



# Eyes On the Environment

The Environmental Sciences, Engineering, and Policy (ESEP) Program News Bulletin

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## Northwestern invests in environmental studies

**A** broad initiative among students, faculty, and staff associated with a variety of programs and departments is underway to strengthen, integrate, and disseminate resources for the study of the environment at Northwestern.

Following a request made by Deans Sarah Mangelsdorf of Weinberg and Julio Ottino of McCormick, a faculty and student committee reviewed environmental programs on campus. One recommendation that the committee made was to create a web portal to highlight environmental offerings on campus. Its

purpose will be to provide an accessible, appealing gateway to environmental programs, groups, and activities for users of different backgrounds and interests. It is currently in development at McCormick, and it may be online at some point during winter quarter.

The committee found that there is strong student interest in and demand for environmental study as well as a solid foundation for such study through programs like Earth and Planetary Sciences (EPS), Environmental Science, Engineering, and Policy (ESEP), and Environmental

Policy and Culture (EPC). But they also recommended augmenting existing programs with additional faculty and staff, making environment-related opportunities more visible to students through such outlets as the web portal and this newsletter, and creating opportunities for collaboration between programs and departments.

Several searches for new faculty in environmental and sustainability studies have been initiated. In Civil and Environmental Engineering, a search is ongoing for an environmental microbiologist. In

addition, WCAS is searching for faculty with environmental policy and/or culture interests. McCormick and WCAS are working together to locate a new researcher who specializes in sustainability.

Stay tuned for news about improvements to environmental studies at NU!

### DATES & DEADLINES

Martin Luther King Jr. Day	<b>1/17</b>
Study Abroad Apps (A-G)	<b>1/20</b>
Study Abroad Apps (H-O)	<b>1/25</b>
Study Abroad Apps (P-Z)	<b>1/28</b>
Last Day to Drop Winter Quarter Courses	<b>2/11</b>
Spring Registration Begins	<b>2/21</b>

## ESEP gains new director and more



Professor Neal Blair,  
CEE and EPS

**P**rofessor Neal Blair, who is jointly appointed in Earth and Planetary Sciences and Civil and Environmen-

tal Engineering, was named Program Director of the Environmental Science, Engineering, and Policy program at the beginning of this academic year.

Professor Blair's research broadly involves the carbon cycle in the environment. He has been involved in atmospheric, marine and terrestrial studies and has done field work on both coasts of the U.S, the mouth of the Amazon River and in New Zealand. He teaches courses in Oceanography

and geochemistry.

In addition to Professor Blair's appointment, ESEP has received new staff, the newsletter that you're reading, and a new home on campus. Students with questions or who are interested in ESEP can come to the program office in A139 in the Technological Institute. There you will find program brochures and Dominic Vendell, the new program assistant. Feel free to contact Professor Blair at [n-blair@northwestern.edu](mailto:n-blair@northwestern.edu) about the program.

## Don't Miss It!

The Winter 2011 **Earth and Planetary Sciences seminar series** kicks off Jan 7 at 3:30 pm with Patrick McGuire of the University of Chicago, the **Civil and Environmental Engineering series** on Jan 14 at 2 pm with Vincent Deneff of UC Berkeley, and the **Environmental Policy and Culture series** on Jan 18 at 2 pm with Steve Brechin of Syracuse University.

Northwestern University

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esepe/!](http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/esepe/)

## About ESEP...

Adopting the idea that no single field of inquiry can encompass all issues related to the environment as its point of departure, the Environmental Sciences, Engineering, and Policy Program draws from programs and departments across Northwestern University. It was created in the early 1990s, and it is currently co-administered through the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science. The intellectual approach is that of synthesis, or the integration of knowledge across disciplines, coupled with further refinement of knowledge within a scientific field. To that end, students ultimately declare either an Environmental Sciences or an Environmental Engineering major whilst continuing to build a robust interdisciplinary program of study. The program provides students with a solid math and scientific foundation with which to address environmental concerns ranging from energy alternatives to environmental law to air and water pollution. Students graduating from ESEP are prepared to begin careers in law, business, and government or to pursue graduate studies in a variety of environment-related fields.

## ● ● ● ● Upcoming Events and Opportunities ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

### Green Cup 2011 Kicks Off at End of the Month

The Green Cup is an annual competition between Northwestern dorms, fraternities, and sororities to conserve the most energy and water over the course of a certain period of time. This year's competition, spanning the month of February, will commence on January 31st and February 1st with two talks. Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Kimberly Gray will speak on



**Think Big.**  
**Go Green.**

“Sustainable Cities,” on Monday, Jan 31st at 7 pm in Kresge 2-415, and ISEN Co-Director and Professor of Materials Science and Engineering David Dunand will give a talk on “Geothermal, Wave, and Tidal Energy,” on Tuesday, Feb 1st at 7 pm in University 122. Keep an eye out for competition updates at [groups.northwestern.edu/seed/greencup](http://groups.northwestern.edu/seed/greencup).

### Environmental Field School Summer 2011

The Northwestern Environmental Field School places students in national parks for seven weeks during the summer, offering them unique opportunities for studying natural resource issues. In recent years, students have researched and worked on parks sustainability issues, prairie ecology, brown bear behavior, and wetlands restoration. Applications are due on February 10, 2011. For more information, visit <http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/epc/fieldstudies>.

### Graduate Programs at School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences

The School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at Stony Brook University offers several exciting master's and doctoral programs. SoMAS offers M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs with tracks focusing on either Marine or Atmospheric Science. There are usually between 110 and 125 students enrolled in SoMAS graduate programs at any time. SoMAS faculty members have active research projects funded by agencies such as The National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and the National Administration of Space and Aeronautics (NASA).