

Environmental Engineering Alumni Newsletter

Number 2

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HELP WANTED	9	In the past, SENVE had quarterly community service events scheduled. For 2006-2007, the plan is to have monthly participation by its members in the community. With more involvement, the positive impact on the community will represent the club and university. Alumni living in San Luis Obispo are welcome to participate in community service events as well.

ENVE**Timeline**

	2006	
Tracy Thatcher hired in ENVE	2005	
Parna Mukherjee hired in ENVE	2004	First ENVE Reunion held
	2003	
	2002	
	2001	4 + 1 Graduate Program began
	2000	
	1999	Yarrow Nelson hired in ENVE
	1998	
Bioremediation and Graduate program started	1997	Maddren hired
	1996	
	1995	Nimpam Pal hired in ENVE
	1994	Jeff Sczechowski hired in ENVE
	1993	State budget crunch
	1992	
	1991	Robert Lang hired in ENVE
	1988	Keif retired
	1987	
ENVE Program becomes multimedia (air-water/wastewater-noise-solid waste-hazardous waste management)	1986	ENVE Dept. dissolved AC&R-Solar program moved to ME; Air and Water Pollution program moved to Civil Engineering, called ENVE
	1985	
	1984	
	1983	
Sam Vigil hired in ENVE	1982	Holtz retired as ENVE Department Head
	1979	Solar added
	1978	
	1977	William E. Clark hired in ENVE
	1976	Student Chapter of A&WMA chartered
	1975	
	1974	
	1973	Student chapter of AVYMA (APCA) was started, the 2nd in the nation
Clark hired	1972	
Water Pollution added to program	1971	Drago Mistic hired in ENVE
	1970	
Higdon formed Engineering Technology (ET) department, including an option in ACR, named J. McGrath as Department Head. Holtz became ENVE Dept. Head	1969	Allen Graves, Phaklides transferred from ENVE to ET/Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering (ACR)
	1968	Department name changed to Environmental Engineering and Air Pollution added to curriculum
Philip Niles hired	1967	Harold Cota hired, first Ph.D. in Engineering since early 50's
	1966	
	1965	
Student Branch of ASHRAE established	1961	Rodney G. Keif hired
	1960	
	1955	
	1946	James McGrath hired
	1945	Formation of Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Engineering Department
	1937	

New Faculty: Assistant Professor Tracy Thatcher interviewed by Lauren Wild '05

When did you start working at Cal Poly? I started at Cal Poly in the Fall Quarter of 2005.

What did you do before you started working at Cal Poly (school/work)? I worked for Hewlett-Packard Corporation as an Environmental Engineer for five years after I completed my BS in Chemical Engineering at UC Davis. I then went back to school and got my MS and PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley. After graduation, I worked for 2 years as a lecturer at UC Berkeley and was a Scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in the Indoor Environment Department for 7 years.

Was there anything in particular that made you want to work at Cal Poly? Teaching at Cal Poly is particularly interesting to me because of their emphasis on undergraduate education and the high quality of the student population. The enthusiasm and creativeness of the students motivates me to devise course material that will inspire them to reach their potential.

What area do you specialize in? I specialize in air quality engineering. My area of research is indoor air quality and my main research interests are the fate and transport of pollutants indoors, aerosol mechanics, and exposure reduction. Because most people spend so much of their time indoors, the quality of indoor environments has a huge impact on human health and quality of life.

What classes do you teach? This year I am teaching ENVE 325 Environmental Air Quality, ENVE 331 Introduction to Environmental Engineering, ENVE 411 Air Pollution Control, and ENVE 436 Introduction to Hazardous Waste Management. I also teach two classes for non-engineers: ENVE 324 Introduction to Air Pollution and ENVE 330 Environmental Quality Control.

What are your interests outside of school? I have 3 children (ages 8, 11, and 13), so much of my time outside of school focuses on family activities. We like to swim, ski, ride bikes, go to the beach, and just hang out and have fun together.

How are you enjoying working at Cal Poly? So far, my first year has been fun and challenging. Both the faculty and the students have been very welcoming and have made the transition to teaching an exciting adventure.

What student activities have you become involved in? I am the co-advisor for SWE, the co-advisor for SENVE, and the advisor for a new student club (Cal Poly Irish Society). I really enjoy working with the student clubs, since it gives me the opportunity to work with students on a different level. I have been overwhelmed with the depth of student involvement in these clubs and how much they are able to accomplish.

What do you think of the Cal Poly ENVE program compared to Berkeley and Davis? Although my perspective at Cal Poly is a bit different than it was at Berkeley and Davis (that of an instructor as opposed to a student), there are several things that I see that set Cal Poly above Berkeley and Davis for undergraduates. The first, and I believe most important, is the amount of individual attention that undergraduates get. Smaller class sizes and more focus on undergraduate teaching yields a better learning environment. The large number of labs and hands-on activities at Cal Poly is also a huge benefit. In the area of Environmental Engineering, the number and variety of undergraduate courses is unparalleled at either Berkeley or Davis.

Why is indoor air pollution so important? I believe that indoor air quality is a very important and often undervalued research field. Typically people spend most of their time and experience the majority of their exposure to air pollutants while indoors. Understanding indoor pollutant sources, the transport of outdoor pollutants into the indoor environment, and indoor pollutant losses and transformation is critical in the effort to predict and reduce human exposures to air pollutants.

Are you on MySpace? Want to keep in touch with fellow ENVEs quickly and easily? Ask to join the Cal Poly SLO ENVE Alumni group on MySpace at <http://groups.myspace.com/ENVESLO>.

ENVE Alumni Survey compiled by Wendy Martin '03

In August we conducted a survey of ENVE alumni in attempts to glean out how we're doing. We were pleased to receive 31 responses. Thank you if you responded! Of the 31 alumni respondents, only 18 had attended an ENVE reunion, and 11 alumni had attended the reunion in June. The 2006 reunion received an average score of 4 out of 5 in the following categories: location, food, networking, entertainment, sports, connecting with Cal Poly faculty and students, and reminiscing about college days. We're going to increase our newsletter distribution efforts, especially since 20% of survey respondents didn't receive the March newsletter! The majority of alumni surveyed indicated they are interested in the types of information we're including in the newsletter.

We were happy to find many alumni interested in helping with ENVE alumni activities. We're glad everyone surveyed is considering attending the 2007 ENVE reunion. We hope to continually improve our activities. The ENVE 2007 Reunion BBQ will be part of the CE/ENVE Department BBQ/Softball Bash in May 2007. ENVE alumni are up for ENVE versus CE softball and volleyball. We'll also plan on having a separate evening ENVE event.

We always appreciate comments and suggestions, and we did receive a few from the survey. Alumni suggested spicing up the reunion by doing something different like wine tasting or visiting Hearst Castle. An alumni camping/backpacking trip was also suggested.

Congratulations to Dr. Yarrow Nelson who received a 2005-2006 Distinguished Teaching Award from Cal Poly!!!

http://www.calpolynews.calpoly.edu/update/2006/oct/dist_teachers.html

Congratulations to our newest ENVE Professional Engineers in Civil Engineering!!!

Carrie Collins, P.E.
Ben Monroe, P.E.
Jason Waudby, P.E.

Congratulations on their new babies!!!

Liz (Davidson) Tashma had a baby in October of 2005!

Steven Popenoe had his first baby!

Congratulations on their new jobs!!!

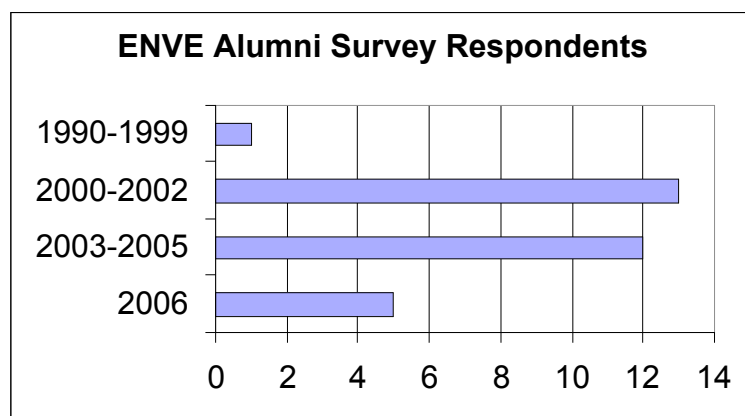
Sandy Scott recently took a new job with Orange County Water District.

Steve Rodriguez moved to south Lake Tahoe and works for a small engineering firm there.

Congratulations on the engagements!

Andrea Ramirez
Eileen Mick

If you know an ENVE alum that should be congratulated, please email Lauren Wild at ljwild@gmail.com



Reunion 2006 Jason Waudby '03

The third annual ENVE reunion was fun for all! We spent a beautiful day in the sun and enjoyed a tasty BBQ at El Chorro Regional Community Park. Our physics skills were once again put to the test in the water balloon toss, and the team of Wendy Martin '03 and Jason Waudby '03 secured the coveted championship. The afternoon was spent reminiscing, catching up with friends, meeting new ones, and participating in plenty of friendly competition on the horseshoe and volleyball courts. After our fun in the sun we met up at Tortilla Flats for some dinner and a comedy show. On Sunday, we met with representatives from SENVE to discuss alumni involvement, future collaborations, and the 2007 reunion. Thanks to all organizers and attendees who helped make the 2006 reunion a great success. For those of you who were unable to attend, we hope you will make it a point to join us next year!

REUNION 2006 ATTENDEES

ENVE Professors: Dr. Hal Cota, Dr. Yarrow Nelson

ENVE Students: Mike Borger, Jai Cast, Meghann Chell, Peter Chu, Byron Clamor, Matt Copeland, Pete Diaz, Stephen Huang, Brian McNamara, Sean McNeil, Eileen Mick, Laleh Rastegarzadeh, Cameron Ripley



REUNION 2006 ATTENDEES Alumni

Trisha Coffey '03, Donna DiGangi '05, Kristy (Kellas) Edblad '03, Spencer Joplin '05, Evan Larson '03, Wendy Martin '03, Timothy Naughton '02, Kristina Seley '04, Amanda Schmidt '05, Karyn (Hagenah) Steckling '04, Bethany Warren '03, Jason Waudby '03, and Lauren Wild '05



We're Official! ENVE Alumni Chapter Update

Wendy Martin '03

On October 20, 2006 we became an official Special Interest Chapter of the Cal Poly Alumni Association. We are thrilled! We can use our official status to further reach out to ENVE alumni. As you may know we have extremely limited contact with alumni who graduated prior to 2000.

We are establishing committees to continue improving our activities and outreach. All the committees are looking for additional alumni members. The committees and chairs are as follows:

Finance/Fundraising

Chair – Amanda Schmidt '05

schmidt.amanda@gmail.com

Raise funds and oversee the distribution of scholarships and monetary gifts.

Communications/Information

Chair – Lauren Wild '05 ljwild@gmail.com

Responsible for producing newsletters and maintaining membership roster and website.

Special Events/Future Development/Annual Meetings

Chairs – Evan Larson '03 sloevan@yahoo.com

and Jason Waudby '03 jgwardby@yahoo.com

Help plan reunion and other events.

If you would like general information, please email Wendy Martin '03 at wendyenv@yahoo.com.

Do you like what you see?

Are you interested in helping us with future newsletters, reunions, the website, or reaching out to ENVE alumni?

If you have ideas for future newsletters or want to help with them, please email Lauren Wild '05 at ljwild@gmail.com.

If you want to help in general, please email Wendy Martin '03 at wendyenv@yahoo.com.

SENVE Looking to a New Year Josh Shiffrin,
SENVE President

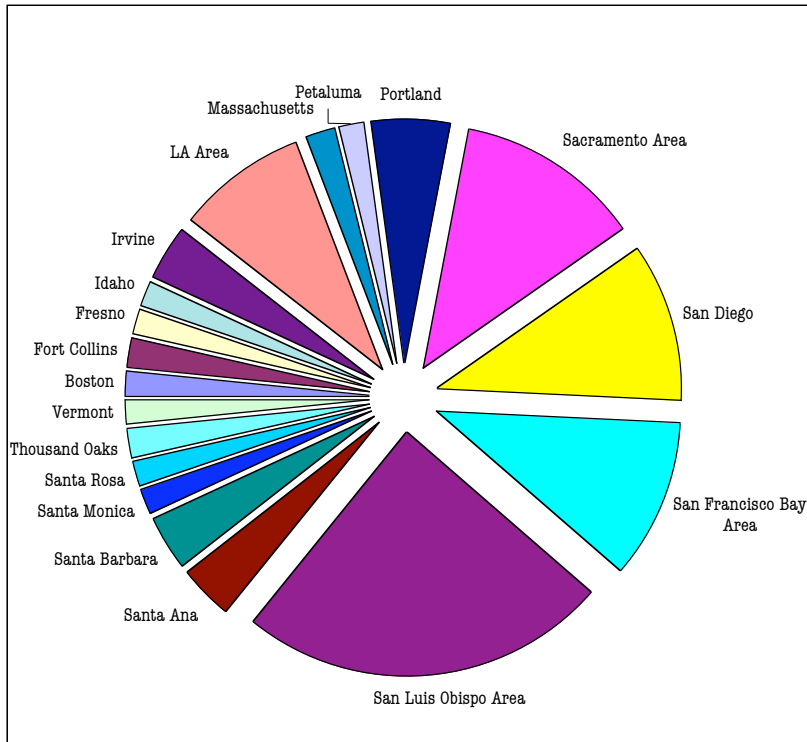
This year's SENVE officers are a particularly sociable bunch, and we plan to encourage social activities throughout our term of service. We wish to offer something to our first to third year ENVE students who often don't know much about their major, or about their fellow ENVE's. The students will attend activities ranging from camping and hiking trips to late-night functions.

To those students looking for internships and career positions, we intend to offer several how-to workshops, with titles such as "Make the Most out of a Career Fair," and "Make the Most out of an Internship." These workshops will acquaint students with the process of selecting a good company, and maximizing their learning during internships.

We will further encourage SENVE members to involve themselves in our club by joining groups (committees actually). The focus of these groups will be on generating a sense of accountability and opportunity in the students so that they can both enhance their leadership skills and feel more involved in their ENVE community.

One of these groups will take an interesting tangent into Andrea Ramirez's '06 master's thesis; the ASI Zero Waste Project. This project is a five-year plan that targets a 90% diversion of Open House waste from the Cold Canyon Landfill by the year 2010. Not a light load to bear, but I think we're up to the task.

This year's SENVE officers invite the alumni to attend or (preferably) speak at one of our biweekly meetings, or come to an event we are hosting. We also appreciate any advice that alumni have for the club. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please contact the President, Joshua Shiffrin (jshiffri@calpoly.edu, 415-686-1713), or the Outreach Coordinator, Cameron Ripley (dripley@calpoly.edu).



Where are we? Well, we have mainly stayed in San Luis Obispo according to the data from 57 of the 109 alumni we have information from. So especially for the majority of alumni that stayed in the area, contact Cameron and see how you can help SENVE. Check out the Help Wanted section for other ways to be involved and make this newsletter even better. If you have recently moved or don't see where you live on this survey, email Lauren Wild '05 your place of residence at ljwild@gmail.com. We want to know where you are and what you are doing.

What Is Dr. Lang Up To? Ben Monroe '03

So, what is Dr. Lang up to? Some of you may ask, who is Dr. Lang? Dr. Robert (Rob) J. Lang was an ENVE Professor and former Chair of the Cal Poly, SLO Civil and Environmental Engineering



Department. He was also a wonderful teacher, mentor, and friend. In addition to his duties as department chair and professor, Rob was always willing to play the role of advisor to any Civil or Environmental Engineering student who was willing approach him with a question. In 2002, Rob left the staff of Cal Poly for the position of Dean of Engineering at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA).

Having grown up in New York, Rob found himself right at home with the changing seasons in the Anchorage area. He finds the wonderful summers a great time to get outdoors and explore the Chugash National Park, which is nearby. He takes every opportunity he can to explore the miles of trails where he enjoys the plentiful wildlife including moose and bear. In the winter, he loves to get outside and hit the snow.

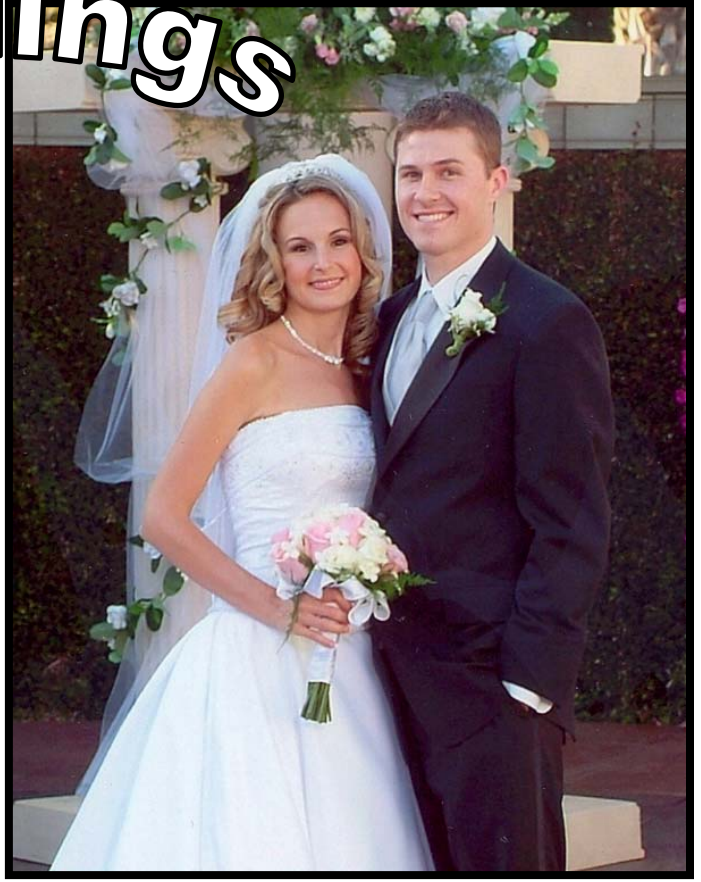
In the few years he has been at UAA, Rob has played a key role in development of the Engineering program. When he began in 2002, the program only offered the degrees General Civil Engineering and Surveying. The UAA Engineering department now has courses in 11 programs offering several degrees thanks to some good recruiting and enlistment of industry support. He is also very proud of his involvement with increasing the membership and activity of the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) which provides support for native Alaskans pursuing a career in the engineering field. In addition to promoting diversity in the student body, Rob has been involved with the Engineering Exchange program. This program has allowed Rob to travel to China three times and Korea twice, as well as provide the opportunity for a professor from Beijing to work at UAA. UAA also participates in the Engineers Without Borders program which has allowed students to travel to Tibet on engineering projects.

Since leaving Cal Poly, Rob has had a few visitors wander up his way from the SLO area. In the summer of 2005, Cal Poly Professor Dr. Sam Vigil paid him a visit and was soon launched into the Yukon River on a canoe with his wife, where they drifted for a few weeks before returning to civilization. Dr. Yarrow Nelson has also stopped in for a visit amidst his backpacking adventures through Alaska. Rob has yet to have any former students come visit, so, if you're up his way, look him up and stop by for a little catching up. Although no students have stopped by, Rob was recently asked to fly to San Diego in May of 2006, where he officiated the wedding of Kristina Madali '03 (ENVE) and Michael Hersh (CE). Perhaps he has found a new career.

Weddings



August 2005
Michael Borger and Christi McDaniel



September 2005
Jennifer (August) Toney '01 & John Toney



May 2006
Kristina Madali '03 and Michael Hersh



May 2006
Brian Waite '01 and Lisa

Calendar of Events

Information on Reunion 2007 will be in the next newsletter but I would like to thank our Special Events/Future Development/Annual Meetings Chairs – Evan Larson '03 and Jason Waudby '03 for a planning a great reunion. Thanks guys. Thanks also to everyone who participated. We had the biggest crowd yet!

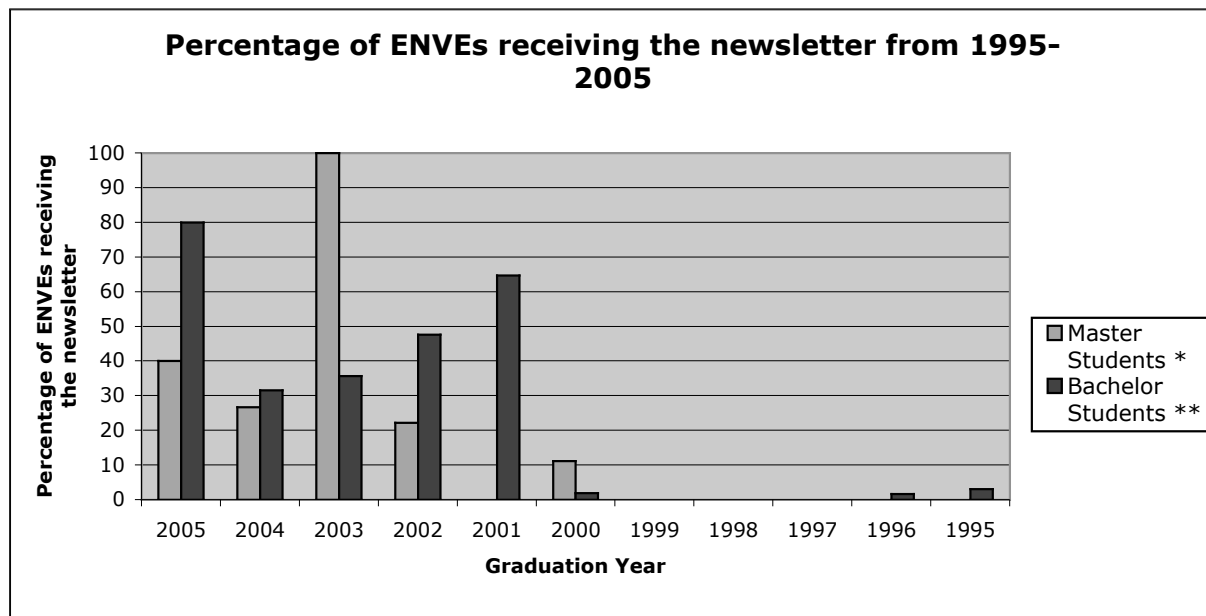
Help Wanted

- Speak to ENVE students at a SENVE meeting! SENVE is looking for speakers this year. If you or your company is interested, please contact Lisa Rotty, SENVE VP at hero21@gmail.com.
- SENVE is asking your company for a generous donation of \$200 and in exchange, your company logo will be placed on the backside of the official club T-shirt. Your company will also be sent a free T-shirt and a CD containing the resumes of club members. Please contact Jesse Wallins at 916-606-8889 or by email at jwallin@calpoly.edu if you think your company would be interested in this tax-deductible donation.
- Planning for the March newsletter is starting, tell us what you enjoyed or didn't enjoy about this newsletter by contacting Lauren Wild at ljwild@gmail.com.
- Big News? We encourage you to email us pictures from your wedding, engagement, vacation, or children whatever you want to share. Send in your pics to Wendy Martin at wendyenve@yahoo.com.
- Want to help out? We are looking for a webmaster. Contact Wendy Martin at wendyenve@yahoo.com

A special thanks to everyone who contributed this newsletter, especially those who wrote articles (Wendy Martin '03, Ben Monroe '03, and Jason Waudby '03) and those who were interviewed for this newsletter.

Don't forget to check out our website at www.geocities.com/cpsloenvealumni/ for updates in between newsletters.

Feel free to forward this to any ENVEs you think may have not received it. Help us get our percentages up. Good job 2004 BS students for increasing to 32%! Also a good start for 2005 BS with 80%.



* Numbers obtained from Cal Poly SLO Institutional Planning & Analysis Office's Cal Poly Fact Book 2005-2006 and reflect Civil and Environmental Engineering MS students along with 4+1 students.

**Numbers obtained from Cal Poly SLO Institutional Planning & Analysis Office's Cal Poly Fact Book 2005-2006 and reflect those Environmental Engineering students who graduated with a BS and not those in the 4+1 program.

Email Correction? Want to be added/taken off our list? Contact Lauren Wild at ljwild@gmail.com