

ENV @MU

Newsletter from the Misericordia University
Environmental Studies Program



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One of Dr. Ryan Watson's Film Studies students attended our *Dawnland* screening and shares her thoughts on the documentary.

Faculty Spotlight

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Sustainability Corner

The MU Sustainability Committee's theme is saving energy!

Hello from the Program Director



By Linda Auker, Ph.D., C.S.E.

Dear reader,

I am happy to report that October was a busy and productive month for our new Environmental Studies program at Misericordia! We had a nice turnout for the student and faculty events that we had planned. One of my favorite highlights was speaking with Holly Wilson, who shared her art with us during our Indigenous Peoples' Day pop-up exhibit. Special thanks to Dr. Lalaine Little and the Pauly Friedman Art Gallery for their work in organizing that event. If you missed the talk, the art gallery has it up on their Youtube page at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfBM5bCG1_Q.

Our focus in November is advising, registration, and outreach to interested students about ENV!

I always welcome questions about the program. You can contact me at lauker@misericordia.edu. Happy reading!

Excerpt from a Student Reflection on *Dawnland*

By Victoria Narbone

(Medical Imaging Major)

It was shocking to hear the stories of Natives, now grown, that were forced out of their tribes by the child welfare authorities. There is a wide range of ages of people in the film which shows the generations that were impacted by this. The Native American culture is beautiful in many aspects, and it is saddening to see how much of that culture has been erased to fit white ideals. It really makes no sense why the nation and child welfare authorities thought they were doing the right thing by 'saving' these children from their culture only to put them in abusive situations that resulted in everlasting trauma. The Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is something that I honestly had not heard of before but I am glad to learn more about it by watching the film.



Victoria attended the screening of *Dawnland*, a documentary we screened for Indigenous Peoples' Day. This touching film discusses the generational impacts of Native American boarding schools.

Faculty, if your students attend ENV programming for credit and write about their experience and you find it valuable for the greater public, please send it to Linda Auker for inclusion in a future edition of ENV @MU!

Faculty Spotlight

We spoke with Dr. Cosima Wiese, Biology Department Chair and Environmental Studies faculty member, about her experience in Environmental Science and her thoughts about teaching our brand-new ENV 100 course in the spring. Here is what she had to say:



What aspect of your research and teaching tie to the themes of the Environmental Studies program?

I teach Environmental Biology (see picture on page 1) for our Biology majors, which focuses on environmental issues and their impacts on both human and environmental health. My research has centered around how plants are impacted by and respond to environmental pollutants. I first worked with agricultural crops and air pollutants, and now I am focused on investigating effects of heavy metals on aquatic plants. Additionally, I have an on-going water quality monitoring project at a nearby lake. Both my research projects and teaching experience are directly relevant to the Environmental Studies program.

What do you look forward to most about teaching ENV 100?

I am really looking forward to team teaching with Dr. Carso, and learning more about how the humanities disciplines approach issues of the environment. I am also excited to engage with and learn about the important topics of the course using multi-disciplinary approaches.

What advice would you give to students who are interested in taking ENV 100?

Try it! It will be fun and informative, and it will expand how you think about and approach people and issues. We look forward to stimulating discussions and learning from each other while also learning about the field of Environmental Studies.

Sustainability Corner

The Sustainability Committee at Misericordia invites you to save electricity in November! Turn off those lights and electronics when you are not using them. Learn more about energy savings at: <https://bit.ly/3mqd5Es>