

ECO NEWS

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Important Upcoming Events

EGSA Meeting: May 14 at 5:30PM in good old 2120J Wickson Hall. Pizza will be served and there will be voting for the PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR. Bring your opinion!

EGSA Happy Hour: Canceled for GGE Spring Picnic.

GGE SPRING PICNIC: May 22 at Davis Central Park following ECL 296 seminar. For more information see message from Silvia below.

Citation Exchange

Davidson, C. 1996. Audio field guide to the frog and toad calls of the Rocky Mountains and Southwest. Compact Disc/Cassette and booklet. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY.

Don Lotter offers his web accessible publication:
<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~dwlolter/f2farm.html>

Attention Bibliophiles!

Library Associates book sales for the Spring Quarter will be held on Wednesdays. There will be three sales this quarter:

April 16	11:30-1:30
May 7	11:30-1:30
May 28	11:30-1:30

Books will be sold in the Sale Room on the second floor of Shields Library, near the main reading room.

Salutations from Silvia

New office schedule

Well, I've survived the strangest admission/fellowship season of my almost eight years in this job. Therefore, I'm returning to my regular schedule. I will be working 8-3 each day; summer hours (after the Spring quarter ends) 8-2. Some important dates to keep in mind:

Between now and May 17th, I may be leaving a little earlier than 3pm each day; I have a prom dress to build before then plus I'm on the decorating committee.

May 8th: I'll be gone this day, attending Natalia's first advising day.

May 14th: gone in the afternoon.

June 12-13, 16th: Also off, have family arriving for Natalia's graduation.

Sorry to bog you with all of these 'details' but thought you should know it's going to get hectic for me until all of this over. Hope this doesn't inconvenience anyone, please plan ahead!

Progress Reports

Graduate Studies is in the process of revising these forms and they should be mailed to you fairly soon. Please be sure to meet with your appropriate committees for this very important evaluation and send them in before you leave for the summer.

GGE SPRING PICNIC

The votes have been tallied! The GGE Spring Picnic will be held at the **Davis Central Park**, food from Togo's. As is customary we will ask for people to provide salads and desserts. I propose that it be held on **Thursday, May 22nd** after the ECL 296 seminar. (Please fill out and return the attached RSVP form.)

How about an all out effort to get a bunch of GGE faculty to attend? I would also like to ask for a **volunteer** to make the arrangements with the City of Davis for the park, as well as anyone else that could help with picking up ice, etc.

-Thanks, Silvia

Diversity Committee Report

Why are there so few African-American, Asian, Latino and Native American students in the GGE and what can be done about it? This question inspired the formation of the EGSA Diversity committee which is working to increase diversity in the Ecology graduate group. We believe there are many reasons to seek greater diversity. First, we are a public institution funded by the citizens of California and we have an obligation to serve those citizens, the majority of whom will soon be non-white. Second, diverse students means diverse perspectives which benefit all of us. Third, to the extent that ecologists are leaders in solving environmental problems it is important that those leaders come from all segments of society if environmental issues are to receive widespread public support. The problem is not just at Davis. A 1992 Ecological Society of America report identified the lack of ethnic minorities in ecology as a major concern. The report also noted that women leave the field in far greater numbers than men.

To date much of our work has been gathering information. We wanted to know the current level of enrollment of minorities in Ecology. How has it changed over time? How does it compare to other graduate programs at Davis and to other ecology programs? How many minorities apply to our program? And much more. We are starting to get those answers.

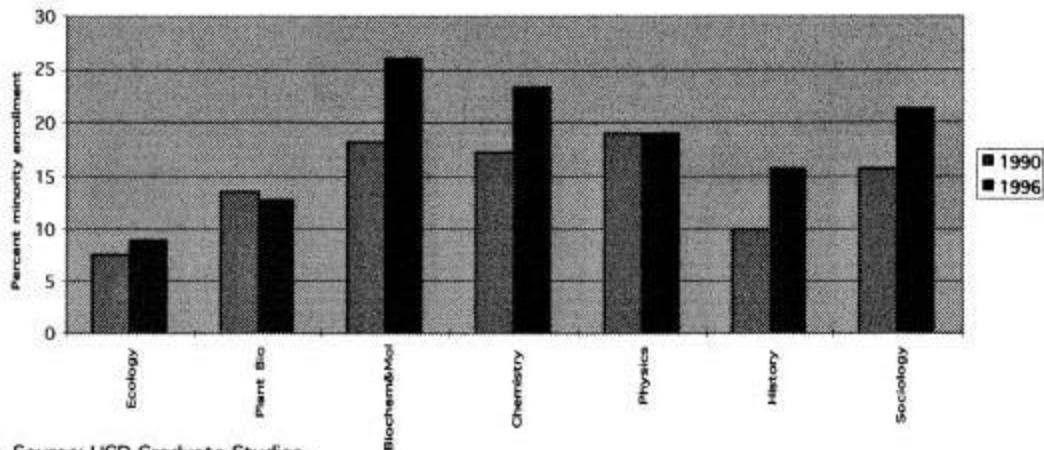
In 1996 minority enrollment in the GGE was 8.9 percent (based on data from UCD Graduate Studies - minority is defined as all students who self identify as non-white, the total is all students, except international

students). Minority enrollment in Ecology has changed little since 1990 when it was 7.6 percent. For the purpose of comparison we requested similar minority enrollment data from Graduate Studies for six other Davis graduate programs: Plant Biology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Chemistry, Physics, History and Sociology. In 1996 Ecology had the lowest percentage minority enrollment of any of these programs. Furthermore, from 1990 to 1996 many of these programs had large increases in minority enrollment. The number of minorities applying to Ecology is small, but it is not that much smaller than some programs with significantly higher minority enrollment. In 1996 minorities constituted 11.8 percent of total applicants, up from 7.9 percent in 1990.

What can be done to increase diversity in the GGE? We believe that significant increases in minority enrollment in other Davis graduate programs demonstrate that if an effort is made diversity can be increased. It requires the commitment of students, faculty and GGE leadership. The most effective remedy, affirmative action in admissions of qualified minority applicants, is currently barred by the U.C. Regents. Nonetheless there is much that could be done in the short run to improve recruitment, help minority students who often have fewer connections find major professors, and create a more welcoming environment for minorities. In the long run we need to increase the diversity of our faculty, and consider additions to the program such as an option to study urban ecology which may make it more relevant to minority students.

If you are interested in these issues we urge you to join us. Contact Carlos Davidson (cdavidson@ucdavis.edu).

Minority Enrollment in UCD Graduate Programs



Source: UCD Graduate Studies.