



ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES NEWSLETTER

FOR AND BY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES STUDENTS AT KENT STATE UNIVERSITY



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Congratulations to all students and staff for making it through the fall semester midterms. We encourage everyone to keep up the great work as we move the second half of the semester! This issue includes an internship spotlight from Ariana Manos in environmental health and safety, a faculty spotlight with a business owner and instructor of environmental regulations, an interview with an ENVS alumni and newsletter founder, and lastly some ways students are involved with ENVS and sustainability practices on campus.

As editors, Miles and I hope that each edition has continued to bring to light some of the great accomplishments that ENVS students, staff, and alumni are achieving. Thank you to all who make this major and department special.

-Andrew Shenal, Co-Editor-in-Chief



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Internship Spotlight -
Ariana Manos **[2]**

Faculty Spotlight - John
Krusinski **[3]**

Alumni Interview - Isabel
Jalamov **[6]**

Club Spotlight - FEPC **[10]**

What is an Eco Rep? - **[11]**

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS..."

INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT: ARIANA MANOS

by: Ariana Manos



Ariana using the "EyeCGas" camera to visually detect gas flows.

Hello! My name is Ariana Manos and I am a third year student in the Environmental Studies major. This past summer I interned with Diversified Energy in their Environmental, Health, and Safety department. Diversified Energy is the largest natural gas producer in the U.S. Every year, this company goes above and beyond environmental regulation requirements through implementing and surpassing impressive sustainability goals. In this role, I learned about corporate sustainability and environmental reporting in the energy industry, and I helped quantify methane leaks using cool, high-tech equipment. The data we collected was used to later assess and reduce these GHG emissions. Additionally, I created various educational content about wildlife and safety in the environment. My main project, however, was creating various biodiversity projects that would improve the environments in which the company operates.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JOHN KRUSINSKI

by: Miles Powell

John Krusinski is a part time professor in the Department of Geography here at Kent State, where he teaches two classes on the application of environmental regulations (an introductory course in the fall and a more detailed advanced version in the spring). He is also the founder and head of The Burlington Partners Group, a local environmental consulting company.



John graduated from Kent State with a bachelors degree in biology, and spent much of his time in college exploring his interest in environmental issues. "During my time in college, I worked for an environmental engineer. I was very excited to find a career that allowed me to research environmental issues and to develop ways to remediate concerns."

Environmental protection was always a concern for him, so after graduating he continued on this path, eventually creating his own consulting firm. Since founding **The Burlington Partners Group**, he's done environmental work across the country, in addition on some sites in Canada, Brazil, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

The Burlington Partners Group does a whole host of environmental consulting and assessments, including Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments (for CERCLA), NEPA compliance assessments, vapor intrusion assessments, environmental remediation design and implementation, energy and sustainability consulting, asbestos surveys, and much more.



"The decision to start my own company is the best decision I've ever made," John said. "I am truly working in a field that I love."

Despite all he has on his plate as an environmental consultant, he also comes to Kent to teach two classes on his regulatory expertise. "I made the decision to teach courses on what I do because I've never seen a field with so many opportunities. I wanted to share this industry with Students who are also concerned about our environment," he said.

His classes cover much of the landmark environmental legislation in the United States (such as the Clean Water Act and CERCLA), the process of various assessments and surveys (such as Environmental Site Assessments and asbestos surveys), and several other regulated hazards such as radon or underground storage tanks. The intro class in the fall gives an overview of many topics while the one in the spring serves as a more advanced version with more detail.





John also gets guest speakers to come to his classes. So far this semester, the class has had a lecture on the Clean Water Act by Emily Colins, an environmental lawyer and the strategic advisor to the mayor of Akron, and Kurt Princic, former northeast district chief for the Ohio EPA who now works in solar instillation.

If you're interested in some kind of environmental consulting career, John says environmental studies is a pretty good place to be. While in school, he suggests taking classes around environmental law wherever available, in addition to the interdisciplinary classes required for environmental studies. "Students who are interested in this career should take as many courses as possible that teach environmental law and how it is applied. This with classes in Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Environmental Studies, and Geography will help prepare you for this industry."



ALUMNI INTERVIEW - ISABEL JALAMOV

by: Miles Powell

Currently interviewing **Isabel Jalamov**, a current masters student at Southern Oregon University and one of the creators of the Environmental Studies Newsletter:

What was your undergraduate degree?

I didn't have any minors or anything, so I was just ENVS through and through, but I did some other stuff on campus. I was the president of the Environmental Society for a while, I was the vice president and social media coordinator for the Future Environmental Professionals Club, and I also did some interhall council stuff. I tried to keep busy for sure.

What were you drawn to about the environmental studies program at Kent?

When I came into Kent State I was an integrated science teacher, so I was studying to be a science teacher, and I realized a lot of the physical sciences, they're just not really my thing. I really liked the environmental sciences and biological sciences, and I also really liked the humanities, so I wanted to find myself in a position where I could really marry my love for the humanities with my love for science and I think it worked out really well.



ALUMNI INTERVIEW - ISABEL JALAMOV

What made you want to create the Environmental Studies Newsletter?

The newsletter was something I worked really closely with Dr. Kaplan on, as well as another student named Thomas Moore. We worked on that together and worked on three or four issues before I graduated.

When I was starting there, the environmental studies program was just a few years old and there wasn't a lot of chat about it on campus that I could really recall, especially coming in as an education major. I thought I had the creative side down, I had the people skills to do the communicating and interviews, and I thought there was a need for it. I thought it was nice to represent the quality of the program in a way that it hadn't been represented yet.

Why did you choose to get your master's degree?

Since high school I knew I wanted to do something in the realm of education. Whether that was going to be formal education (in the context of a classroom) or non-formal education (which is more so what I do now), I didn't know at the time. Now I'm leaning more towards non-formal education, and I work at an outdoor school. The environmental studies program gave me a good launching pad, but ultimately I wanted to refine some of those education skills and come to grad school to do that. Now I'm getting a Masters of Science in Environmental Education.



ALUMNI INTERVIEW - ISABEL JALAMOV

Why did you choose Southern Oregon for your master's degree program?

I always wanted to live in the Pacific Northwest, and the program here is a really good program. It's a small school and my program is based off the cohort model so from the time that we get here to the time that we graduate, the six in my cohort are working towards our capstone project which is eight weeks of instructing at a couple of different sites in southern Oregon. Over the course of the program not only do you get a really solid science background, but also you get to refine your educational and administrative skills. It was a good mix of things and you get to do all of that in close proximity to your cohort so it makes it its own little community. That is something I was definitely looking for moving out here and knowing nobody at the time. Unfortunately they are discontinuing the program after we graduate, which is a huge bummer. Since Covid enrollment has been down, so it didn't make much sense fiscally for the administration to keep the program going.

Do you have any long-term career goals you would like to accomplish?

I think it would be really cool to be an environmental education coordinator for either a non-profit or a school. I actually just got my first job offer recently at a local outdoor community school. If I accept that job I'd be doing a lot of administrative work, curriculum design, managing the school garden and school nursery, lead backing trips and camps over the summer and things like that. It's a really cool gig and essentially exactly what I'm looking to do long term, which is a good mix of administration and engagement with students.



ALUMNI INTERVIEW - ISABEL JALAMOV

How has your pursuit of your environmental goals and aspirations changed over the years?

As time has gone on I've become increasingly more interested in the sciences that I am studying. I took a lot of introductory classes during my time as an ENVS student and now that I'm teasing out where my niches are in the field, I found that I'm really drawn to geology and mycology. This wasn't something I really considered for a long time but the more into education I get the higher up in education I want to go, so I see myself pursuing a PhD at some point, most likely in the realm of ecology. I know Ohio State used to have their own environmental education program and I'd be really curious to see what the potential is to address that need in Ohio. There's not a lot of central, built in focus on environmental education in the state of Ohio, so I could see myself going higher up in higher education and really pushing for the standardization of outdoor schools in the curriculum.

What advice would you like to share with current students?

You're in a really good spot. Dr.Kaplan has been really intentional about setting students up for success and I think he really shows that in his love and excitement for the program. He is truly an incredible resource so use him whenever you can! He has a wealth of knowledge and is always trying to help. Always use faculty wherever you can, and really establish those meaningful, long-lasting connections. I'm still asking Dr.Kaplan for reference letter to this day! Really focusing on relationships in college is something that's not focused on, I feel like, enough.



FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS CLUB

by: Andrew Shenal

The Kent State Geography Department is proud to provide opportunities for students to connect, learn, and explore shared interests. The **Future Environmental Professionals Club (FEPC)** is one of those opportunities available to all KSU students. The club maintains bi-weekly meetings for anyone interested in future careers related to the environment.

FEPC often invites guest speakers who work within the environmental field to talk about their current and past work experience along with their educational history. The speaker series allows for members to learn about the many career paths available to them. Another large aspect of the club is making members aware of internship opportunities and helping prepare for them through activities such as resume building. Overall, the club is a place for like-minded students to get together and focus on professional development for life post-graduation

For anyone interested in attending FEPC meetings or learning more you can find the FEPC on KSU Engage at

<https://kent.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/FEPC> and you can follow the new club Instagram: **@KSU.FEPC**



WHAT IS AN ECO REP?

by: Tessa Stevens

Every dorm has a resident selected to be an Eco Rep. But what do they do in their roll? We talked to **Ryan Pirosko**, the Eco Rep for Leebrick and Korb Halls. He is a freshman with a major in chemistry and a minor in climate change.

What is an Eco Rep and what do they do?

An Eco-Rep is part of the hall council which has each representative usually having a set of dorms. Everyone has a hall council, and we are basically here to represent the dorms and the students in the dorms and we try and make the dorms better for overall living. Also, as someone who's on the hall council, I have to host an event once per semester. There are 6 roles in the Hall Council, there's marketing manager, program manager, eco rep, social justice advocate, president and vice-president. The hall councils are like individuals and Kent Interhall Council (KIC) is the governing body over all of us. As the hall Eco-Rep, I am governed by a member of the KIC board, Shay. She runs the big events like recycling month in the spring and then I run those from my dorm. I help dorm residents become more aware of big events like these. My job is to promote sustainability in both Korb and Leebrick.

How does someone become an Eco Rep? What was the process like?

At the start of the year in the fall, KIC opens up all board member positions on every hall council. You can apply to any position on the board, but you're not guaranteed one over the other. I selected the Eco-Rep and the president, someone else was interested in the president position and I fine being the eco representative, so I did that. That's the main process to get on hall council.



Why did you want to be an Eco Rep?

Out of all the positions, eco rep is kind of what I wanted to be the most, and it's what fit the most with what I wanted to do in my future career. I didn't want to plan a lot of events so I didn't want to be a program manager. I didn't want to be the marketing advisor. I wanted to be either the president or I wanted to be the eco rep because it went with more of what I wanted to do with my career, especially with my minor in climate change.



How did you get interested in sustainability?

My major is in chemistry, but I have a minor in climate change. If I ever had a topic that I had to write a paper on, I would always choose climate change. My dream job is climate change research with a concentration in chemistry. So, a chemistry base but doing climate change research. I would love to do that.

What goals do you want to achieve in your role?

I would like to host two sustainability events per semester. I only need to host one, but I would really like to do two. My main goal however, is to promote sustainability to everyone, not only in the dorms but also all around on campus.

How would you challenge others to make their life more sustainable?

Honestly just look more into what you buy, and how products you buy are made. Try to think of more reusable options instead of single-use options. Think about what you're recycling too because some things can be recycled, and some things say they can be recycled but realistically can't be. Most plastic things will have a plastic number, and types one and two are the only two that can actually be recycled. I would say just think more sustainably about what you're consuming and buying. Try and buy things that are going to last, get things that you're going to get a lot of use out of. Think about sustainability and what you do in life.



For more information, please contact:



Miles Powell

Co-Editor-in-Chief
mpowel29@kent.edu



Andrew Shenal

Co-Editor-in-Chief
ashenal@kent.edu

ENVS Student Newsletter Team

Miles Powell
Sav Herald
Andrew Shenal
Tessa Stevens
Dr. David Kaplan *faculty advisor*

**You may also visit the official program
website for past newsletters and additional
information:**

<https://www.kent.edu/geography/environmental-studies-ba>

