

# Instructional Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR	DEPARTMENT
Don Rodriguez Sean Anderson Chris Cogan May 2012	Environmental Science and Resource Management

ACTIVITY TITLE	DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY
ESRM Spring Lecture Series	1/24, 1/31, 2/21, 2/28, 3/13, 4/1

**PLEASE EXPLAIN (1) DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY; (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S); AND (3) WHAT YOU LEARNED FROM THE PROCESS.**

The environmental lecture series sponsored by the ESRM program in the spring of 2012 involved various aspects of geospatial science as a way to introduce students across the University to this important analytical tool that is used in various disciplines. The series consisted of 6 different speakers covering a range of environmental topics including ocean mapping, using Geographic Information Systems to solve complex conservation problems, fisheries science and management, art and ecological history, role of GIS in historical research, and research and conservation of wolves in Croatia.

The first lecture in the series was presented by Dr. Will McClintock of UCSB. Dr. McClintock discussed the importance of ocean mapping and the innovation that has been integrated into marine conservation through the use of new geospatial tools that allow for in depth analyses that inform climate science and world conservation priorities. The presentation was energetically delivered and enthusiastically received by students and community members numbering over 40 participants and was podcast for use in a series of ESRM courses and posted on the ESRM program website.

For the second lecture in the series, Dr. Tom Gillespie from UCLA spoke on the novel uses for GIS in species conservation. The tool allows for predicting the location of elusive species over large expanses of terrain. Dr. Gillespie shared a number of examples where GIS was used to resolve research questions related to critical habitat and species distribution throughout the world. This lecture was attended by 45 individuals and was podcast for use in a series of ESRM courses and also posted on the ESRM program website.

The third speaker in the series was Dr. Tim Robinson from the Cachuma Water District Operations Board. Dr. Robinson presented a detailed account of Southern California Steelhead Management on the Santa Inez River system and the integration of GIS as a management tool in tracking these fish and insuring adequate flows that are critical to their survival. This lecture was attended by 35 individuals and was podcast for use in a

series of ESRM courses and also posted on the ESRM program website.

The fourth speaker in the series was artist and naturalist Laura Cunningham. Laura is a prominent artist that has recently published a book of her works associated with the natural history of northern California Bay Area. This provocative book depicts the ecological history of the region based on the extensive research Laura conducted into the vegetative change that has occurred in the area over the last few hundred years. The book is currently sold in book shops throughout California by the National Park Service and others interested in the changing landscape through time. This talk combined her skills as an interpretative naturalist and historian, and her considerable art skill to engage students from across the curriculum. Art students attending were totally engaged in this new outlet for the talents and science students were intrigued by the historic ecological record this work depicted. This talk was attended by 73 students and was podcast for use in a series of ESRM courses and also posted on the ESRM program website.

The fifth speaker in the series was Dr. Jack Owen Professor of History from Idaho State University. Dr. Owen talked about the integration of GIS into world history and provided numerous case studies to show the utility of geospatial science in historical research. Dr. Owens has had numerous grants from the National Science Foundation that have provided a unique platform for dissemination of his work through publication nationwide. There were numerous History students at this presentation, and one faculty member in History that wanted to incorporate many of the strategies into his own research. This talk was attended by 47 students and was podcast for use in a series of ESRM courses and also posted on the ESRM program website.

The last speaker in the series was author Dr. Josip Kusak from the University of Zagreb Croatia. Dr. Kusak spoke about wolf conservation in the throughout this part of the European continent. A prominent wildlife tracker and noted large carnivore biologist, Dr. Kusak provided unique insights into the challenges associated with managing wildlife throughout the region. This engaging talk involved students from ESRM and the Biology program in interdisciplinary discussions regarding the role of wildlife managers in preventing negative human interactions. This talk was attended by 35 students and was podcast for use in a series of ESRM courses and also posted on the ESRM program website.

All six speakers touched upon the goals and objectives of the courses taught by professors Anderson (ESRM), Bushman(History), Chapman(Biology), Cogan(ESRM), Norris(Biology), and Rodriguez(ESRM) consisting of, but not limited to: **BIOL 200** *Principles of Organismal and Population Biology*, **BIOL 313** *Conservation Biology*, and **BIOL 433** *Ecology*, **HIST 366** *Oceans of the World*, **All ESRM courses**