



Issue 35

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER - THE KING'S UNIVERSITY

<http://www.kingsu.ca/faculties/interdisciplinary-studies/environmental-studies>

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 ENVS GRADS

'Determination, hard work and commitment' describe attributes that our ENVS graduates have earned. We sincerely wish them success in all of their future endeavors.

"They are like trees planted by streams, they bear their fruit in season, their leaves never wither, everything they do succeeds." Psalm 1:3



Monika Behnke	B.A.	ENVS Sociology
Kathryn Binnema	B.A.	ENVS Economics and Politics
Matt Clayton	B.Sc.	ENVS Biology
Terry-Lin Fedorus	B.Sc.	ENVS Biology
Samantha Flasha	B.A.	ENVS History
Kara Letain	B.A.	ENVS Sociology
Brendan Middel	B.Sc.	ENVS Biology
Jason Vanwyk	B.A.	ENVS Social Science
Justin Wagenaar	B.Sc.	ENVS Biology

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT



One of the unique and special aspects of the King's Environmental studies program are the out of class learning experiences. The Environmental and Resource Management and Conservation Biology classes went on the annual Bow Valley field trip in April, where they learned about wildlife management and movement, town planning and fire management.

Article written by Kathryn Binnema, 4th year ENVS student

The first topic of study for this trip was town planning in mountain areas. After loading onto a bus at an early hour, the students arrived at the Canmore Civic Center ready to learn. Lori Rissling Wynn, Canmore's development and sustainability coordinator, and Tracy Woitenko, the town planner gave a wonderful presentation on the town's desire to protect the valley habitat. Later in the day, Darren Enns, of Banff's Development Services, and Shannon Rippley, their Manager of Environmental Services discussed town planning and development in Banff, the only town incorporated in the Rocky National Parks.

Both Canmore and Banff are working very hard to protect essential "wildlife corridors;" key pieces of land that animals use to move through the Bow Valley. Canmore had a development strategy intended to limit the number of animals wandering into the townsite in order to reduce human-wildlife interaction, and Banff prefers an open policy that allows wildlife to come and go through the townsite. Both towns have worked very hard in recent decades to reduce animal attractants. The issues of changing human behavior rather than animals' behavior and the balance between human and wildlife use is emphasized for these mountain towns.

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ALUMNI UPDATES

Jeremiah Basuric
ENVS / Theology (2012)

Jeremiah is working as Campus Pastor for the mosaic House East in Ottewell.

James is working for Delta Remediation.

James Ehizojie
ENVS / Biology

Zoriana Wood (nee Eshenko)
ENVS / Biology (2011)

Zoriana secured a job with AB Environment and Parks.

Heidi is currently a PhD student at the University of Saskatchewan. Her research is part of a broader project examining the social dimensions of climate hazards in rural Saskatchewan. She will be exploring how natural resource governance systems account for different experiences of climate hazards (especially wildfire and wildfire management) along lines of gender and culture, and how these lessons may contribute to sustainable and equitable resource governance in rural communities.

Heidi Walker
ENVS / Biology (2008)

Rebecca Ellis (nee Vande Griend)
ENVS/ Biology 2005

Rebecca has worked with the Edmonton and Area Land Trust for the past 5 years and loves being part of the conservation of natural areas. Rebecca's third child 'Violet', was born in March 2017.



Matt Clayton
ENVS / Biology 2017

New ENVS grad Matt, secured a job with Trace Associates as a junior environmental scientist.

Wendy Vanderwel retiring in 2017

King's Biology Lab. coordinator and Instructor

Many of our Alumni, particularly those with Biology concentration, will remember Biology Laboratory Coordinator and Instructor Wendy Vanderwel. She celebrates over 31 years of service to King's. We congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.



DR. JOHN WOOD RETIRES



ENVS Retirement Comments from Dr. John Wood:

"Transitions, we ENVS-types know them well. Day into night, fall to winter and spring to summer, as quickly as each semester starts it seems they end. There is a gradual flow to life that can lull us with seeming sameness. So we must carefully number our days,

scripture says. But some transitions, like retirement, are momentous, and we mark them off for special notice. Yet this ending is also a great beginning.

Actually I have been feeling something like a new student these days. I have enrolled in a new and unknown program, and I am looking forward to it with great anticipation. There are papers to write – on campus land, sustainability, White-tailed Jackrabbit behaviour, professions, and even a dabbling into physical death - a real "old guys" topic if there ever was one! But I don't know exactly what awaits me!



Our alumni will tell you, that the ENVS program at King's is excellent preparation for career, calling and vocation. They know it is, because they have written it in their lives. For over 25 years the King's ENVS program has been graduating wonderfully gifted individuals.

I wish you well where ever you are on this journey - applicant, current student, active alumni or transitioning faculty and staff – friends all."

Cheers – Dr. John Wood

2017 INTERN PLACEMENTS

Our ENVS Internship students have secured great summer positions:

Forrest Battjes (ENVS Phil)

Jr Forest Rangers Crew sub leader, AB Gov. Hinton, AB

Cacey Cottrill (ENVS Biology)

Rideau Canal watershed summer student, Parks Canada, Smith Falls, ONT

Ciara Fraser (ENVS Biology)

Species at risk summer field assistant, Grad study U of A, AB

Erin Greindanus (ENVS Biology)

Sustainable Agriculture Research Assistant, Kenya

Kendra Hutchison (ENVS Sociology)

Sustainable Agriculture Research Assistant, Kenya

Joel Knoop (ENVS Biology)

Field tech, Canadian Wildlife Services, AB

Elise Renchko (ENVS Biology)

Elk Island visitors experience summer student, Parks Canada, AB

Alex Velsink (ENVS Biology)

Air Quality Data support summer student, AB Gov. Edmonton, AB

Samuel Vriend (ENVS Biology)

Forest Fire Helitack crew, AB Agriculture and Forestry, Peace River, AB

Erin Wassing (ENVS Biology)

ADMO Summer student, Economic Development Division Assistant Deputy Ministers Office, AB Gov. Edmonton, AB

Nicholas Wawryk (ENVS Chemistry)

Research assistant, Division of Analytical and Environmental toxicology, U of A, AB

Kailyn Wiebe (ENVS Biology)

Field tech, Canadian Wildlife Services, AB



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Later, following a brief hike to a lookout by Johnston Lake, the students were treated to a lecture by Dr. Vern Peters on pine beetle and fire management. Dr. Peters brought up several important factors that need to be considered when re-introducing fires into the landscape of the Bow Valley. Special features, like the variable winds, elevation, geography and fuel all impact how fire is managed. Prescribed fire is the current policy for ensuring people, infrastructure and the ecology in the sensitive area is protected. The students stayed at the Castle Mountain Hostel and had a night of fellowship.



The focus of the second day was wildlife management. First was a brief stop at a wildlife overpass and a discussion of their effectiveness. Though expensive, they have been proven to reduce wildlife-motor vehicle accidents and allow for animals to move through the area safely. The second stop is known as 'blind train turn' near the entrance of the Bow Valley Parkway and the TransCanada highway. Due to the many bear

fatalities that occur at this location, students heard that the bears are unfortunately attracted to the tracks from both the spilled grain from the train cars, and the long grass along the tracks. Dr. Peters explained the history of bear-human relationship in Banff, including the old practice of attracting bears with grease, and lack of proper garbage disposal, as well as a "Black Grizzly" incident in 1980, which unfortunately led to the death of three people.

At the Hoodoos lookout on Tunnel Mountain, Dr. Moyer lead students in a devotion and then students walked around the Hoodoos trails for a time of quiet reflection. At the Cave and Basin Historical Site (the birth place of Canadian National Parks) Steve Malins, explained the significance of the cave relative to the history of Parks Canada. Steve is the cultural resource management adviser with Banff National Park. It is Park Canada's hope that all Canadians and visitors will have opportunity to experience firsthand all the National Parks' sites including the Cave and Basins' natural hot spring and the endangered Banff Springs snail.

The students then relaxed in the Banff Upper Hot Springs on Sulphur Mountain before the bus ride back to Edmonton. (photo on right)



Photos: Page 1: group photo by Johnston Lake
Page 3: Upper left: Dr. Vern Peters talking to students about forest management
Lower left: Wildlife overpass by Lake Louise



Summer Plans for ENVS Faculty and Staff



Dr. Harry Spaling Harry received the William C. Wonders Award for Scholarly Distinction from the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) at its annual awards banquet March 4, 2017, held in Abbotsford BC. Dr. Spaling's academic work has centred on international development and conservation agriculture in Kenya.

Dr. Spaling is continuing his research in Kenya including with student interns/researchers Erin Greidanus (BSc Envs-Biology) and Kendra Hutchison (BA Envs-Economics & Politics). They will answer their key research question "How sustainable is conservation agriculture?" by observing on-farm conditions and interviewing farmers and other stakeholders in communities near Mt. Kenya. This research is supported by the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada. Dr. Spaling will also work in his hobby garden and, with his wife, take a road trip in Alberta and eagerly await the birth of their fifth grandchild.



Dr. Joanne Moyer Joanne will meet with John Sinclair (SSHRC co-investigator) and a graduate student at the University of Manitoba to work on a project entitled: "How Are Faith Communities Engaging Environmental Sustainability in Canada?"

She will travel to Umeå, Sweden to co-chair a panel titled: "Learning in Natural Resource and Environmental Management: Pursuing Individual and Societal Transformation" at the International Symposium for Society and Resource Management.

Back at home she hopes to work on her post-doctoral research, 'analyzing faith-based organizations doing environmental work in Canada'. Joanne will also be celebrating her sister's marriage in August.


Mrs. Nancy Burford Nancy will bring student volunteers to this years 'Emerald Awards' in June. The Alberta Emerald foundation event celebrates environmental excellence in AB. She will support current ENVS interns over the summer with their course work, work placements and site visits. Mid-summer she will visit family in BC and celebrate her parents 65th wedding anniversary. In August, Nancy will coordinate and install the annual Intern photo show (open to the public). She hopes to bike Myra Canyon trestle bridge (part of the Kettle Valley Railway), hike in the rocky mountains and perfect the art of paddle boarding (SUP) to complete the summer.




FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

There are many benefits to staying in touch with the King's Alumni community.
Visit **King's alumni webpage**: <http://www.kingsu.ca/alumni-friends/alumni>
King's alumni facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheKingsUAlumni>

New social media initiative in the ENVS Department:

 Join the ENVS student and alumni community on our **ENVS group facebook page**: www.facebook.com/envsatkings

 You are also welcome to follow us and contribute to our **Instagram page**: www.instagram.com/kingsenvs/

Intern Photo Show

We will once again display our annual Intern photo show in September. Located in King's Atrium, the fall show promises to be another colourful display of photos showcasing the 2017 ENVS Interns work placements.



A Blustery Day ...



King's weather station measured a record wind gust of 85 km/hr during a May storm that literally blew threw the Edmonton region. These speeds are still below the highest gusts ever recorded in Edmonton : 120 km/hr on January 15, 2014 , and a snail pace compared to 417 km/h inside the class F4 Edmonton tornado of 1987.

You can access the daily readings by following the link: www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=IALBERTA454

Environmental Studies Program

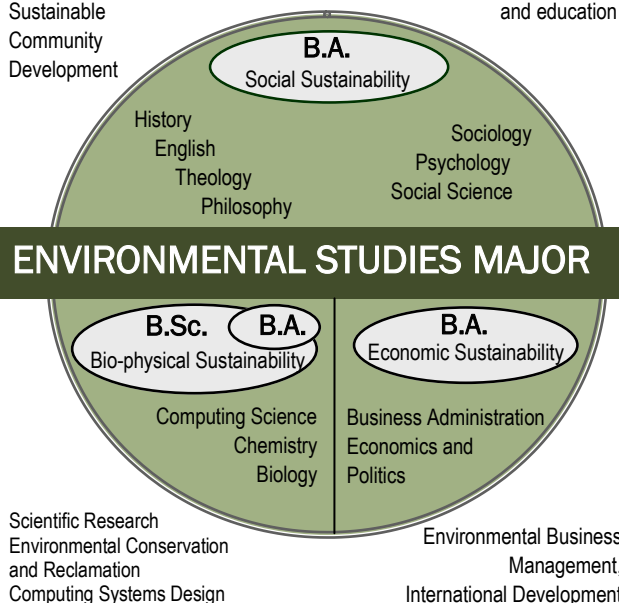
We live in a unique and important time in history. This generation has an opportunity to address human caused detriments on natural systems including declining fish stocks, forests, water supplies, and agricultural yields worldwide. Challenges such as global warming, depletion, food security, and poverty have reached critical stages. In the midst of all of this, more people live in the world due to exponential population growth, yet the resources these people depend on for their ways of life are being exhausted at increasing rates.

If you see yourself as an agent of change helping to solve dilemmas like these at scales ranging from local to global, then the Environmental Studies (ENVS) program at The King's University is for you! The ENVS program is rooted in principles of stewardship and sustainability. Through the ENVS B.Sc. or B.A. degree, you will discover that the environmental issues are not simply a scientific dilemma - they are linked to social, economic, and spiritual realities. You will learn to understand the big picture while you focus on the intricacies of your chosen natural sciences, social sciences, or arts concentration.

Potential Careers:

Sustainable
Community
Development

Public awareness
and education



Each student chooses a concentration in either Humanities, the Social Sciences (B.A.), or the Natural Sciences (B.Sc.). ENVS courses emphasize environmental stewardship and sustainability, and then further develop these principles within the various concentrations. Concentration choices include Biology, Chemistry, Computing Science, History, Sociology, Philosophy, Business Administration, Economics and Politics, English, Theology, Psychology, Social Sciences, all taught from an environmental perspective. Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Resource Planning and Environmental Management are technical training opportunities available within the ENVS program.

The King's University Environmental Studies (ENVS) Program was the first professionally accredited B.A. in Environmental Studies in Canada!

The **ENVS Footprint Newsletter** is published by the Environmental Studies Department of **THE KING'S UNIVERSITY**
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