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Department Spotlight

This issue we'll put the spotlight on Dr. Mitch Bender. Mitch Bender received his Ph.D. in environmental soil science from Auburn University in 2001. His graduate research focus was greenhouse gas emissions from waste amended soils and nutrient cycling. He went on to study nitrogen cycling of a Midwestern corn producing state as a post doc at the University of Illinois at Urban-Champaign in 2002.

Since arriving in the Department of Environmental and Technological Studies in the fall of 2002, Mitch has enjoyed most the diversity of his responsibilities within the department. The ability to teach a variety of environmental courses, time spent advising undergraduate and graduate students and the opportunity to conduct meaningful research are listed as his most rewarding activities.

His current research focus is primarily environmental issues involving the Sauk River and nutrient cycling of urban soils. Presently, he is writing a manuscript with two former undergraduate students detailing the nutrient characteristics of St. Cloud lawns and the lawn maintenance practices of homeowners.

In 2004, Mitch established the Environmental Studies Student Research Group. The group, which is open to all majors interested in environmental studies, gives undergraduate students the opportunity to gain valuable research experience in the field and laboratory and to apply theories and techniques learned in the classroom to meaningful research problems. To date the group has produced three Denise M. McGuire Student Research Award recipients. This award is the highest research award an undergraduate student can receive within the College of Science and Engineering.

In 2005, Mitch became the coordinator of the department's graduate program. In this new capacity, he is expanding the program to attract a greater number of students from the areas of environmental studies, technology education and technology studies.



Dr. Mitch Bender
Assistant Professor
Environmental Studies

Letter from the Chair

Greetings from the Department of Environmental and Technological Studies at St. Cloud State University. I hope your new year is off to a happy and healthy start. The department is busy with spring semester courses and planning for summer courses.

This newsletter contains information on connecting and getting involved with the department. It is hard to believe, but our summer class schedule is listed for both graduate and undergraduate courses. There is also information on alumni of the department. We hope to hear from more alumni so we can share information on what alumni are doing with their degrees in future newsletters and for our web site.

A current focus of the department is to look for ways to partner with alumni and various businesses. Partnerships hold great promise for all. We are in the process of purchasing a Rapid Prototyping machine, Laser Scanner for reverse engineering, and other advanced design and manufacturing equipment. There is also the potential for student research projects and internships that could be a valuable resource for your company.

The department is currently working with several technical colleges across the state to provide opportunities for collaboration. This collaboration includes articulation agreements for students with a 2-year degree to continue their education at St. Cloud State University. We are also working with the technical colleges and high schools to provide college credit for various courses taught in the high school. These include the College in the School and Project Lead the Way courses. Project Lead the Way is a pre-engineering program taught in many schools across the state with many more starting next year. I look forward to hearing from you soon (320-308-3127 or krhelgeson@stcloudstate.edu).



Kurt R. Helgeson
Department Chair

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Summer Classes

- ETS260 Introduction to Environmental Studies (3 semester credits). On-line
- ETS 413/513-CAD Practices (3 semester credits). July 2-6 and July 9-12.
- ETS 435/535-Concrete and Masonry Academy (3 semester cr.) July 16-19 and July 23-26.
- ETS 444/544 Industrial Internship (Variable credits) June 11-August 16.
- ETS 485/585 Transportation Academy (3 semester cr.) June 18-21 and June 25-28.
- ETS 495/595 Technology Update 2007 (2 semester cr.) Dates Pending
- ETS 560. Standards for Technology Education (3 semester cr.) On-line
- ETS 650. Contemporary Instructional Strategies in Technology Education (3 semester cr.) On-line
- ETS 673. Foundations of Technology Education (3 semester cr.) On-line

For more information on summer courses, contact Kurt Helgeson at: krhelgeson@stcloudstate.edu
320-308-3127



Student working in Environmental Lab

Everyone has something to offer the organization — How do we bring that out?

Corrections
We failed to include Andrew Valerius on the list of students who made the Dean's List Spring Semester 2006.

Sorry for the error and congratulations Andrew!

Dean's List

Fall Semester 2006

Joseph Vos
Todd Anderson
Erin Bastyr
Jacob Galzki
Kushal Gurung
Michelle Henry
Matthew Lenz
Jamison Reginek
Jeffrey Reinhart
Thomas Kohl
Damian Olson

Graduates - Fall 2006

Congratulations!

Todd Anderson
Ian Andrus
Noah Czech
Erik Dietz
Craig Dischinger
Dallas Dombrowski
John Martin
Bradley Nelson

Daniel Opsahl
Ross Paumen
Brian Ross
Christopher Schrofe
Joseph Towner
Emily Udelhoven
Matthew Vogel
Ario Wicaksono

Best Wishes!

Student Awards

Matt Lenz— Awarded Research Grant

The project is an Analysis of Nutrient loading in St. Augusta Creek, a tributary to the Mississippi. Samples are taken weekly and phosphorus, nitrate, and ammonia tests in an attempt to examine the possible affect to the Mississippi River.

Joe Storlien—Awarded Research Grant

The Risk Assessment of Manure Basin Storage Abandonment Alternative and Water Quality Improvement project will evaluate the water quality under three abandoned manure storage facilities. These sites are part of a project conducted by the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District to evaluate effectiveness of an experimental

bioremediation technique.

Jake Galzki—Awarded Research Grant

This project included Sampling the Sauk River at 17 sites along the 100 mile stretch of the river, and then analyzed the samples for coliform contamination. The sites along with their respective data were then entered into Geographic Information System (GIS) software and coliform concentrations will be compared to animal feedlot locations along the river to determine any possible relationship between the two.



Jake, Joe, & Matt present at International Soil Conference

Spring Awards and Scholarships Available

- Lewis R. Royer Award for Quality & Excellence
- Bauerly Brothers Scholarship
- Ray Larson Leadership Award

For application and deadline information please visit the department website: <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ets>

Department Notes

Advisory Board Meeting

The department advisory board will be meeting on March 21, 2007. Each year students, faculty, alumni, and business partners come together to review the department and discuss future direction so of the department. For more information on our advisory board, visit our web site at:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ets>.

Department List Serves

The department has a list serve for communication with graduates of the department. To subscribe to the list serve: <http://lists.stcloudstate.edu/mailman/listinfo> or contact the department for more information.

Newsletters on-line

The publication is available on-line: <http://stcloudstate.edu/ets> as well as previous editions of the department newsletters.

Important Dates

April 9	Fall Registration Begins
May 4	Last Day of Classes
May 7-11	Final Exams
May 11	Graduate Hooding & Commencement
May 12	Graduation
June 11	Summer Session Begins
September 5	Fall Semester Begins

Articulation Agreements

The department has signed articulation agreements with St. Cloud Technical College and Hennepin Technical College. This articulation allows students who graduate from a number of programs at the technical colleges to transfer directly into the Technology Management major. This allows students to count all of their credits towards a Bachelors Degree at St. Cloud State University.

We look forward to many working with additional technical colleges in the future. For more information on the articulation agreements contact the department.

Department & University Support

As alumni and supporters of the university we have all been contacted to make a contribution to the university. St. Cloud State University appreciates those that have given gifts in the past. Several alumni and friends of the department have asked if gifts can be designated to the department. Therefore, we want to provide you the opportunity to designate your donations to the department. To make a tax-deductible gift to the ETS Department simply fill out the form below and mail to the SCSU Foundation. You can also complete the process on-line at http://www.callmeyer.com/scsu_gift.htm.

Check: Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Please make check payable to SCSU Foundation—ETS)

Credit Card: Amount: \$ _____ Visa Master Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Card Holder Name: _____ Cardholder Signature: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

My name may be listed as a SCSU Foundation contributor: Yes No

Please mail to:

ETS Department
216 Headley Hall
720 Fourth Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301

I request my donation be used for:

_____ Equipment / Supplies
_____ Scholarships
_____ As Department Needs



Dr. James Nicholson helps out a student in the manufacturing laboratory.

Partnerships

We are looking for ways to partner with businesses, industries, governments, non-profits, and alumni of the department. We believe that we have much to offer in the form of a partnership. This includes Rapid Prototyping capabilities, undergraduate student design / research projects, graduate research projects, faculty consulting, custom training, interns, employees, and custom manufacturing. Your partnership will help us provide our students with a world class education in Environmental and Technological Studies, and enable our department to remain on the cutting edge with equipment and technology.

For more information or to discuss ideas on partnership opportunities, please contact the department chair—Kurt R. Helgeson—320-308-3127 or krhelgeson@stcloudstate.edu.

Alumni Notes

Jeremy McGowan

Graduated in 2002 with a Technology Assessment & Management Degree. He is currently working as a Supplier Development Engineer working with metal casting foundries to improve quality and delivery.

Nathan Thiesfeld

Graduated in 1998 with a Technology Education Degree. He currently works for Haldemann-Homme as the Technical Products Manager. He manages the sales staff in the technical areas and technical training consultants.

Sarah Sewell

Graduated in the Spring of 2005 with an Environmental Studies Degree. She is currently attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, pursuing a masters degree in Agronomy with an emphasis in Soil and Water Science. Her masters thesis project is dealing with "Lawn Maintenance Practices in Six Sandpit Lakes of Eastern Nebraska."

We congratulate the alumni on their accomplishments and look forward to hearing from more alumni in the future.

Stay in contact with your university - and more importantly your department.

Have you considered graduate school?

We now have Portfolio and Thesis Options—

Portfolio is aligned with Career and Technical Education License

Research or Education Emphasis

Contact Mitch Bender—Department Graduate Coordinator

mr Bender@stcloudstate.edu

320-308-3235

St. Cloud State University values diversity of all kinds, including but not limited to race, religion and ethnicity. Contact the department/agency listed in this publication. Member of Minnesota State Colleges & Universities. This publication is available online at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/ets>

A MEMBER OF THE MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



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