learn Vietnamese and study the Tonkin snub-nosed monkey -- there are only about 300 animals left, and nobody knows anything about them. He asks: anybody got contacts in Vietnam?

Thanks, Craig, for being the first in this series of student profiles. Your work sounds very interesting!

### **CRAIG'S HELP WANTED AD:**

Looking for help translating Chinese articles on primate ecology. Must know jiantizi and pinyin. About 4 hours a week, indefinitely. Will pay rate. Start immediately. Contact: Craig Kirkpatrick, 752-0745 or [rcirkpatrick@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rcirkpatrick@ucdavis.edu).