



Eyes on the Environment

The Environmental Sciences Program News Bulletin

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Newly launched web portal brings together environmental programs at NU

A new environmental web portal with the URL environment.northwestern.edu was launched in April. For the first time, web users will be able to navigate to all environmental academic programs at Northwestern through a single online location as well as find information about environmentally related opportunities across the University.

The idea for building an environmental web portal arose during committee discussions following a request made by Dean Sarah Mangelsdorf of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and Dean

Julio Ottino of the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science to review environmental studies at Northwestern. Students and faculty expressed the need for organization and coherence amongst the variety of environmental endeavors at the University. The portal is one step towards greater communication and collaboration between students, faculty, and staff working on environment and sustainability issues.

With the assistance of McCormick IT and Marketing, the website was designed to present a clean, accessible, and attractive

format to users. In addition, a main goal was to gather and clearly present as much information as possible while directing users to the appropriate locations for additional resources. Thus, the Academic Programs page, for example, lays out the breadth of environmental programs of study at Northwestern, but it also directs users to individual departments and programs. In this way, the website aims to act as a gateway to information that is stored in multiple online locations.

If you would like to con-

tribute or link to the site or if you have a question about the portal, feel free to send an email to environment@northwestern.edu. We are always looking for new information about student groups, research, courses, events, and more.


DATES & DEADLINES

Memorial Day	5/30
Last Day of Spring Classes	6/4
Exam Week Begins	6/6
Commencement	6/17
Summer Quarter Begins	6/20
Independence Day	7/4

The Environment at Northwestern


Connect to a world of environmental education and research

- Home
- Academic Programs
- Student Opportunities
- Research
- NU Initiatives and Collaborations
- News & Events
- Links
- Contact Us



PBC student Rebecca Tonietto collects native bees in the prairie (photo by Robin Carlson)

STUDENTS



- ▶ Academic Programs
- ▶ Student Opportunities

EVENTS

Marginal Carbon Chemistry.
May 27, 2011

The January 12, 2010 Haiti Earthquake and its Aftermath: How Can Science Inform Policy
May 27, 2011

Emerging Opportunities for Nanostructured Semiconductor Systems (EONS)
June 2, 2011

NEWS

Five Northwestern faculty members receive NSF career award
Thursday, May 12, 2011

New insights into "hot jupiter" extrasolar planetary orbits
Wednesday, May 11, 2011

Ford Roof Becomes NU's First On-Site Renewable Energy Source
Thursday, April 21, 2011

Congratulations to the Class of 2011!

Turn the page to see what Environmental Sciences seniors will be up to after graduation...

Environmental Sciences

Senior Profiles



Chelsea Baldino

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences, Economics

Thesis: Analyzing Ecological and Human Risks from Exposure to Contaminated Sediments in a Backwater Lake of the Illinois River

Next Year: "I'm working as a research assistant for the Ecosystems Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. I am assisting with soil warming experiments that study how the fluxes of greenhouse gases change when soil and air temperature increase."

Mike Carson

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences, Economics

Thesis: Public Health and the Polls: Political Participation and Public Health Outcomes in Chicago Neighborhoods—A Quantitative Analysis



Steve Lanus

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Anaerobic Decomposition in MSW Landfills and the Fate of Biodegradability Claims in the U.S.

Next Year: "I will be working as a part of the science team at UL Environment, a subsidiary of Underwriters Laboratories. UL Environment is a new source for independent green claims validation, product certification, training, advisory services and standards development. I serve as a project manager for various sustainability standards that deal with products in the building materials and hi-tech sector."

Check out Steve's blog at www.stephenlanus.com!

Alex Tyler

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Waste to Energy: Cogeneration From Landfills

Next Year: "I plan on preparing for the Dental Admission Test (DAT) and applying to dental schools."



Kate Schref

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences, Economics

Thesis: Photocatalysis as a means to mitigate CO₂: Discovering the appropriate ratio of carbon nitride and titania nanotubes and its real world application

Next Year: "Corporate Analyst at GATX (General American Transportation Corporation) in Chicago, IL. This is a two year rotational program including, but not limited to, rotations in finance, operations, investment risk management, market research, pricing, etc."

Environmental Sciences

Senior Profiles



Dustin Grossheim

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Human Environmental Preferences, Evolution and Restoration

Next Year: "Over the summer I will be leading two trips in Costa Rica for teenagers. The focus is on language, service, and adventure (sea kayaking, surfing, rafting, etc.). After that I will be moving to Anchorage to live with a friend who graduated from Northwestern last year and is getting his masters in biology at the University of Alaska Anchorage. I don't really have any work plans. I'll just find something when I get up there. I do plan on doing a lot of backcountry snowboarding and mountaineering."

Cassi Saari

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Forest Management in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness

Next Year: "I will be working as a research assistant for Chicago Wilderness this summer. I will be working on the '100 Sites for 100 Years' long-term project by collecting vegetation data in Chicago Region prairies and woodlands that will be used to analyze the effects of invasive species, human disturbance, and ecological restoration."



Sasha Speare

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Status of the World's Ocean Fisheries and Policies for their Sustainability

Next Year: "I will be taking a year off from school and will be working in a hospital hopefully specializing in environmental health. The following year I will be attending Physician's Assistant School."

Senior Majors and Theses (Not Pictured)

Jacqueline Beard

Graduating In: Environmental Sciences, Gender Studies

Thesis: Assessing the Impact of Surrounding Land Use on Bee Communities on Chicago's Green Roofs

Natalia Borzym

Graduating in: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Renewable Energy: Examining the Costs and Benefits of Adopting European Union Policies in the United States

Molly Forster

Graduating In: Environmental Sciences

Thesis: Evaluating the Risk of DDT in Africa: DDT's Carcinogenic Dangers Outweigh its Potential Benefits

Emily Miller

Graduating In: Environmental Sciences, Spanish

Thesis: The Return on Ethanol Production: Invested Energy in Corn and Switchgrass Biofuel Feedstocks

"Collecting vegetation data in Chicago Region prairies,"
"leading two trips to Costa Rica,"
"working as part of the science team at UL Environment,"
"working as a research assistant for the Ecosystems Center"...
Check out all the exciting things Environmental Sciences majors will be doing next year!

Northwestern University

Contact Us

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Check out our new website at
[envsci.northwestern.edu!](http://envsci.northwestern.edu)

World Environment Day at the Chicago Botanic Garden (6/4)

On Saturday, June 4, the Chicago Botanic Garden will celebrate World Environment Day with the theme of "Year of the Forest." The featured speakers are Nalini Nadkarni, a forest ecologist known as the "queen of canopy research," and Michael Potts, president and CEO of the Rocky Mountain Institute. Garden scientists, ecologists, and horticulturists will share their expertise through free and informal presentations, demonstrations, and tours. For more information, check out the [World Environment Day event page](#).

About Environmental Sciences...

Environmental change is one of the great challenges we face. The environmental sciences major provides students with an understanding of how the natural environment operates, how it has been impacted by society, and how society attempts to mitigate the impacts. The Environmental Science major is part of the Environmental Science, Engineering, and Policy program, which is co-administered by the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences and the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science.

● Upcoming Events and Opportunities ●

Spend a Semester in Environmental Science in Woods Hole, MA!

The Semester in Environmental Science program at the Ecosystems Center in Woods Hole, MA (on Cape Cod) offers an intensive, "hands-on" lab and field-based curriculum, teaching fundamentals of ecosystems science and biogeochemistry. A collaborative approach is emphasized with students working in teams. Students will work with researchers studying topics ranging from climate change and carbon balance on the North Slope of Alaska to changes in freshwater flow from major rivers in Canada and Siberia into the Arctic Ocean to deforestation in the Amazon. Cape Cod offers field sites in fresh water ponds, salt ponds, marshes, coastal forests, grasslands, and other habitats. Students spend about 20 hours per week in the lab or in the field. SES also provides opportunities for follow-up and training after completion of the program through teaching assistant, intern, and research assistant positions. For more info, check out their website at <http://courses.mbl.edu/SES> or email SES@mbl.edu.

Field Studies in Environmental Issues in the Pacific Northwest

Spend fall quarter 2011 at the world-renowned Friday Harbor Labs! Learn how environmental issues are affecting people, agriculture, and the marine ecosystem in the beautiful San Juan Islands. Both social sciences and natural sciences majors welcome. Live at UW's scenic Friday Harbor Labs campus on San Juan Island during fall quarters. Choose from courses such as Social Change & the Marine Environment, Farming, Fishing, & Local Food, Introduction to Marine Biology, and Marine/Social Science Research Apprenticeship. For more info, contact [Prof Susan Thistle](#).



Photo by Fannie Jou