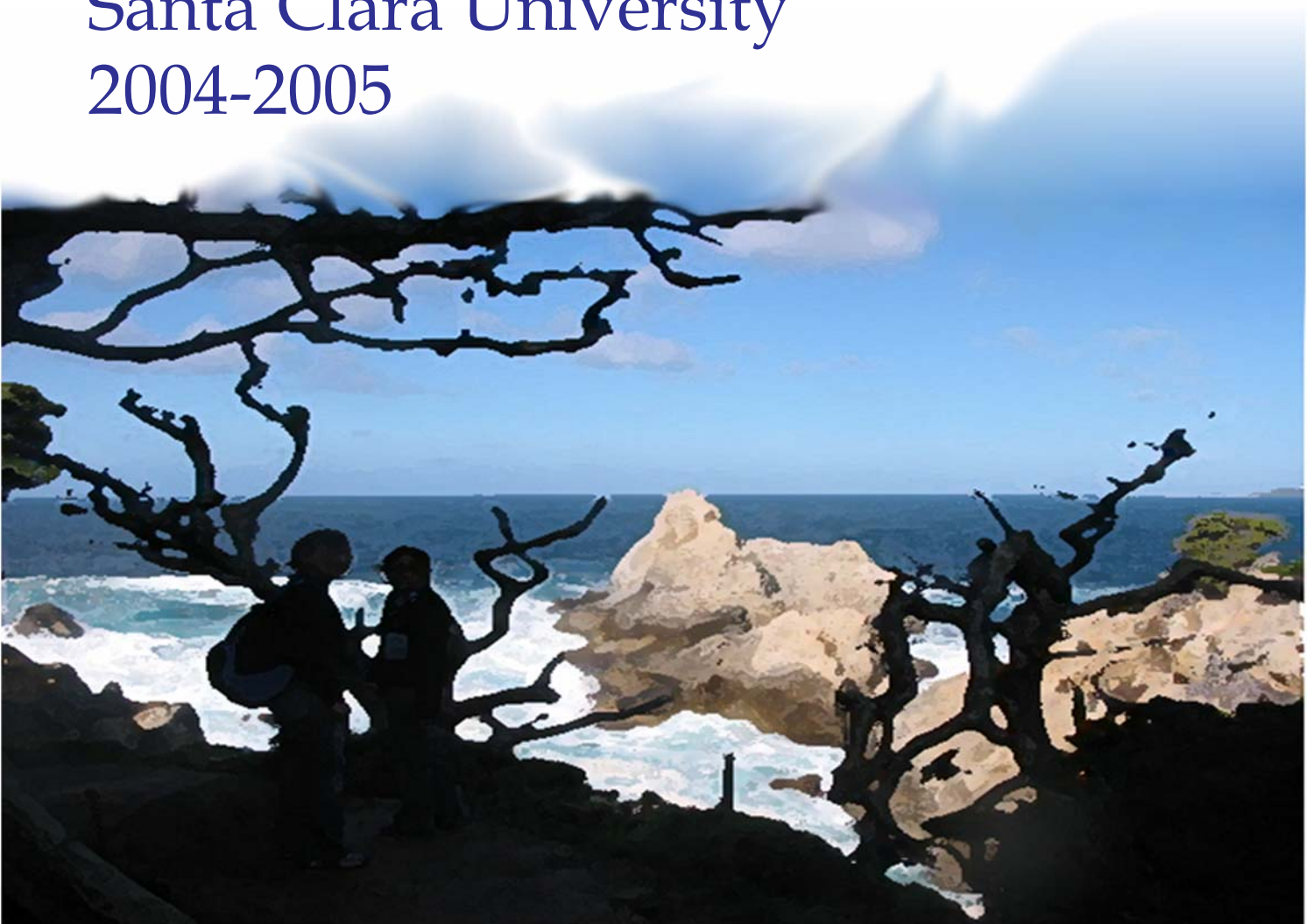


The Environmental Vocation Internship

Central Coast Report
Santa Clara University
2004-2005



Introduction, and gratitude

The Environmental Vocation Internship brings the best of Jesuit education at Santa Clara University to bear on California's regional environmental challenges. It integrates classroom learning, community based environmental education, and personal vocational development. Interns from this first year have spoken to hundreds of youth, adults and seniors in local faith communities about Environmental Justice in the Central Valley and marine biodiversity stewardship on the Central Coast. With this report, we describe the accomplishments of the first year's efforts, and prospects for future efforts.

We offer this report as a sincere thank you to all who have made this first year possible. Senior Associate Dean Amy Shachter provided the leadership, initial direction and inspiration for this internship, and it would not exist without her. She was critical to raising the internal funds at SCU to make this first year possible. The College of Arts & Sciences provided the majority of funding this year through a Dean's office grant. The Bannan Center for Jesuit Education was particularly generous in

funding this internship through a Bannan Grant. SCU's Food and Agribusiness Institute, under Dr. Greg Baker's leadership, also provided essential support.

This project would not be possible without the active participation of our community partners, recruited and coordinated by the Central Coast field supervisor, Rev. Deborah Streeter. Rachel Saunders and the staff at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary helped us understand the biodiversity conservation issues facing this region. Three faith communities opened their doors to the interns, and a special thanks goes out to their pastors: Revs. George Meier and Therese Descamp of the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula; Rev. Dan Hoffman of United Presbyterian Church of Watsonville; and Rev. Scott McCarthy of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish in Seaside. Marine biodiversity photos are courtesy of Sanctuary Cruises (www.sanctuarycruises.com). Other photos provided by Cathy Harkness, Aroba Hafeez and your truly.

---Keith Warner OFM and the interns



Preparing leaders of conscience, competence and compassion

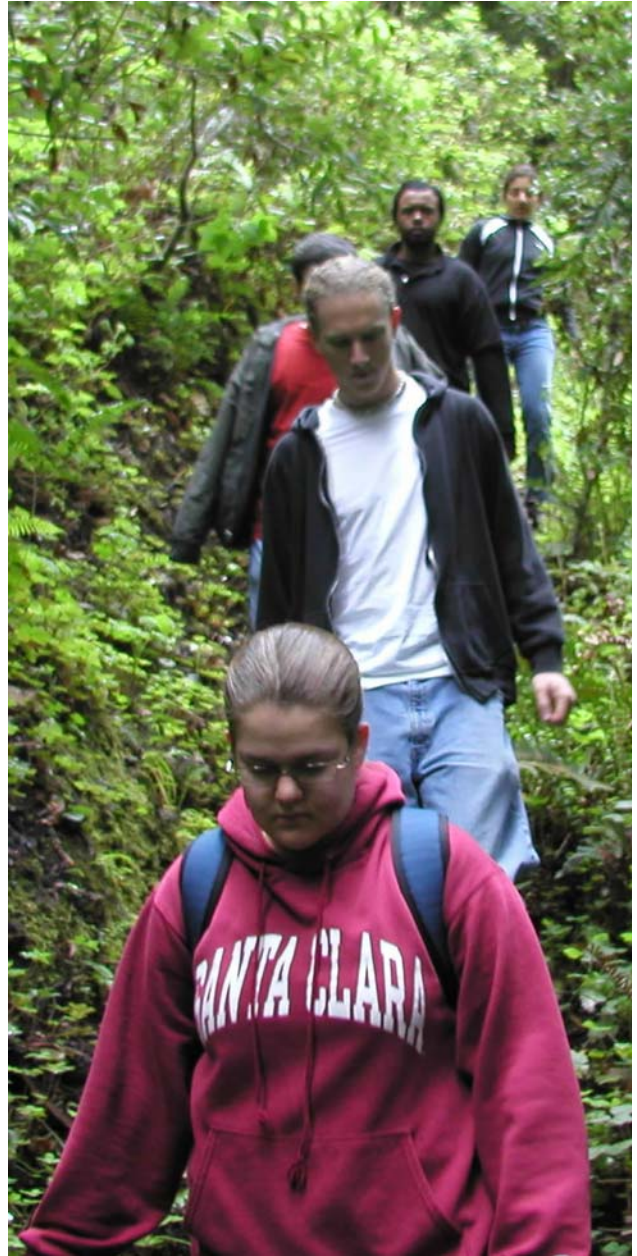
The Environmental Vocation Internship

This program offers undergraduate students at Santa Clara University the opportunity to develop environmental leadership skills through community based education and participatory research, combined with spiritual development and personal mentoring. Students take two courses, “Faith, Ethics, and the Biodiversity Crisis” and “Environmental Justice Practicum,” and then enroll in the internship to extend what they learn in the classroom out to local faith communities. This offers students a theologically-grounded vision of stewardship that embraces social justice as well as advocacy for the intrinsic value of Creation, and a comprehensive introduction to religious and ethical resources to address environmental problems.

The internship spans winter and spring quarters, and includes immersion trips, vocational reflection retreats, mentoring in leadership for civic engagement, and reflection on our vocational gifts. The internship requires regular travel (once or twice a month), since most community events take place on weekends.

Interns select a region for their internship, based on their preference for concentrating on marine biodiversity (Monterey and the Central Coast) or Environmental Justice (Stockton and the Central Valley). This year, 3 coast interns worked primarily with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and 4 valley interns with the Diocese of Stockton.

During this our first year, 7 interns conducted 14 educational events, reaching a total 822 people (416 youth and 406 adults). Of these, 10 were formal presentations, and 4 were educational fairs/events. Examples



include: presentations to confirmation classes, their sponsors, and youth groups; participation in the Diocese of Stockton Ministry Day with the Office of Social Ministries; organizing sustainable fish dinners; and conducting outreach to parishioners after mass. The interns created a total of 13 educational tools, including 3

posters and 7 electronic slide shows. Five of these can be found at the project website: itrs.scu.edu/kwarner/bdconethics.html.

We hoped to be able to gather more data about the environmental values and views of the people in the churches we served, but ran out of time. Next year we hope to conduct more social science research, and engage more multi-cultural communities in environmental education. We also plan to add a farmworker/sustainable agriculture track to the internship.

The Environmental Vocation Internship fosters a new kind of environmental leadership, reflecting Santa Clara University's Jesuit educational ideals. The internship builds on the continuing SCU campus-wide conversation about vocation (see page 7), providing interns the opportunity to deepen their awareness of their gifts, what gives them joy, and the world's needs. It integrates academic learning, environmental research, community outreach, spiritual mentoring, and ethical development.

Solutions to our environmental crises now require collaborative partnerships built on values and ethics. Your support and interest in this internship helps bring forward just this kind of leadership.

Protecting marine biodiversity

Ocean sanctuary

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1992, is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's Central Coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the Sanctuary's shoreline measures 276 miles, and it includes 5,322 square miles of ocean, extending an average distance of 30 miles from shore. It reaches down 10,663 feet (more than two miles), and is the nation's largest marine sanctuary – bigger than Yosemite or Yellowstone National Parks.

The Sanctuary's natural resources include our nation's largest kelp forest, one of North America's largest underwater canyons, and the closest-to-shore deep ocean environment in the continental United States. It is home to one of the most diverse temperate marine ecosystems in the world, including 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, and 345 species of fishes. Even though its designation as Sanctuary sounds impressive, the Central Coast faces numerous environmental protection challenges, including over-fishing and coastal pollution.





The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of the world's most biologically diverse temperate marine ecosystems, and is larger than Yellowstone National Park. The dashed line indicates the current Sanctuary boundary, and the management plan review may consider expanding this.

Fostering civic participation for environmental protection

The primary task of the Central Coast interns was to conduct outreach to local faith communities about the Sanctuary as it conducts a management plan review. This year marks the Sanctuary's tenth anniversary, and this management plan review provides a special opportunity for the public to give provide input. The interns educated local faith communities about the environmental issues at stake in the management plan review, cultivating interest among these faith communities, and laying the groundwork for civic participation inspired by a vision of ocean stewardship. Many voiced their desire for greater environmental protection, framing this with ethical and religious images. In future years, interns will provide research and outreach about marine protected areas, or no-take zones. We will continue to work with our partners to encourage civic participation by the faith communities. More information can be found on the web at: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>.

Dear Deborah and Keith:

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is always looking for opportunities to reach out to diverse audiences. Our partnership with Santa Clara University to specifically reach out to the religious community has been a new and positive experience.

The student interns were of high caliber and clearly were interested in exploring ways to interpret and share our mission with local faith communities. They took initiative not only in distributing marine sanctuary education materials, but in devising creative ways to engage members of faith communities. Santa Clara student interns' commitment to working in diverse settings is a real plus; indeed we see potential for productive collaboration with our MERITO multicultural outreach program. The students are a great asset in bridging our organization with the faith community, and we look forward to future associations.

Rachel T. Saunders
Community & Public Relations Coordinator
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



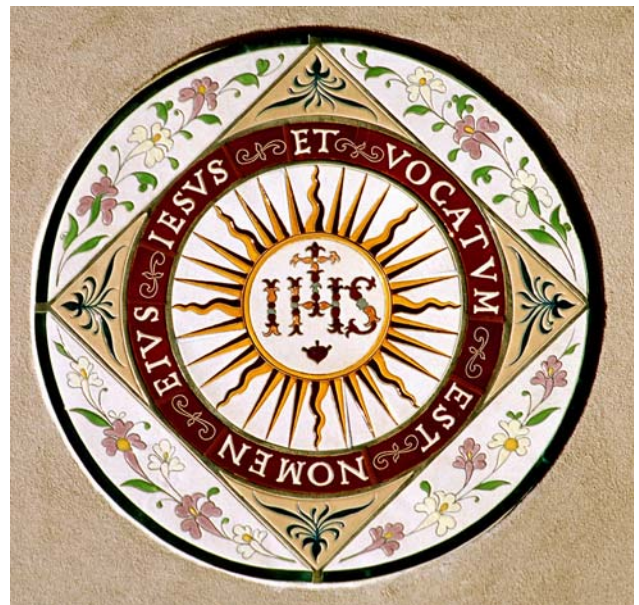


DISCOVERing our environmental vocations

“What ought I to do?” is the Socratic question at the heart of the liberal arts educational tradition. Christian spirituality frames that question in terms of vocation: “What am I called to become?” The Jesuit tradition offers wonderful resources for vocational discernment. It counsels us to discover our personal calling by aligning our gifts and aspirations with what we see as the deepest needs of our world.

Santa Clara University is actively developing resources to help students, faculty and staff with vocational discernment. With major funding from the Lilly Foundation, SCU launched the DISCOVER project, which stands for “Developing and Inspiring Scholarly Communities Oriented toward Vocational Engagement and Reflection.” Our Jesuit tradition emphasizes that education has a moral purpose beyond career preparation. The DISCOVER project combines scholarly reflection with our Ignatian tradition of discernment and social engagement to support students as they prepare for their vocation, not just a job.

The Environmental Vocation Internship was inspired – but not funded – by the DISCOVER project. It builds on the campus conversations and support for helping students discern their own vocational gifts and potential contribution to society. The internship provides students the skills, sustained contact in a community, and reflection tools to foster their vocational discernment.



The Central Coast Interns 2004-5

Emily Eng

Hometown: Seattle

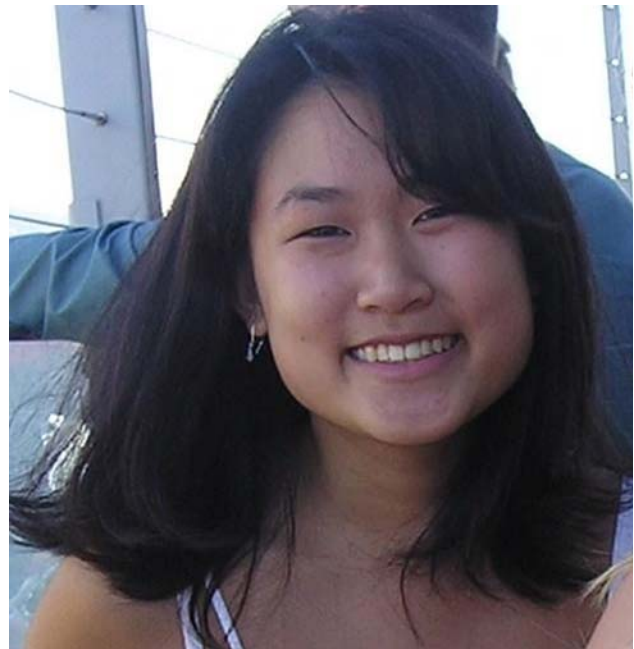
Major: Biology

Class of 2006

Minors: Religious Studies, Environmental Studies and Studio Art

The internship interested me since it mixed several fields of study that I was already interested in. Unlike most biology majors, I'm not on the path to medical school nor do I desire to do research in a laboratory. Although I enjoy the lab setting and classes, I know that I would never want that as a career. I would feel too sequestered away from the outside world, and despite my affection for beakers, they cannot replace human interaction. Since I wasn't going to follow the two main paths that a normal biology major takes, I was looking around at my other options. The internship offered me a chance to try out another venue where I could put my biology knowledge to work but also add a few twists. My mom always tells me that college is *the place* to experiment and try out new things. So that's what I did.

I was assigned to Carmel, and worked with the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. After getting to know the congregation, I tried to think of ways in which they would normally interact with the Monterey Bay. Maybe it's my affinity to food, but I decided to start my project based off of the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Card (go to: www.mbaqyaq.or/cr/seafoodwatch.asp). Due to the community's location I thought that a seafood dinner about sustainable fisheries would be beneficial, since it was so easy for people there to locate and purchase fish all year round. At first I had imagined using the card as the basis for the dinner menu and then while people ate I could



present an electronic slide presentation on the importance of fish, biodiversity within their faith.

But the more I got into requesting recipes for the dinner, the more questions about the Seafood Watch Card arose. Why was one type of fish preferred over another? How accessible are the "Best Choice" fish and are they reasonably accessible? The understanding about the Seafood Watch Card was there, but it lacked a strategy for engaging ordinary people. So I decided that I needed to clarify the card and how to use it prior to having the expectation of people using it. In order to achieve this I planned out a recipe/educational cookbook, in which I could imbed facts and clarifications to the card with different recipes. I would also explain why the fish listed as "Best Choices" were in that category. My theory was that as people use the recipes they would catch a glimpse of the facts behind the fish and get hooked into reading that. I know as a student, a teacher can assign as many assignments as their heart desires but realistically only some of it gets read. So I thought to trick people into reading my environmental/educational articles as a by-

product of reading a recipe, since not many would read a pamphlet solely devoted to environmental issues on its own. So that is what I did.

I made a book using several recipes from the congregation members and held two fish dinners where we used sustainable fish recipes and opened a discussion with the participants there about the environmental and faith intersections of preserving fish.

I'm not quite sure of how much of an impact I made, but I did stir up the group into thinking about fish and their faith.

The fish books were a hit and people were asking me for a copy left and right — even some of my classmates asked for copies. It's whether they read it or not that will make the ultimate assessment of my impact. But at least providing the fish book is a start.

After finishing the internship I definitely have gained appreciation for those who have to put events together. I still do not know what exactly I plan on doing after SCU, but I now can definitely cross off event planner from my list of options. Since I had



never really been a part of a church, this experience has also let me peek into the sense of community and extended family that faith can provide. The Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula embraced me as one of their own and supported me in my ventures to introduce them to environmental issues. It was amazing how strong a network, like a church, has on bringing people together and its potential to bring about change. I'm not sure if I can testify that I have undergone any major spiritual change but I do know that within their community there are individuals that I can turn to if need be.





Matthew Valdin

Hometown: Danville

Majors: Environmental Science and Environmental Studies

Class of 2005

I joined the internship because I thought it would be a rewarding experience and I would get my first chance to convey what I had learned about environmental science and studies over the last four years. And as a senior -- soon to be a graduate looking for a job -- any opportunity to expand my resume with a robust intern experience was too tempting to pass up.

I was stationed at the United Presbyterian Church in Watsonville, and my goal was to find a way to encourage people to publicly comment on the Sanctuary management plan hearings. It was my responsibility to show the importance of the environment in a religious setting using biblical language and scripture. I emphasized that God calls all of us to be stewards of the earth, and that it is the responsibility of all Christians to respect the gift of nature God gave to humans. With help of the community, I met with church groups, organized a sustainable fish dinner with fish recommended from the Seafood Watch card, and gave an environmental scripture presentation.

In order to help the public to participate in the management plan review for the Sanctuary, I created postcards with a statement in support of the expansion with a religious emphasis addressed to the Sanctuary office. This postcard described Marine Protected Areas as a "Sabbath for the Sea," and supported increased protection for the Sanctuary. The card was a success in the church since it provided a level of public participation that was comfortable with most people. Hopefully this will encourage some of the parishioners to attend the public meetings as well.

My internship experience was very rewarding. Not only did I develop skills essential to communicating environmental principles to the public, but I learned the religious basis for nature's protection.

I emphasized that God calls all of us to be stewards of the earth, and that it is the responsibility of all to respect the gift of nature

Furthermore, because of the independent nature of the internship, I was given a high level of freedom in how to effectively engage the community. My other internship experiences had a lot of oversight, or did not effectively utilize my educational experience. In contrast, this vocational experience gave a level of responsibility and independence that an internship should have. Although I worked solo in my location, I met with my fellow interns and supervisions to discuss strategies.

I highly recommend this vocational discernment experience to anyone seeking a job in environmental education, advocacy, or public relations. This internship will give students real world experience they need to start a career in defense of creation.

Dear Dr. Keith Warner:

Thank you for allowing us to participate in the Environmental Vocation Internship of Santa Clara University. I am concerned about how little our society and especially those who are religious, link our spirituality with how we care for our environment. God's creation is a beautiful gift to us and how we care for it reflects our gratitude to God. Also, our care of creation ends up being a gift to our children and grandchildren.

At United Presbyterian Church here in Watsonville we enjoyed having Matt Valdin as our intern. He helped us reflect on the Scriptures and today's environmental issues, he held a sustainable dinner in which we learned about eating foods/fish that won't be as harmful to the environment, and we were given a chance to put our faith in action by sending postcards in support of expanding the Monterey Bay Sanctuary. I am pleased to see that Santa Clara University is choosing to be a leader in such an important issue.

Thank you for the privilege of being a part of this program and we hope to participate in the future. God's peace be with you,

Rev. Dan Hoffman
United Presbyterian Church
Watsonville

What are sustainable fisheries?

Sustainability means meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Fish, as a natural resource, contributes to the food supply, economy, and health of many nations worldwide. It is one of the clearest examples of how the human race depends on biodiversity. However, many stocks of fish have declined to the brink of extinction. Catastrophic social disruption typically follows poor fish stock management. Commercial and recreational fishing support local employment and economies, so the collapse of fisheries disrupts entire communities as well as causing long term environmental harm.

The criteria of sustainability, when applied to ocean and freshwater management, holds that future generations have the right to enjoy fisheries equal to ours. Ecologically informed management plans and active enforcement ensure that harvest rates take no more than what a population takes to sustain itself. This framework only considers the needs of humans; a biblical view of nature recognizes that all creation is good, and has intrinsic value in the eyes of God, without reference to human aspirations.





Aroba Hafeez

Hometown: Sacramento

Majors: Combined Science, and Applied Sociology

Class of 2006

Minor: Studio Art

Most Pre-med students are so focused on health sciences during their undergraduate education that they do not get much exposure to classes dealing with environmental issues. I had the opportunity not only to take the “Faith, Ethics, and Biodiversity Crisis” class, but also to apply my classroom knowledge in the context of the real world through the Environmental Vocational Internship. Prior to the class I had not realized the connection between religion and environmental stewardship, even though the two were important to me.

My love for the sciences developed when I was an adolescent. Curiosity about the nature of the world, and its design captivated me at a young age. Backed by religious encouragement to seek knowledge, I realized that there had to be more to life on earth than simply humankind’s lordship.

The sacred character of the universe had always presented itself to me without need for any validation. Many people speak of how we love the earth and how cherish the gifts that it provides, but they mistakenly

see these gifts as their own personal possessions. We exploit and mistreat these gifts, knowingly or not. This mentality provides the conditions for the biodiversity crisis in which we find ourselves today.

Initially, I was stationed at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Parish in Seaside, a church near the Monterey Peninsula. I attended Sunday Mass and spent a great deal of time networking with various church members. Mingling with the community allowed me to develop a sense of the church’s social organization, which I felt was essential in designing successful projects.

This internship also gave me the opportunity to research the interface between religion and environmental stewardship. This was the most valuable aspect of the internship for me. In researching my own faith I realized that Islamic theology repeatedly acknowledges the sacred character of the environment. Additionally, the importance of lordship





and its true essence was stressed. In spite of the fact that both these aspects have been researched independently, I found very few articles that looked at these ideas together.

My research made the connection between Islam & Environmental Ethics ... I began to identify a clearer connection between the two

Through further research and collaboration with a network of my own connections I became more knowledgeable on both of these ideas and as a result began to identify a clearer connection between the two. As a product of my research I designed a digital slide presentation to educate the public on the intersection between the Islamic faith and environmental conservation. This educational material was presented during Earth Week at Santa Clara University and is available on the web at: itrs.scu.edu/kwarner/bdconethics.htm.

I recognized the novelty of my topic, but I could never have imagined the positive response that I received. I had initially

planned to target a non-Muslim audience with the presentation, but I was touched by the response I got from the Muslim community as well. Many of the non-Muslim students that attended were amazed to learn how passionately Islam spoke of the environment. Never before had they seen formal presentation of such aspects of this faith.

The Muslim students had a similar response; they acknowledged they could easily relate to scriptures presented, since most of them were basic Islamic principles, yet they had never considered them in this context. One student admitted that the presentation gave him a new way to view basic Islamic principles within the context of environmental stewardship.

This internship has laid the foundation for a new way of thinking about environmental stewardship. In looking to Islamic theology for environmental conservation, I found similar themes of conservation as within the other major religions of the world. The actual products of my efforts are minute when compared to the impact that this has made on me personally.



Partner Profile

Upwellings Ministry

Upwellings: A Ministry of Environmental Stewardship, is a project of the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula. Directed by Rev. Deborah Streeter, Upwellings is an alliance of people from faith communities, environmental groups, and education organizations working, learning and worshipping together in loving care of God's creation, especially the coasts and oceans.

The Upwellings Ministry takes its name from the natural ocean phenomenon, upwelling, which takes place yearly on five of the world's coasts, including California's Central Coast. In the spring or summer the coastal wind currents shift, blowing surface waters southward, and making room for the very cold, nutrient-rich waters of the deep to upwell. These waters are part of a worldwide system of deep sea currents; some of the water has been in the depths for millennia. Humans have no control over when and where upwelling happens; in El Nino years there is little upwelling, and this impacts marine environments as well as global weather. Our rich local marine life, as

well as our ecosystem and economy, all depend on the food and gift of upwelling.

Our spiritual connection to the natural world is like that upwelling gift; when the surface is blown away, from the deep, from far away and long ago, comes the gift of God's spirit, full of life, beyond our control, reminding us of interconnectedness. This ministry seeks to open up the soul of the Monterey Peninsula to these deep spiritual gifts, uniting people in loving care of God's creation.

Upwellings Ministry sponsors worship, education and action. Over the past four years, we have hosted interfaith community worship services in celebration of Earth Day, the blessing of the Carmel River, a Gathering of the Waters, and the Blessing of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We have preached and sponsored classes at local churches, and lectured at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. We guide spiritual walks/pilgrimages at Point Lobos State Reserve, and service projects around dune restoration and river clean up.

Local faith community partners

United Presbyterian Church

Watsonville

Pastor: Dan Hoffman

This downtown church is among the oldest Presbyterian congregations in this region.

It actually is two communities, one English and one Spanish speaking. The two congregations are reaching out to the surrounding communities, especially youth and immigrants.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Seaside

Pastor: Scott McCarthy

St. Francis Xavier is the largest and among the most culturally diverse parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Monterey. It hosts 1500 families, an active Spanish-speaking Mass, and has a total of 5000 members.

The Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula

Carmel

Co-Pastors: George Meier and Therese Descamp

This Non-Denominational, Liberal Protestant church was founded in 1965, and hosts 150 members. This congregation is well known regionally for its openminded approach and independence. It hosts a community labyrinth, and many community groups. The church mission statement reads: Wherever you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here.





Leadership profile

Keith Douglass Warner OFM

The creation of this internship has given me the opportunity to draw from virtually all the talents and skills God has given me. I spent five years picking fruit and planting trees in the Pacific Northwest, and this animated me to follow St. Francis, the patron saint of ecology. I became a Franciscan Friar fifteen years ago because of my love of nature and prayer, and a passion for sharing these with others. Living in migrant labor camps, Amerindian reservations, and Latin American shantytowns deepened by solidarity with the poor and politically marginalized.

During the late 1990s, I conducted social justice education – supervising volunteers and interns – at St. Anthony Foundation in San Francisco for three years. I became convinced that experiential, community based education had great transformative potential. I undertook doctoral level environmental studies at UC Santa Cruz because I wanted to extend this vision from social to environmental issues.

When Senior Associate Dean Amy Shachter asked me to create an internship, I was able to draw on a network of

professional colleagues. I had recently introduced Betsy Reifsnider to Rich Fowler of the Catholic Diocese of Stockton, and he hired her to become Environmental Justice Project Coordinator. I asked Rev. Deborah Streeter if she knew of any faith communities that would be interested in hosting interns. She described her community based environmental education on the Central Coast, and the template for this internship was born. By operating two field sites, interns are able to witness a diversity of environmental challenges facing California, and the range of possible responses on the part of faith communities.

This internship has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. It has given me the chance to share with others my belief that faith communities can and should be engaged in environmental concerns.

No lasting social change in American history has taken place without the active participation of the faith communities

I have dedicated my life to fostering the kind of leadership that can help the faith communities address our environmental crises. With the help of friends, family and my Franciscan brothers, I have discerned this as my vocation, and Santa Clara University offers me unparalleled opportunities to put my gifts at the service of others, and to help students learn how to do the same.

I am most grateful to the interns, Santa Clara University's leadership, Betsy Reifsnider, Rev. Deborah Streeter, and all our community partners for their active collaboration and creativity on this project. This experience truly has helped me deepen my own vocation. I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.



The Environmental Studies Institute, home to...

The Faith, Ethics & Vocation Project @ Santa Clara University

The Environmental Studies Institute is an interdisciplinary community of scholars - comprised of faculty, staff, and students - dedicated to understanding the interactions between humans and the natural world. We serve local and global communities by addressing environmental issues through education, research, and leadership. Our bachelors level degrees in Environmental

Science and Environmental Studies challenge undergraduates to integrate knowledge and research in the natural and social sciences with ethics, service and leadership to promote a sustainable world. The Institute provides a variety of campus and community programs including seminars, internships, and opportunities for research, service, and study abroad.

The Faith, Ethics & Vocation Project integrates the distinct features of Santa Clara University's mission into Environmental Studies learning activities, and provides opportunities for students to extend education beyond the classroom. These features are: promoting a faith that does justice; fostering leaders of conscience, compassion, and competence; and facilitating vocational discernment. Based on the inter-disciplinary practice of the ESI, the project pilots innovative pedagogies to better fulfill the university mission. It consists of four classes on the religious studies/environmental studies interface, the Environmental Vocation Internship, and the creation of exportable educational units about environmental, ethical, and faith issues.





Leadership Profile

Rev. Deborah Streeter

I have been ordained in the United Church of Christ for 22 years, serving as a parish minister, campus and hospital chaplain, and currently as Associate Conference Minister, and as Editor of the Northern California UCC, monthly newspaper, *The Pacific*. I am the founder and director of *Upwellings, a Ministry of Environmental Stewardship*, which works to unite faith communities, environmental activists, and marine scientists and educators in their common commitment to care for God's creation,

especially the coasts and oceans. I am a guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, a docent at Point Lobos State Reserve, and serve as Chair of the Citizen's Advisory Council of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. I also serve on my denomination's Environmental Task Force. I am an Adjunct Faculty Member at Pacific School of Religion, from which I received an M.A. in Ethics in 1978, and a Masters of Divinity in 1982.



What is Blue Theology?

Since Earth Day 1990, theologians have begun to articulate a “Green Theology,” or a Christian vision of human stewardship of Creation, guided by Scripture, tradition, experience, and science. It has drawn heavily on Biblical texts about agriculture, deserts, and wilderness. Green theologies are finding voice in every expression of US Christianity, yet few, if any, have formally considered the fate of the oceans from the perspective of theology.

Rev. Deborah Streeter was the first to propose a Blue Theology for marine protection. It shares many of the same themes with Green Theology, but it’s wet. Blue Theology posits that God created the oceans as well as land, and cares equally about them.

Blue Theology adds some completely new issues to those traditionally included in Green Theology. For example, the oceans shape all our atmosphere and weather and climate. God’s Spirit (Hebrew: *ruach*) could be said to originate from the oceans, not

land. Our very life breath, and that of all living organisms, comes from the ocean.

Both the Genesis creation story and evolutionary theory suggest life came from the oceans: it is our point of origin, like the Garden of Eden. New life forms are actively evolving in the ocean depths, without light, non-photosynthetically, in the deep sea vents.

Blue Theology adds a new lens, more depth and breadth to our appreciation of nature. For example, significant biological diversity can be found in the oceans (although some life forms are very primitive), so more investigation into God’s self-expression through creation should include ocean issues. Oceans have a depth and mystery that makes it hard to explore and experience them (not unlike God), and only recently have we found ways to break those barriers. Efforts to articulate environmental theologies are deepened and magnified by the ocean revelation of Blue Theology.





**Many thanks to our
sponsors and community
partners!**

Sponsors:

The College of Arts & Sciences

*The Bannan Center for Jesuit
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*The Food & Agribusiness
Institute*

Community Partners:

*The Community Church of
Monterey Peninsula*

*United Presbyterian Church of
Watsonville*

St. Francis Xavier, Seaside

*The Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary*



**Santa Clara
University**