

ESGP NEWS

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Connect with ESGP

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A sunny day for field work.



Dr. Scott Stoodley, ESGP Director (middle) with Brad Rogers & Josephus Borsuah at commencement in 2016



Oak tree outside of Life Science East. The tree sustained minor damage in an early season ice storm.

Message from the Director

Greetings from sunny Stillwater. As many of us have recently dug out from a major ice storm, we are blessed to have some warmer temperatures while we clear debris. This year has been a strange one and many of us will be happy to ring in 2021! We are happy to announce that several students have graduated this year. We wish them well in their future careers and thank them for their research efforts.

Our Zebra mussel research concluded this summer on Sooner Lake. OG&E were very happy with our results and we look forward to continuing project work with them moving forward. Work continues on the eradication of Yellow floating heart at Lake Carl Blackwell. It was treated with ProCellacor again in October and we are analyzing the efficacy of the treatment utilizing multispectral satellite imagery. Watershed based plans have been completed for the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA - Lake Hudson) and the Chickasaw Nation (Blue River). Those plans have been submitted to EPA for approval. We also continue to work on the Saline Creek stream restoration project under the umbrella of the Cherokee Nation. Water quality, macroinvertebrates, and fish data have been collected over the last few semesters. Our on-going work with the City of Stillwater is moving forward quite nicely regarding stream channel characterization and stormwater sewer assessments.

We are very pleased to announce several new affiliated faculty members including: Dayton & Lixia Lambert (Ag Econ), Elijah Schnitzer (Chemistry), Hamed Gholizadeh (Geography), Camelia Knapp (Geology), Jamey Jacob (Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering), Abu Mansuray (OK Water Resources Center), Brad Rogers (Oklahoma Conservation Commission), Barney Austin (Aqua Strategies), Vora Hitesh (Mechanical Engineering Technology), and Kristin Oloffson (Political Science).

Dr. Karen Hickman has taken over as the Director of the Environmental Science Undergraduate Program. We have teamed up with her and her students on multiple Senior Capstone Projects. This year we have 3 more groups who will be working on a Pollinator Garden at Lake McMurtry, Water Quality Monitoring, Stream Characterization and Stormwater Sewer Assessment for the City of Stillwater. We are excited to be working together with them.

Happy Holidays to you all and best of luck moving towards a hopeful 2021!

Regards,

Scott

OSU-TULSA

Professional Science Master's in Environmental Management

Director's Message

The Oklahoma State Regents have approved Oklahoma State University's request to offer the Graduate Certificate in Environmental Science with Regulatory Certifications via traditional and electronic delivery.

This is another "1st" for OSU-Tulsa ESGP!

In addition, only OSU-Tulsa offers the PSM-MS degree in Environmental Science. The Professional Science Master's Degree Program differs from other ESGP degrees by providing students a springboard to industry-specific job opportunities.

When completed, you will have the following degree and certifications:

- **Master of Science (MS) in Environmental Science from Oklahoma State University**
- Professional Science Master's accreditation (PSM)
- OSHA's 40-hour HAZWOPER requirements as per 29 CFR 1910.120
- Department of Transportation (DOT) training requirements as per 49 CFR, Part 172, Subpart H
- EPA RCRA's Hazardous Waste training requirements as 40 CFR 262.34(a) & 265.16
- OSHA 30-Hour General Industry course as per 29 CFR 1910

OSU-Tulsa is the only university in the State of Oklahoma to offer all of the above listed courses for graduate credit!

If you plan on working in industry, consulting or with any regulatory agency (such as USEPA, ODEQ, Tribal Nations, etc.), **this is your program!**



Dr. Ken Ede, PSM Director



Graduate students in the Professional Science Master's program are trained and certified to deal safely with hazardous waste.



PSM Courses

SPRING 2021

ENVR 5033 CRN 29677

**GIS Applications for Water Resources
Thursdays 4:30–7:10 PM**

- Distance Learning – This course will be taught remotely
- Free ArcGIS software included with enrollment

ENVR 5403 CRN 25966 & 31537

**Water Resource Management, Law, & Policy
Tuesdays 7:20–10:00 PM**

- Choose either traditional or remote learning

ENVR 5573 CRN 25683 & 31538

**Applied Standards for Environmental Managers
Wednesdays 4:30–7:10 PM**

- Choose either traditional or remote learning

ENVR 5583 CRN 25689 & 31540

**Safety Aspects for Environmental Managers
Mondays 4:30–7:10 PM**

- Choose either traditional or remote learning

ENVR 5723 CRN 27243 & 31541

**Field Investigation for Environmental Managers
Tuesdays / Thursdays 4:30–7:10 PM**

- Choose either traditional or remote learning

ADMISSIONS

Welcome!

NEW ADMITS FOR 2020

We welcome these students who were admitted to ESGP degree programs in spring, summer, and fall 2020:

Daniel Al-Khouri, PSM
Gianna Barolin, PSM
Tim Beals, PSM
Deborah Bedingfield, PSM
Hayley Cooney, PSM
Jayson Green, PSM
Michael Karr, PSM
Courtney Knudson, PSM
Hannah Merrill, PSM
Taylor Mills, PSM
Chime Mora-Garcia, PhD
Kim Nguyen, PSM
Hailey Seago, MS
John Story, PSM
Lauren Tremonti, PSM
Tou Yang, PSM



Drone footage of water quality sampling at Saline Creek.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Academic Program Review Highlights ESGP Development

FIVE MORE YEARS OF PROGRESS

Every five years, ESGP undergoes an academic program review (APR). All OSU academic programs are reviewed on a rotational basis, and ESGP was one of the many departments across campus that were on the docket for 2020. The APR process involves preparing a self-study and providing recommendations for the future of our degree programs.

The 2020 APR was an opportunity to share our needs and accomplishments with the OSU's Division of Academic Affairs, the OSU/A&M Regents, and the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education (OSRHE).

ESGP's APR report highlighted a number of key advancements that ESGP has made over the last five years, including:

- Revised admission requirements to match national trends and attract a greater diversity of applicants.
- Revised core curriculum based on student feedback and current best practices.
- Added a shared faculty position to offer courses in law and policy.
- Appointed additional Graduate Faculty who can serve as advisors and on thesis/dissertation committees.
- Developed a graduate certificate program which interfaces with the ESGP PSM degree.
- Re-affiliated the Professional Science Master's in Environmental Management with the PSM National Office.
- Added new industry-focused courses to the ESGP Professional Science Masters (PSM) degree electives.
- Greatly expanded externally-funded projects.
- Purchased field & laboratory equipment to facilitate student research.
- Established sponsorships of professional conferences & outreach events.

RECENT GRADS

Congratulations, graduates!

SPRING & SUMMER 2020

Join us in congratulating these students for completing their degrees:

Caleb Biles, MS
 Stephen Cochran, PSM
 Kavina Eksteen, MS
 Jacob Mahmood, PSM
 Abigail McCrea, MS
 Benjamin Lamb, MS
 Martin Wind, PSM

A combined spring/fall Graduate College Commencement Ceremony will be held virtually on Friday, December 11, 2020. For more information, including a link to the livestream event, visit <https://gradcollege.okstate.edu/resources/graduate-commencement.html>



Preparations for the 2019 fall commencement.
 Photo credit: OSU Graduate College

ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT

Kavina Eksteen, MS

SPRING 2020

Kavina Eksteen completed her Master's degree in Environmental Science at Oklahoma State University in May, 2020. Her thesis focused on water quality in the Lake Hudson Watershed in Mayes County, Oklahoma. Research components included 1) a riparian assessment prioritization scheme of the watershed, 2) pollutant loads and load reduction modelling with EPA's STEPL model using riparian buffers as a best management practice, and 3) the economic costs linked to buffer implementation in critical areas of the watershed. Kavina presented her research at the 2019 OCLWA Conference.

Previously, Kavina earned a Bachelor of Science degree with majors in Zoology and Physiology at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and an honors degree in Environmental Management from the University of South Africa. Kavina was the 2019 student recipient of the Jimmie Pigg Scholarship. She and her husband Rodney serve as OSU-CEAT's In-Residence advisers for Parker Hall's Living Learning Program.



Kavina Eksteen, MS

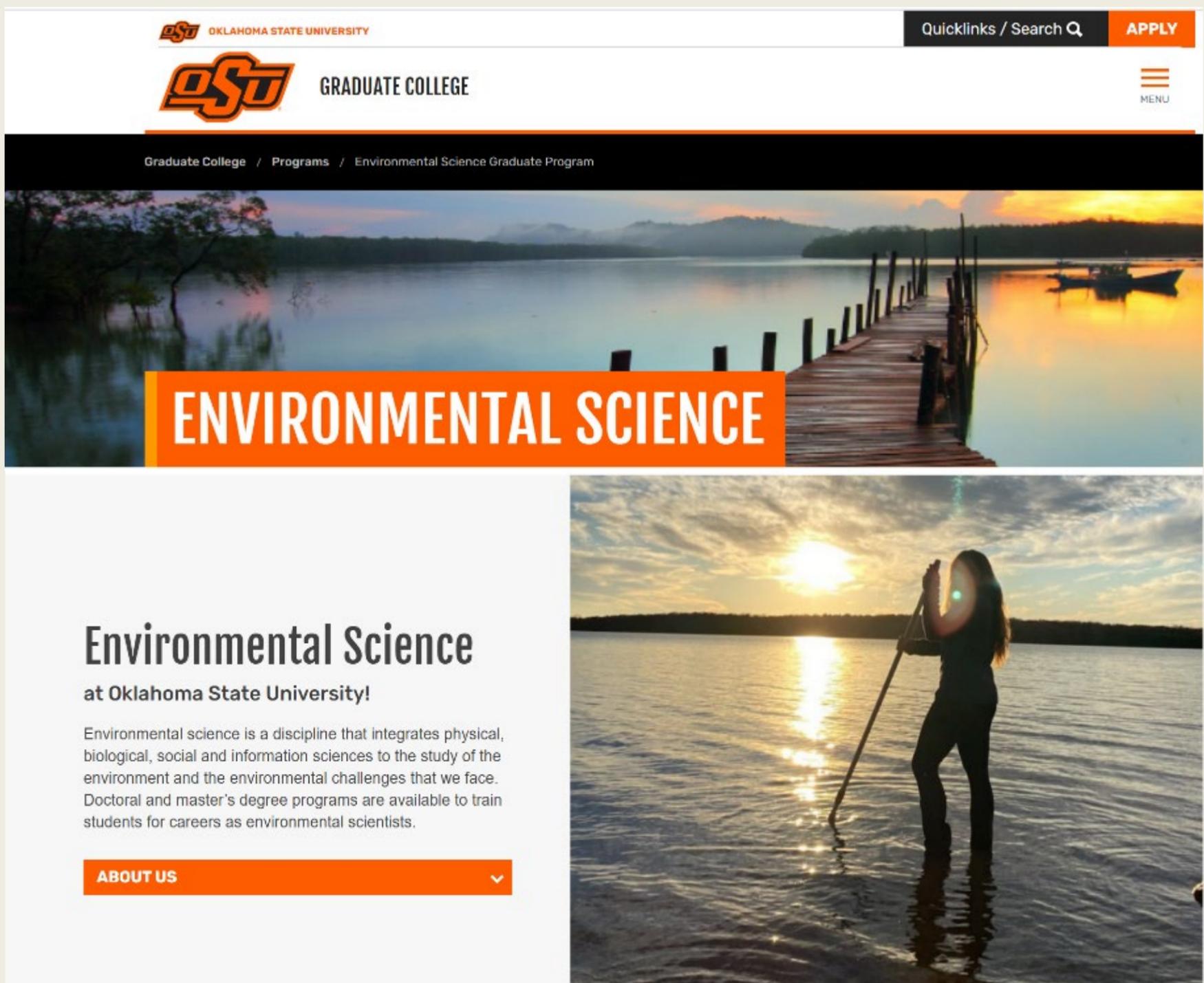
CHECK IT OUT

ESGP Website Reboot

If you have visited our website lately, you might have noticed that it has had a makeover as part of the university's effort to move to a single content management system. We are now on a completely different platform that allows us to present information in a format that is consistent with the rest of the university. The updated layout uses a mobile-friendly template and aims to make our web content accessible to all users. Best of all, the new site has ample room to display photos of our students and alumni doing environmental science!

Dr. Stoodley and Dr. Farnsworth-Hoback would like to thank Charmaine Motte, Graduate Coordinator of Recruitment, for the hard work that she did to make our website re-boot happen. We could not have made the jump without her invaluable assistance!

We would love to include your photos on our site. Just send them by email to esgp@okstate.edu and include a caption.



Screenshot of our new homepage at esgp.okstate.edu as displayed on a desktop computer.

NEW BEGINNINGS

After three and a half years as ESGP Program Coordinator, Dr. Kerri Farnsworth-Hoback is moving to another office on campus. On December 14, she will join Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service as the Executive Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Extension. Stop by and say hello when you are in Ag Hall.

Congrats!

Dr. Abu Mansaray (PhD, 2018) and his wife Isha welcomed a daughter on November 2. Both mother and baby are doing well.

Share your alumnus news with us and we may add it to our next newsletter. Submit your item to esgp@okstate.edu.



Flashback: International potluck dinner, December 2015
(photo courtesy of Dr. Stoodley's Facebook memories)