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Ecotones: The Heartbeat of Huxley, 2002, Spring, Issue 04

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Marine Ecology at Shannon Point

by Alissa Martz

While many Huxley students conduct their activities here on the south side of campus, the marine science students travel farther south, all the way to the Shannon Point Marine Center (SPMC).

Western Washington University’s Shannon Point campus is located 45 minutes south of Bellingham in Anacortes, WA. The 87-acre area is home to a wetland, a pond, a cobble beach and many small mammals, birds and sea ‘critters.’ On rare occasions, there is scuba diving off the beach or from the platform of the Shannon Point Fleet, one of three research vessels and smaller boats.

Marine Science undergraduates and graduates from WWU travel to Shannon Point every spring quarter to attend courses and conduct research under the supervision of resident scientists, faculty, and, on occasion, visiting scientists from around the country. Courses may include Coastal Ecosystems Management, Fish Management, Marine Ecology, Algae, Marine Toxicology, and Marine Invertebrates.

Artificial Wetland So Far a Success
Part One of Three - A New Way to Treat Stormwater

by Laurel Eddy

Western’s artificial wetland began operating in Fall 1999 and has successfully treated stormwater ever since, despite the vagaries of cutting-edge technology.

“I firmly believe that it has made a difference to the quality of Western’s stormwater,” said David Willett, a Western architect who worked on the construction.

“It’s a stormwater system,” said Dr. John Rybczyk, an Environmental Sciences professor. “It’s serving most importantly as a sediment trap.”

The water exiting the wetland is theoretically drinkable, Rybczyk said while on a field trip to the wetland with his Environmental Disturbances class.

Western had to get permits from the City of Bellingham, the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Ecology in order to build the wetland, said Willett. “We were encouraged by the city to purchase the land with the understanding that Western would someday build a stormwater detention system.”

Dave Evans and Associates, a Bellingham company, was hired to design the project. But engineers Michael Durbin and Huxley graduate Aaron Simmons didn’t like the idea. “They said, ‘It’s going to be ugly, it’s going to be big and it’s not going to be compatible with the neighborhood,’” Willett said.
Study Abroad: Teacher and Students Go To Greece

by Tennyson Ketcham

Imagine yourself having class outdoors on a warm, sunny day. But this is no ordinary class. You're in the middle of a discussion on Plato, Aristotle, or perhaps urban planning of ancient civilizations, while standing on the steps of the Parthenon, one of the oldest buildings on the planet. Welcome to Greece.

Nicholas Zaferatos, an assistant Planning and Policy professor at Huxley, is headed to Greece from March 27 to June 21, 2003 along with his wife and students from Western and 12 other universities in Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. The trip is supported by the NCSA (Northwest Council on Study Abroad), AHA International, and the Athens Centre.

While in Greece, students will attend classes outdoors in order to fully immerse themselves in the culture. "When you are in Greece, you have to understand the culture," said Zaferatos. Having been to Greece many times, he knows firsthand what the country is like. "The people live outdoors." Greek communities are based more on social relation rather than isolation like our culture here in the US, Zaferatos said. "Social spaces are hugely important."

In fact, this is one of the topics he will be covering in one of the two classes he’ll be teaching, "Public Places: Squares, Markets, and Social Spaces in the Athenian Cityscape."

Zaferatos is particularly interested in how the city has grown and yet has room to respect social space and house the multitude of tourists that show up in Athens during the summer months.

His other class, "The Greek Environment: Contemporary Issues," is for students interested in environmental policy. Zaferatos says that things are handled a little differently over there and that "this is really an opportunity [for students] to understand European Environmental Policy."

Zaferatos is really excited about this class, as it is the first time the Athens Centre has offered an environmental policy class.

As part of the program offered to students by the Athens Centre, students will take 3-5 classes that must include "Modern Greek Language" and one of the two art history classes that are being offered. The rest of their classes are up to them.

Students should expect a lot of field trips including Delphi, Olympia, the Acropolis, and Meteora, home of the famous mountaintop monasteries in the middle of the plains of Thessaly. Students will also have plenty of time to explore the country on their own, particularly during their week-long mid-term break. Zaferatos said that students often take trips to other countries as well, like Turkey or Italy, during that week.

It’s all about experiencing a new culture, Zaferatos said. "Students will be off and discovering on their own. It's not just getting information."

Applications are still being accepted for the trip. A background in Greek or Greek history is not required and applications are $50 with a $200 deposit. According to the pamphlet from AHA International, the trip itself costs $6,448 for the 12-week term and includes almost everything except airfare, meals, and personal expenses.

If you’re interested in studying abroad in Greece next year, which is one of the ways to fulfill all 15 Internship/Foreign Study/Senior Project credits required by Huxley to graduate, talk to Zaferatos (nicholas.zaferatos@wwu.edu, 650-6718, ES 444) or go to the International Programs & Exchanges office in OM 530E or call at 650-3298.

Huxley Students Speak: What Is The Most Serious Environmental Problem in America Today?

by Nick Woodhams

Joann Tweifer - "Growth of residential developments."

Nick Vira - "The American way of life."

Laura Stevenson - "Urban sprawl, strip-mall development, stuff like that."

Rob Ryan - "Growth of community causes more disturbances of the ecosystem."

Shannon Dickson - "Water use, because of the way we abuse it."
Continued from page 1 - Wetlands

Rather than building a detention facility, essentially a big open pond, Durbin and Simmons wanted to build a treatment facility and treat stormwater to a higher extent than anyone north of Portland was doing at the time, and the wetland in Portland was only a model.

This wetland is smaller, has trails for the residents, and provides a habitat for native wild life, Willett said. While students often hands-on education and natural setting. "During lunch, we'll go hang out on the beach and watch ferries pass," Spikes said.

While students often carpool to Shannon Point from WWU, there are around a dozen students living full-time in the modern resident facilities. Bo Keopaseut is one of these.

Kelley Spikes focuses on her work.
What’s Happening Around Bellingham and WWU

Tuesday, May 7
Puget Sound Blood Center blood drives
10 – 4 pm
WWU Viking Union S65 or in the mini mobile outside Carver Gym.
10 – 12:30 pm and 1:30 – 4 pm.
WWU Red Square
(360)650-2961, (800)398-7888, www.psbc.org

4 – 5 pm
Lummi Storytellers. Bill James and his mother, Fran James, will present a storytelling performance. Bill is a master basket weaver and artist. Fran is a master basket weaver and was recently inducted into the Northwest Women’s Hall of Fame. Refreshments will be served. All are welcome. Free.
Wilson Library Presentation Room. 650-7667.

Wednesday, May 8
7 – 9:15 pm
“Aromatherapy & Your Health” taught by Jan Templeton, certified clinical aromatherapy practitioner. Cost is $52. For details, call 676-2170. Repeated on May 15.

Thursday, May 9
7 – 9 pm
“Herbal Remedies for Allergies” with Joanne Stoner at the Community Food Co-op, 1200 N Forest St. To register, call 734-8158. Cost is $10 for members and $12 for non-members.

7:30 pm

Friday, May 10
6 pm
Outback Potluck in Fairhaven 320.

Saturday, May 11
Free Flat Tire Repair to celebrate National Bike Month and Bike to Work and School Day. Bring your bicycle to the “Pump You Up” station at Bellingham Farmers Market for free flat tire repair.

Field Trip to Tukwilla Backyard Wildlife Fair. Tukwilla was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat in March, 2000.

Thruight for the Day:
“If you know wilderness in the way that you know love, you would be unwilling to let it go.... This is the story of our past and it will be the story of our future.”
— Terry Tempest Williams

Candidate for New Professor Visits

The first of four interviews for a new professor of Natural Resource Policy was conducted on May 1.

Dennis Becker met Huxley faculty, gave a speech over lunch (to test his lecturing ability), gave a lecture on Public Forms of Scientific Information to students and was available for questions.

“I liked the way [he] got them to think,” said Dr. Lynn Robbins.

Becker has just finished his PhD. He currently lives in Idaho with his fiancée, Hydee Tubbs, but would enjoy teaching at Western.

“I love Bellingham,” Becker said.

“I know it rains here, but I grew up in Kansas, so I like the rain.” Becker has also worked on the Olympic Peninsula, where it rains MUCH harder. “It just piddles here,” Becker said.

Greg Brown will be at Huxley on May 6 and 7, Grace Wang on May 9 and 10 and Mike McGinnis on May 17.

Students are encouraged to attend the interviews, said Dr. Brad Smith, the dean of Huxley College. After all, the students have a vested interest in who teaches them.

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Or email us with comments!
ecotones@cc.wwu.edu

Ecotones Mission Statement:
Ecotones is a student publication devoted to providing a voice for the Huxley community and reporting on current events and issues affecting everyone. We appreciate comments and criticisms about any aspect of Ecotones.