



John T. Lyle

College of Environmental Design

CENTER for REGENERATIVE STUDIES

"Advancing the Principles of Environmentally Sustainable Living"

Fall, 2005



Kyle D. Brown, Ph.D.

Message from the Director

As I reflect on this past year at the Center I am struck by the wide array of education, research, demonstration and outreach activities the Center has pursued. Many are a continuation of activities the Center has been supporting for years. Many represent new initiatives intended to further strengthen the Center. Consider the following:

1. The Center began a "one-of-a-kind" graduate program (MS in Regenerative Studies) in 2004-05. This interdisciplinary program focuses on all aspects of environmental sustainability, including the built environment, energy production and consumption, food production, water resources, and the natural environment. Students integrate their course work on regenerative principles and theory with course work in multiple disciplines across campus.

2. The Center continues to support *Habitat 21: The Lyle Center Project for Sustainable Settlements*. This research/outreach program is intended to develop, implement, and evaluate sustainable settlement strategies for disenfranchised communities in lesser-developed nations. This mission is achieved by mobilizing academic and professional expertise, and partnering with non-governmental organizations and

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Habitat 21 Receives Grant for Work in Tijuana, Mexico

Habitat 21, the Lyle Center Project for Sustainable Settlements has received a grant for the development of sustainable shelter models for communities in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. The grant, awarded by the Hadley, MA based *National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance*, provides funding for research assistants, technical equipment and building materials. Principal Investigators on the grant are Dr. Kyle Brown, Dr. Pablo LaRoche, and Professor Irma Ramirez.

The communities in Tijuana are served by *Corazón*, a non-profit organization whose mission is to effectively serve the poor in Mexico, through an active home-building program, educational programs, and other community development activities.



Nuevo Milenio, one of three communities in Tijuana where Habitat 21 is focusing its efforts.

Corazón's home-building program is effective in providing much needed shelter for many residents but they are interested in providing more sustainable options than the current model, in order to enhance quality of life for the homeowners. However, any

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Center to Offer Faculty Fellowships Once Again in 2005-06

The Lyle Center is once again offering its faculty fellowship program for Cal Poly Pomona faculty in 2005-06. Professor Joan Woodward (Landscape Architecture) was named the first Faculty Fellow in 2004-05. The Center hopes to name up to two additional fellows this year.

The Center Faculty Fellow program fosters scholarly and creative activities that further the Center's mission. Faculty Fellows receive a mini-grant of \$4,500 and the title

of Lyle Center Faculty Fellow for the academic year. During the fellowship period, Fellows are required to present their work in an informal seminar at the Center and must prepare a two to six-page summary paper of their work for publication on the Center's web site.

The mission of the Lyle Center is to advance the principles of environmentally sustainable living. The Center uses the term "regenerative" to emphasize the develop-

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others actively working in such communities. *Habitat 21* recently received its first grant (see article on Page 1).

3. The Center is actively supporting the research of Cal Poly Pomona faculty. We have initiated a Faculty Fellowship program which provides financial support for CPP faculty conducting research that furthers the mission of the Center. In addition to this high-profile program, the Center is providing support for Lyle Center adjunct faculty to pursue their research agendas.

4. The Center continues to offer free tours of our facilities to school groups, professional groups, and other organizations interested in seeing demonstrations of environmentally sustainable practices. In 2004-05, over 1,600 people toured the Center. In addition to tours, the Center offers special events, such as workshops and our annual Earth Day celebration, that bring people to campus to see demonstrations of regenerative systems.

5. The Center is also involved in outreach to local communities. In recent years we have been actively involved in community service-learning projects, helping to establish organic community gardens in Pomona, attempting to extend the principles advanced at the Lyle Center to real communities, particularly communities in need.

6. The Center is actively working on a number of initiatives for the future, including the establishment of a visiting scholars program, enhancement of our on-site facilities for demonstration of cutting-edge technology, distributing information about

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Summer Sustainability Workshops a Success

For the second consecutive year, the Lyle Center has partnered with the Solar Living Institute of Hopland, CA to offer workshops on a variety of topics related to environmentally sustainable living. This past summer, workshops were held August 1st through August 7th. Topics included ecological design, straw-bale building construction, sustainable gardening, water treatment, bio-diesel production and solar energy production.

The workshops drew approximately 90 participants primarily from California, but also included people from Utah and Texas. Many participants were attracted to the workshops in order to develop skills for making home improvements, but a number

were sponsored by their employers and were using the workshops for professional development in fields such as architecture, public administration, and landscape management.

The workshops integrated classroom instruction with hands-on learning. For example, participants of the straw-bale construction workshop observed demonstrations of techniques for cutting, stacking and binding bales. Participants in the sustainable agriculture workshop learned basic skills for preparing and testing soil, planting, pruning and harvesting. Overall, feedback from participants was very positive and signaled a successful community outreach effort.



Many workshops, such as the one on straw-bale construction, were held outdoors.



Participants got their hands dirty conducting soil tests in the sustainable agriculture workshop.



Workshop participants learn how to make bio-diesel, an alternative fuel for diesel engines made from vegetable oil.



Active participation was an integral part of the sustainable agriculture workshop.

Lyle Center News and Notes

In April the Center once again offered an **Earth Day celebration** for the campus and local community. The event was sponsored by IKEA inc., and 250 people attended. Attractions included live music, dance demonstrations, and activities for kids....The Center hosted a talk by **Dr. Dean Freudenberger** in April. Dr. Freudenberger is a member of the Center's International Advisory Board, and spoke on "Sustainability: The Ethical and Technological Challenge of the 21st Century."....**Mark Lakeman**, from the City Repair Project in Portland, Oregon spoke at the Center in March about the work of his organization in revitalizing Portland neighborhoods..... Lyle Center Faculty Fellow, **Joan Woodward**, presented her work entitled "Letting Los Angeles Go: Lessons from Feral Landscapes" in May. Professor Woodward's work was also published in *Landscape Re-*

view in 2005....Professors **Jeff Juarez** and **Kyle Brown** received a grant from the Center for Community Service Learning as well as a grant from the College of Environmental Design Research Council to pursue a study on community appraisal methods in El Monte, CA. The study is the focus of a Regenerative Studies graduate course being taught by Juarez and Brown this Fall....**Irma Ramirez** received a grant from the Center for Community Service Learning for her work in Tijuana communities, affiliated with *Habitat 21*....Lyle Center Director, **Dr. Kyle Brown**, co-authored an article for *Progressive Planning* this past spring. In addition, he served as the plenary speaker for the 6th Annual CEA-CREST Environmental Science Conference in Pasadena, CA, and presented papers at the US-International Association of Landscape Ecology conference in Syracuse, NY, and the American Associa-

tion of Geographers Conference in Denver, CO....**Dr. Lisa Nelson** represented the Center at a workshop on institutional analysis in Fort Collins, CO. The conference was organized by Center Advisory Board member **Dr. Lee Lamb** of the USGS....**Dr. Terry Young** represented the Lyle Center at the American Society for Environmental History conference in Dallas, TX....**Dr. Lin Wu** represented the Center at the California Geographical Society conference at Yosemite National Park...**Dr. Pablo La Roche** represented the Center at the Cotedi conference in Mexico City...MSRS student, **Doug Kent**, recently authored a new book "Firescaping" on creating fire-resistant landscapes.

Several New Courses to be Offered by the Center in 2005-06

In an effort to expand course offerings for students pursuing the minor in Regenerative Studies, students enrolled in the Master of Science program, as well as students from diverse disciplines across campus, the Center will be offering a number of new classes in 2005-06. These 400-level upper division courses are intended to compliment the 300 level, general education lecture courses offered by the Center, by focusing on applied issues in regenerative studies.

In Fall, 2005 the Center is offering a course on agroecology, taught by Site Technician, Juan Araya. This course covers agricultural systems from an ecological perspective, including an understanding of sustainable principles and practices.

In Winter, 2006, Dr. Stephen Lyon, Senior Scientist of the Orange County Water District will be offering a course on regenerative stormwater treatment. The course addresses the principles, concepts, and practices central to treatment for water quality.

In Spring, 2006, the Center will be offering a course on Environmental Land Art, taught by Lori Pullman. This course will study trends in art as they relate to environmental issues, and explore various media in the creation of public art installations that express cultural constructs of sustainability.

These courses are open to students from across campus, as well as through Extended University. Please contact the Center at (909) 869-5155 for more information.

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ment of systems that restore and revitalize themselves, ensuring a sustainable future. The Center supports a comprehensive and ambitious research agenda which includes the following:

- Renewable energy
- Landscape ecology
- Environmentally-sensitive building & landscape design
- Ecological restoration
- Sustainable agriculture & aquaculture
- Sustainable community development
- Human behavior & sustainable systems
- Environmental & economic policy analysis
- Environmental education & cultural awareness

Fellows may take advantage of the Center's 16 acre site to conduct research.

Applications are due November 15, 2005. Cal Poly Pomona faculty who are interested should visit the Center's web site for more information on how to apply (www.csupomona.edu/~crs).

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regenerative practices via our web site, interpretive elements for our on-site tours, and curriculum for teaching students and others about making sustainable choices in their everyday lives.

Keep in mind that none of these activities would have occurred without the commitment and contributions of an outstanding cadre of staff, faculty and students that constitute the John T. Lyle Center for Regenerative Studies. They are what make the Center such a unique and enjoyable place to live, work and study. It is an honor to be a part of this community which is so committed to finding solutions to environmental problems facing our global society.

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solution would need to operate under the conditions faced by *Corazón*: it must be affordable, easy to construct and desirable for local residents.

Working within these parameters, the research team will design and test prototypes that emphasize materials readily available in Tijuana, technology appropriate for the cultural and economic conditions of the community, and strategies that minimize the use of energy, or other resources. This includes heating and cooling technology to increase comfort and minimize energy costs, addressing security concerns of residents, exploring affordable food production alternatives for residents, and addressing water

and waste systems to protect public health.

The project includes research on materials and methods utilizing space at the Center, as well as field investigations in Tijuana aimed at community organizing and capacity-building. Field research will also identify cultural attitudes towards design, to understand which sustainable approaches will be most acceptable to residents.

The result of this work will be a prototype for sustainable shelter design that can be implemented by relief organizations working in developing nations.



People @ the Lyle Center

Adjunct Faculty:

Kyle D. Brown, PhD (Director)
 Jeff Juarez (Landscape Architecture)
 Pablo La Roche, PhD (Architecture)
 Denise Lawrence, PhD (Architecture)
 Jerry Mitchell, PhD (Urban & Reg. Planning)
 Lisa Nelson, PhD (Political Science)
 Ron Quinn, PhD (Biological Sciences)
 Irma Ramirez (Architecture)
 Charles Ritz, PhD (Mechanical Engineering)
 Gerald O. Taylor (Landscape Architecture)
 Joan Woodward, (Lyle Faculty Fellow)
 Hofu Wu, PhD (Architecture)
 Lin Wu, PhD (Geography)
 Terry Young, PhD (Geography)

Lecturers:

Juan C. Araya
 Ann Croissant, PhD
 Stephen Lyon, PhD
 Lori L. Pullman
 Phil Wolff

Staff:

Juan C. Araya, Site Technician
 Christina Hughes, Administrative Coordinator
 Deborah A. Scheider, Project Coordinator



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