Type of Membership
Life Single Membership
Life Joint Membership
Life Senior Single (65 yrs+)
Life Senior Joint (65 yrs+)
Annual Single Membership
Annual Joint Membership
Annual Single Recent Graduate Membership (Within three years of graduation)

$700
$750
$400
$450

$45
$55
$25

Rich Grogan (Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies 2010)
It has been a hectic year, but also very rewarding. Since last summer, I have moved across the country to New Hampshire, to begin a faculty job at Stetson University, New England. Last fall, I finally succeeded my dissertation and graduated in December. My wife (also a MSU grad student, defending this spring) and I are living in the Midwest, in Iowa and look forward to being reunited soon.

Rachael Showen (Sociology 2008)
I am now an associate professor of climate and society at Rutgers University’s Department of Human Ecology where I have greatly enjoyed developing and teaching two new undergraduate classes: Energy and Society and International Environmental Security.
My research has continued to focus on the social and political dynamics of the U.S. energy system by conducting studies on state policies and their decision-making processes. Understanding energy efficiency policy goals, I am excited to start a new Department of Energy funded study this spring, based at the Philadelphia Naval Yard, that will document how major renovation commercial buildings grow in energy efficiency in the future. I enjoy trying to keep my dog and 9-year-old and 4-year-old daughters, Matilda and Irena, from staring or injuring themselves too badly.

Sara (Perry) Syweda (City and Soil Sciences, 2009)
I am still working with Andy Anderson in Teacher Education on the Math Science Partnership which is based at Kellogg Biological Station. We are in the middle of a five year grant, and gathering lots of data on how students learn science and also how teachers teach science. We have been working with at-risk from all over West Michigan and the program has been growing by leaps and bounds. I’m also proud to say that my small farm is entering its fourth growing season, and we will be expanding our once again this year to include our new perennial crops.

Perry Pavlich Varnavskaya (Geography, 2008)
After completing my dissertation in Geography last August, I joined Lake Superior State University’s Division of Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, Geology, and Physics as a professor of Applied Geographic Information Systems (AGIS). I am currently working on a project using a system of status for the St. Mary’s River and Lake Superior that is designed to provide stakeholders with a better understanding of lake management challenges.

"Alumni News"
Steve Aldrich (Geography, 2009)
I have been enjoying my first year and a half at Indiana State University’s Department of Earth & Environmental Systems. The teaching has been rewarding, particularly helping to teach 400+ undergraduates to a wetland wildlife reserve near campus for an environmental science field methods seminar every semester. Teaching Geographic Information Systems classes is fun and involving a complex of different ways, and I continue to work on perfecting lab assignments which are interesting and allow students to apply new techniques. Research has been productive, too and I have high hopes for grant funding from NSST to continue working in the Eastern Brazilian Amazon on land conflict as a driver of deforestation. This summer I will co-host a study-abroad program in Thailand, and co-lead a senior honors Symposium entitled "Environmental Policy Program (ESP) and the Center for Water Sciences hosted a Modeling Symposium on March 29th. The symposium featured economics professor Cathy King from Iowa State University as well as MSU faculty whose research is grounded in similar modeling goals and techniques.

Modeling is a way of creating a representation of reality for a particular purpose. For example, Arlo Liguori-Zielinski (Geography, ESP) in an interview after the symposium, "It’s a simplified version of reality that serves a particular purpose. Some models deal with strictly biological issues like erosion and water quality in lakes; others address social issues. But regardless, there is a greater focus on integrated modeling, said Liguori-Zielinski. Such models bring together hydrosystems’ 2000 spring and seasonal interactions to see their effects on each other.

The symposium was meant to discuss the way that integrated modeling is being applied, said ESP director J. Chadwick (Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics, Econometrics)." Kling, who heads the Resource and Environmental Policy Program at Iowa State University for Agriculture and Rural Development, kicked off the symposium with a presentation on integrating hydrology and economic models. Kling explained how she has built on her background in economics.

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The 2010-2011 academic year has been as exciting for the Environmental Science Policy Program (ESPP) as its predecessor years. So far this year, we have had the privilege of welcoming new students to our family, and especially during the fall term, we have had the opportunity to work with many talented and accomplished professionals and leaders.

ESPP continues to engage the MSU community in critical environmental research and education and need education to address complex environmental issues. Below are some of the highlights of our activities during the past year, made successful by the support and participation of the MSU community.

Education
This semester saw the implementation of changes to the degree program and in ESP in that we will reach all MSU students. The revised curriculum offers:

> More flexibility in course choices.

Existing ESP students received part of the new program menu. This change was made possible by increasing collaboration and communication between students and faculty.

> A new course, ESP 801, is a foundation course addressing issues around interdisciplinary research and connections between science and policy. The course is designed to provide junior level to graduate level students with an understanding of the challenges and opportunities in interdisciplinary research.

New ESP course promotes interdisciplinary research, teamwork

When ESP started revising the department specialization in 2009, faculty and students asked for a course that would teach critical skills and knowledge that are necessary for interdisciplinary research. In response, ESP has created ESP 801, Principles of Environmental Science and Policy.

Team taught by Laura Schmitt Clabes (Community, Agricultural, Recreation, and Resource Sciences) and Renée Levens (Criminal Justice), ESP 801 is designed for students who want to learn basic interdisciplinary research concepts, methods and techniques, and their applications to policy.

“With there had been a course like this before, when I was a graduate student,” said Schmitt Clabes, “young ESP students didn’t have a game plan for working in teams or on policy research. The students have learned that there is a great that ESP is recognizing this.”

To help teach the class, Schmitt Clabes and Levens called on their network of colleagues. Each class had a different focus and included one or more faculty from a specific research area, and the students were given a project to work on as a team.

“Recently, we had a philosopher come in and discuss animal welfare,” said student Kwon Ho-Joon (East Asia Program), “It was a great overview of the different perspectives and it was a great that ESP is recognizing this.”

New students join ESP in 2010-11

Michelle Slaight (Community, Agricultural, Recreation, and Resource Sciences) and Cameren Fisler (Sociology) are two new ESP students who have joined the program. Slaight, who completed both her bachelor’s and master’s in Environmental Science Policy, now lives at MSU’s Keglov Biological Station. She studies the effects of nitrogen fertilizers on greenhouse gas emissions, a project that will help to improve crop productivity and sustainability. Eventually, she hopes to take her research and experiences helping students to advance issues related to environmental protection back to China.

Along with his sociology and ESP coursework, Cameron Whitehead, who completed his bachelor’s in Animal Sciences, chose to major in Environmental Science Policy. His research focuses on the impact of human activities on animal behavior. He then went on to work on a project that will help to improve crop productivity and sustainability. Eventually, he hopes to take his research and experiences helping students to advance issues related to environmental protection back to China.