Welcome to spring quarter. Now that the flowers are blooming and the sun is peaking through the clouds every now and then, let’s take a moment to reflect on events and accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students over the last quarter. This winter we officially welcomed our new part time lecturers Su-Miao Lai and Erik Tou (math), and Jim McDougall (geology). This spring, Vanessa Hunt will be teaching for the core, and Mindy Roberts will be rejoining us to teach her Stream Ecology course again. We are also very happy to announce that our current full time Biology lecturers Jutta Heller, Erik McDonald, Megan Schwartz, and Jack Vincent have been rehired on competitive longer-term appointments, and Jeremy Davis (formerly of PLU) will be joining us as a new Biology lecturer next year. We welcomed Faisal Hossain (Freshwater) this winter, and we will welcome Tom Koontz (environmental policy) this fall—both are Associate Professors. The new classes Science of Environmental Sustainability and Cryptography are off and running this spring, and we’re developing lots of new courses for next year, including a new Environmental Studies Experience capstone course, Ecosystem Services, Remote Sensing, Animal Behavior, Precalculus 1 and 2, and Coding Theory. Also check out the new Sustainability Minor, starting this Spring. Enjoy!

Please keep sending in your announcements to Avi: (yay4avi@uw) and thanks for all you do!

GREETINGS QuESSt FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS!

Winter Student Showcase—Capstone Presentations

Congratulations to
Lisa Hamaker
Pedro Mendoza
Julia Dolan,
Jeremiah Payne &
Rachel Struck
Congrats to Jim
for the cover story on his research in

March 28, 2014

Jim’s work involved testing freshwater lakes throughout South and Central Puget Sound regions. The lakes contain elevated levels of arsenic and lead “linked to the smelting operations” at ASARCO in Ruston. The $94 million received from ASARCO in 2009 is used to monitor and remove toxic soil throughout the smelter “plume” area, but there is concern that it has not been used to monitor or clean up the lakes. The article lists several reasons why the lake contamination is problematic: the lakes are stocked with sport fish by the State and they are relatively shallow. It also describes further research questions: is there heavy metal contamination in the lakes, and what are the risks to human health of consumption of fish from the lakes?

More information about the study can be found at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24317160

Read the Full Tacoma Weekly Article Here:

Environmental Seminar Series
Liven up lunchtime with a series of lectures highlighting environmental research and issues. The Environmental Seminar Series will be held every Monday, from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., in room 309 of the Science Building.

All are welcome to attend!

Check out the Events Calendar at: http://tinyurl.com/iascalendar
Congratulations On Your Achievements!

Publications

Linda Dawson


Cheryl L. Greengrove, & Julie E. Masura

- King County. 2014. Quartermaster Harbor Marine Water Quality Data Report 2007-2011. Prepared by Kimberle Stark (King County Land and Water Resources Division) and C. Greengrove, N. Schlafer, N. Huber and J.Masura (University of Washington Tacoma), Submitted by King Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, WA

Peter Horak, V. Hromada, Tiling R by crosses, Discrete & Computational Geometry 51 (2014), 269-284.


KOMO 4 TV rebroadcasted a special "encore series" of UW|360 programs from Season 3 featuring Joel Baker, Julie Masura, and Alex Gipe. In addition, our current series of Season 4 programs will tentatively begin airing Saturday, April 5th.
Events and accomplishments of Winter 2014

Sustainability Started Here

Seven years ago the first annual South Sound Sustainability Expo was born on the UWT campus. It was the creation of a consortium of south sound higher education institutions designed to provide a venue for local sustainable business, government organizations, and education institutions to show off their wares. The expo has occurred annually since then on other university campuses until three years ago when the City of Tacoma’s Environmental Services took over the leadership role, and moved the expo to the Tacoma Convention Center.

At the age of seven the expo continues to grow and this year saw the largest number of participants to date with 950 attendees. Thus the outreach effort that began here has continued to provide community members, sustainable businesses and other organizations a place to learn about each other.

Two members of QuESST have been a part of the expo since the beginning (Jim Gawel and Lia Wetzstein), and they continue be a part of the planning and outreach. UWT has had a table at the Expo each year which has provided students with the opportunity to advertise to the local community their own sustainability efforts, campus projects and degree opportunities while mingling with potential employers. This year, students informed local community members about our new Sustainability minor, our community, restoration, and research efforts at First Creek Middle School and about the upcoming Prairie Line Trail project.

Presentations, News, Articles and Events

Erica Cline–
- Puget Sound Mycological Society talk on Metals in Mushrooms
- Graduate Seminar talk at UW Seattle on Mycorrhizal Diversity in the Pacific NW.

Linda Dawson–
- Chair ed QuESSt committee for Collaborative Learning (Members: Cynthia Stanich, Meg Henderson, Lia Wetzstein, Jutta Heller & Haley Skipper), a pilot program of learning through group problem solving which will be launched in the Spring Qtr 2014. More to come in the next newsletter!

John Finke–
- “Can natural antibodies help Alzheimer’s Disease patients?” Seminar presentation at the University of California San Diego Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Cheryl Greengrove & Julie Masura–

Peter Horak–
- Visited the Mathematical Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest and Slovak University of Technology, Bratislava for collaborative research with local mathematicians.

Craig P. McBride–
- Spoke at the ASTE (Association for Science Teacher Education) International Conference in San Antonio Texas, titled: “The Logic of Alternative Conceptions of Earth Science Conceptions.”

Peter Selkin–
- Gave a talk in UPS Thompson Hall Seminar Series entitled "A Magnetic Perspective on Magmatic Processes" on the work from upcoming Tectonophysics paper.
Events and accomplishments of Winter 2014

Congratulations On Your Achievements!

Grants

Erica Cline: Stuntz Foundation (Puget Sound Mycological Society) grant for studying Tricholoma mushroom taxonomy.

John Finke- National Institutes of Health 2014 summer research funding for STEP-UP fellow Hayley Smalls

Peter Selkin: IAS Research and Teaching funds to work with students to study the relationship between magnetic properties and climate in the Palouse loess (windblown silt) deposits of Eastern WA.

To one of our Environmental Science students, Jin Yi for being accepted to the UW Pharmacy School

Hannah Parker (recent alum and current tech) gave birth to a baby girl on March 7th.
Alexis Skye
8lb 15oz.

Chancellor's Undergraduate Research Scholar Award

for
Hannah Bradford
working in the lab of John Finke on the project
“A fluorescence based measurement of nanoparticle sizes”

Want to see your name in print? Submit your accomplishments or events to yay4avi@uw.edu