

# SEEDS

Diverse People for a Diverse Science

## SEEDS Today

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

### Winter SEEDS Today:



#### SEEDS 2011 National Coordinated BioBlitz!

~Zack Brym, University of Michigan

As this year comes to a close, we look forward to the third iteration of the National Coordinated BioBlitz Project, NCBP2011 will take place April, 2011!! From our success last year with nine participating campuses and our national recognition at the ESA Annual Meeting, we will be even better prepared to welcome new and returning chapters to the event. This year, we plan to announce a National Organizing Committee to help aid chapters in their planning of local events and regional collaboration. Please fill out the form below with your intention to join NCBP2011 and a nominee yourself or some other SEEDS leader to the Organizing Committee. As usual, we will be targeting the weeks surrounding EarthDay (Friday, April 22) for our coordinated event. Help us increase the national collaboration among SEEDS chapters. Anytime you're ready to begin, check out our website [[CLICK HERE](#)] for useful organizing resources and our results from last year and send us an email. We can't wait to get started with the new year.

#### Western Sustainable Communities Project

~Melissa Armstrong, ESA

SEEDS launched an exciting new project on November 24 with an introductory webinar for SEEDS Chapters located in California and on the Colorado Plateau. The goal of the [Western Sustainable Communities Project](#) is to promote leadership and collaboration among students in the west who are underrepresented in the environmental sciences, joining the forces of culturally-rich diverse communities in the sustainability of equally diverse and incredible landscapes. To accomplish this goal we will be: increasing our SEEDS Chapter presence and funding Chapter sustainability projects in this region (2) hosting a SEEDS Western Leadership Meeting in Flagstaff AZ in April 2011 and (3) providing ample opportunities for student leadership. With the project's focus on preparing students to lead in the western region, we will be hosting a strengths-based leadership event for students, and encouraging student leadership at

### Upcoming Events

Sign your chapter up today!



SEEDSNet Virtual Career Fair Exhibitors:



every turn. If you would like to become involved in this project, please contact [Melissa@esa.org](mailto:Melissa@esa.org).

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### What's new on SEEDSNet?

~Charlee Glenn, ESA

With a rush of activity on SEEDSNet this fall and winter, SEEDS student have been putting it in to high gear! On Friday November, 5<sup>th</sup> 2010, SEEDSNet held its follow up "Bilingual Biocultural Conservation Webinar." Students were joined by guest speakers Dr. Rozzi, Dr. Anderson and Dr. Kennedy to further explore the topic of biocultural conservation in the Sub-Antarctic ecoregion of Southern South America. With more than 24 individuals in attendance we learned about the Research Alliance's integration of ecological sciences and environmental philosophy, both biologically and culturally and how one might get involved. If you missed out, you can still find informative links and relevant papers, located [HERE](#) on SEEDSNet!

Also in November, the week of the 15<sup>th</sup> SEEDSNet hosted the Fall edition of the SEEDSNet Online Virtual Career Fair. Eight exhibitors (highlighted in our sidebar) joined us from schools and organizations from all over the US advertising well over 200 opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students! You can find these opportunities [HERE](#) on SEEDSNet or to view these and other exciting jobs, internships and grad school programs visit us on the SEEDS website at: <http://esa.org/seeds/opportunities/student.php>.

Be sure to look out for more exciting events and opportunities in 2011!

- SEEDS Dynamic Hand book [written for you, by you!]
- SEEDS Chapter Profiles on SEEDSNet [and profile competition!]
- Spring Virtual Career Fair, coming up April, 2011!
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Make sure you stay connected with what's going on in SEEDS and see it first, on SEEDSNet!

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### SEEDS Student Accomplishments

With 16 years of experience serving students, SEEDS students and alumni have gone on to accomplish greatness in the world. We are keeping track of these student accomplishments on SEEDSNet as we learn of awards, publications, press, and honorable posts. Three recent and exciting accomplishments that we'd like to highlight in this issue of SEEDS Today include: Jorge Ramos receiving the EcoService Award, Ana Elisa Pérez receiving the Brower Youth Award, and Jeramie Strickland publishing on mentoring for the US Fish and Wildlife service.

Jorge Ramos was recognized for his outstanding service in ecology, which goes above and beyond the typical responsibilities as a graduate student. The [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) in partnership with the [ESA-Student Section](#) offer an [Eco-service Award](#) to honor young scientists for their contributions to the discipline of ecology that extend beyond the realm of academia and into the broader communities of which they are a part. Jorge was instrumental setting up a data sharing center in response to the Gulf Oil Spill, in addition to his unwavering support of the SEEDS program, his frequent mentoring of other students, and his dedication to other non-profits, such as the Society for the



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Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS); all this while producing exemplary science. Jorge completed his M.S. at the University of Washington and is in his first semester as a PhD student at Arizona State University.

Ana Elisa Pérez received the prestigious [Brower Youth Award](#) this fall. She was recognized for her leadership in launching the organization GAIA (Grupos Ambientales Interdisciplinarios Aliados), with the goal of providing environmental education to youth, and networking with other organizations to directly connect kids of Puerto Rico with the environmental issues that affect them. In addition, Ana Elisa's tireless work was recognized is preserving Puerto Rico's gem, the Northeast Ecological Corridor. Ana Elisa is also participating in the SEEDS partnership program with the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program, and will be traveling to the tip of the Americas over winter break to work on her project there.

Jeramie Strickland has been working as a Wildlife Biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge for over a year, and has already become heavily involved in promoting diversity within the Service. Jeramie contributed to a [FWS publication](#) on the importance of mentoring, discussing the difference mentors and programs made in his own life, and his plans for giving back in true Jeramie style.

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**SEEDS Alumni Highlight**

*~Jarrod Blue*

We are pleased to highlight Jarrod Blue as our SEEDS alumni superstar in this issue of SEEDS Today, in partnership with the SEEDS Network of Alumni and Professionals ([SNAP](#)) where Jarrod holds an office as the Elections Committee leader. Jarrod Started with SEEDS in 2007 as a SEEDS Fellow studying riparian invertebrates at the Sevilleta LTER. Since then, Jarrod has gone on to pursue a Masters degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, studying the combined and interactive effect of nutrients and insect herbivory on above and belowground plant biomass. Learn more about Jarrod's ecological pursuits, future plans, and love of UNC basketball [here](#).

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**NEON Inc. and ESA Future of Environmental Decisions**

*~Jennifer Daugherty & Meghan McAvoy*

In November, we attended a workshop along with a diverse group of 25 college students and recent graduates hosted by the ESA and the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON Inc.) that focused on geographic information systems (GIS). The Future of Environmental Decisions workshop taught us how to operate the Quantum GIS system and how GIS technology can be applied. We appreciated the diversity of the group and enjoyed networking with people from around the United States.

The workshop kicked off with a rousing keynote speech by Walter Boynton from the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. Walt discussed land use, eutrophication, and conservation efforts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We were excited to hear from other faculty and gained insight into environmental issues and their socioeconomic causes and consequences.



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The faculty provided an extensive dataset of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We divided into groups and researched a watershed question using the QGIS program and presented our findings at the conclusion of the weekend. Walt inspired one group to research wetlands as a source of water filtration. We visited Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. on a brisk afternoon, where we met professionals from the US Geological Survey. We learned about the unique history of Rock Creek Park, water quality monitoring in the park, and the methods for developing datasets used in GIS programs. We feel that the skills learned can be utilized beyond the classroom in our future endeavors. We gained confidence in handling GIS programs to inform citizens of environmental issues and potential solutions.

Find a full summary of this and other NEON news [here!](#)



Contact Charlee Glenn at [charlee@esa.org](mailto:charlee@esa.org) for details!

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