



# ECKERD COLLEGE

August 12, 2011

Dear ES alum,

We hope the past year was a successful one for you. In this annual review, we provide updates from each of the ES core faculty. We like to hear about and share news from ES graduates—so please keep us posted! Some good news:

Kenny Chapin ('08) has been working at the Tiputini Biodiversity Station in the Ecuadorian Amazon and will start a PhD program at UCLA in the Fall. He recently published a paper with Peter Meylan "Turtle populations at a heavily used recreational site: Ichetucknee Springs State Park, Columbia County, Florida" in the journal *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*. Luke Mowbray ('08) is the Facilities Planner/Sustainability Coordinator at St. Mary's College of Maryland. Betsy Bretl (also class of '08) just completed her masters degree in Protected Area Management from James Cook University in Australia. Leslie Estill ('09) is working for the Corps of Engineers in the Louisville District Office on wetlands and stream permitting for the Clean Water Act. Erica Magnusson ('11) will be heading to the San Francisco Bay area with Teach for America. Evan Bollier ('11) has been hired as Eckerd's first Sustainability Fellow. Learn more at: [www.eckerd.edu/green](http://www.eckerd.edu/green)

You can visit our ES website to see profiles of ES graduates.

<http://www.eckerd.edu/academics/environmentalstudies/Alumni/index.php>

We are conducting a survey of graduates – please take a few moments to complete the survey when you receive it in the coming month!

Sincerely,

*Kip Curtis, Beth Forsys, Paul Hindsley, and Alison Ormsby*

Eckerd College Environmental Studies

<http://www.eckerd.edu/academics/environmentalstudies/Faculty/index.php>

## **Update on the new Molecular and Life Sciences building**

Recently, work on a new building for the Biology and Chemistry departments began next to Sheen C (in the former Forrer parking lot). There are plans for it to be LEED certified. Learn more:

<http://www.eckerd.edu/news/cmls.php>

## **ES Alumni Facebook Group**

If you are a member of Facebook and interested in keeping in touch with your classmates after graduation as well as networking with ES graduates around the world, join our Facebook group! We hope this will provide

some helpful connections for everyone, especially as you move on to graduate school and to new places where it helps to know someone. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107719781534>

## News from Faculty

**Kent "Kip" Curtis**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, just turned in his manuscript, *Gambling on Ore: The Nature of Metal Mining in the United States, 1860-1910*, for a 2012 publication date with University Press of Colorado for the "Mining the American West" series. During the past year, in addition to offering all of his regular introduction and humanities course and Sustainable Cities (formerly, Urban Ecology), he continued to work with Eckerd students to build the Edible Peace Patch urban schoolyard food garden program at Lakewood Elementary School, adding a wellness kitchen to the project and receiving two local grants to plant an edible native plants garden and support the third annual Harvest Festival. He continues to work with Environmental Studies students on Saint Petersburg urban ecology issues. Prof Curtis was elected to Chair the Nomination Committee for the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences for the 2011-2012 academic year and he looks forward to generating Eckerd student participation in this national society at next year's conference and in the future. (<http://www.AESS.Info>) He has also been nominated by Dean Stewart for the National Endowment for the Humanities summer research stipend for the summer of 2012.

**Beth Forys**, Professor of Environmental Science, was on research leave this spring (sabbatical) – yippee! In the fall she taught her normal classes, environmental biology, conservation biology, and senior comps and she additionally kept busy serving on a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission climate variability panel and on several committees that were involved with the changes in how imperiled species will be listed in Florida in the future. In the spring she worked on the grants she has received from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to study if protecting areas of beach decrease disturbance to shore bird species and she had a wonderful opportunity to go to back to Costa Rica to search for migratory least terns. This summer she is working with several students on beach-nesting bird conservation and banding least tern chicks that fall off of rooftops. The project has banded nearly 1,000 birds and we are seeing them everywhere.

**Paul Hindsley**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, just completed his third year at Eckerd. In addition to teaching Western Heritage in a Global Context, he continued to teach classes related to coastal management and statistics. This year, he published articles in the *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Land Economics*, and the *Southern Economic Journal*. He is currently working with the Sarasota Bay Estuarine Program estimating the economic value of natural resources in Sarasota Bay. This project will benefit from the assistance of two professors (Eckerd's Kelly Debure and Appalachian State's Ash Morgan) and two excellent Eckerd students double majoring in environmental studies and economics.

**Alison Ormsby**, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, is working on articles about her sabbatical research in India. This year, she published the following articles: "Sacred forests of India: a strong tradition of community-based natural resource management" (2010 with Shonil Bhagwat, in *Environmental Conservation*. 37(3): 320-326); "A comparative study of local perceptions of ecotourism and conservation at Five Blues Lake National Park, Belize" (2011, with Patrick Holladay, in the *Journal of Ecotourism*. 10(2):118-134); and "The Role of Religion in Linking Conservation and Development: Challenges and Opportunities. (2011, with S. Bhagwat and C. Rutte in the *Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture*. 5(1): 39-60). In January 2012, she will be taking students on a winter term course to India. She plans to conduct research on the sacred forests of Sierra Leone in the summer of 2012 with her Ford Scholar.

*We appreciate your assistance in keeping us updated on your whereabouts, job and study news.*