GREETINGS QuESSt FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS!

This fall brought us a new chair (me), a new name for our division (Quantitative, Environmental Sciences and Studies), and lots of other changes. Thanks to our new divisional student, Avi Rana, we now have a quarterly newsletter to share our events and accomplishments with the world (or at least each other). A big welcome to our new faculty this year: Craig McBride, Su-Miao Lai and Erik Tou (math), Meg Henderson (chemistry), Jim McDougall (geology), Megan Schwartz, Mead McCoy, Carleen Weebers, and Vanessa Hunt (biology), Faisal Hossain (hydrology, joint with Seattle), and Theda Braddock (environmental law). We’re currently in the process of bringing in more new faculty for next year, in the areas of Geology (to replace Sian Davies-Vollum), Environmental Studies, Freshwater, and Biology. We are starting a new minor this spring (Sustainability—check it out!) and introducing several new classes this year, including the Biology of Aging, Cryptography Theory and Practice, and the Science of Environmental Sustainability. Next year stay tuned for Coding Theory, Ecosystem Services, Remote Sensing with Environmental Applications, and more. We’ve also launched a professional development teaching strategies workshop that is expanding all of our horizons.

In these pages, you can read about our papers, presentations, grants, community events, and the successes of our students. A few are worth calling out: Joyce Dinglasan-Panlilio was awarded tenure; Bonnie Becker stepped up as Associate Director of Strategic Initiatives, and Cheryl Greengrove was elected chair of the IAS Faculty Council.

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

SOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

Margaret Henderson  Faisal Hossain  Craig McBride  Megan Schwartz  Carleen Weebers
Events and accomplishments of Fall 2013

5th Annual MLK Day of Service

The First Creek Middle School Environmental Science Club and event partners, including the Salishan Association, Green Tacoma Partnership, City of Tacoma Environmental Services, Pierce Conservation District, University of Washington – Tacoma, Youth Service America, and State Farm, hosted the 5th Annual MLK Day of Service at First Creek on 1/20/14. In total, 155 volunteers came together for a “day on” in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr contributing 547.5 hours of volunteer time. Volunteers removed nearly 50 cubic yards of invasive plants, garbage, and debris, planted approximately 50 native trees and shrubs, and spread 20 cubic yards of mulch. The event had student volunteers from First Creek Middle School, Lincoln High School, University of Washington – Tacoma, University of Puget Sound, and Pacific Lutheran University.
Congratulations On Your Achievements!

Publications


P. Horak, O. Grosek, A New Approach Towards the Golomb-Welch Conjecture, European Journal of Combinatorics, Final version published online: 16-NOV-2013
DOI information: 10.1016/j.ejc.2013.10.010

P. Horak, Zs. Tuza, Speeding up deciphering by hypergraph ordering, Designs Codes and Cryptography, Final version published online: 10-DEC-2013
DOI information: 10.1007/s10623-013-9899-z

Grants

Erica Cline: IAS Research and Teaching grant for a project investigating whether mycorrhizal inoculation of seedlings improves survival, growth, and mycorrhizal diversity for seedlings planted for the Elwha River Restoration project.

James Gawel: Undergraduate research support from IAS for Julia Dolan to work on "MusselWatch: using metallothioneins as bioindicators of metal stress in Puget Sound mussels" and for Shantelle Reamer to work on "Spirit Lake: Woody Debris Nutrient Cycling"
Events and accomplishments of Fall 2013

Conferences, Research & Community Events

**Bonnie Becker** - The Western Society of Naturalists, Seaside, CA. "Natural History in the Classroom"

**Erica Cline** - Co-taught a class in Peru (with Ursula Valdez), bringing 13 students to the Andes and the Amazon for ecological research and to learn about conservation, sustainability and culture.

**Megan Schwartz** - Collaborated on a research cruise to the Antarctic Peninsula. Her primary focus was the genetic connectivity and biogeographic distributions of ribbon worm (Phylum Nemertea) populations around Antarctica & extending into sub-Antarctic islands and continental shelf regions.

**James Gawel** - WALPA/OLA Joint Lakes Conference, Vancouver, WA

"The Long-Term Impact of Metal Smelting Operations on Arsenic Availability in Urban Lakes of the South-Central Puget Sound Region."

**Peter Horak** – Gave a talk in University of Augsburg, Germany & in Zhejiang Normal University, Jinhua, China

**Craig P. McBride** - Gave a talk in 4th International RME Conference, University of Colorado. “Flipping an Introductory Statistics Class: Students’ Attitudes About and Success with the use of Online Tools”.

**Local P-12 Student involvements**

Lincoln High School Students collaborated on water quality monitoring on Wapato Lake with James Gawel and his students in TESC 435 Limnology Class. The students came out on Nov 1st to collect samples. James plans to continue work with the students so that they become the volunteer monitors for the lake in the future. This work is funded by a Chambers/Clover Creek Watershed Council Grant.

Congratulations!

**to Tiffany Degenstein, Jacqueline Hernandez, James Moore & Lauren Reetz** for winning 1st prize at the 1st Annual Puyallup River Festival for their film ‘The Importance of Salmon Conservation in the Puyallup River Watershed’

Watch the Film here: [http://youtu.be/9-98t97ag4c](http://youtu.be/9-98t97ag4c)
Did you know

Peter Horak will be bringing two students
(Otis Alexander and Alexander Cherry)
to Slovak University of Technology for a ten day project this June, to participate in his NATO project:
"Secure Implementation of Post-Quantum Cryptography"?
More details on the grant can be found at http://147.175.106.232/nato/

Congratulations to one of our Environmental Science students, Tyree Williams, for being accepted to the UW pharmacy school

Jutta Heller became the faculty advisor for a new student organization:
The Pre-Med Society at UW-Tacoma

Students who are thinking about going to a professional school in the health sciences should join the organization!

For more information, go to:
https://tacoma.collegiatelink.net/organization/pre-med

Environmental Seminar Series
Liven up lunchtime with a series of lectures highlighting faculty and student environmental research activities. The Environmental Seminar Series will be held every Monday, from 12:30 - 1:25 p.m., in room 309 of the Science Building. All are welcome to attend!

Check out the Events Calendar at: http://tinyurl.com/iascalendar

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