

EcoNews

Published by the Ecology Graduate Student Association

Printed on Recycled Paper.

Summer 1995

Stories From Way Down Under

Following the June 7th EGSA meeting, several EGSA members attended a slide show presentation by Peter Hodum. The subject of the presentation was Antarctica. Peter has spent three field seasons in Antarctica working on energetics and feeding ecology of several species of penguins. His photography of this "crystal desert" was absolutely stunning and his tales of penguin antics were more than humorous. From mountains named "Norm" (from the profile similarity to the normal distribution), to discussions of "spew buckets" and "maritime snow angles" the evening left little to be desired concerning intellectual stimulation, visual stimulation and the wonder of such a foreign place. Thank you, Peter!

Native American Studies & Ecology

Students in the Graduate Group in Ecology interested in indigenous resource management and ecological knowledge systems, environmental justice policy for Native Americans, and current Native American ecological issues are seeking to build a bridge between the Native American Studies (NAS) graduate program and the Graduate Group in Ecology. Right now the opportunity exists for students in the various Ecology AOE's to incorporate relevant coursework into their studies, but in order to develop the intellectual foundations for a formal bridge between Ecology and NAS, two GGE students, Emily Schwalen and Melissa Nelson, are seeking to establish the Designated Emphasis in NAS. Emily and Melissa wish to open the dialogue on this to all students and faculty in GGE. Please send email with any comments, questions, or ideas to etschwalen@ucdavis.edu

Note on above, from GGE Excomm: Designated Emphases have been declined in the past by the GGE executive committee because it was felt that the AOE's fulfill much the same function and that the AOE's, as new entities, needed to be developed exclusively.

GGE Student Speaks at Commencement

For the third time in the last five years, an Ecology PhD student was the student speaker at the Graduate Studies Commencement. Congratulations to Lisa Morano!

Year-End Area Of Emphasis Reports

Agroecology

Meeting was held spring quarter

Seminar held jointly with Nematology, spring quarter

Basic and Theoretical Ecology

Meeting was held June 13th

No seminars

Mailing list is complete

Conservation Biology

Meeting was held winter quarter

Seminars in both winter and spring quarters

Listserver is set up with member names

Ecotoxicology

Meetings were held in winter and spring

Seminar was held in spring

Environmental Policy and Analysis

Meeting occurred in spring

Mailing list has been assembled

Functional Ecology

Meeting was held June 12th

Human Ecology

Meeting/BBQ held in the spring

Seminar series held in fall quarter

Systems and Landscape Ecology

Meeting held at end of winter quarter

Mailing list has been assembled

Restoration Ecology

Report not available

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

Editor: jasoha@ucdavis.edu

MAIL TO:


Ecology - Please
do NOT Remove

EGSA Officers for 1995-1996

The officers for next year were chosen / nominated / figured out at the last EGSA meeting. First, we tried the strategy of addressing each subsequent latecomer to the meeting, "the new Chair!" However, that didn't work. Wonderfully, Gail Dethloff and Lara Hansen have agreed to be co-chairs next year! Gail and Lara have been quite involved in EGSA and have come regularly to the meetings, and they know what's up. So it is all for the best that they will be co-chairs next year. Thanks, Lara and Gail!

Co-chairs: Gail Dethloff and Lara Hansen
Treasurer: Julie Reynolds
Newsletter Editor: Emily Schwalen
GSA representative: Craig Kirkpatrick
GGE Excomm reps: Gail Dethloff & Barney Caton
Retreat Coordinator: Harry Spanglet
Professor of the Year coord.: Steve Detwiler
GGE Admissions Committee: Lara Hansen
AOE Admissions Committees:
Conservation: Theo Light
Systems & Landscape: Emily Schwalen
Restoration: Cini Brown
AOE representatives:
Basic & Theoretical: Becky Post

Becky would like to recommend that AOE representatives recruit new blood for next year. If you have been the representative for your AOE this past year, consider asking someone you know to do it next year. If you are really into continuing as rep, that will be fine. A new updated list will be printed sometime in the fall.



Fall 1995 Event Schedule

Orientation Meeting: Tuesday, September 26,
1-4 pm, 100 Hunt Hall

Orientation Party: Wednesday, September 27,
5-9 pm, Putah Creek Lodge

Retreat: Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8,
possibly at Bodega Marine Lab



Happy Hour to continue in summer

EGSA would like to continue "Happy Hour at Cantina del Cabo" meetings on the first Thursday of each month. EGSA has funds to continue to reimburse nacho buyers. The time will remain the same: **5:30 pm on August 3rd and September 7th**. Keep your receipts or give them to an EGSA officer-type to be returned to Julie Reynolds, Treasurer. Write your name on the receipt.

Ecology Graduate Student Profile

Peter Hodum

Peter Hodum (home department Avian Science) received his undergraduate degree in 1988 in Biology and Environmental Studies from Bowdoin College, a liberal arts college in Brunswick, Maine. During his time at Bowdoin and following graduation, Peter worked on a variety of avian research projects, focused primarily on seabirds. These studies allowed him to work in some wonderful places including the Bay of Fundy, the Galapagos Islands, NW Atlantic, New Zealand, and Antarctica.

A seasonal vagabond for several years, Peter worked as an environmental education instructor, wilderness guide, and research assistant in various locales before coming to Davis in September of 1991. The breadth of the Ecology program with its complementary emphases on application and theory, plus the opportunity to work with Professor Wes Weathers, attracted him to the graduate group.

Peter is primarily interested in avian ecological energetics and its application to conservation. Seabird foraging ecology and energetics, the role of seabirds as top-level predators in the marine environment, and seabird-human fisheries interactions are his particular interests.

Peter's dissertation research is a comparative study of the foraging ecology and reproductive energetics of 4 species of Antarctic petrels. In particular, he is looking at adaptations that these species have evolved in response to living in a demanding environment, and also at the degree to which environmental variation affects seabird reproductive performance. In doing this, he is attempting to determine the population-level energetics and trophic impact of these breeding petrels on the surrounding Antarctic marine ecosystem, and in turn, the possible consequences of ecosystem changes (such as large-scale krill harvesting) on petrel populations.

In addition to working on his dissertation research, Peter is conducting related research on spotted owls (not conventionally considered a seabird, he points out) in Northern California, and on Cassin's auklets on the Farallon Islands. When not harassing seabirds, he is a devoted outdoor bum. Kayaking, backcountry skiing, climbing, and hiking are among his favorite distractions.

Peter's future plans are wonderfully open-ended with nothing more than several extended sea kayak trips planned. He hopes to continue working in Antarctica, but also wants to balance research with education and environmental outreach programs.

There's a possibility that Peter will show his Antarctica slides again later in July. If you are interested in seeing them, write to him at pjhodum@ucdavis.edu for information. See note on page 1!