



# SUSTAINABILITY NEWS BEAT

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<http://sustainability.ucsb.edu>

## Blue Horizons Program Hopes to Make Waves This Summer

By Taylor Orr

The Blue Horizons Program, hosted by the UCSB Summer Program for Environmental Media, is a nine-week experience that will give students the opportunity to dabble in video production as a vehicle to increase environmental awareness. Michael Hanrahan, one of the instructors of the program and a film producer who has studied both Motion Picture Production and Communications at the University of Miami, said the goal of the program is to train students with strong interest in environmental science, specifically marine science, to better understand how to create more evocative, compelling messages using mass media.

During Summer Session A, from June 23 to August 1, students will take three core classes. Each course, as part of a unit Hanrahan calls a tripod, depends on the other two for support. Ben Halpern's class, *Issues in Marine Conservation*, will provide an overview of the challenges that face the global ocean from a California coast perspective. The goal is for students to acquire a scientific background in order to write and develop short films. *Introduction to Environmental Media Production*, taught by Hanrahan, will be a "video journalism boot camp," instructing novice students in shooting, editing, and producing films three to five minutes in length. Paul Wack will teach *Films of the Natural and Human Environment*, which ties in the broader picture of the development of an environmental media campaign.

Hanrahan will guide students in an independent study in the field to complete environmental film projects during Summer Session F. Two of last year's 13 student participants chose to enter their projects in the Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival, and several others opted to post their films on the Ocean Channel, available for viewing at [www.ocean.com](http://www.ocean.com). Hanrahan added that the Ocean Channel functions as a portal website for ocean news, education, and films.

Hanrahan hopes 20 students will participate

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Photo credit: Blue Horizons program flyer

in the program this summer.

For more information about Blue Horizons, see [www.summer.ucsb.edu/specialprograms.html](http://www.summer.ucsb.edu/specialprograms.html).

### UPCOMING SUSTAINABILITY EVENTS

#### ISLA VISTA EARTH DAY

##### Beach Clean-Up

Saturday, April 19 - 10:00 am-12:00 pm

On the beach below Camino Majorca and Del Playa

Lunch provided

Contact: Michelle Van Oppen - (714) 397-2066 or [vanoppen@umail](mailto:vanoppen@umail)

##### Festival

Saturday, April 19 - 12:00-8:00 pm

Anisqoyo Park

#### SANTA BARBARA EARTH DAY

Sunday, April 20 - 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Santa Barbara Courthouse - Sunken Gardens

At Santa Barbara and Anapamu Streets

More information: [www.SBEarthDay.org](http://www.SBEarthDay.org)

#### PRESENTATIONS BY DR. VANDANA SHIVA

**Recreating the Commons in a Globalized World**

Friday, April 25 - 4:00-5:00 pm

Student Resources Building, Multi-Purpose Room

**Peace, Justice, and Sustainability**

Saturday, April 26 - 4:00-5:00 pm

Santa Barbara Public Library - Faulkner Gallery

Both open to the public

For more events: <http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/events>

## Student Resource Building a Triumph for Students and Environment Alike

By Joshua Kelley

UCSB's Student Resource Building (SRB) is not only a great resource for students but also an inspiring demonstration of sustainable architecture. Completed in February 2007, this \$24 million building has been constructed to fully utilize the local environment while leaving as little an ecological footprint as possible. In order to achieve this goal, the SRB has been designed to adhere to standards outlined in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System, which is a third party certification program widely regarded as the standard for assessing "green" architecture. Of LEED's Silver, Gold, and Platinum ratings, the SRB has a pending Silver-level certification.

The SRB's north-facing walls are mostly windowed to allow optimum day-lighting inside. Sun-shading blinds, overhanging sunscreens, and exterior window glazing ensure that the sunlight remains reasonable during the brighter seasons. Shade trees have been planted to minimize the "heat-island effect," which occurs when large concreted areas absorb heat and release it back into the area even after the weather cools down.

An automated temperature control system regulates a series of adjustable vents throughout the building. The vents will open to allow warm air in when the temperature is hot outside and close when it becomes cold; they work accordingly to insulate the building.

Though they may not realize it, visitors passing through the SRB pass over specially designed mats with high-friction textures to remove substantial amounts of particles clinging to their shoes. These mats efficiently help keep the floor clean and air devoid of allergy-agitating matter. The floors themselves are made from recycled vinyl flooring and low VOC (volatile organic compound) carpeting.

Even the outdoor landscaping is sustainable. Native, drought-tolerant plants surround the SRB's exterior, and the minimal watering the landscape requires comes from reclaimed water irrigation.

Whether you need to use the computer lab, consult with one of the many resource centers, want a pleasant environment to study in, or merely desire to bask in the harmonious marriage of architecture and sustainable engineering, come check out the SRB today!

## Global Forum Sees New Insights on Sustainability

By Chris Darancette

March 24<sup>th</sup> to March 27<sup>th</sup> marked the first international search for global warming solutions innovated by young professionals. The ATHGO (Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities) forum broadened the perspectives of over 100 young professionals across the hemispheres at the most recent global forum at University of California, Los Angeles.

Two of the young professionals in attendance were environmentally active UC Santa Barbara students, Kevin Labade and Mina Gunderson. Kevin, a UCSB freshman, found his previous experience in organizing students against global warming as only the beginning stage of his future career in green business. Mina, also a UCSB freshman, is originally from Norway - her international perspective was a huge asset at the event.

The ATHGO Global Forum works not only as a three-day presentation by some of the most notable climate change scientists, green business leaders and non-governmental organizations, but as the Petri dish of type-2 solutions to combat climate change. Kevin and Mina worked together in a group setting to innovate and write a business and policy proposal to combat climate change.

Using the successful strategies offered by presenter Mr. Peter Goldmark, the Air and Climate Manager for Environmental Defense, Kevin and Mina employed Mark's concept of uncoupling to create their third place ranking business proposal. Their concept employed using future generated funds from energy efficiency to create an eco-bank that lent money to green businesses and private parties' infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Goldmark's presentation on uncoupling was a prime source for their business conception; his argument is that uncoupling bad products from good services is how businesses make profit. Like uncoupling lead from gasoline and CFC from refrigeration, the eco-bank concept uncouples infrastructure degradation from business owners' base profits, allowing for efficiencies to pay for themselves.

For more information about ATHGO and the upcoming global summit, please visit <http://www.athgo.org/>

## TGIF Committee Announces 2008–09 Grant Recipients

By Jill Richardson

On April 11, 2008, UC Santa Barbara's The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) Grant Making Committee announced its grant recipients for the 2008-09 funding cycle just in time for Earth Day.

The Committee, comprised mainly of students, received 20 applications for various campus sustainability projects from UCSB students, staff, and faculty. From the original applicant pool, 14 finalists were selected and asked to present their projects to the committee. Ten projects were then selected to receive funding:

- Cheadle Center for Biodiversity - PV Panels
- Documentary: Recreation Center PV Installation
- Ecological Coalition
- Gaucho Carshare Program: ZipCar (1)
- LabRATS - Equipment Exchange Program
- LabRATS - Green Chemistry Program
- Natural Gas Meters (3)
- Sustainable Media Team
- Waterless Urinals (12)
- White Mountain Research Station - PV Panels

"TGIF was inundated with exciting and campus-stirring proposals this year, which made our decision very difficult," said Mark Sentenac, TGIF Committee Chair and third-year biology major.

Sentenac also hopes for even more exciting and creative proposals next year, ones that really get the campus community involved in sustainability. He said, "TGIF is funding exceptional environmental proposals, and our hope is that students, staff, and faculty will notice the changes on campus and get excited about campus sustainability."

If you have an idea for a project that will help UCSB become more sustainable, TGIF will begin soliciting applications for the 2009-10 funding cycle in fall 2008.

*"Our hope is that students, staff, and faculty will notice the changes on campus and get excited about campus sustainability."*

The TGIF Committee is a student-majority governing body selected to oversee the approximately \$160,000 annual TGIF fund. The fund was created in 2006 when the UCSB student body overwhelming voted for a \$2.60 per quarter lock-in fee by an 82% margin. The money created by the lock-in fee is used to finance sustainability projects that help reduce the University's impact on the environment.

For more information on TGIF, please visit <http://sustainability.ucsb.edu/tgif>.



## UCSB Hosts Student-Led Sustainability Convergence

By Scott Heimerman

Striving to unify and empower California's student community to promote environmentally conscious policies on California campuses, the student-led California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC) gathered at UCSB for its largest congregation to date. About 300 students from 27 different California colleges attended the convergence, which was hosted by UCSB's Environmental Affairs Board and Associated Students. The convergence featured various workshops designed to share skills and knowledge, organize grassroots campaigns, and promote campus sustainability. Congresswoman Lois Capps gave the keynote address, highlighting the importance of groups like the CSSC in confronting the problems of our future.

"We have enormous challenges ahead of us; we don't have a long time to make a paradigm shift and pervade the way in which we live in the U.S.," Capps said. "To achieve true economic and social justice, we must recognize the interconnectedness between people and the environment. We must not only care for the lives of people around the world, but the ecosystems which sustain those lives."



*Congresswoman Lois Capps speaking at the convergence.  
Photo credit: Rowan Byers, Daily Nexus*

Accommodations were provided by hosts in Isla Vista and nearby campgrounds, where students camped near the beach. Vegan food was generously provided by the Isla Vista Food Co-op free of charge for the convergence.

The organizers of the convergence found the event to be a great success and hope to continue uniting students, campuses and campaigns to transform our schools into models of sustainability. The next UC/CSU/CCC Sustainability Conference, July 31 through August 3, will be hosted by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The CSSC actively encourages involvement from anyone who wants to help promote sustainability or attend convergences to visit [www.sustainabilitycoalition.org](http://www.sustainabilitycoalition.org)

### INTERESTED IN INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES?

The Sustainability Internship Program is consistently offering new academic credit, volunteer and even paid internships. This is a great opportunity to build your resume and see if sustainability is the field you want to work in after college. Projects range from energy and water efficiency, to environmental literacy and green chemistry. Email: [kmaynard@geog.ucsb.edu](mailto:kmaynard@geog.ucsb.edu)

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