

# Environmental Studies Department

## Fulton School of Liberal Arts



### THE PROGRAM

"How will you walk this earth?" asks Wayne Gilchrest, former United States Congressman. His question, posed to a group of Environmental Studies (ENVR) Department students in a summer kayaking class, is central to our program – for whether you seek to become a professional environmental advocate or wish to enrich your own understanding of the world around you, we encourage you, in the words of Thoreau, to live deliberately.

SU's Environmental Studies Department integrates topics in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences to give students the tools they need to examine complex environmental issues in depth and assess them from a variety of perspectives. The program combines a solid academic foundation with extensive experiential learning; frequent opportunities for research and community engagement provide ENVR graduates with a substantial foundation for further graduate study or meaningful careers in environmental fields.

### Hands-On and Ready to Lead

ENVR majors gain valuable real-world experience through hands-on, relevant and highly experiential learning opportunities. Our students explore two of the mid-Atlantic's most intact river systems, the Nanticoke and Pocomoke rivers; study coastal barrier islands, such as Cedar and Assateague; visit major national wildlife refuges, including Chincoteague and Blackwater; and experience the unique watermen's communities on Smith and Tangier islands. They consider climate change from multiple perspectives and attend weekly field trips in our Introduction to Sustainability course, create wildlife conservation plans in Conservation and Wildlife Management, plan "green" land use in our Sustainable Landscape Design course, and investigate an ever-changing range of Chesapeake Bay topics with award-winning author Tom Horton.

Students in our classes are inspired and supported to step up, take the lead and act. Race, Place and Nature students



*The Environmental Studies Department offers a flexible and relevant mix of coursework and field opportunities – and, above all, the chance to cultivate what Rachel Carson termed “a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life.”*

### A DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT

There's no better-situated university on the East Coast than SU to explore and experience a variety of fresh, brackish and saltwater ecosystems. With the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean as our next-door neighbors, ENVR students have access to nearly 100,000 acres of wetlands, forests, rivers, shoreline and barrier islands.

organized and hosted the 30th anniversary commemoration of the inaugural National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit held in a hybrid format at Salisbury University in fall 2021, an entirely student-driven event. Our seniors must complete a capstone project as part of the major. Past capstone projects include working with the City of Salisbury to survey Salisbury area residents as a first step in bringing in resident voices to plan for sustainability, creating a GIS StoryMap and website as a community resource regarding local environmental justice and toxicity issues, and working with Delmarva Public Radio on a broadcast about the importance of the Wicomico River.

Opportunities for study abroad and study away abound: ENVR students can snorkel coral reefs in Honduras, investigate life in Scotland or explore

biodiversity in Costa Rica. Some share meals with rural villagers in Bhutan, others live in Australian rain forests or spend their winter term researching environmental issues in Kenya.

Closer to home, ENVR students intern in organizations as diverse as the United Nations, Amy's Organic Foods, Maryland SeaGrant, Migrant Clinicians Network, Salisbury Zoo, Delmarva Discovery Center Museum, Delaware Solid Waste Authority, Maryland State Park System and Delmarva Native Plants.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the Environmental Studies Department: **410-543-8105**  
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### Community and Stewardship

All our courses remind students that they are citizens of both local and global communities. Stewardship and advocacy opportunities are an important part of our program. ENVR students have worked to build bird, bat and bee nest boxes with area high school students; worked with the Salisbury City Council to enhance urban tree canopy and ban plastic bags; created a website for regional environmental justice; and testified to the Maryland Assembly regarding energy policy. ENVR students are growing vegetables and establishing pollinator gardens on campus and are helping with the Camden Community garden.

Many ENVR students are members of the SU Environmental Student Association (ESA). ESA members host campus thrift markets to repurpose and reuse gently used goods, hold weekly meetings with activities and snacks, volunteer at local clean-up events, and plan SU's Earth Week programming. Incoming first-year students in our Environment and Sustainability Living Learning Community share common ENVR classes and participate in many group activities outside the classroom, including dinners, exploring local parks, arts and crafts nights, and cookie decorating competitions, to name a few.

The Environmental Studies Department is in a charming cottage on Camden Avenue, known as the ENVR House. The ENVR House is not just home to faculty offices, it's a place to gather, connect and build community. Students are welcomed and encouraged to spend time in the ENVR House, use the community kitchen, hang out in the student lounge and pop in to chat with their professors. The ENVR House, like the ENVR Program, is a warm and welcoming place where you will be surrounded by a community of caring, open and supportive environmental stewards. We hope you'll join us!



### FACULTY

- Gina Bloodworth, *Geography*
- Jaime Bunting, *Natural Resource Interpretation and Environmental Education*
- Jill L. Caviglia-Harris, *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*
- Charles Ewers, *Environmental Rhetoric and Literature*
- Shane Hall, *Environmental Justice and Literature*
- Jim Hatley, *Environmental Philosophy*
- Tom Horton, *Environmental Studies of the Chesapeake Bay*
- Michael Lewis, *Environmental History*
- Fulbert Namwamba, *Environmental Geosciences*
- Tami Ransom, *Department Chair, Conservation Biology*
- Dave Scheid, *Sustainable Landscape Design*
- Laura Villalobos, *Environmental and Natural Resource Economics*

Other affiliated faculty are located throughout the University.

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