



IN COMMON

FALL 2003

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE GAYLORD NELSON INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, UW-MADISON

Action Urged to Save Coastal Wetlands

Louisiana is literally losing ground to the Gulf of Mexico. A combination of sinking land and rising water is inundating coastal wetlands.

“We’re losing about 35 square miles of wetlands a year,” says **Rob Moreau**, manager of the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Center at Southeastern Louisiana State University. “That’s about a football field every 15 minutes.”

The natural supply of river-borne sediments that built and maintained the coastal swamps and marshes has been shut off by levees, erected to control floods and protect property along the lower Mississippi River system.

“We don’t have the annual floods and we don’t have sediments building up in the wetlands,” says Moreau, a 1996 doctoral alumnus of the Nelson Institute’s Land Resources Program. “A lot of our swamps on the inland areas are dying because the land is subsiding at a rate of about eight millimeters per year in this region of the state. You also have two millimeters of salt water coming in due to sea level rise. That salt water is very detrimental to these inland cypress swamps, and it’s very important that we get fresh water back into the system to flush the salt out so the cypress trees can continue to grow and germinate.”

Costly Repairs

Louisiana has developed a plan, called “Save America’s Wetlands,” to restore freshwater flow to the swamps by opening some levees and diverting water along targeted streams and channels. The idea is to create controlled floods analogous to the controlled burns used to manage prairies.

“We have to be very careful where we do this, because obviously you can’t flood people out. They’ve built in areas probably where they should not have built along these rivers, but they’re established now. So what it’s going to involve is strategically placing these diversions in areas where the wetlands need them the most and where there aren’t many homes,” says Moreau. “In some cases we’ll have to buy property and provide incentives for people to move away.”

The plan also calls for replanting vegetation, creating rock jetties along the coast, and rebuilding barrier islands. The price tag: \$14 billion.



Sinking land and rising water overwhelm this lighthouse along the Louisiana coast.

“The state of Louisiana can’t fund that, and we shouldn’t have to, because this is a national issue,” says Moreau. “These wetlands are the nursery grounds for offshore species of fish, crabs and shrimp. Forty percent of our nation’s seafood comes from coastal Louisiana. A big part of our oil and gas industry is there. And because we’ve lost so many acres of wetlands, small storms now produce huge surges that come in, so we’re having difficulties getting flood insurance. If we don’t do anything, we’re going to lose it all.”

New Orleans itself is at risk. The city essentially sits in a bowl as much as 15 feet below sea level, protected by levees up to 20 feet high.

“The marshes around the coast of Louisiana serve as a buffer against storms,” says Moreau. “For every 2.7 miles of wetlands, you reduce the height of a storm surge by about a

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“Create the Future:” Invest in UW–Madison

Bruce Moffat,
University of Wisconsin Foundation

The University of Wisconsin–Madison has never been better positioned to provide a donor with a magnificent return on his or her philanthropic investment. The university is strong. Its faculty is focused and intense. Its student body is more highly qualified than ever before. And its alumni and friends are proud, supportive and involved.

The Gaylord Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies certainly embodies this optimistic appraisal. No other entity on campus exemplifies the spirit of interdisciplinary study and research more than the Nelson Institute, with some 150 faculty members representing more than 50 academic departments.

Its students enjoy a reputation for creative thinking, challenging and enriching the faculty with whom they work. For more than three decades, the institute has helped forge new generations of environmental leaders. UW–Madison is consistently ranked among the world’s top institutions in the field of environmental studies.

The University of Wisconsin Foundation’s new “Create the Future”



Bruce Moffat

campaign seeks to build on that kind of success and strength. Our goal is to generate total philanthropic support of at least \$1.5 billion by 2007, the most ambitious fund-raising effort in the history of the university. The first phase of the campaign, focused on securing leadership gifts, is nearly over, and the public phase has begun.

Why such a bold campaign theme as “Create the Future”? This theme reflects the hopes and dreams of the outstanding students who come to UW–Madison. It reflects the faculty and staff who encourage those dreams. And it reflects the history of the university itself, which has always subscribed to the idea of aiming higher, doing better.

From early debates over co-education to the post-World War II flood of students to the turmoil of the 1960s, UW–Madison has grown stronger with each challenge. It has worked to earn the distinction of being one of the country’s greatest universities. The “Create the Future” campaign reflects the commitment of all the individuals, families, corporations and institutions that have invested in the university, not once or twice, but whenever they saw an opportunity to make a difference.

Economic reality has fostered a dramatic change in higher education

over the past half-century. An increasing number of great public universities, including UW–Madison, have turned to the private sector for voluntary support.

In fact, “publicly supported” is no longer a precise term when describing the funding sources of public universities. In reality, such institutions are only “tax-assisted” or subsidized by state funds. Thus, “publicly assisted” has become the more accurate term.

A review of state support for UW–Madison illustrates this trend. While the cost of providing quality education continues to rise, state budget cuts over the past decade have lowered taxpayer support for UW–Madison from 31 percent of its overall budget in 1993–94 to 24 percent in 2002–03. With an additional \$250 million cut from the University of Wisconsin System budget in 2003–05, the state’s contribution falls even more.

For the University of Wisconsin–Madison, progress depends on expanding resources beyond the dollars available in annual operating budgets. Philanthropy will make the difference between maintaining a great university and creating a truly extraordinary one.

Perhaps nowhere is this more true than at the Nelson Institute, which is poised to deepen its curricular offerings, attract still more outstanding students, and enhance its physical presence on campus. Through your participation in the “Create the Future” campaign, you will invest in faculty and students who are addressing some of society’s most pressing issues climate change, loss of biological diversity, the quality of our water and air and help develop the thinkers and decision makers who will create a brighter future.

For more information on how you can help, contact me at the UW Foundation by email, Bruce.Moffat@uwfoundation.wisc.edu, or by phone at (608) 263–6625. ■

IN COMMON

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Southern Utility Charges Ahead on Climate Issue

“On the subject of greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide, we think very differently than most of our industry and much of our country, including the White House. In 1999, levels of CO2 emissions were 10 percent residential, 20 percent industrial, 32 percent from transportation, and 38 percent from utilities. It didn’t take Entergy long to connect the dots and see that changes needed to be made in our business practices to help quell this trend.”

— Entergy Corporation Chairman Bob Luft, Sept. 10, 2003

The electric utility industry as a whole has resisted calls for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but some, including Louisiana-based Entergy, see things differently.

“We have a really progressive board chairman and CEO,” says **Linda Baynham**, Entergy’s corporate environmental manager for internal operations. “We’re doing a lot on climate change, including carbon sequestration and emissions trading projects. We’ve committed \$25 million over five years to cap our CO2 emissions, and we’re making the goal.”

Baynham, who earned a master’s degree in energy analysis and policy through the Nelson Institute’s Land Resources Program in 1997, admits that her company has some built-in advantages.

“Our goal is to have the lowest emissions rate of any utility in the United States,” she says. “We can do that because a majority of our plants are natural gas, we have very few coal-fired plants, and we have nuclear facilities.”

The company is going against the prevailing current in the industry and pushing for tougher laws on greenhouse gases.

“We’re involved in the legislative effort to regulate CO2 and to reduce emissions through national and state laws. And we’re going to be way ahead of the curve, because we’re already reducing our emissions. So in the long term it’s going to have a competitive advantage for us,” she explains.

Entergy is working with the non-profit group Environmental Defense to design and certify its emissions reduction efforts, which have includ-

ed sequestration essentially planting trees or other vegetation to absorb a representative share of the carbon dioxide produced by the company’s power plants.

“It’s taken a bit of experimenting,” says Baynham. “We were thinking of doing carbon sequestration projects on our company property, but we realized that the space we had was so small that it would sequester about an hour’s worth of emissions from a power plant. So we focused on doing 20 percent of the reductions outside through sequestration and trading, and 80 percent through equipment upgrades and ‘debottlenecking,’ so that for the same amount of fuel input we could get more power out of a lot of our plants.”

Internal Control

As Entergy’s internal environmental manager, a position created earlier this year, Baynham’s job is to ensure environmental compliance across the massive corporation, which operates in parts of four southern states. The company has 15,000 employees working in four corporate divisions: fossil-fuel power plants; transmission and distribution; and two nuclear divisions, one for facilities under price regulations and the other unregulated.

“The business units have different personalities, and our goal is to get seamless compliance across them. We have to have the same standards for the entire company. One of my main responsibilities is to implement an ISO 14000 environmental management system, which only a few utilities have done,” she says. “It’s something that most cutting edge or progressive



Linda Baynham

businesses have done. And we’re combining ours with safety.”

Overall, says Baynham, the implementation is going well, though she has encountered some resistance at times.

“The nuclear culture and the power plant cultures are just so different, because the nuclear industry regulates the nuclear business units so tightly that it’s almost like a military operation. That’s where we’ve met some resistance, but I think we’re breaking it down,” she says.

Baynham deals with regulations at all levels, including wetlands permitting, stormwater management plans, and proper disposal of PCBs from aging transmission equipment. The work occasionally puts her in the field alongside long-time technicians with whom she previously worked as a manager in the company’s transmission division.

“When I worked for transmission, I was the only female manager out of about 40 guys, and I was one of the few that was under 40,” she says. “And it was absolutely the best working environment I’ve ever been in. It was funny, it’s just a bunch of old southern guys who’ve been doing these jobs in some cases for 20 or 30 years, and they really know what they’re doing. There was a really good attitude and climate of respect that I noted that made my job a lot easier. They really wanted to do the right thing.” ■

Borns' Retirement Proceeding as Planned



Barbara Borns

Retirement plans mean different things to different people, but here's what's in **Barbara Borns'** portfolio: restoring prairie and hardwood forest on her 60 acres west of Madison. Serving as president of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association. Gardening and canning. Genealogical research. Studying Wisconsin history. Working with stained glass. And don't forget reading.

"Isn't that a pleasure to be able to go to the library, take a book out and bring it home and read it?" she asks.

Miller Promoted to Student Services Position

Jim Miller, a familiar presence in the Nelson Institute's academic office since 1998, has been named to succeed Barbara Borns as student services coordinator. Borns retired effective last July 1.

Miller had been the institute's graduate coordinator; that position has been filled by Lisa Blochwitz.

You might wonder how she finds the time.

"It's like that old saying, 'I don't know how I had time to have a job.' These were all things I had planned to do more of when I retired," says Borns, who shares a log home in the Dane County countryside with **Fred Townsend** (Ph.D., EM 81).

Last July, Borns retired as the Nelson Institute's senior student services coordinator, a position she'd held for 23 years.

"I think the time was right for me to retire," she says. "Not that I don't miss the job. I miss meeting the students; we have a wonderful group of students that we've always felt were a cut above, real interesting people. And I miss my co-workers and faculty colleagues."

They miss her, too, judging from the send-off Borns was given last May. Scores of people showed up for a reception at the Memorial Union, including many alumni, some of whom said she had played a major role in their decision to attend UW-Madison.

Borns also helped the institute change and develop since her arrival in 1980.

"We had maybe 100 students in three programs, water resources, land resources and environmental monitoring, and the energy program was just getting started that summer," she recalls.

Graduate enrollments have nearly doubled, and the Nelson Institute now offers degrees in conservation biology and sustainable development, a dual degree with the law school, a professional degree in environmental monitoring, graduate certificates in air resources management and transportation management and policy, and an undergraduate certificate in environmental studies. In addition, the Energy Analysis and Policy Program has been

broadened so that students in any UW-Madison graduate program can earn the certificate.

"The bottom line was that we continued to add numbers of people in different specializations, all of which strengthen the institute," she says. "I don't think there's any doubt that we have one of the premier programs in the country."

Borns played a key role in establishing each of the changes, and she also actively pursued opportunities for minority participation, including the institute's Native American Pre-College Program, which she founded and ran for nine years.

"If you look at any statistics on minority enrollment, Native Americans are always the least represented," she says. "We really need to do better, and environmental studies is such a natural fit. During recruiting, I never once had to explain to a Native American why the environment was important."

The Nelson Institute also saw a significant increase in outside funding during her tenure, both from foundations and alumni.

"When your alums are sending money back to support students, you know you must have a successful program. That's heartwarming, too," says Borns.

At her request, a special fund has been established to assist institute students who suddenly face crises such as family emergencies. The fund is held at the UW Foundation, and Borns is asking alumni to contribute what they can.

And she also welcomes contact from the hundreds of students she's gotten to know over the years. Her email address is blborns@facstaff.wisc.edu. In spite of her busy schedule, she promises to find time to reply. ■

Save Coastal Wetlands *continued from page 1*

foot. So it's a direct correlation the more marsh you have, the more protected your coastal areas are. If you get a big hurricane with a direct hit in the New Orleans area, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has estimated that if we don't evacuate everybody, we're looking at 100,000 deaths."

Estimates of potential economic losses are in the neighborhood of \$100 billion. That includes damage to commercial and recreational fisheries and other industries, as well as the rising risk of hurricane damage.

Laboratory in the Swamp

The large-scale restoration plan is in the lobbying stage, advocated by the state's congressional delegation along with business people, environmental activists and researchers, including many who use the Turtle Cove Environmental Research Center to test methods of restoring cypress swamps.

The facility sits on the edge of the enormous Lake Ponchartrain, with thousands of acres of the Manchac Swamp out its back door.

"Turtle Cove is in a good spot for wetlands research because it's in the middle of the saltwater gradient. Rivers to the northwest feed the system with fresh water, and as you move east and south, the saltwater gradient increases," says Moreau. "Our faculty, staff and students all study restoration techniques, revegetation, fisheries, how they're changing, and we're even into freshwater diversion now."

Researchers plant 10,000 cypress saplings each year in the swamp, to varying degrees of success. Besides the saltwater incursion, the area's population of exotic nutria essentially giant rats takes a toll on the young trees. The rats were brought from Argentina in the 1930s by a businessman who saw them as a potential source of furs. They've spread throughout the region and far beyond, with an estimated population of 100 million.

Turtle Cove, built as a vacation retreat by a logging baron in 1908, is equipped to take advantage of its setting. The facility sleeps 16, with a full kitchen and satellite-linked computer lab. Researchers and visitors can go out on the lake or enter the swamp on one of its 15 boats, ranging from small mudboats to a 38-foot pontoon. Users put in more than 2,500 days at Turtle Cove last year, and its operations continue to expand.

Moreau, who teaches environmental management and other courses at Southeastern Louisiana State University and is married to fellow Nelson alum **Linda Baynham** (see page 3), invites researchers from other institutions to use the facility, and he'd like to pursue cooperation with UW-Madison faculty and students.

"I'd like to make the offer to come down to Louisiana and spend a little time at our research station to study some of the coastal wetland issues that we're looking at on a daily basis," he says.

For more information about Turtle Cove or to contact Moreau, visit the center's web site, www3.selu.edu/turtlecove. ■



Rob Moreau

Moving?

Please keep us in mind when you fill out those postal change-of-address forms. Better yet, you can email us about recent or upcoming changes in your location. Send information to Incommon@mail.ies.wisc.edu. Thanks!

Three on Nelson Faculty Named AAAS Fellows

Three faculty members affiliated with the Nelson Institute are among 11 from UW-Madison recently named fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

The UW faculty members, among 348 new fellows selected this year by AAAS, were recognized for their distinguished efforts to advance science or foster applications deemed scientifically or socially significant. The three with Nelson ties are:

Thomas Givnish, professor of botany and environmental studies, for his seminal studies on plants' geographic differentiation and adaptive radiation, or the rise of diversity of ecological roles within a lineage.

Linda Graham, professor of botany and environmental studies, for her fundamental studies on the evolution of early land plants and her analysis of charophycean green algae and bryophytes, the earliest-divergent plant lineages.

Karen Strier, professor of anthropology, for her extensive research on the behavior, ecology, reproductive biology and conservation of the endangered woolly spider monkey and studies of its behavior.

Founded in 1848, AAAS has nearly 140,000 members from 130 countries; it represents the largest federation of scientists. It also publishes the weekly, peer-reviewed journal *Science*.

Alumni News

Naomi Arcand (B.A., BAC/Psychology/Environmental Studies 2000) is a natural resource specialist for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH) in Honolulu.

“We are contracted by the U.S. Army to monitor and protect federally listed threatened and endangered species in their training areas on O’ahu,” she writes. “We hike or fly by helicopter to remote locations in the mountains, where we control invasive species in nearly pristine forests, monitor rare plants and animals (mostly tree snails and the O’ahu Elepaio bird), survey for new populations of rare species, control ungulates and rats to prevent predation on native species

and negative impacts to pristine areas, and collect rare plant seeds or tissue for propagation, storage, and reintroduction into appropriate habitat.

“I have been living in Hawai’i for three years and working for RCUH for about two. In addition, I volunteer for the Sierra Club and have been elected to the O’ahu Group as vice chair. We are currently working on protecting agricultural lands and reducing sprawl, protecting dwindling coastal areas from development, and attempting to institute a statewide recycling plan.

“My future plans include returning to school for my M.A. at the University of Hawai’i studying island sustainability with the geography department.”

Arcand lives in Honolulu; her email address is naomiarcan@hotmail.com.

Sally Benjamin (M.S., WRM 85) recently accepted a position with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Geological Survey as their national biological information infrastructure coordinator in Washington, D.C. The association’s web page is www.iafwa.org.

Kirsten Dow (B.S., Geography/Environmental Studies 86) is a program manager and research fellow in the Poverty and Vulnerability Programme at the Stockholm Environmental Institute, an independent, international research institute specializing in sustainable development and environment issues that works at local, national, regional and global policy levels.

Dow’s email address in Sweden is kirsten.dow@sei.se.

Jose Drummond (Ph.D., LR 99) co-edited and wrote two articles in the book *Hidrelétricas e mudanças socioambientais na Amazônia: o caso da Usina de Belo Monte* (Hydroelectric Dams and Socioenvironmental Change in Amazonia: The Case of the Belo Monte Plant), published last May.

“The texts collected in the volume, authored by nine researchers linked to the Universidade de Brasília’s Center for Sustainable Development, resulted from two years of documentary research, field work, consultation with local leaders, surveys and bibliographic review, besides two academic seminars and several public meetings in the area under study,” Drummond writes.

“The authors examine a region that, after being affected by major road construction and massive agricultural colonization in the 1970s, is now scheduled to be affected by what would be Brazil’s largest hydroelectric dam, being planned on the mighty Xingu River, a tributary of the Amazon River. They look at agriculture, cattle ranching, land reform, migrations, logging, transportation, indigenous homelands, conservation units, public finances, natural resources, and public policies in general and environmental policies in particular.

New Alumni

Doctorate: Susan Emmerich, Dennis Hussey, Sharon Lezberg, Martha Makhholm, Jane McElroy, Justin Mog and Antony Scott, all in land resources.

Master’s Degrees: David Bruce, Colleen Corrigan, Leif Davenport, Amy Duchelle, Kathleen Kilkus, Sarah Stackpoole and Kevin Willis, conservation biology and sustainable development; Billiana Leff, Gregg Clark, Laurence Cutforth, Susan Klimas, Kasama Pongsuwan, April Taylor and Karen Tierk, environmental monitoring; Karen Beaty, Caroline Brock, Kimberly Cahill, Carolyn Cromer, Kathryn DeMaster, Craig Ficenc, Michael Grimm, Kanako Harada, Nuria Hernandez-Mora, John Hingtgen, Chad Kruger, Nicholas Olejniczak, Johna Roth, Heather Saam, Eric Stonebraker and Jason Van Driesche, land resources; Joel Brieske, Marc Cottingham, Matthew Diebel, Lola Dvorak, Adam Gallagher, Eric Raffini and Genesis Steinhorst, water resources management.

Undergraduate Certificates: Margaret Anderson, Christina Boser, Vallie Brant, Elizabeth Calkins, Tara Clack, Andrea Disch, Henry Dombey, Paul Dorresteyn, Anna Engfer, Emily Fitzgerald, Alicia Formato, Briana Frank, Debra Fuller, Julie Gilbertson, Emily Gjertson, Tracy Goldsmith, Lauren Grahovac, Jill Grodecki, Amy Hagner, Tyler Hammer, Jonathan Hansen, Amanda Heyman, Jennifer Hiatt, Michelle Hughes, Oriana Hull, Rachel Kastenberg, Shane Koch, Andrew Knapp, Raffica La Rosa, Nichole Langland, Mark Lochner, Brian Lutenegeger, Kimberly Madison, Susan Maes, Anna Mance, Shawn Marchand, Kelly McCarthy, Ann Montguire, Alissa Moore, Kelly Moore, Jennifer Mortensen, Ryah Nabielski, Matthew Nolan, Alexandra Nutter, Jessica Olson, Elissa Pederson, Andrew Peppard, Deidre Peroff, Jody Peterman, Katie Pink, Emily Quinn-Gruber, Aaron Reiner, April Reynolds, Julia Richards, Nina Richtman, Lori Rittenhouse, Emma Rose, Jesse Rucker, Michelle Schneider, Lee Schwartz, Imran Sheikh, Robyn Silber, Lisa Stieve, David Stone, Megan Sutherland, Julie Swanson, Mark Sweeney, Jaime Thibodeaux, Angela Tilbury, Anthony Vandermuss, Amy Wehrman, Margaret Westcott, Leah Willcutt, Joyce Wong, Gina Yarmel, and Nathan Zukas.

“The common analytical thread is the identification of why the road-building and colonization surge of the 1970s failed to induce local sustainable development and what should be done in order to make the scheduled dam help the development of the area.”

Drummond also wrote the entry “Brazil,” included in the *Encyclopedia of World Environmental History*, published last July by the Berkshire Publishing Group.

He can be contacted by email at jaldrummond@uol.com.br.

Richard Peterson (Ph.D., LR 98; M.S. LR 91) is now teaching environmental studies at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. His email is rpeterson@une.edu.

Charlotte Zieve (Ph.D., LR 86) was recently appointed by Gov. Jim Doyle to a four-year term on the Wisconsin

Council on Recycling, a citizens group that advises the governor, legislature and state agencies on solid waste reduction and recovery and recycling policy.

Another Nelson Institute alumna, **Susan Hundt-Bergen** (M.S., LR 82) serves as secretary for the council. Its web site is ua.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/wm/recycle/council. ■

Your turn . . .

to let us know what's new in your careers and lives. Drop us a line at *In Common*, 10 Science Hall, 550 N. Park St., Madison, WI 53706-1491; fax us at 608/262-2273; or email to Incommon@mail.ies.wisc.edu

WRM Review Needs Alumni Input

The Nelson Institute's Water Resources Management (WRM) Program is undergoing its ten-year review by the UW-Madison Graduate School.

For those of you who are WRM alumni, please contact us to let us know what you are professionally doing these days. That information will help provide the review committee with data regarding job placement and the sectors in which our alums are employed (e.g., non-profit, private, government, higher education).

Please contact associate student services coordinator **Jim Miller** at jemiller@wisc.edu or (608) 263-4373. ■

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