

New Orleans Six Months After the Storm

By Suzanne Perry

Last September we were glued to the television, radio, and newspapers—shocked, in tears, infuriated as we listened and watched the plight of the communities hit by Hurricane Katrina and Rita. Slowly, however, the days wear on, the media moves on, and the distance between Great Lakes and Gulf Coast obscures our awareness of this tragedy. In spite of distance and media inattentiveness, we cannot lose sight of the fact that human communities and eco-systems recovering from these hurricanes still urgently need our help.

In late February, I traveled with my SNRE master's project team to New Orleans to volunteer with the grass roots relief organization, Emergency Communities (www.emergencycommunities.org), and to work with the environmental justice non-profit organization, the Louisiana Bucket Brigade (www.labucketbrigade.org). Our team is working with the Bucket Brigade and the citizens of St. Bernard Parish to address environmental health issues and develop recommendations for a sustainable rebuilding process. Specifically, we're focused on responding to the 25,110 barrels of crude oil from the Murphy

L.A. Illustration of the Month



Illustration By Yasuhiro Ishihara

Oil Refinery that Katrina's surge spewed into homes, schools and churches.

Driving through St. Bernard Parish, what I observed left me speechless. Homes had vomited up washing machines, china dolls, china sets, sweaters, swing sets, plastic hangers, panty hose, computers, cars stacked on cars. The debris of memories, bric-a-brac, and household appliances mingled with marsh grass, mud and oil, piled high on neighborhood sidewalks and streets. Spray painted messages on the dilapidated homes read: MOM IS OKAY

Dog being fed
YOU LOOT I SHOOT
DON'T BULLDOZE
Need Jobs and Education

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THE SOCIAL CORNER

The School year is coming to an end, so the event calendar is a little light, but if your in town for the summer, sign up for the SNRE Summer Listserve. Just go to the directory and search for snre.summer and click bind.

Till next time....

The Deanstalk

Rosina's Vision on SNRE's Future

Can you believe we are less than a week away from graduation? We – faculty, students and staff – have been so frenetically finishing our work that I want to use this space to take stock of our collective achievements.

The School of Natural Resources and Environment is stronger and more competitive than it was just a year ago. Our restructured master's curriculum, which offers nine revised fields of study and three new core courses, affords students both depth in specialization as well as appropriate breadth across disciplines in ways unmatched by our peer institutions. As well, the common core will build camaraderie within each class of students—something every student government since 2001 has asked me to facilitate.

Our strength as a professional school was confirmed by the external review team evaluating us for the University. They wrote: "SNRE is a major asset for the University of Michigan, widely recognized in its peer community as one of the three or four top-ranked, professional environmental schools in the country," adding, "SNRE is the only school at any major university that successfully brings into one shared professional educational enterprise the natural sciences, social sciences and design."

Yes! now more...

Carbon-Neutral Visit Day, held March 17, was a first on two fronts: Attendance by newly admitted students was up 50% and we set an important example on campus and among our peer schools by off-setting the impact of these students' travel to Ann Arbor.

Our students will benefit from the \$10.5 million Graham Environmental Sustainability Institute, which supports undergraduate internships, the creation of new joint degree master's programs, fellowships for Ph.D. students as well as grants for collaborative research by faculty. The Institute is being housed in the Dana Building and I have been appointed chair of its Dean's Council.


We welcomed two new seasoned faculty members to our ranks, MaryCarol Hunter, who joined the landscape architecture faculty, and Mark Hunter, who has a joint appointment at SNRE and EEB in LS&A.

The school's staff team was strengthened this year to accelerate our student recruitment and retention efforts, to amplify communications and marketing of SNRE and to create a nexus for career services.

As dean, I have been actively working to strengthen the reach and reputation of the school through high-impact public efforts. For example, as a board member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific organization, I helped craft a statement in which AAAS publicly denounced legislation and policies that undermine the teaching of evolution in the public schools. (See <http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2002/1106id2.shtml>)

At Iowa State, I gave the Institute of Science and Society Presidential Lecture, "The Role of Science in Environmental Decision-Making: A Scientist's View from the Congress and the White House" to 500 students as well as the President, Deans and Provost.

I've also helped mayors convened at Sundance understand the importance and pace of climate change; to date 227 have signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, including



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The Deanstalk

Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, and Southfield in Michigan (<http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/mayor/climate/default.htm#who>).

At home, I've been guest lecturing in a number of UM classes and other campus venues—more than a dozen this year. One of my most recent talks, to the AOSS 580 class, was called: "W(h)ither the Kyoto Protocol? Energy, technology, equity, timing..." And, at the invitation of the student government, I was delighted to participate in "The Role of the Academic Community When Science Is Politicized – A Conversation with Students."

These are in addition to my annual teaching load which includes parts of 3 courses--two undergrad PitE Honors' courses and the climate module in the new Integrated Problem Solving core course.

As the year ends, let's all salute our 2006 graduates and all those recognized at the Honors Award Ceremony this past Friday as well as four faculty who have received special recognition recently.

- Burt Barnes, professor of forestry, and Larissa Larsen, assistant professor of landscape architecture, won the prestigious students' 2006 Outstanding Teaching Awards.
- Bob Grese received the University of Michigan's Advisor of the Year Award for his work with Cultivating Community student group since its inception.
- Associate Dean Jim Diana was honored with the Justin W. Leonard Award for his contributions to fisheries education, research and management based on a nomination by 13 of his former students.

Graduates and returning students alike take note of our progress and take pride in our advances. We are on the move!

Don workin' for the Lakes...

The past month has been a big Great Lakes month for me. Over the past year, Michigan Sea Grant has been evolving our research program Integrated Assessment (IA). Those of you who took my Integrated Assessment class last year, Integrated Problem Solving this year, or are involved in our Northeast Michigan Ecotourism Masters Project will not be surprised that this is our new direction! This past week, a panel of representatives from Michigan state agencies helped us review and select preproposals that were submitted in response to an RFP crafted around IAs for key policy questions that they identified. We'll be reviewing full proposals over the summer.



Landscape Architecture Installation on the Diag

Sea Grant also initiated an Integrated Assessment to evaluate policy options for ecotourism in northeast Michigan. The effort involves stakeholders from Federal, state, and local agencies; NGOs; and the local business community, and is being supported by a Sustainable Design Assessment Team from the American Institute of Architects and a great team of students from SNRE (Erica Zontek, Brian Colleran, Ken Mori, Carolyn Segalini) and Urban Planning.

I've been working closely with the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Coalition of about 60 environmental NGOs on the campaign to secure Federal dollars for Great Lakes restoration. In addition to providing science support to the coalition, I've been working with Congressional staff on draft legislation and will testify in a Great Lakes restoration science hearing later this month.

Finally, we continue to work with UM administration on potential options for a campus facility to house our Great Lakes programs, along with the Institute for Fisheries Research, USGS's Great Lakes Science Center, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission. After about 2 years of planning, we are hoping for a final decision in the next month or so.

In addition to these fun Great Lakes efforts, I participated in a couple of development events. I represented SNRE at the UM Club of Washington DC Congressional Breakfast and presented a luncheon address at the Naples Alumni club. Yes, Naples, FL in March – someone had to do it!

random thoughts...

Continued from page 1...

Damaged by Katrina, Ruined by Murphy

At breakfast on the second day in New Orleans, I sat next to an older gentleman drinking coffee. I learned that he was a resident of St. Bernard and a veteran of World War II. When he returned to his home and saw the destruction, he said it took him back to Europe after the war. His eyes filled up as he explained that he did not know whether his home and his church would need to be knocked to the ground. Until he receives word from Murphy Oil regarding the contamination levels caused by the oil spill in his section of the parish, he said that he is just surviving from day to day.



In effort to respond to the community's need for information regarding environmental hazards caused

You may also wish to directly contact these relief and recovery organizations to learn about how you can be involved in the recovery process:



by the Murphy Oil spill, our group helped the Bucket Brigade organize a community soil sampling training. Residents affected by the Murphy Oil spill gathered to learn how to

sample their soil and we sent their samples off to a laboratory to be tested for toxics. Over the next few months we are working to compile a document for the community explaining the health risks associated with exposure to the chemicals found in the soil by both the EPA and community members themselves.

Thousands of people face the overwhelming task of rebuilding communities, restoring ecosystems, and healing minds and bodies. We must maintain awareness and offer what resources we have to aid in the recovery effort.

If you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities please contact me: Suzanne Perry, yarrow@umich.edu, 734-426-4742

Emergency Communities:
www.emergencycommunities.org
Common Ground Relief:
www.commongroundrelief.org
ACORN:
www.acorn.org

Working on setting up fall classes? Not sure which ones to take? To get the skinny on what's in and what's out, check out the Student Gov C-Tools site to see ranking of all classes in Ann Arbor.

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES

Name: Joe Malcoun
City: Ann Arbor, MI
Employer: GreenOrder, Inc.
Title: Associate

I am a double alumnus of SNRE's policy track, graduating with my B.S. in 2000 and my M.S. in 2003. I am now an Associate with GreenOrder, an environmental strategy and communications firm, which focuses on providing clients highly dynamic environmental marketing and communications strategies. Our work is a combination of creative, strategic thinking and hard quantitative analysis.



In my role as an Associate with GreenOrder I have had the opportunity to be involved in many highly successful corporate environmental campaigns and have participated in the execution of those engagements at multiple levels. Most notably, GreenOrder was the principle advisor to General Electric in the development of their ecomagination initiative. Ecomagination is GE's pledge to improve their environmental performance significantly and provide their customers with products that will help them perform better as well (www.ecomagination.com). My responsibilities ranged from providing broad strategic council to senior marketing executives to developing highly detailed "scorecards" that evaluated specific products under consideration for the campaign. Ecomagination has been widely acclaimed as groundbreaking by both the environmental and business communities.

In addition to my ongoing work with GE, I have managed a diverse array of projects that include conducting GHG audits for the Clinton Global Initiative and the Philadelphia Eagles and providing strategic council for General Motor's Live Green, Go Yellow E85 advertising campaign.

Although GreenOrder's office is located in New York City, I recently moved back to Ann Arbor where my wife and I bought our first home on the Old West Side. We enjoy walking around the neighborhood with our dog, Ruka, and having long drawn out dinners with friends. Unfortunately, getting a "real job" required that I give up my summer-long wilderness canoe trips in the far reaches of northern Ontario, but I still manage to paddle my wood-canvas boat on the Huron from time to time.

I really enjoy meeting current and past students for coffee or lunch to discuss the work I do and whatever career counseling I can. GreenOrder is a small but rapidly growing company that does actively recruit graduates of SNRE for internships and full time employment throughout the year.

random thoughts...

The SNRE Excessively 80s Bash: Will Another Decade Ever Look So Good?

By Sarah Hines

In fact, this year's version of the annual SNRE Excessively 80s bash was so successful that this is the only photo suitable for printing in this month's edition of the Compostable Times. So often, we're far too busy to appreciate the simpler times...when you didn't feel the pressure to get the smallest possible cell phone/camera/printer fax just so you could fit it conveniently and comfortably in your pocket: that's what fanny packs are for, duh! (Save some room for your hairspray, though). Kat Ridolfi actually owns 9 others besides the one featured in this photograph, and she has actually promised her BeDazzled fannypack to the graduating student who pledges the most (in either dollars or pounds of granola) during our SNRE Pledge Drive!

But seriously, thanks to all who came, and special thanks to Madonna, Depeche Mode, the Cure, and the Ghostbusters, and all of you who risked your daytime image to don leggings and blue eyeshadow.

Speaking of Pledge Drives...

The SNRE Pledge Drive is winding down! Hopefully, you have already pledged generously, but it's not too late if you haven't! Contact Kat Ridolfi (kridolfi) or Eric Dayrell (dayrell), our two Class Agents of 2006, to make your pledge. Funds will go toward student-identified school improvement projects, as well as toward an endowment for future SNRE students.

Ann Arbor = Summertime Fun

Seriously good bbqs, Frisbee games, lake trips, bike rides, and outdoor

concerts are on tap for those sticking around this summer. Join the SNRE summer listserve so we can blast each other emails about last-minute patio dinner parties and the like. Join SNRE-summer on the umich directory.



Congratulations to all the 2005-2006 Honor and Scholarship Winners

Donald M. Matthews Award <i>Alicia Lindauer-Thompson</i>	The Dean Gorham Fellowship <i>Sheara Cohen</i>
Ruffed Grouse Society Scholarship <i>Alicia Lindauer-Thompson</i>	<i>Michael Jastremski</i> <i>Alicia Lindauer-Thompson</i>
Allen Schultz Memorial Award <i>Cristy A. Watkins</i>	Eugene & Emily Grant Award <i>Sheara Cohen</i>
Terrestrial Ecosystems Faculty Award <i>Brenda B. Lin</i>	Alvan Macauley Scholarship <i>Michael C. Barattoff</i> <i>Kimberly Bosworth</i> <i>Frederick D. Nelson</i> <i>Daniel E. Wang</i>
Paul S. Welch Award <i>Thomas M. Neeson</i>	Mertz Scholarship 2005: <i>Ilan Brandvain</i> 2006: <i>Scott N. Jerome</i>
The Weyerhaeuser Fellowship Award <i>Marshall D. Chase</i>	The Sidney M. and Alice H. Quigley Scholarship <i>Michael Jastremski</i> <i>Alicia Lindauer-Thompson</i>
The Wheeler Family Memorial Scholarship <i>Alicia Lindauer-Thompson</i> <i>Yuka Makino</i>	Woman's Nat'l Farm & Garden—Ann Arbor Branch <i>Sarah A. Popp</i>
Howard M. Wight Memorial Prize <i>Beth A. Hahn</i> <i>Nicholas C. Parker</i>	The Professor Ernest A. H. Woodman Scholarship <i>Emily Garlough</i>
Xi Sigma Pi Junior Award <i>Benjamin M. Gannon</i>	Undergraduate Honors Award <i>Rachel F. Hoffheimer</i> <i>Jonathan Liberzon</i> <i>Kurt T. Muehmel</i> <i>Alexandra L. Oster</i>
The Center for the Education of Women/ Ford Motor Company Fellowships <i>Caroline C. Conway</i> <i>Amanda N. Heyman</i> <i>Jennifer R. Janssen</i>	Student Government Outstanding Teaching Awards Professor: <i>Burton V. Barnes</i> Professor: <i>Larissa Larsen</i> Graduate Student Instructor: <i>Iryna Dronova</i>
The Doris Duke Conservation Fellowships 2005-2007 <i>Sheara Cohen</i> <i>Elena Doucet-Beer</i> <i>Nicole Fernandes</i> <i>Heather Gott</i> <i>Frederick D. Nelson</i>	
Michigan Garden Clubs Scholarship <i>Brian G. Chilcott</i> <i>Tao Zhang</i> <i>Julie A. Cotton</i> <i>Kimberly Bosworth</i>	

SPRING PIK'NIK '06

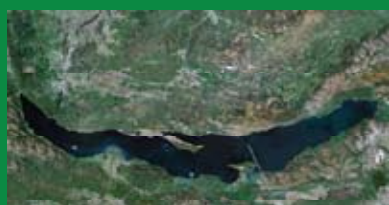


THE BACKSIDE...

Summer Books for 2006



1491: New Revelations of the Americas before
 A Fine Balance, Rohinton Mistry
 A Language Older than Words, Derrick Jensen's
 A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
 A Short History of Just About Everything, Bill Bryson
 Blood Meridian, Cormac McCarthy
 Ceremony, by Leslie Marmon Silko
 Columbus, Chales C. Mann
 Common Ground, J. Anthony Lukas
 Deathworld, Harry Harrison
 East of Eden, John Steinbeck
 Encounters with the Archdruid, John McPhee's
 Geek Love, by Katherine Dunn
 Guns, Germs and Steel, Jared Diamond
 Life of Pi, Yann Martel
 Me Talk Pretty One Day, David Sedaris
 Middlesex, Jeffery Eugenides
 Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard
 Poisonwood Bible, Barbara Kingsolver
 River of Doubt, Candice Miller
 River Town, Peter Hessler
 Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs, Chuck Klosterman
 The Count of Monte Cristo, Alexandre Dumas pere
 The Crossing, by Cormac McCarthy
 The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, Tom Wolfe
 The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini
 The Living, Annie Dillard
 The Monkey Wrench Gang, Edward Abbey
 The Prodigal Summer, by Barbara Kingsolver
 The Secret Life of Bees, Sue Monk Kidd
 The Shadow of the Sun, Ryszard Kqpuscinski
 The Song of The Bird, Anthony DeMello
 The World According to Garp, John Irving
 Vernon God Little, DBC Pierre
 Watership Down, Richard Adams
 Year of Wonders, Geraldine Brooks.



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

The oldest lake in the world, this mammoth body of fresh water also happens to be the largest (by volume), deepest (at over 5400 feet) and oldest lake in the world. Though nearly all big freshwater bodies are geologically 'young' (less than 20,000 years old), this lake is estimated to be at least 20 million years old! It is home to 1550 animal and 1085 plant species - of these, 1000 are endemic.

First response with the correct answer will get a free drink at the next happy hour. Send submissions to snre.newsletter@umich.edu