UCSB DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
COLLOQUIUM

Date: Thursday, May 14, 2009

Time: 3:30pm

Location: Buchanan Hall 1930

Speaker: JOHN MELACK
Acting Dean and Professor
Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management
and Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology
and Affiliated Professor of Department of Geography
University of California Santa Barbara
PhD: 1976, Zoology (Limnology), Duke University

Title: Bren School of Environmental Science and Management: Background and overview

Abstract: Based on the academic strengths of UCSB in the 1980s and in response to a request from the Chancellor, a group of faculty proposed a School of Environmental Science and Management. In 1990, the UC Regents approved the proposal and recommended new faculty lines and a building supported with State funds. In the mid-1990s, with support from the Bren Foundation, the scope of the School was expanded, and it was named the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. In 2002 the School moved into the first LEED Platinum-rated laboratory building in the US. The School offers an innovative professional Masters of Environmental Science and Management degree based on a structured two year program, and a Ph.D. degree. Faculty expertise includes economics, political science, hydrology, microbiology, biogeochemistry, ecology, industrial ecology and informatics. Almost all the faculty hold affiliated positions with other departments across UCSB. Current research involves collaborative projects at UCSB and beyond, e.g. environmental impacts of nanotechnology, sustainable fisheries, and ecological restoration.

About the speaker: Dr. Melack's research has emphasized ecological processes in lakes, wetlands, and streams, as well as hydrological and biogeochemical aspects of catchments. He has incorporated innovative remote sensing into his research and has conducted multi-year studies in eastern Africa, tropical South America, and California. He is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, he currently serves on the Science Steering Committee for the Large Scale Biosphere-Atmosphere Experiment in Amazonia, and he is an elected U.S. representative to the International Society of Limnology. He played a seminal role in the creation of the Bren School, and is the faculty advisor of the University of California’s Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve near Mammoth Lakes.

For more information: [http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/eemb/faculty/melack/index.html](http://www.lifesci.ucsb.edu/eemb/faculty/melack/index.html)

Department Host: Phaedon Kyriakidis