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

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ECOTONES

The Heartbeat of Huxley

Spring Issue 4
May 6, 2002

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Welcome! Email
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Heads Up!

Huxley T-shirts avail.
in the ES 534 12-2
Mon-Fri. Proceeds go
to Huxley graduation.

16 Ushers needed for
Huxley Graduation.
Free T-Shirts! Con-
tact: Mary Moores,
x3748.

Just How Many of Us ARE There?

Env. Science-125
Plan. & Policy-70
Geography-63
Env. Education - 49
Env. Economics.-35
Env. Journalism-10
Student des./B.A.-10
Geography/Social
Studies-3
Student des./B.S.-2
Grand Total:
367 Huxley Students!

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).



The Shannon Point Facility.

Photo taken by Alissa Martz

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.

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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



One of Western's bio-swales.

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.

Photo taken by Nick Woodhams

Continued on page 3

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. The wetland is "enhancing the use of the area."

The artificial wetland now serves Western from approximately Parks Hall southward. The stormwater that falls north of Parks Hall runs into the Bellingham city system and eventually ends up in Bellingham Bay,



Photo taken by Mick Woodhams

untreated. This is not good for the already polluted bay.

The wetland begins with two underground vaults, which collect the stormwater from South Campus, par-

This vault and one other trap stormwater.

Continued from page 1 - **Shannon Point**

These courses may take place outside or in the Sundquist Lab.

The Sundquist Lab furnishes a lecture hall, wet lab, computer lab, analytical labs, sea-table room, and 'Live Animal Holding Facilities.' State-of-the-art equipment is used for research and instruction of field and laboratory techniques.

Students are easily found within the facilities at Shannon Point. Kelley Spikes, a WWU undergraduate majoring in Freshwater Ecology, car-pools to Shannon Point every Friday to collect specimens, work in the lab, and work on projects from 8 am to 5 pm.

Spikes enjoys the 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.

Keopaseut was born in Laos, but came to Shannon Point from Auburn University in Alabama.



Photo taken by A'Issa Hartz

One of the shyer residents.

Pursuing a degree in Marine Biology, Keopaseut is a participant of the MIMSUP program, 'Minorities in Marine Science Undergraduate Program.'

Living in the facilities for the winter and spring quarter, Keopaseut appreciates the close proximity

ticularly the runoff from the parking lots. The water is then channeled through a splitter, which divides 85% of the stormwater between two bio-swales (wide flat ditches planted with a grass mixture), and dumps the other 15% into the creek untreated. This water is treated by the natural wetland that the artificial one was built around. Sending some water to the creek keeps it from drying up, Willett said.

In case of storms, the splitter sends more water through the channel. Fresh rainwater is not nearly as damaging, Willett said, but "If you get a huge amount of water, the [wetland] can't keep up."

The vaults and bio-swales are used to slow the water down enough for most of the sediments to drop out, because a fast stream will keep sediments suspended.

The water is then carried by a pipe to a rock-plant filter where it spreads across pea-sized gravel and soaks through. This removes more sediment, Willett said. Cattails planted in the filter absorb many of the heavy metals such as mercury, asbestos and hydrocarbons, as do microbes in the system. These pollutants mostly come from the South Campus parking lots, Willett said.

All of the water travels through two filters, out of four, before the water is expelled from the artificial wetland into Padden Creek and then Bellingham Bay.

Next week: Tragedy in Paradise

of the research facilities, but at times feels "isolated". The majority of the live-in students are from the MIMSUP program.

Sue Nickerson is the eldest of the residents and came from Colorado to study over the spring quarter. "There's lots of diversity in research going on here," Nickerson said. "Doctors, PhD's, scientists, a lot of people coming through." Another student is conducting her independent research project on "the effects of temperature and salinity on jellyfish reproduction."

During the summer, Shannon Point runs REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates.) This attracts students from around the country for nine weeks, in which they receive supervision over their independent research projects. And SEARUN (Science Education and Research for Under-

graduates) along with MESP (Marine and Estuarine Science Program) attract WWU undergraduates and graduates from Huxley and the Biology Department.

So the next time you are in Anacortes, take a detour to the Shannon Point Marine Center. There is always someone around to talk to, even deer! Or take a virtual tour of the facilities on their website at www.ac.wwu.edu/~sPMC/



Photo taken by A'Issa Hartz

Kelley Spikes focuses on her work.

What's Happening Around Bellingham and WWU

Tuesday, May 7

Puget Sound Blood Center blood drives
10 - 4pm
 WWU Viking Union 565 or in the mini mobile outside Carver Gym.
10 - 12:30pm and 1:30 - 4pm.
 WWU Red Square
 (360)650-2961, (800)398-7888, www.psbcc.org

4 - 5pm

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 - 9:15pm
 "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 - 9pm
 "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

Robert Roper will be reading from his book "Fatal Mountaineer" at Village Books. Check out <http://villagebooks.booksense.com> for more details.

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 Tukwila Backyard Wildlife Fair. Tukwila was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat in March, 2000.

Their annual Backyard Wildlife Fair brings educators, nurseries and landscapers together to share urban wildlife information. Call the Volunteer Program office to carpool to this learning opportunity. (360) 676-6801.

Sunday, May 12

1 - 4 pm
 Mother's Day Garden Party at Big Rock Garden Park. See us at the Park Steward display.

2 pm

Slide program by artists Wesley Smith and Andrew Vallee about the development of "The Tree Project" at the Whatcom Museum.
 Rotunda Room - 676-6981.

Tuesday, May 14

4pm
 Book of the Quarter Discussion about Robert Hass' *Sun Under Wood* will be held on the Wilson Library Skybridge. Copies of the book are available at the Associated Students Bookstore. For more information, call Christine Kendall, 650-7368.

7 - 9pm

Outdoor Center Gear Grab in the VU Multipurpose Room. Sellers can bring gear to the VU between 10am and 5pm. Free tickets will be given out at 6pm.

Wednesday, May 15

7 - 9:15pm
 "Aromatherapy & Your Health" taught by Jan Templeton, certified clinical aromatherapy practitioner. Cost is \$52. For details call, 676-2170.

Friday, May 17

6 pm
 Outback Potluck in Fairhaven 320.

Saturday, May 18

10 - 12 pm
 South Bay Trail at Fairhaven, with Village Books. Chat about books, birds and native plants with Village Books trail adopters, while beating back the weeds and tending our new flowering shrubs. Meet at the trailhead at Mill Ave. and 10th St. Wear long sleeves. Call Village Books for more info. (360) 671-2626.

Thought 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

Quote courtesy of <http://pantheon.cis.yale.edu/~thomast/names.html>

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.

Visit us on the web!

www.ac.wwu.edu/~ecotones/

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.