

## What Can I Do With My Major?

Doctor? Public policy analyst? College professor? Environmental consultant? These may be some of the options for undergraduates to consider when they start wondering what is in their future beyond the College of Natural Resources (CNR) at Berkeley. Judging by the campus Career Center's annual survey that tells us what new alumni are doing (and how much they are getting paid), CNR graduates are successful in a wide range of meaningful careers, which include pursuing graduate and professional degrees.\*

Contrary to popular assumptions, it is a myth that students must become MCB majors to apply for medical school, that they have to declare public health majors to go on to graduate school in that same area, and that they must major in political science to go into law. These traditional pathways are certainly not the only means to such career goals, as our CNR graduates demonstrate. A nutritional sciences graduate is currently studying medicine at Cornell University; a graduate from molecular environmental biology is now at the University of Michigan's School of Public Health; and a CNR environmental sciences graduate is a student at Columbia University's School of Law. These are just a few illustrations of how extremely well prepared CNR students are for the nation's best professional and graduate schools.

Turning to the job market and the various employment sectors that attract recent CNR graduates, we see that the great majority of our majors eventually find themselves in the corporate sector, except for conservation and resource studies graduates who have greater tendency to enter into nonprofits, and forestry graduates who most often obtain government jobs.

Averaging across all majors within the college, the entry-level salary that CNR undergraduates can expect hovers right around the \$35,000 mark. Degree recipients with the highest mean starting salaries include those who majored in environmental economics and policy, environmental sciences, or nutritional sciences. Most of all other young alumni reported average salaries that fell comfortably in the \$30,000's, which is similar to the salary expectations of recent graduates in integrative biology, molecular and cell biology, and chemistry.



Last month's Environmental Careers Night program co-sponsored by the Career Center and the College of Natural Resources highlighted the variety of career options available to undergraduate and graduate students alike. Thirty-two professionals were on hand representing career fields ranging from environmental law and education, to biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism, to fire science and forest service. Students who attended were able to network and

interact directly with the program speakers, many of whom were Cal alumni themselves. As one environmental specialist from Chiron noted, "I enjoyed the evening and was impressed by the dedication, ambition, and creativity shown by the students." By making connections with individuals already working in a career field of potential interest to them, students get

practical advice to determine what next steps are best to prepare for their future.

So rather than ask what can be done with a particular major, the more appropriate question for students might be: "What do I want to do with my major?" And in answering that for themselves, students face many different choices that CNR staff and faculty advisors are happy to help them explore.

**\*To check out the career destinations of specific undergraduate majors in CNR, go to: <http://career.berkeley.edu/Major/major.stm>. Due to the relative newness of the microbial biology major, the Career Center has not yet collected aggregate data for alumni from this major, and therefore, this article does not include career information for these graduates.**

### What's Inside

- CAREER QUIZ
- STUDENT SPOTLIGHT
- ALUMNI CONNECTION
- ON THE STAFF FRONT
- COMMUNITY BULLETIN
- MAKING A DIFFERENCE
- CONTACT US

# TAKE THE CNR CAREER QUIZ

Eight CNR graduates landed the following jobs after graduation. Can you correctly match their major with their job title and employer?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation & Resource Studies
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Economics & Policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Environmental Sciences
- \_\_\_\_\_ Forestry
- \_\_\_\_\_ Genetics & Plant Biology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Molecular Environmental Biology
- \_\_\_\_\_ Nutritional Sciences
- \_\_\_\_\_ Resource Management

- A. Paralegal, National Heritage Institute
- B. Botany survey technician, Sierra Pacific Industries
- C. Pharmaceutical sales representative, Eli Lilly & Company
- D. Bioprocess technician, Genentech
- E. Journalist, Singapore Press Holdings
- F. Computer scientist, Apple Computer, Inc
- G. Senior agricultural technician, UC Berkeley
- H. Environmental consultant, Forensic Analysis

## CNR Newsline

The **College of Natural Resources Newsline** is a moderated listserv that will help keep you in the loop about research opportunities, scholarships, fellowships, internships, externships, job opportunities, workshops, conferences, and campus events relevant to CNR.

**To subscribe**, send an email from your email account to:

**majordomo@listlink.berkeley.edu.**

Leave the subject heading blank. In the body of the message, type the following command:

**subscribe cnr\_newsline**

## Answers:

Conservation & Resource Studies – E. Journalist, Singapore Press Holdings  
Environmental Economics & Policy – A. Paralegal, National Heritage Institute  
Environmental Sciences – H. Environmental consultant, Forensic Analysis  
Forestry – G. Senior agricultural technician, UC Berkeley  
Genetics & Plant Biology – F. Computer scientist, Apple Computer, Inc  
Molecular Environmental Biology – C. Pharmaceutical sales representative, Eli Lilly & Company  
Nutritional Sciences – D. Bioprocess technician, Genentech  
Resource Management – B. Botany survey technician, Sierra Pacific Industries



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Kristina Huntley, Genetics & Plant Biology Senior**

During my freshman and sophomore years here at Cal, the idea to form a club for the plant biology major often came up when I talked with my advisors. Last fall, Evaly Long and I formed the Mycophytes Club for plant and microbial biology majors as a way to encourage people within the two majors to meet each other. Because the plant and microbial majors are small, we often see the same people in class but never seemed to take the time to get to know one another. The main idea behind Mycophytes is to provide more opportunity for faculty and students to interact, as well as to inform people about the majors.

So far the Mycophytes have had a number of successful events. Last year we had meetings where students could meet faculty advisors, eat dinner with professors, learn what graduate school is about, and get advice on classes from seniors. We are fortunate to have helpful faculty and major advisors who are welcoming and willing to come to events in support of us. This fall we hosted one event where students could play poker with their professors. The Mycophytes group allows a community to be formed within the majors, and I hope it continues to do well.



## ALUMNI CONNECTION

David Moser ('81) is a founding partner of Ebbin, Moser + Skaggs LLP, in San Francisco, a law firm providing environmental and natural resources legal and

strategic services. David's practice focuses on endangered species, wetlands, water pollution, environmental compliance and contaminated site remediation issues, both in California and throughout the western states. He represents land owners, property developers, resource users, universities, and local governments. He is widely recognized as a leading practitioner under the Endangered Species Act. David earned his bachelor's degree in Conservation of Natural Resources here at the College of Natural Resources, and his law degree with honors from the University of Oregon. He is a member of the American Bar Association's Section on Environmental, Energy and Resource Law; the California Bar's Environmental Law Section, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (Commission on Environmental Law). Continuing his commitment to the College, he also serves as a board member of CNR's Advisory Board.

"It is almost impossible to be a true generalist in law practice these days - most lawyers are specialists. The interdisciplinary education available through CNR provided me with a solid grounding in both traditional "pre-law" skills, and in scientific and technical skills which I utilize every day. I spend as much time dealing with issues like species biology, hydrology and land planning as I do researching judicial decisions and environmental regulations, and it is that blending of technical and legal issues that makes this practice so interesting. My CNR education provided the perfect foundation for that."



## ON THE STAFF FRONT

Susan Cass, Student Affairs Officer in the Department of Nutritional Sciences and Toxicology (NST), was presented with a Chancellor's Outstanding Staff Award to honor her

exceptional achievement in contributing to the University's mission. The only member of the College of Natural Resources to be selected for the award this year, Susan was recognized at an official campus ceremony in early November.

When Susan joined NST in Fall 2000, a key departmental goal was to improve undergraduate enrollment. Due to Susan's leadership and strong concentration of effort on recruitment activities, the department has seen a 60% enrollment increase. She has pursued these many recruiting activities while creating a highly supportive and optimistic environment that addresses the needs of current students. In this regard, Susan has been instrumental in assisting NST majors in their attempts to form student-run undergraduate organizations.

At the college level, Susan was instrumental in bringing a new residential theme program to CNR and nurturing its success as a member of the Global Environment Theme House advisory committee. In addition, she has served on the CNR Cal Day committee over the last four years to help coordinate special events that highlight the many teaching and research accomplishments across the college.

Susan's knowledge and experience in advising have also had an impact on the broader campus. Last year she was a steering committee member who took part in planning the campus's annual advising conference, and this year she is an advisor for the Student Leadership Symposium. Through all her dedicated work, Susan has demonstrated her talents and skills as an invaluable student affairs staff member for the department, college, and Berkeley campus.

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Jan. 18-21 Sudden Oak Death Science Symposium

Jan. 25 William Main Lecture sponsored by the Center for Forestry

April 16 Cal Day

May 23 CNR Commencement

**For more information and up-to-date event information go to the calendar at <http://nature.berkeley.edu>**

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## Environmental Sciences + Education = CNR Environmental Leadership Outreach Program

The College of Natural Resources Environmental Leadership Outreach Program (ELOP) started in 1995 under the leadership of late professor Don Dahlsten. To date, more than 150 UC Berkeley undergraduate and graduate students have served through this program as educators and mentors to low-income, minority teens from local high schools.



UC Berkeley students participating in this program enroll in ESPM 190, a seminar in Urban Environmental Education, offered in the spring semester. They spend the first part of the semester learning about environmental science curriculum development and education theory, while also working on their presentation skills. During the second part of the semester, they deliver that curriculum to younger students from local urban high schools. This spring, the course will be taught by Mark Spencer, the current ELOP coordinator and a recent doctoral student of Kevin O'Hara in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management.

Historically, the ELOP has collaborated with the Youth Employment Partnership's Team Oakland Program, an after-school work program targeting high school students who may be struggling with academics. Through the years, over 650 Team Oakland students have visited the UC Berkeley campus to take part in classes and environmental science workshops taught by ESPM 190 enrollees. Topics that will be covered in the spring 2005 course include air and water quality monitoring, pollution source mapping, household energy and resource budgeting, and environmental justice. According to Mark, "The opportunity for these teens to develop strong relationships with their UC Berkeley student teacher/mentors and become comfortable with the learning environment of the campus is arguably as important as their increased familiarity with environmental issues of the Bay Area."

Any undergraduate major is welcome to join the Environmental Leadership Outreach Program and register for ESPM 190:

**Urban Environmental Education**  
**ESPM 190 Section 1, Spring 2005**  
**CCN: 30727 – 3 units**  
**Classroom Hours: Mondays 12-2 pm**  
**Environmental Education Hours: TBA**  
**Location: 2311 Tolman**

## CONTACT US

CNR Forum is published for the students, faculty, staff, alumni, emeriti, retirees, and friends of the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley. We welcome comments, news, and story suggestions. Please e-mail us at [linm@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:linm@nature.berkeley.edu) or call (510) 643-4647.

**Editors:** Monica Lin, Assistant Dean of Instruction and Student Affairs  
Matt Fratus, Director of Annual Fund and Alumni Relations

**Layout/  
Graphics:** Matt Fratus

COLLEGE OF  
**Natural Resources**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY