Changes continue in the Department of Environmental Studies at UIS. We welcomed two new faculty members—Dr. Megan Styles, assistant professor of sustainability, and Dr. Shipeng Sun, assistant professor of geographic information systems and remote sensing.

In year two of our new bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies we have hit 30 majors—quicker growth than we anticipated.

Unfortunately we did lose a faculty member this past summer as Dr. Andrew Predmore left for Indiana University. We wish him and his family the best of luck in Bloomington.

Upcoming changes: Just a few days before I write this ENS was notified that our request to have an accelerated BA + MA program was approved. This will hopefully allow us to keep some of our stronger undergraduates within our graduate program. At the same time, it will reduce the number of credits required for the MA for those students in the accelerated program.

Planned changes: We are working on developing criteria for undergraduate honors. In addition to a minimum GPA, the campus requires that there be an independent research component. It’s unclear right now whether that research would be included within our undergraduate capstone course or entirely separate.

At the graduate level we are exploring the creation of new certificate programs. Our Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems has proven to be phenomenally successful—to the point that we routinely fill the required courses even though we’ve been adding sessions. It is also attracting students from other departments, and students who enroll just for the certificate have occasionally decided to pursue an entire degree. We would like to extend that success to other fields. Possible areas include landscape history, sustainability, and environmental policy. If you have ideas for topics, please let me know.

ENS and the Department of Biology have been in discussion about offering a joint bachelor's degree in Restoration Ecology. If this program happens, it will be several years before it is implemented.

Thanks to Sarah Lindholm for crafting the articles in this newsletter.

-Dennis Ruez, Jr.

Degree Opportunities and the GPSI Program

The Department of Environmental Studies has expanded available degrees, both on-campus and online. These degrees, coupled with opportunities like the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program, give students the education they want and a head-start on their careers. If you are thinking about an undergraduate or graduate degree in the Environmental Studies, many opportunities are available.

In 2013-2014, the bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies returned. While it has core courses and electives in three areas, the degree culminates with a capstone class taught every spring. The capstone course helps provide students with employment skills and requires a project that incorporates knowledge from coursework. This fall, even more students have enrolled into the BA
Degree Opportunities and the GPSI Program, Continued

Program. This degree is also good route to take before pursuing a MA Environmental Studies or a MS in Environmental Sciences.

MS of Environmental Sciences and MA of Environmental Studies are also both good degrees to pursue at UIS. Beginning recently, they are both now offered online! Online MA and MS degree requirements are identical to on-campus program degree requirements. In addition, online graduate programs have at least six newly enrolled students this semester. There are also many on-campus graduate students, as well. While the MS in Environmental Sciences has one concentration in environmental sciences, the MA in Environmental Studies degree has 3 concentrations to choose from, in the areas of environmental planning and management, sustainable development and policy, and environmental humanities. These degrees provide students with skills and knowledge sought by numerous employers, and many opportunities such as the GPSI program are available to help graduate students start their career. To research graduate degrees with the Department of Environmental Studies, visit: www.uis.edu/environmentalstudies/cirriculum/.

The Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year! This program places graduate students into 21 month long internships with government agencies such as the IDNR or EPA. This provides applied education, career skills and experience, all while making a graduate education affordable. This program is also open to students enrolled in online graduate degrees! Benefits include: monthly stipend, tuition and fee waiver, professional development, scholarship opportunities, mentoring, and intern support. To research the GPSI and other programs, visit: www.uis.edu/graduateinternprograms/gpsi.

Sustainability and the new Student Union

As quoted from the UIS website, “UIS will be a role model in promoting campus environmental sustainability. UIS recognizes that we are part of a global community with limited resources and that our choices can positively affect that community and campus life.” In many areas of the university, sustainability values are found. From the UIS Strategic Plan, UIS will be “a role model in promoting campus environmental sustainability”. This entails designing new university buildings that comply with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards, and also includes the consideration of landscaping, energy use, and building maintenance as special areas in which environmentally friendly practices are desirable and should be implanted. From the “Performance indicators” section of the Strategic Plan, one indicator of how well UIS is acting in accordance with sustainability goals, is the achievement of LEED standards in new constructions.

In accordance with these beliefs, how sustainable is the new Student Union? From the UIS website, the Student Union will cost an estimated 21.75 million to be raised by student fees and other sources of funds; the raise in tuition fees will equal from $25 to $200 per semester based on undergraduate or graduate status and number of academic credit hours. Students enrolled in online degree-seeking programs will not pay the student union fees. It is important that stakeholders in the new Student Union not only see the benefits to the UIS population, but also that the building will be efficiently and well-designed, environmentally sustainable and energy efficient. The Strategy for the Design of the Student Union, under the “design” section of the Student Union page on the UIS website, includes that the new Student Union modeling.
building should be “environmentally excellent” and will achieve this through LEED Gold certification. Achieving this certification will show that UIS is providing a much-needed building to the UIS campus, in an environmentally and socially responsible manner. Chuck Coderko, Director of Construction at UIS, was able to provide information on the ways in which the Student Union building is going to be built sustainably and function in a sustainable manner. Chuck notes that the plans won’t be finalized until next year, and that some LEED sustainability points may be lost during or after the construction process. It is possible that during the construction process, a certain feature may not be possible to implement, or after construction it is possible that a feature will not get approved in the certification process. However, Chuck is confident that if the building design incorporates every possible and financially feasible sustainable feature from the “LEED 2009 For New Construction and Major Renovations Project Checklist”.

So far, the Student Union construction plans score LEED points in many areas. One main aspect of the construction will be its green roof. The roof will consist of native plants, which will bring a variety of benefits to the building including storm water runoff mitigation and cleansing, keeping the building cooler by eliminating heat absorption from the sun, and increasing the longevity of the roof to 50-60 years, versus the 20-30 year life of traditional roofing. Points should be awarded for the reduction in heat absorption in the Heat Island Effect-Roof category, and for runoff mitigation and cleaning in the Storm Water-Quality and Storm Water-Quantity control sections. Pavers and porous concrete will be used in patios and walkways outside the building, which will also help with runoff mitigation by allowing for proper drainage of water, unlike other types of impervious concretes. Landscaping for the building should score points in Water Efficient Landscaping, because native flora will be used and the landscaping will not require any potable water use or irrigation past the initial establishment of the landscaping. The building is also planned to score points for water efficiency in the Water Use Reduction section, by reducing overall water use and wastewater production.

Points should also be awarded for Site Selection, since the new building will not be built on certain areas such as agricultural land or natural habitat. They should also be awarded in the areas of Alternative Transportation - Public Transportation Access and also Alternative Transportation - Low-Emitting and Fuel-Efficient Vehicles, for good access via public transportation and special parking spots for fuel efficient cars. Energy efficiency should also be awarded several points in the Optimize Energy Performance section; the building is planned to be 30% more efficient than the same building built in 2007. Another important feature is the large number of windows in the new Student Union, which will help with energy efficiency though daylight harvesting. Thus, points should be scored because daylight will be used as a substantial light source during the daytime, which helps reduce electric lighting and overall energy usage. In addition, the construction of the building should gain additional points to the LEED score by using some recycled materials, some regionally acquired materials, and also all certified wood. Finally, low-emitting, safe building materials should score points in several categories, such as Adhesives and Sealants, Paints and Coatings, Flooring Systems, and Composite Wood and Agrifiber Products sections. Safer materials used in these sections provides for a healthier indoor environment. Although Chuck states that planning for indoor design is still underway, and that no plans for the new Student Union building will be finalized until next year, it is apparent that sustainability is incorporated into the designs.

Here is current list of proposed native plants to be planted:

**Shade Trees:**
- Green Mountain sugar maple; Chicagoland hackberry; skyline thornless honeylocust; swamp white oak; red oak; Redmond American linden; common bald cypress; accolade elm; prospector elm

**Continued on next page…**
Sustainability and the New Student Union, Continued

Ornamental Trees: Eastern redbud; thornless cockspur hawthorn; prairie crabapple

Shrubs: Girard pleasant white azalea; Annabelle hydrangea; limelight panicle hydrangea; little Henry sweetspire; grow low fragrant sumac; dense anglojap yew

Ornamental Grass, Perennials, Groundcovers and Bulbs: swamp milkweed, vibrant dome aster, Karl Forester feather reed grass, blue joint grass, pow wow wildberry coneflower, fiancee hosta, blue flag iris, creeping lilyturf, marsh blazingstar, Dutch master daffodil, goldstrum black-eyed

Susan, autumn fire sedum, prairie dropseed, little bluestem.

Evergreen Trees: Eastern white pine

Department Highlights

• More master’s students pursuing environmental science/studies degrees than any other institution in Illinois
• Students Allied for a Greener Earth (SAGE) chosen as political/advocacy student group of the year for past two years
• Alumni have leadership positions in local governments, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private companies, as well as success in being admitted to PhD and JD programs

• Graduate Public Service Internship program places students in government agencies for a unique applied educational experience, and provides a stipend and tuition waiver.
• Location in state capital provides access to policymakers and organizations such as the IL Environmental Protection Agency, IL Department of Natural Resources, and IL State Museum
• Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems is the first in the state to be available fully online

• In the past decade enrollments grew in the MA in Environmental Studies by 57% and in the MS in Environmental Science by 200%; during the same time UIS graduate enrollment overall increased only 7%
• In Summer 2009 ENS had two faculty members; the 2014 ENS dept. has six tenure system faculty, a halftime instructor, and two dozen adjunct instructors

Reforming Roses: Dr. Styles Conducts Summer Research in Kenya

Dr. Megan Styles joined the Department of Environmental Studies faculty in January 2014. She holds a PhD in Environmental Anthropology.

With the help of a Competitive Scholarly Research Grant from UIS, ENS faculty member Dr. Megan Styles traveled to Kenya this past summer to continue her research on the social and environmental effects of cut flower farming near Kenya’s Lake Naivasha.

According to Dr. Styles, cut flowers, mainly roses, are one of Kenya’s most important sources of foreign exchange. The East African nation currently supplies around 35% of the flowers sold in supermarkets and florists in the European Union. The industry is both lucrative and controversial. Critics allege that the industry pays low wages and does too little to curb the environmental side-effects of rapid development at the sites of flower production, especially the area around Lake Naivasha.

Since 2004, Dr. Styles has been following initiatives designed to make cut flower farming in Kenya more socially just and environmen-
tally sustainable. How do environmental and social activists, elected and appointed officials, community leaders, and business owners work together to design and implement these reforms? How well do these initiatives work? Since the late 1990s, many farms have voluntarily agreed to abide by codes of ethics that require them to implement reforms designed to protect workers and limit point-source pollution. Much reform is still needed, but there has been some forward progress.

Her work this summer focused on the three largest cut flower farms in the Lake Naivasha area. Together, these farms employ thousands of workers and generate the bulk of Kenya’s cut flower exports. Dr. Styles found that, since her last research project ended in 2008, two of these farms have continued to improve or maintain their social and environmental records. However, one of the farms had met with financial misfortune and was currently operating under a bank-appointed manager. The farm’s workers had not been paid in several months, and safety and environmental procedures had been disregarded as production levels crashed.

According to Dr. Styles, the fate of this farm reminds us that the positive development impacts of the cut flower industry may be extremely fragile. It also illustrates the limitations of voluntary self-regulation in the cut flower industry. As soon as this farm began to falter, she argues, managers looked for ways to work around voluntary agreements on labor and environmental conditions. In the meantime, workers, the local environment, and the reputation of the flower industry suffered.

Dr. Styles also found that cut flower farming is no longer regarded as the most significant “threat” to the long-term sustainability of the Lake Naivasha ecosystem. In recent years, the Kenyan government has pushed forward with a plan to expand geothermal energy production in the area. Ken Gen, a Kenyan parasternal that produces geothermal energy, has operated power stations near Naivasha for some time, but the rapid expansion of this industry may pose serious challenges to the sustainability of development in the Lake Naivasha basin.

Next summer, Dr. Styles will investigate what flowers farm managers, activists, and government officials in Naivasha learned from the collapse or near-collapse of this large farm. She will also begin to conduct research on the regulation of the geothermal industry. Are new geothermal operators ready to comply with environmental and social regulations in Naivasha or will these be bypassed in the name of national development? Will the expansion of geothermal power pose threats to the cut flower industry? Are these forms of development commensurable?

If you are interested in learning more about Dr. Styles’ research or would like to join her in the field next summer, please contact her at mstyl2@uis.edu.
Dr. Shipeng Sun

Dr. Sun is a new faculty member in the Environmental Studies department this fall; he is teaching ENS404 Fundamentals of GIS and ENS405 Fundamentals of Remote Sensing. He received his PhD in Geography from the University of Minnesota, and his MS in Spatial Information Systems and BS in Environmental Geology from Peking University. His research mainly focuses on development and application spatial analyses and modeling techniques to study human-environment systems. Some of these analysis and modeling tools include geovisualization, geocomputation, complexity modeling and network analysis.

This summer, Dr. Sun attended the Big Data and Urban Informatics workshop hosted by the University of Illinois Chicago from Aug. 11 to Aug. 12. He presented a research talk titled “Examining Intraurban Migration in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area using Parcel Data”. Dr. Sun has many projects he has been working on this semester; his book chapter “Simple Agents, Complex Emergent City: Agent-based Modeling of Intraurban Migration” for Computational Approaches for Urban Environments is scheduled to be published in 2015 by Springer International Publishing. Also, his manuscript “A Perception-Based Color Recommendation Algorithm for Hierarchical Regions” was recently accepted by journal Cartography and Geographic Information Science, the official publication of the Cartography and Geographic Information Society (USA) and the International Cartographic Association.

Dr. Tih-Fen Ting

This fall semester has been very busy for Dr. Ting. She has been busy teaching ENS 476: Environmental Ethics; ENS 544: Concepts of Ecology Lab; and ENS 546: Concepts of Ecology. In addition to teaching, she has also made time for working on her two long-term projects (which she describes below) and giving a presentation for the School of Biological Sciences, at the Seminar Series on November 6th, about her research.

“Since 2012, I have been working on the conservation and recovery of Illinois state-threatened and endangered species – that is, Franklin’s ground squirrel and osprey – with the support of Illinois Department of Natural Resources and funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. According to the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, both species are ...Continued on next page
in greatest need of conservation. Declines in Franklin’s ground squirrel populations in the Midwest have been widely attributed to loss and fragmentation of prairie and savanna habitats due to intensive agricultural practices. On the other hand, the effect of the pesticide DDT led to poor reproductive success for ospreys and hence their population decline. Since the banning of DDT and other organochlorine pesticides in the U.S. in 1972, ospreys have increased in population overall but not in Illinois. Over the years, I have been supporting both graduate and undergraduate students to participate in those projects and others. Currently, there are eight M.S. students in my lab. Besides the projects on Franklin’s ground squirrel and osprey, students in my lab also conduct research on other small mammal species, semi-aquatic mammals, harmful algal blooms, and so forth. We carry out field-based research, modeling, as well as surveys for a variety of research projects.”

Dr. Shepston: ENS in Hanover, Germany

This past June, Dr. Shepston and Dr. Predmore presented at the 20th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management at Leibniz University in Hanover, Germany. The conference was well-attended, with participants coming from across the globe, representing a wide range of disciplines and professions. There were a total of 366 academic, student, and professional attendees from 44 countries. Student participants made up a total of 44 percent of those attending the conference. Dr. Shepston would like students in ENS to keep this in mind, as next year’s conference will take place in Charleston, South Carolina (perhaps less glamorous than Germany, but certainly much more accessible!). Dr. Shepston presented a paper on her forest policy and management research titled The Influence of Policy Changes on Managers’ Perceptions and Practices in the Coastal Range Forests of the Pacific Northwest, USA, and British Columbia, Canada. Dr. Predmore presented a paper on preliminary findings of a… Continued on next page
joint fracking research project between himself, Dr. Shepston, and ENS MA student Lynette Bowden. The title of his presentation was *Mineral Leasing Decisions for Horizontal Hydraulic Fracturing in Southern Illinois*. Dr. Shepston notes that the presentations elicited productive questions and discussion from audience members, despite record heat in Hanover and no air conditioning! Dr. Shepston and Dr. Predmore also attended conference sessions covering a wide range of topics in natural resource management.

In addition to conference participation and attendance, the two managed to take in some of the sights of Hanover. While much of the city was bombed during WWII, the Altstadt area (or Old Town) was reconstructed from the rubble. This made for many miles of interesting walking and sightseeing. Though the food options left something to be desired, they did manage to find a couple of gems, along with a pizza joint for watching the World Cup. Dr. Shepston says the pizza was terrible, but the big screen TV made up for it. Dr. Shepston and Dr. Predmore also took one day to venture afield from Hanover. The trip was to Wernigerode, an old town at the edge of Harz National Park. The National Park is set in the mountains of Lower Saxony/Saxony-Anhalt and bridges former Western and Eastern Germany. The tallest peak, Brocken, is 1,141 m in elevation. Harz National Park, established between 1990 and 1994, was the first National Park in Germany. According to Dr. Shepston, the park was established to protect the varied ecosystems within its 24,700 ha, but it does not look like what we consider National Parks here in the US, as much of the forests were cutover at some point in history. However, there are ecosystems within the park that are considered close to natural conditions, without much of the evidence of forest management practices typical of Germany. Other areas demonstrate a higher degree of degradation, but the goal of the park is to restore these areas to more natural ecosystem states. The town Wernigerode was first mentioned in historic records in 1121 and is situated in what was Eastern Germany. It is the home of the impressive Wernigerode castle, after which the town is named. Dr. Shepston and Dr. Predmore spent the day wandering the narrow streets of Altstadt—which are lined with medieval half-timbered buildings—stopping in the beautiful town square, and hiking up to and exploring the castle. It was a fantastic detour into the cultural and environmental history of north central Germany.

According to Dr. Shepston, the week-long excursion was a great success, with many opportunities to engage with others who share a common interest in natural resource management and society and to experience German culture, history, and environments.
New Graduate Student: Adam Green

Originally from Rochester, Adam Green is first-year graduate student in the Environmental Studies department this fall. He is studying for an MA of Environmental Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Development and Policy. Adam received his undergrad from U of I Champaign-Urbana, majoring in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.

To augment his graduate degree, Adam also has an internship through the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program. His internship is with the Clean Air Programs Division of the IEPA. Adam says that the programs “provide grants and rebates to individuals or companies in Illinois that want to purchase alternate fuel vehicles, such as electric vehicles, propane trucks and school buses, and natural gas vehicles”.

Adam has always been interested in issues that are related to air quality and climate change. Through his internship, Adam has enjoyed learning about the major causes or air pollution related to transportation and about policies and programs that can help solve these problems.

Second Year Graduate Student: Katie Hollenbeck

Katie Hollenbeck is a second year graduate student with the Environmental Studies department. Her research is centered on monarchs, whose populations have been declining for more than two decades.

The first season implementation of the Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon – Monarch Waystation has proven to be extremely successful. Katie, under the supervision of her advisor, Dr. Tih-Fen Ting, was able to secure startup funds provided by The Therkildsen Field Station at Emiquon for creating a monarch butterfly waystation at the Emiquon Visitor Center on The Nature Conservancy lands.

At the end of May 2014, over 2,000 native nectar and larval host plants were planted in an area of over 1,000 sq. ft. to assist monarch butterflies for their northerly spring and southerly fall migration. Three species of milkweed (Asclepias spp.) were planted including common milkweed, butterfly weed, and swamp milkweed. The milkweed is especially important because it serves as the monarch butterfly’s larval host plant and it is the only thing the larvae will eat. A good majority of the nectar plants flowered in its first year and many monarch caterpillar larvae were found to be using the monarch waystation throughout the season. The nectar plants are important for sustaining the adult butterflies as they look for a place to lay their eggs or as they migrate to and from protected reserves in Mexico.

For fall tagging efforts this year, 42 monarchs were tagged between Sept. 20 and Nov. 5. Of the monarchs tagged, 20 were males, 17 were females, and 16 were hand-reared caterpillars collected from the waystation. Katie and the researchers will not find out if any tagged monarch butterflies are recovered until February. If you want to learn more about building your own certified monarch waystation, raising monarchs, or tagging monarch butterflies, please visit monarchwatch.org.
Melissa tells us a bit about her thesis research: “The goal of my summer research was to test the effectiveness of two non-invasive survey techniques for surveying a wide area for Franklin's ground squirrels. I chose right-of-ways and abandoned railroad corridors in Sangamon County to test this. The two non-invasive techniques used were track-tube sampling and camera trapping. Each week I test both techniques at 1-2 sites for a four-day period. Track tubes were baited and set only during the day, while the camera traps were left recording overnight. I conducted repeat surveys at any sites where Franklin's ground squirrels were not detected. Through my surveys I captured tracks of Franklin's ground squirrels, thirteen-lined ground squirrels, chipmunks, white-footed mice, voles, skunks, and birds. On camera I detected those same species plus raccoon, woodchuck, rabbit, house cat, and dogs. With this information I will...
estimate site occupancy and detection probabilities.

A secondary goal of my project is to measure the distance between both the selected habitat patches and known Franklin’s ground squirrel colonies, and compare that distance to an 8-km dispersal threshold suggested by Duggan et al. (2011).”

Melissa has also been a part of the Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program. Here is what she says about the GPSI program in general, and about the GPSI program offered through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources: “The Graduate Public Service Internship (GPSI) program at the UIS provides students with an opportunity to complete their master’s degree while gaining valuable professional experience. Through the GPSI program students are exposed to many networking and professional development opportunities. Now in its 40th year with about 2,200 total participants in that time, GPSI’s partnership with Illinois is the only one of its kind between universities and state agencies (of which, 22 have current interns). Here at IDNR, the Federal Aid GPSI interns are responsible for a variety of tasks. These range from assistance with the preparation of grant applications for the federal aid application process, Agricultural lease program, and Cultural Review and GAAP reporting; the planning of federal aid site inspections; the reporting new federal grants to Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) website; and requesting performance reports from sub-awardees. Other responsibilities include working with Charlie Foor on GIS layers for IDNR sites, scanning closed grant files, archiving closed grant files, organization of archived files, and pulling vouchers. This variety of tasks provides a well-rounded experience for the interns.”

Melissa also relays her personal experience with the GPSI program and why it has been important for her. “After three years of research jobs post-undergrad, I felt the need to further my education in the hopes to further advance in my career field. I had been searching for a graduate school opportunity that would allow me to grow professionally while still providing me with an excellent educational opportunity. I contacted many graduate programs throughout the country, but none offered the type of opportunity the GPSI program at UIS provides. Dr. Ruez informed me of the GPSI program and its benefits, and the possibility of interning while simultaneously completing my MS. This program listed benefits that were directly in-line with what I hoped to gain from a graduate educational experience.

My career goal is to work in endangered species management through a state or federal agency. I was thrilled when I received a GPSI position with Fed Aid at IDNR. This position has given me the opportunity to learn more about the types of grants the federal government awards for natural resources and conservation. It has put me in a position to learn from experienced federal aid administrators and coordinators.

As a second-year GPSI intern I have been able to reflect upon what I have learned so far through this program, and what I still hope to gain from it. After a year, I have now seen a full federal grant cycle and am familiar with the components of the grant process, the types of federal grants awarded, and the importance of clear objectives. I have had the opportunity to learn by both observing and applying skills I have learned. My favorite things about this position have been visiting federal and state funded sites, assisting other areas at IDNR, and talking with professionals in my field. I hope to continue to gain valuable information and make additional connections during my remaining time here.”
Second Year Graduate Student: Trisha Stull

Trisha received her BS in Environmental Science at Point Loma Nazarene University. Currently, she is completing her MA in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Environmental Humanities. She will be graduating this December, 2014. Her capstone internship is through Lincoln Memorial Garden. Trisha describes her internship:

“For my capstone, I had the opportunity to work closely with the environmental educator at Lincoln Memorial Garden. I had a number of large projects including working as the volunteer coordinator for the Indian Summer Festival, in which I was responsible for recruiting and managing approximately 100 local high school and college students. I also had the opportunity to design and lead a course on Lincoln Memorial Garden’s “Icky, Creepy, Crawly” creatures for Junior and Senior Naturalists (a course for children 5-13). Working for Lincoln Memorial Garden was an excellent opportunity to learn how small non-profit environmental organizations function and to gain experience in the field of environmental education.”

Foreign Student: Anja Copony

Anja is a foreign exchange student for this fall semester. She would like to share her experience and insight gained from UIS and the Environmental Studies department:

“My name is Anja Copony, and I am an exchange student from Munich, Germany. I am studying Business Administration at the Ingolstadt School of Management and I am currently one semester away from earning my Bachelor of Science in Business. Right now, I am studying at UIS for one semester to improve my English skills and to experience the American college life. Although I am majoring in Accounting and Taxation, I am taking an environmental studies class, ENS 271: Introduction to Sustainability.

The topic of sustainability has been very important to me since seeing Al Gore’s Movie, "A Inconvenient Truth". I completed a voluntary ecological year in a publishing house shortly after passing my A-Levels. I learned that a company did not have to choose between making profit and acting sustainably.

My personal goal is to become a consultant and help companies improve their processes in terms of the sustainable aspects of their participation in economic, social, and ecological responsibilities. Therefore knowledge of both business administration and sustainability are necessary to be successful. Unfortunately, my home Universi-
Foreign Student: Anja Copony, Continued

Kelsey Townsend received the Luther J. Skelton Award. This award is a scholarship in honor of Luther J. Skelton, a well-achieved man who was the first UIS professor to chair the University of Illinois Senate’s Conference. The award is given to an outstanding graduate student with a strong thesis or graduate project in the Environmental Studies program. (read Kelsey’s article on page 10)

Trisha Stull received the Environmental Studies Alumni Award. The award is a scholarship established 1997 by alumni, faculty, and students; it is given to a chosen graduate student of Environmental Sciences or Environmental Studies. (read Trisha’s article on page 13)

Katie Hollenbeck received the Central Illinois Typographical Union Scholarship. This award was established 1997 by the Central Illinois Typographical Union. (read Katie’s article on page 10)

Heather Schroeder, an undergraduate student, received multiple scholarships for the ’14-’15 year. Among those, Heather received the Thomas A. Shearer Scholarship in Environmental Studies.

Congratulations all on your hard work and achievements, ladies!

If you would like to donate general or scholarship funds to the Environmental Studies Department, visit:

http://www.uis.edu/development/choose/environmentalstudies/

Awards and Scholarships

Left: from left to right – Trisha Stull, Kelsey Townsend, Katie Hollenbeck

Right: Heather Schroeder

UIS recognizes that we are part of a global community with limited resources and that our choices can positively affect that community and campus life; this proves that the school’s main goals are in line with my personal vision of a more sustainable and socially-responsible society, and this was a major reason for my decision to spend my semester abroad at the University of Illinois Springfield.”
ENS is making memories. We are sure our alumni also have memories from their time at UIS/SSU. Please share! Alumni, tell us your stories and forward us photos. We would like to share alumni stories in future newsletters!

Are you trying to fill an internship or employment position? We can provide qualified applicants.

Please stay in touch by emailing us at: ens@uis.edu