

GeoGuardian

NEWSLETTER OF THE SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENT,
GEOGRAPHY, AND SUSTAINABILITY

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In 2023, the School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability (**EGS**) was created from the coming together of the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability and the Department of Geography, Environment, and Tourism. **EGS** strives to develop innovative sustainable solutions to environmental challenges through innovative teaching, research, and outreach on the environment, sustainability, and spatial sciences. In addition to the majors, minors, programs, and certificates of both former units, **EGS** also houses the Global and International Studies major and minor and the Climate Change Studies minor.

Enabling students to apply their knowledge of the environment, global issues, and geography is key to paving a path toward global impact.

*Dr. Benjamin Ofori-Amoah
Founding Director*

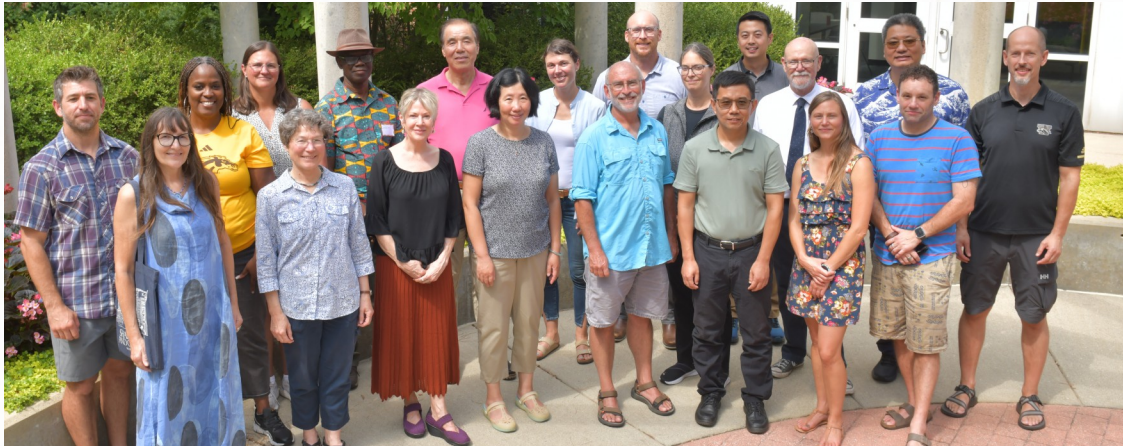
From the SEGS Director

It is with great pleasure that we announce to our broader community the formation of the School of Environment, Geography, and Sustainability. A major goal was to make environmental programs at WMU more visible and accessible. The School now acts as a focal point for students interested in learning about the world, how it works, and how we interact with it. We are now one of the most complex academic units in the College, and the interdisciplinary nature of our programs means that we are highly interconnected with other academic units in the College of Arts & Sciences and beyond.

In our next newsletter we look forward to sharing with you our important work to engage our students in compelling activities and experiences, and to promote the development of environment- and sustainability-focused programs and courses, research collaborations, outreach, and community engagement.



EGS Faculty conduct research and teach courses in a wide variety of areas.



Kathleen Baker - spatial data science and geospatial modeling, social determinants of health, conservation management

Steven Bertman - atmospheric chemistry, regenerative agriculture

Devin Bloom - macroevolution and ichthyology, evolutionary ecology, biogeography

Lisa DeChano-Cook - natural hazards and perceptions, sports geography

Lucius Hallett - food geographies, tourism

Chansheng He - watershed hydrology, non-point source pollution modeling, water resource management

Lynne Heasley - environmental history and humanities, ecocultural storytelling, Great Lakes landscapes and waterscapes

Carla Koretsky - aqueous geochemistry, biogeochemistry, mineral-water interface geochemistry

Daniel Macfarlane - Great Lakes environmental history and policy, water history and policy, US-Canada environmental and energy relations

Lei Meng - climate variability and climate change, land-atmosphere interactions, extreme weather

Michelle Metro-Roland - urban and cultural geography, landscapes,

Deirdre Nieves - climate change and impact on marginalized communities; migration and displacement

Benjamin Ofori-Amoah - African economic development, urban and regional planning

Nicholas Padilla - Latin America, Indigenous peoples, political ecology

Nadine Plachta - indigenous studies, environmental justice



Ge (Jeff) Pu - environmental remote sensing, environmental modeling technologies, and data integration

Tiffany Schriever - food web ecology, herpetology and aquatic entomology, herpetology and aquatic entomology

Cybelle Shattuck - faith-based environmentalism, environmental justice, community climate resilience

Bilinda Straight - cultural and biological climate adaptations, emotion and morality in conflict and disaster

Maarten Vonhof - animal behavior and ecology, conservation biology, disease ecology

Li Yang - tourism planning and marketing, ethnic and cultural tourism, urban and regional planning

Laiyin Zhu - extreme weather, climate change

EGS Professional Instructors teach courses such as ENVS 4160 - Worlds of Waste and Recycling, GEOG 1000 - Global Environmental Issues, and GIST 2000 - Global and International Studies.

Cindy Bloom

Tim Bober

Audrey Elzerman

Justin Gish

Mike Gutowsky

Rebecca Harvey



Thomas Kostrzewa

Daniel Lance

William McQuitty

John Minser

Queen Roach

Kala Willette

EGS Staff keep everything running smoothly by assisting with student-related activities and processes that faculty need to adhere.

Erin Baker, Administration Assistant II

Jessica Blesing, Administrative Assistant Sr.

Cathy Kimmel, Administration Assistant II



To find out more about any of these faculty and staff go to:

<https://wmich.edu/environment/directory>

Did you know...?

Geography has been part of WMU since 1904. It has evolved from traditional mapmaking and regional studies to become a leader in spatial science and applied research.



Retired faculty members Dr. Phil Micklin and Dr. Hans Stolle.

We want to hear from you!!

There are many ways to get involved with the School!

- ◆ Mentor a student
- ◆ Provide an internship opportunity
- ◆ Donate to a scholarship fund
- ◆ Give a presentation on your work
- ◆ Update EGS on your promotions and awards
- ◆ Refer a student to EGS for a bachelor's or master's degree
- ◆ Give a guest class lecture
- ◆ Reconnect with your favorite faculty member
- ◆ Join an advisory board
- ◆ Post job opportunities on Handshake
- ◆ Sponsor student projects

Complete the Alumni Form to update us on what you are doing!



Follow us on social media!



Upcoming WMU Alumni Events

For more information on these events and other alumni events go to;

<https://wmualumni.org/w/calendar-of-events>