

SEOE Newsletter

Term: Summer 2024 | Issue 22

May 2024

Undergraduate Office

ENVR 533 (Syfert) students focused on the Rosewood orchard and another lot nearby (2734 Kingswood). They built the boardwalks, bench, drove the skid steer machine, made concrete, laid block, installed sprinkler systems, planted wide variety of plants, etc... Check out their [year end photos](#).

- The students seemed to enjoy the experiential learning, and their other project with SWANA won 2nd place in an international design competition, with **Larry Cook's** guidance. *Way to go Students!!*



Undergraduate alumna, **Kayla Gardner** (c/o 2018), was recently highlighted for her research at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and she spoke about her valuable experiences here at USC. Read about Kayla [here](#).



GEOLOGY Field Camp Blog!!

GEOL 500

The [campers](#) and instructors (**Barbeau**, **Love-Gawal**, and **Tully**) have been out West for over three weeks now. Read up and follow along on their adventure by subscribing to the [Field Camp Blog](#). **Dave Barbeau** has been posting pictures on [Instagram](#) of their delicious meals and updating on the happenings at each mapping location. **Gene Yogodzinski** and new-comer **Besim Dragovic** joined them this past Monday (27th). **Emily Baumann** will join the gang tomorrow (1st). Pictured locations include: Colorado National Monument, Salt Valley/Moab Utah, Henry Mtns Utah. Their current location is in the Humboldt Mtns Nevada.



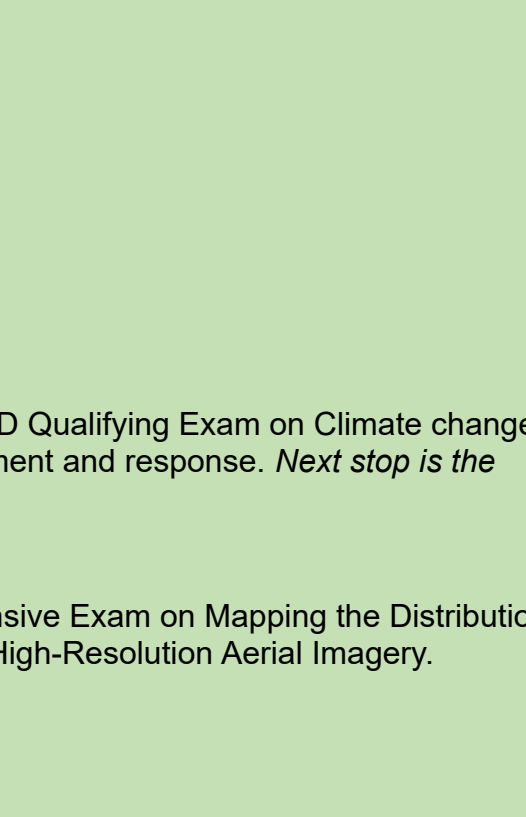
Onward...

Interested in attending Field Camp?? Read more about it [here](#).

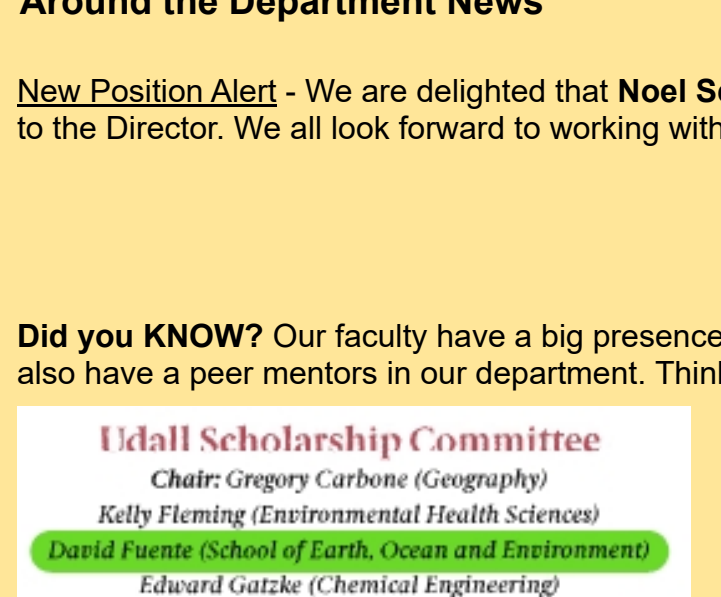
First-Year and Transfer Student Orientation

Happening NOW through August
Every **Tuesday, Thursday** and **Friday**
Undergraduate Office (JONES) 108
1pm-3pm.

Drop in and say Hello to our incoming students and welcome them to the SEOE family!!



Graduate Office



Catherine Min has been highlighted by the College as one of the [Graduates](#) in the Class of 2024. See her story [here](#).

Qualifying/Comprehensive Exams

Way to go **Abby Kreuser** (Meyer-Gutbrod) on a successful PhD Qualifying Exam on Climate change driven marine range shifts through the lens of individual movement and response. *Next stop is the thesis defense!!*

Nice job **Courtney Lewis** on a successful MEERM Comprehensive Exam on Mapping the Distribution of Phragmites australis on the Santee Coastal Reserve Using High-Resolution Aerial Imagery. *Congrats Courtney!!*

Defenses

Congratulations to **Reece Hammond** (Bizimis) on the successful defense of his MS thesis Hf-Nd-Sr isotopic systematics of Alaskan ophiolite complexes: Implications for the origin of marginal ocean basins in East-Central Alaska. *Way to go Reece!!*

Around the Department News

New Position Alert - We are delighted that **Noel Schatz** has moved into her new role as the Assistant to the Director. We all look forward to working with her in this new capacity. *Yay Noel!!*

Did you KNOW? Our faculty have a big presence with **National Fellowships** here on campus. We also have a peer mentors in our department. Think of them during the next applications season...

Udall Scholarship Committee

Chair: Gregory Carbone (Geography)
Kelly Fleming (Environmental Health Sciences)
David Fuente (School of Earth, Ocean and Environment)
Edward Gatzke (Chemical Engineering)
Shamla Hoque (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Goldwater Scholarship Committee

Chair: Melissa Moss (Chemical Engineering)
David Barbeau (School of Earth, Ocean and Environment)
Zhengyong Fu (Biological Sciences)
Mark Ulline (Chemical Engineering)
Yanwen Wu (Physics and Astronomy)

Hollings Research Advisors

Erin Meyer-Gutbrod (School of Earth, Ocean and Environment)
James Pinckney (Biological Sciences & School of Earth, Ocean and Environment)

2023-2024 Fulbright Campus Evaluation Committees

Christian Anderson (Educational Leadership and Policies)
Katherine Barbieri (Political Science)
Mark Berg (Chemistry and Biochemistry)
Dirk Den Ouden (Communication Sciences and Disorders)
Ruteik Desai (Psychology)
Michael Dickson (Philosophy)
Punayotis Doufis (Physical Education)
Lara Ducate (Languages, Literatures and Cultures)
Kelly Fleming (Environmental Health Sciences)
Eddie Forehand (Theater and Dance)
David Fuente (School of Earth, Ocean and Environment)
Hala Ghattas (Health Promotion, Education and Behavior)

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Committee

Chair: Carol Boggs (School of Earth, Ocean and Environment)
Kristen Booth (Electrical Engineering)
Leigh D'Amico (Research, Evaluation and Measurement (REM) Center)
Rolf Gothe (Physics and Astronomy)
Breaune Grace (College of Social Work)
Jochen Lauterbach (Biological Engineering)
Eric LoPresti (Biological Sciences)
Pamela Martin (Psychology)
Ramtin Mohammadian (Computer Science and Engineering)
Tammi Richardson (Biological Sciences)
Jeffery Tuiss (Biological Engineering)
Mark Ulline (Chemical Engineering)
Lang Yuan (Mechanical Engineering)
Hans-Conrad Zur Loye (Chemistry and Biochemistry)

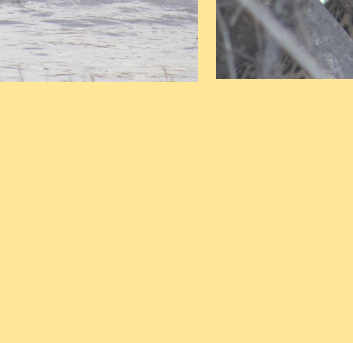
Undergraduate Fellowship Peer Mentors & Fellowship Ambassadors

Esther Adelson
Cecilia Calozzo
Nina Coli
Shannon DePratter
Scottie Greene
Ryan Lohr
Emma McBride
Logan McCulloh
Blaise Murphy
Hui Penafior
Daisy Perez
Ainsley Cain
Salomon Campos-Rice
Ever Curry
Haley Durbin
Neal Hammond
Richie Holmberg
Emma Mason
Mariana Oriuela
Amber Pospistile
Carlos Sanchez-Julia
Jaimreen Shah
Maev Smith
Alexis Soutcy
Weston Watts

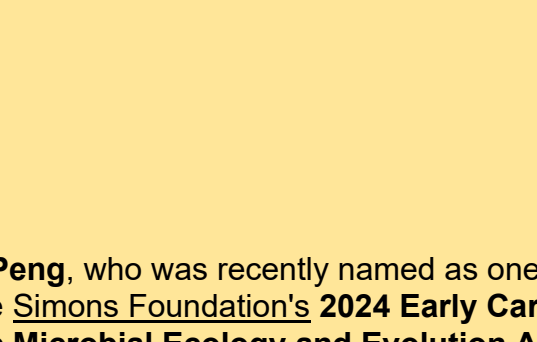
Graduate Fellowship Peer Mentors

Hannah Burzynski
Tom Cardaci
Sarah Davis
Tessa Djiko
Alexis Federico
Chase Fleming
Michelle Harris
Gwen Hopper
Sam Martin
Kiley Stoj
Grace Thaggard
Nancy Uriegas
Lauren Von Klingeraeff
Jacob Watson
James White
Cheng Xiao

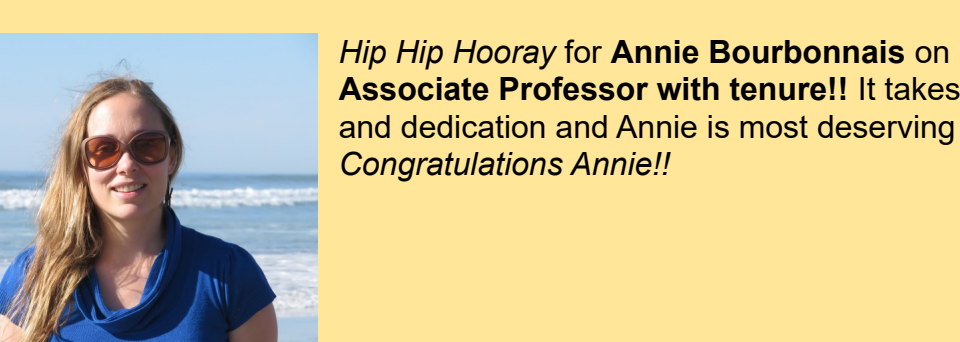
Funny story on our way to sample the Benguela...



This past April, **Dr. Annie Bourbonnais** and her Ph.D. student, **Darcy Perin**, embarked on a... memorable research expedition to Southern Africa. The goal of their research cruise was to investigate N₂O (a potent greenhouse gas) cycling in the northern Benguela upwelling system sediments. **Thursday April 11th:** The team arrived in the Walvis Bay, Namibia. **Saturday April 13th:** After a bit of a work visa debacle, the R/V Marcus G. Langseth departed the port.

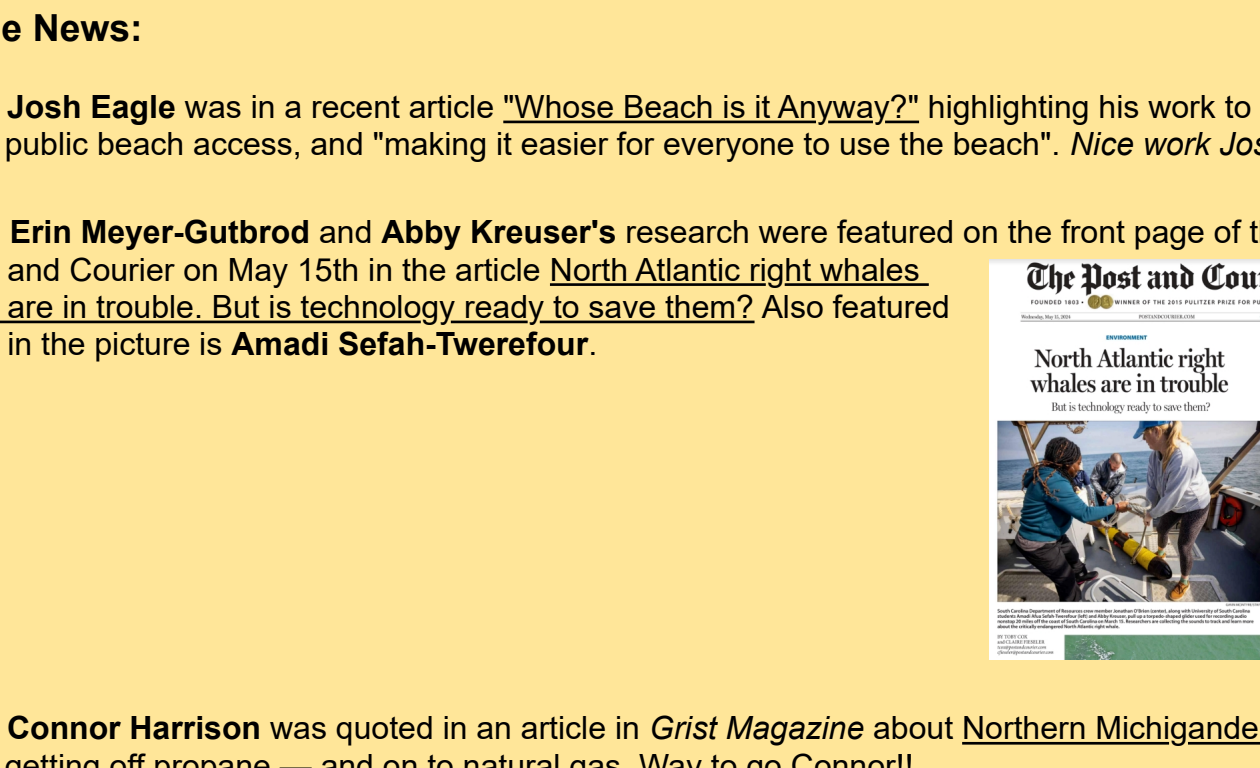


Sunday April 14th: With a quick turnaround, the team collected their first batch of sediment cores. However, shortly after going to bed, a big wave jostled the ship and all the sediment, which was being stored in a fridge, fell out onto the lab floor. Shortly, time was allocated that morning for additional sediment core deployments. The team had a thankspurt of good luck, and were able to finish out their experiments on those sediments (almost immediately after completion another wave hit the ship and the sediment cores fell out of a locked and duct taped fridge).



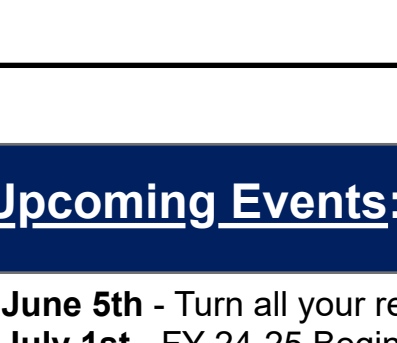
Tuesday April 16th: The science team was informed, that the vessel's research permit had been revoked, and no more samples could be collected in Namibian waters. The ship was rerouted to South Africa, thus ending an extremely...eventful research cruise.

It's not all bad though, Bourbonnais and Perin were able to participate in safaris in the Okavango Delta, Botswana and Etosha National Park, Namibia (pictured below).



KUDOS!!

Awards:



Congratulations to **Erin Meyer-Gutbrod** who was appointed to the **Marine Mammal Commission's Committee of Scientific Advisors**, which is a US governmental agency that provides oversight on marine mammal science, policy, management and conservation. Read about the Commission [here](#). *Way to go Erin!!*



Congratulations to **Nick Peng**, who was recently named as one of 5 winners nationwide of the **Simons Foundation's 2024 Early Career Investigators in Aquatic Microbial Ecology and Evolution Award**. This award recognizes Nick's pathbreaking research to date and will provide substantial support over the next three years to further his investigations into the "Fungal Contribution into benthic nitrogen and carbon cycling in a productive ocean basin."



Hip Hooray for **Annie Bourbonnais** on her promotion to **Associate Professor with tenure!!** It takes a lot of work and dedication and Annie is most deserving of this honor. *Congratulations Annie!!*

Publications

- Annie Klyce** (Ryker alum) and **Katherine Ryker** have a new paper, published in March, on Evaluating the Effectiveness of Spatial Training for Introductory Geology Students in Geosphere. Read about it here: <https://doi.org/10.1130/GES02663.1>

In the News:

- Josh Eagle** was in a recent article "Whose Beach is it Anyway?" highlighting his work to expand public beach access, and "making it easier for everyone to use the beach". *Nice work Josh!!*
- Erin Meyer-Gutbrod** and **Abby Kreuser's** research were featured on the front page of the Post and Courier on May 15th in the article [North Atlantic right whales are in trouble. But is technology ready to save them?](#) Also featured in the picture is **Amadi Sefah-Twerefour**.

- Connor Harrison** was quoted in an article in *Grist Magazine* about Northern Michiganders are getting off propane — and on to natural gas. *Way to go Connor!!*

Let the department know about the wonderful things you and the people around you are doing!! Is there something/someone you are proud of? Let us know [Kudos Form](#).

Upcoming Events: [click to see the google calendar](#)

- June 5th** - Turn all your receipts/transmittals to Barbara by this date.
- July 1st** - FY 24-25 Begins!!
- July 1st** - Parking Permits go on sale for faculty and staff
- July 4th** - Independence Day (University Closed)
- July 26th** - The SEOE Olympics - *get ready!!*

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