



John T. Lyle

College of Environmental Design

CENTER for REGENERATIVE STUDIES

*"Advancing the Principles of Environmentally Sustainable Living"*

Winter, 2005

## Center Establishes International Advisory Board

The Lyle Center has established an international advisory board, consisting of experts from a variety of disciplines who are supportive of the mission of the Center. The board for the 2004-05 academic year consists of eight members on three continents. The purpose of the board is to advise the Director on the future direction of the Center, particularly with respect to its research agenda, outreach efforts, and continued relevance in the international arena. Participants include:

**Dr. Miguel Altieri**, Professor of Agroecology, University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Altieri and his research group study the development of sustainable agroecosystems that are productive, natural resource conserving, culturally-sensitive, socially-just and economically viable.

**Dr. Carmelle J. Côté**, International Relations/Federal Account Manager, ESRI, Inc. Dr. Côté is an expert in geographic information systems and sustainable development. She is currently GIS project lead for the Information Solutions Group at the The World Bank.

**Professor Emeritus Nicholas T. Dines**, FASLA, University of Massachusetts. Professor Dines is published in the area of landscape architecture construction technology, and has research interests in sustainable technology and therapeutic environments.

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## Professor Woodward Named First Lyle Center Faculty Fellow

The Lyle Center has named Joan Woodward, Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator in the Department of Landscape Architecture, the Lyle Center Faculty Fellow for 2004-05.

Professor Woodward is studying the potential resilience of designed landscapes by examining landscapes in the Los Angeles region that maintain integrity after being released from regular irrigation and maintenance. The intent is to extract lessons from such landscapes so that future landscapes can be designed to maintain aesthetic and ecological function in the face of probable volatility.

Professor Woodward believes such findings are critical, particularly for communi-



*Woodward*

ties with high concentrations of elderly and impoverished populations, as well as publicly maintained landscapes such as parks and open space. These landscapes are most vulnerable to increases in water and energy costs, which could result in widespread release from irrigation and maintenance. Professor Woodward's research is strongly aligned with the mission of the Lyle Center, which is to advance the principles of environmentally sustainable living, with particular emphasis on developing systems that restore and revitalize themselves.

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## Habitat 21 Explores Opportunities in Tijuana



*Habitat 21 team meets with community leaders in Tijuana.*

*Habitat 21: The Lyle Center Project for Sustainable Settlements* continues to explore opportunities for developing, implementing and evaluating regenerative strategies in developing nations.

In December, a team of Lyle Center faculty and staff visited three communities in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico to assess the potential for partnership with *Corazón*, a non-governmental relief organization that has operated in Tijuana for over 25 years. The team met with community leaders and discussed issues of security, water, waste, energy, and landscape hazards. The team plans to develop a proposal for funding community-based projects that will address pressing health and safety problems.

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# Graduate Program Off to Strong Start

Fall, 2004 marked the beginning of a new era for the Lyle Center, with the start of the Master of Science program in Regenerative Studies. This unique program prepares students to solve environmental problems facing our global society in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Because no single discipline possesses all the knowledge and skills required to resolve these complex problems, the program emphasizes collaborating across disciplinary boundaries while developing depth of knowledge in a particular discipline.

The program begins with an intensive quarter intended to ground the students in current theory and practices of regenerative systems. This fall students took three courses that addressed community practices, the study of nature as a model for regenerative systems, and regenerative technologies. Highlights of the curriculum included a number of field trips to observe regenerative systems and technologies at work, hands-on laboratory exercises, and public presentations of final projects.

A strong sense of community has developed among the students. As part of Dr. Denise Lawrence's class on community practices, students held weekly dinners where they talked about the role of community in regenerative practices. This tradition has continued in Winter Quarter as a venue for discussing internship experiences, another requirement of the MS program.

Eleven students comprise the inaugural class. They bring a range of backgrounds and interests to the Center. This group includes the following:

**Carlo Gavina** is interested in using regenerative technology and design to achieve

thermal comfort in communities. He is particularly interested in solar technology.

**Eric Humel** has a background in environmental studies and agroecology, and is interested in the integration of regenerative food production into urban, suburban, and developing world landscapes. He hopes to apply such practices through cooperatives and community-based projects, globally and locally.

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*Individuals interested in learning more about the Center's graduate program should visit our web site at [www.csupomona.edu/crs](http://www.csupomona.edu/crs) or email [crs@csupomona.edu](mailto:crs@csupomona.edu)*

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**Douglas Kent** is an ecological horticulturalist who has written three books and over 50 articles, some of which have appeared in the *Los Angeles Times* and *Fine Gardening Magazine*. His particular area of interest is energy capture on residential and commercial landscapes in urban regions.

**Anthony Jusay** completed his undergraduate degree in geography at Cal Poly Pomona. Seeing the impact the automobile has done to the urban landscape through his



*Students prepare boxes for planting as one of their laboratory exercises.*

former professions in the automotive and trucking industry, he is now interested in alternative transportation modes.

**Thom Metcalf** has a background in social science and is interested in a systems approach to applying regenerative practices in urban infill projects. His goal is to help enhance a sense of place, foster stewardship of the land, increase awareness of the environment, and efficiently use the connections between social, natural, and human systems.

**Brian Meux** has a background in integrative biology with an emphasis on marine and freshwater ecology. He is studying the use of aquatic systems in integrated bio-systems.

**Celeste Moore** has a background in English, art, and teaching art, and is interested in creating regenerative art that springs from a deeper understanding of natural systems.

**Maddalena Serra** was born and raised on a farm in Sardinia. She has worked as an interpreter, graphic designer, and chef. This diverse path has led her to studies at the Center, and an interest in the impacts of deforestation in developing nations.

**Martin Stenflo** has a background in renewable energy and alternative fuels, marine and freshwater ecology, sustainable agriculture, ecological living, and appropriate technology for the developing world. Currently he is exploring indigenous rebellions in post-cold war Latin America and their relationship to environmental sustainability.

**Jonah Swick** has a background in sociology as well as experience in the construction industry. He is interested in adobe and other sustainable methods.

## Lyle Center Staff Assist with International Training Program



*International students at the Sacred Heart Church garden in Pomona.*

This fall, twenty-four students from agricultural cooperatives in Central America participated in a special international training program at Cal Poly Pomona, organized by the International Center. Lyle Center Instructional Support Technician, Juan Araya, served as project coordinator for the community service component of the program, which established a community garden at the

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, in South Pomona.

Students started with a piece of land that had been used as a parking lot for several years. Rocks, mulch and debris had to be removed. The soil was fully compacted, which required backbreaking work such as using a pick to soften the soil before preparing the planting beds.

Once the ground was soft, the students held workshops. These included preparing a garden plot, preparing planting beds, planting seeds, and transplanting. All the activities included the participation of about 30 community members, mostly women and children from the Angela Chanslor neighborhood. The students not only educated participants on planting a vegetable garden,

but, utilizing the expertise they brought from their own countries, also gave other gardening workshops such as growing flowers for floral arrangements. Other workshops included grafting of fruit trees and the use of worms to make fertilizer for the gardens.

This effort represents a continuation of the Center's work on community gardens in Pomona. Last spring, the Center partnered with the Center for Community Service Learning in establishing a garden for the Angela Chanslor community, to provide food production as well as a much needed catalyst for community organizing. The relocation of the garden to Sacred Heart church this fall was necessary to allow site improvements on the original site that will become a neighborhood park in the near future.

## Walnut Woodland Restoration Study Conducted at the Center

Assistant Professor Gerald Taylor and Lyle Center Site Technician, Juan Araya, have initiated a study of southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) seedling establishment. The study, which is being conducted at the Center, is examining the effectiveness of various seedling establishment techniques, including the use of mycorrhizal fungi. The first phase of the study monitors seedling growth of walnuts planted in nursery pots and on hillsides at the Center. Subsequent phases will monitor growth of seedlings transplanted at the Center and managed under various conditions.

Native walnut woodlands are a prominent feature on the Lyle Center's 16-acre site and

the Cal Poly Pomona campus has some of the finest examples of walnut woodlands within the region.

This study is important because extensive development has severely impacted walnut woodlands throughout Southern California to such an extent that they are considered to be a rare and imperiled natural community. The Nature Conservancy, in cooperation with the State of California, has made gathering vegetative and habitat data on these woodlands a priority. Results of the seedling establishment study can be beneficial to those involved in regenerating and restoring southern California black walnut woodlands.

*Habitat 21 from page 1*

*Habitat 21* was formed last year to address the needs of the nearly one billion people around the world who live in dangerous, unhealthy, substandard conditions, through the development and application of technologies and strategies aimed at sustaining local communities and ecosystems. This is achieved by mobilizing academic and professional expertise, and partnering with non-governmental organizations and others actively working in such communities.

In addition to opportunities in Tijuana, the research group continues to explore opportunities in other parts of the world, including Armenia, Russia and Kenya. For more information about *Habitat 21*, please visit their web site at [www.habitat21.org](http://www.habitat21.org).

*Advisory Board from page 1*

**Dr. Dean Freudenberger**, retired professor of environmental ethics. Dr. Freudenberger participated in the development of the original concept for the Center. His work in international agricultural development and ethics is well known.

**Dr. Eduardo Gonzalez**, Professor of Architecture, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela. Dr. Gonzalez studies sustainable building systems and their application to low-income communities.

**Dr. Steve Grande**, Director of Orientation and First Year Experience, James Madison University. Dr. Grande is an expert in student development, and is interested in the role of higher education in fostering environmental and social responsibility.

**Dr. Lee Lamb**, Chief, Policy Analysis and Assistance Branch, US Geological Survey. Dr. Lamb studies environmental conflicts, negotiation and mediation strategies.

**Dr. Ron van Lammeren**, Associate Professor of Geo-Information Science, Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Dr. van Lammeren is an expert in spatial analysis, geo-visualization, landscape indices and E-learning.

*Faculty Fellow from page 1*

This is the inaugural year of the faculty fellowship program, which supports Cal Poly Pomona faculty research that furthers the mission of the Lyle Center and leads to peer review publication or exhibition. One Fellow is named each academic year. Competition was keen, as the Center received a number of strong proposals this year from faculty representing the Colleges of Busi-

ness Administration, Engineering, Environmental Design, and Science.

Professor Woodward plans to use the Fellowship support to write portions of a potentially widely distributed book that will include essays and photographs reflecting on the success and potential of these “feral landscapes” in the Los Angeles region. She is the author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, including the book *Waterstained Landscapes*, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2000.

Lyle Center Fellows are required to present their work in an informal seminar at the Center and prepare a brief summary paper reporting on their research. Information about Professor Woodward’s seminar presentation will be announced later this year. This event will be free and open to the public.

## Events @ the Lyle Center

For more information on any of these activities, phone 909.869.5155 or email [crs@csupomona.edu](mailto:crs@csupomona.edu)

**March 19th, 2005 - Biodiesel: Fuel from Vegetables.** A workshop on making biodegradable, non-toxic fuel for your diesel engine.

**April 22nd, 2005 - Earth Day Celebration.** Earth-friendly activities, educational booths, and demonstrations for all ages.

**May 14th, 2005 - Home Energy Makeover: Energy-Wise Ideas for Your Home.** A workshop on assessing home energy usage, reducing consumption, and discovering alternative energy options.



John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
4105 W. University Drive  
Pomona, CA 91768-2562

Kyle D. Brown, Ph.D., Director

Phone: 909.869.5155  
Fax: 909.869.5188  
email: [crs@csupomona.edu](mailto:crs@csupomona.edu)  
[www.csupomona.edu/crs](http://www.csupomona.edu/crs)