Our recent weeks with Covid-19 have upended our world. The pandemic is affecting everyone and creating far-reaching difficulties. The circumstances remind us to treasure those close to us, to rely on our communities, to take nothing for granted, and to be empathetic and compassionate with those suffering on multiple levels right now. This time also reminds us just how vital it is to study relationships between people and our environment—our very survival hinges on it. We need environmental research, and we need to value our experts who have devoted their lives to understanding these processes and issues. This time also demonstrates profoundly that not everyone is affected the same, as some groups are more deeply affected by the disease, by poverty or job loss, by limited access to health care, and by ever-increasing pollution and climate change. We thus need environmental justice research, too, to reveal these patterns and address far-reaching inequalities.

Given the pandemic, it may seem like an odd time to reflect on what has been happening in the Environmental Studies Program. But as I just said above, we need the precise kinds of environmental research, teaching, and learning that is happening now in ENVS—from the environmental sciences to environmental justice. So despite the health crisis, it is still a good time to reflect on accomplishments from the previous year (2019), as we do every spring. We need some good news anyway, some uplifting stories, some reminders about the incredible work our students, faculty, and staff are doing.

We have a tremendous team of accomplished ENVS faculty, students, and staff—who have demonstrated remarkable accomplishments this past year. ENVS Professor Peg Boulay won one of the university's most distinguished teaching awards for faculty, while Environmental Studies Ph.D. candidate Dan Shtob won the university’s top teaching award for graduate students. Professor Sarah Wald (ENVS Associate Director and professor of ENVS and English) and Professor David Sutherland (ENVS and Earth Sciences) won the UO’s most distinguished all-around award for faculty: the Fund for Faculty Excellence. Other ENVS faculty won national awards for lifetime achievements in their professions, including Professors Kari Norgaard (ENVS and Sociology), Josh Roering (ENVS and Earth Sciences), and Ron Mitchell (ENVS and Political Science). But these are just some highlights—as the subsequent pages in this issue illustrate. Keep reading!

Last Fall, we welcomed Professor Stacy Alaimo (ENVS and English), who joins us now as a core faculty member. And in January we welcomed Sophie Bybee as the new Undergraduate Coordinator for ENVS. Sophie joins an incredible staff in ENVS who make terrific, tireless, and enduring contributions to the ENVS mission, including Monica Guy, Nathan Adams, and Alison Mildrexler.

I am proud to be working with this amazing team doing vital environmental work. Let’s keep up the strong work we need to make the planet a better, safer, healthier, and more just place to live sustainably. As our students continue to learn, and as they graduate and look for jobs amidst wild unemployment rates and global uncertainty, it is all the more important to support our community and our work. Thank you.

Sincerely,

M Carey
ENVS Core Faculty Achievements

Stacy Alaimo

Brendan Bohannan
Named as the James F. and Shirley K. Rippey Chair in Liberal Arts and Sciences. The prestigious appointment recognizes a faculty member who has both a distinguished research profile and a deep commitment to undergraduate education.

Peg Boulay
Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching, given to a faculty member who has demonstrated long-standing excellence in teaching, and who has contributed significantly to student learning at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Mark Carey
Faculty Research Mentor Award (nominated by students), Center for Undergraduate Research and Engagement, University of Oregon, 2019.


Williams Fund Instructional Grant for collaborative/team teaching on "Arctic Icebergs: Piloting a Multidisciplinary, Problem-Solving Pedagogy," with Dave Sutherland (ENVS and Earth Sciences) and Casey Shoop (Clark Honors College), 2019-2020.

Lauren Hallett
Received funding for a three-meeting synthesis working group through the German Centre of I Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) on "Storation: Applying coexistence theory to restoration ecology and adaptive management".


Working toward a $500,000 cooperative agreement with the USDA Agricultural Research Service to assess causal factors of exotic annual grass invasion across the Great Basin sagebrush ecosystem.

Ron Mitchell

Nicola Morar

This publication has generated the following public attention:
Press coverage: Around the O, "UO researchers urge changes in the language of the microbiome" Interview on Jefferson Public radio – “Curious: how we talk about the microbiome”
Kari Norgaard


Awarded the Sociology of Emotions Recent Contribution Award, Sociology of Emotions Section, American Sociological Association.

Awarded the Fred Buttel Distinguished Contribution Award, Environmental Sociology Section of American Sociological Association.

Lucas Silva


University of Oregon Sustainability Award for Research, which recognizes a UO researcher whose research has made significant contributions to human knowledge related to sustainability.

Kory Russell

Awarded the Environmental Protection Agency People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition, with student team for the project “Sanitary Green Space: a closed-looped sanitation system for growing green communities”.

Student Team awarded the best design from the both the Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute for Chemical Engineers at the 2019 TechConnect Expo in Boston.

Awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects Student Award of Excellence for Residential Design.

Awarded the 2019 University of Oregon Town and Gown Sustainability Award as well as a University of Oregon Foundation’s Trustee Excellence Fund for $30,000 for the initiative “Landscape for Humanity”.

Emily Scott

Faculty Research Award, Andrew W. Mellon/Center for Environmental Futures.

Sustainability Faculty Fellowship, University of Oregon (to support community engagement in teaching).


Dave Sutherland

Awarded Williams Council funds to teach a new interdisciplinary course on Arctic icebergs as an example of a wicked environmental problem, with Mark Carey (ENVS/Honors College) and Casey Shoop (Honors College).

Led a paper published in *Science* in July 2019 on submarine melting at LeConte Glacier in southeast Alaska.

Co-PI on new NOAA grant with Scott Bridgham (ENVS, BIO) to look at carbon, sea level rise, and restoration in Coos Bay, Oregon.

Fund for Faculty Excellence Award, given to the UO’s top faculty who have a record of distinction in their quality of scholarship and creative accomplishment, contribution to their respective field, and contribution to the university.

Sarah Wald


Fund for Faculty Excellence Award, given to the UO’s top faculty who have a record of distinction in their quality of scholarship and creative accomplishment, contribution to their respective field, and contribution to the university.
Oriana Chafe


Sue Dockstader

ENVS GE Teaching Award: This award is designed to recognize outstanding teaching performance by ENVS graduate employees (GEs) who have demonstrated a commitment to developing their instructional skills, while at the same time excelling in their academic degree program.

Eliza Hernandez

Recipient of the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP).
Initiated a greenhouse experiment at the UO Greenhouse Facility that stimulates the effects of nitrogen deposition and precipitation change on population trajectories in California serpentine grasslands.

Geoffrey Johnson


Laura Johnson

Attended the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Freshwater Mussel Biology and Identification Training.

Kyle Keeler

Published article: “I Thought This Is a Bad Dream and Tried to Cry Out: Sleep as Trauma in the Fiction of Ambrose Bierce." The Midwest Quarterly, vol. 60, no. 4, 2019, p. 451.

Nathaniel Otjen

Published article: "The Fire Ants of Hurricane Harvey: Displacement and Belonging in Houston" was published in the journal Otherness: Essays and Studies (special issue on "Otherness and the Urban"), vol. 7, no. 1, 2019, pp. 169-93.

Schyler Reis


Dan Shtob

Graduate Teaching Excellence Award: This University of Oregon award recognizes the outstanding teaching performance of an experienced GE who also excel in their academic degree program.

Sara Worl

ENVS GE Teaching Award: This award is designed to recognize outstanding teaching performance by ENVS graduate employees (GEs) who have demonstrated a commitment to developing their instructional skills, while at the same time excelling in their academic degree program.
Environmental Leadership Program
by: Katie Lynch

Since its founding in 2001, the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) has exemplified teaching excellence. Our low student to instructor ratio translates into high quality mentoring for our undergraduates. Our application process, which includes an interview, means that we get to know our students before the projects even begin. This allows us to respond to the specific strengths, weaknesses, and passions of each team member – providing resources, workshops, and field experiences adapted to the needs of each unique team.

Our hands-on, interdisciplinary projects provide students direct experience working with community partners to engage with real world challenges. Students hone their communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills, while building their professional networks. They leave ELP “career-ready,” and prepared to be leaders in their fields.

In 2019, we offered five projects. Riparian Restoration worked in partnership with Whitewater Ranch to enhance, maintain, and monitor a riparian restoration project. The Oregon Oaks team worked with Willamalane Park and Recreation District to map and characterize oak trees for future oak restoration work. The Hendricks Forest team collaborated with the City of Eugene to gather data to inform future management planning of the park. The Restoring Connections team worked in partnership with Mt. Pisgah Arboretum to develop curriculum-exploring wetlands and implement 15 field trips. The Canopy Connections team developed and facilitated field trips at HJA Experimental Forest for nearly 300 middle-schoolers, focused on soil science and forest ecology.

All teams presented their work at the Undergraduate Research Symposium, and built a website to showcase their accomplishments: envs.uoregon.edu/pastprojects.
We would like to thank the funders who made this all possible:

- Steve Ellis
- John L. Luvaas Family Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation
- Robert and Catherine Miller Foundation
- National Science Foundation MacroSystems Biology Program Grand Award #EF-1340847
- All of our private donors

We would also like to acknowledge our community partners:

- Adams Elementary
- City of Eugene
- H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest
- Mt. Pisgah Arboretum
- Pacific Tree Climbing Institute
- UO Bridgham Lab
- UO Roy Lab
- US Forest Service
- Whitewater Ranch
- Willamalane Parks and Recreation District
Tribal Climate Change Project

By Haley Case-Scott

The Tribal Climate Change Project (TCCP) is a collaborative project that began in 2009 between the University of Oregon Environmental Studies Program and the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station. The TCCP works with American Indian and Alaska Native tribes in the Pacific Northwest to address the impacts of climate change on indigenous peoples in the United States.

One of the primary goals of the TCCP is to engage tribal undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Oregon through student internships and research positions. This year, two of our interns have started new positions that serve tribal communities and governments. Kaylee Jenness-Ardt is a member of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and a former student research assistant at the TCCP. Over the summer, Kaylee interned for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Washington D.C. She recently started as a graduate student in the University of Oregon School of Planning, Public Policy and Management and will continue as a BIA intern. Haley Case-Scott, a member of the Siletz Tribe, has worked for the TCCP since 2017. Since graduating in 2018 with a degree in Political Science from the University of Oregon, Haley now works with the United States Forest Service Resource Assistance Program and is stationed with the TCCP, through a partnership with the USDA Northwest Climate Hub, the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station and Salish Kootenai Tribal College.

In July 2019, the Tribal Climate Change Project partnered with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, the North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative, the North Pacific Adaptation Science Center, and many more to host the Tribes and First Nations Climate Change Summit in Spokane, WA. The summit convened leaders from Tribes and First Nations throughout the Pacific Northwest and North America to advance tribal climate change policy and action and focused on tribal climate change resiliency, protecting and applying Traditional Knowledges in climate change initiatives, and implementing a unified tribal climate change policy agenda.

The TCCP also recently hosted the Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples (CCIP) Lecture as part of the 2019 Western Humanities Alliance Conference. Dr. Clarita Lefthand-Begay from the University of Washington and President Fawn Sharp of the Quinault Indian Nation both participated as this year’s CCIP lecture keynote speakers. Dr. Lefthand-Begay serves as an Assistant Professor and Director of the Tribal Water Security Project at the Information School, University of Washington. President Sharp was recently elected as the President of the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest American Indian and Alaska native organization serving tribal governments and communities. As part of the lecture, the CCIP invited four respondents to provide comments, questions, or ideas on the keynote presentations. Three of the respondents were recipients of the University of Oregon Ecotrust Native American Scholarship, established in 2019 through a generous donation by Ecotrust.
Center for Environmental Futures Update
By Stephanie LeMenager and Marsha Weisiger

CEF Co-Directors Stephanie LeMenager and Marsha Weisiger examine arborglyphs in a secluded aspen grove in the Steens mountain wilderness area in Eastern Oregon.

Photo credit: Nate Otjen.

The Center for Environmental Futures, which is housed within the Environmental Studies Program, welcomes multiple awardees this year, all made possible by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation. Our Awardees include four scholars in residence: Visiting Scholar Nancy Langston, Postdoctoral Scholar M Jackson, and Dissertation Award Winners Rebekah Sinclair (Philosophy) and Alison Ford (Sociology) have taken up desks in our new CEF headquarters at 206 Agate Hall. Langston is Professor of Environmental History at Michigan Tech University. Author of Toxic Bodies: Hormone Disruptors and the Legacy of DES (Yale University Press 2010), Forest Dreams, Forest Nightmares: The Paradox of Old Growth in the Inland West (UWP 1995) and other groundbreaking environmental histories, Langston came to the UO to work on her new book treating climate change, habitat loss, and extinctions, Climate Ghosts: Northern Migrations in the Anthropocene. M Jackson is an American geographer, glaciologist, and National Geographic Society Explorer. She is the author of the popular books The Secret Lives of Glaciers and While Glaciers Slept: Being Human in a Time of Climate Change. At the UO this year, she is writing a cli fi novel based on her experiences in the Arctic. Rebekah Sinclair is completing a dissertation about the vagaries of the species concept as a scientific and philosophical rubric, and Alison Ford’s dissertation, which is based on extensive fieldwork, examines the environmental ideas of preppers in rural Idaho.

CEF had to postpone an array of programs planned for the spring. But, two well attended Zoom gatherings of Interdisciplinarity 101 featured Allison Ford and M Jackson; the latter drew an audience from around the world. A third gathering in June will feature Rebekah Sinclair. We presented $1,000 awards to support undergraduate honors theses in the environmental humanities to Lydia Angel, Jordan Barton, Rachel Connor, Momo Crowe, Jordan Harden, Julia Liu, Cal Penkaukas, Siena Polk, Jasmine Tribolet, and Bethan Tyler. Summer research awards of $5,000 went to faculty in the environmental humanities: Nina Armstutz (Art History), Marcel Brosseau (Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies), Anne Kreps (Religious Studies), Theresa May (Theater Arts), and Peter Walker (Geography).

Common Reading Spotlights Environmental Justice
By: Sarah Wald

The University of Oregon is featuring Helena Maria Viramontes’s farmworker novel Under the Feet of Jesus as its common reading this year. Themes of environmental justice and food justice are central to the novel and Environmental Studies faculty and graduate students are playing key roles in programming for the novel and producing pedagogical resources used across campus.

While she was on campus, Helena Maria Viramontes, a professor at Cornell University, spoke to a crowd that filled the EMU Ballroom to capacity. She also met with four community organizations working on environmental justice and farmworker justice issues locally while giving a talk at the Eugene public libraries, met with students in four undergraduate classes, and led a writing workshop for faculty and graduate students.

ENVS is benefiting from co-curricular programming across campus this year, including the “Common Seeing” exhibition at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. This exhibit includes the JSMA’s recent acquisition, Ester Hernández’s “Sun Mad,” a key work of Chicana feminist art often examined in relation to food justice and environmental justice.

The teaching guide used across campus for Under the Feet of Jesus was produced by a small group of graduate students including ESSP PhD students Katrina Maggiulli, Nate Otjen, and Lisa Fink working with ENVS faculty member Sarah Wald.

ENVS is delighted to have the novel serve as a touchstone for a year-long campus-wide conversation about environmental justice.
2018-19 was another busy and productive year for Food Studies (FS). In terms of graduates, it was banner year for the program. In our first year (16-17) we had 8 undergraduates complete the minor (just a few months after it was approved!) and in our second year (17-18) we had 18. This past year we celebrated the completion of a whopping 32 minors! And, they came from 16 different majors - quite a broad reach. In addition, we had another graduate specialist complete the program. His MA was from PPPM and he brings our total in the graduate specialist category to 15 over the last few years. Our declared minors have swelled to over 60 and graduate students from across campus continue to pursue our specialization.


Exciting and important food-related research happened at the undergraduate level as well. For example, two student-scholars won awards at the annual Undergraduate Research Forum. Karishma Shah was recognized for her outstanding work on...
food gentrification in Portland. And, Sarah Hovet's creative research on Jamaican food and poetry received special honors.

Faculty members associated with the program also garnered recognition for their scholarship. For example, Diana Garvin (Romance Languages/Italian) won a Presidential Fellowship in Humanistic Studies and Sarah Wald (English/Environmental Studies) received a Faculty Excellence Award.

ENVS 225 Introduction to Food Studies continues to enroll at an impressive pace, new food courses keep appearing on the schedule, and our faculty have developed three food-focused First-Year Interest Groups with special support from the Rippey Program. Food Studies continues to grow “abroad” as well. Over the summer, students on Director Stephen Wooten’s Greek Food and Culture program experienced regional foodways through intimate field encounters with Greek cheesemakers, cooks, and farm coop members. The FS tradition of “spoon” awards is expanding to new shores!

The past academic year saw a wide range of programming in FS. We hosted or co-sponsored numerous, well-attended events on diverse topics including “Teaching Latino Food Studies,” “Medieval Bread: Meaning and Making,” “Lab Meat, Gene Editing and Nanotech,” “Eugenic Cookery: Recipes from Italy’s Fascist Regime,” and “The GrowPod Lab: A UD Indoor Ag Experiment.” (See photo.) This set of presentations gives a good picture of the many perspectives and engagement with the realm of FS.

The FS community is a welcoming one! Feel free to reach out to connect with us anytime (foodstudies@uoregon.edu) and plan to attend an upcoming event. Find out more at our website (foodstudies.uoregon.edu) and on our Facebook page.

SAIL: Focus on Diversity
By: Katie Lynch

“The Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) program is an innovative bridge program that serves middle and high school students from underrepresented backgrounds, which include lower income and/or first generation college students, with the aim of encouraging students to enroll and succeed in college through early exposure and exploration.” sail.uoregon.edu/about

During summer 2019, ENVS hosted its fourth SAIL camp. This week-long camp introduced 25 rising high school freshmen to our interdisciplinary, hands-on approach to Environmental Studies. Students put on waders and collected macroinvertebrates to look at water quality issues; collected seeds and learned about the importance of bees and passive solar design at the Urban Farm; visited the Many Nations Longhouse and learned how climate change is affecting local tribes. Other sessions introduced them to life cycle analysis, environmental justice, urban planning, and the environmental humanities. A day-long field trip to Mt. Pisgah Arboretum included learning about local flora and fauna and a transformative silent hike through the incense cedars. In their exit surveys, the majority ranked their experience as “outstanding.” One student wrote “Thank you for allowing me to have such a wonderful experience and learning so many new things in such a positive and hands-on environment.” Another noted, “Thank you for providing such an amazing and enriching experience. I now feel that I can take the information I have learned and continue to educate myself and others.”

Special thanks to everyone who volunteered their time to make this possible, including ENVS faculty (Harper Keeler, Kathryn Lynch, Erin Moore, Alexandra Rempel, Marsha Weisiger); graduate students (Hayley Brazier, Stacie Buffey, Lisa Fink, Laura Johnson, Sierra McComas, Corrie Parish, Zachary Provant); and campus and community members (Sydney Hanover, Climate Justice League; Jenny Laxton, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum; Taylor McHolm, UD Student Sustainability Center; Haley Case-Scott, Tribal Climate Change Project; and Katie Staton, Many Nations Longhouse Steward).
ENVS at the UO by the numbers

315 ENVS Majors
81 ENVS Minors
28 Core Faculty
56 Food Studies Minors
13 Current Master’s students
211 ESCI Majors
23 Current PhD students
2,215 Undergrads enrolled in an ENVS class in 2018-19

15 Collaborative Community Projects and Events in 2017-18