



Paul Rudy heads the University's Institute of Marine Biology at Charleston which will offer a course about man and his environmental problems spring term.

Photo by Lisa Marzano

Institute offers integrated studies of Coos Bay ecology

By PETER SHEPHERD
Of the Emerald

COOS BAY (Special)—The University's Institute of Marine Biology at Charleston, will offer a "multi-disciplined approach to man and his environmental problems" spring term.

"The Coos Bay area is in many ways a typical estuary," said Paul Rudy, director of the Institute. "It's under a lot of pressure from many sources. We've filled and polluted it. Unplanned growth is killing it."

In an effort to provide some insight into the area's environmental problems, students will study landscape architecture and sociology as well as geography and biology.

"Since I came here four years ago," said Rudy, "I've begun to realize that you have to go beyond biology to social use programs. If we're to deal with environmental problems we have to get plugged into the political process."

Students and faculty will live on the Institute grounds in old Civilian Conservation Corps dormitories. Though the dorms are a little Spartan, Rudy said, "a sort of summer-camp spirit develops that's a lot of fun."

The Institute spreads over more than 100 acres on the ocean channel four miles from Coos Bay, an important lumber shipping port.

Rudy said the grounds encompass a wide variety of environments. "We have a wooded area that has a high population of mammals, like mice and flying

squirrels," said Rudy. A recently acquired 22-acre tract of land allows the Institute to study a salt marsh and large tidal mud flat in addition to rockier types of shoreline.

Rudy then responded to charges that the University program was duplicating services offered by the Oregon State University Marine Biology Center in Newport.

"This thing has been a bugaboo all along to us," said Rudy. "If you think of the whole field of oceanography as a pie, we are a very narrow segment of it. We're trying to integrate our program to deal most effectively with coastal problems—something that's not being done anywhere else that I know of."

The State Board of Higher Education recently commissioned a study of the problem.

The study concludes that no change should be made in the present set-up.

The University faculty at Charleston this spring will be Rudy, who is an associate professor of biology; Robert Diethelm, associate professor of architecture and chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture; Ronald Raich, assistant professor of sociology; and William Loy, assistant professor of geography.

Rudy said he was concerned about the spring term enrollment. "We probably need about 20 to make the program work, but to date we only have ten."

Enrollment will be limited by dormitory space to 60 students. Students interested in enrolling should see the individual departments for information.

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To marine biology institute

Indian donates land

By PETER SHEPHERD
Of the Emerald

COOS BAY (Special)—"I want that land left just exactly the way it was before the White man came and took it away," said Henry Metcalf, a Coos Indian who has donated 22 acres of land on the Coos Bay estuary to the University's Institute for Marine Biology.

"We have had limited access to the land before we actually acquired it," said Paul Rudy, director of the Institute, "but we couldn't protect it from a variety of environmental pressures."

The land extends from the low tide mark of a tidal slough across a mudflat and salt marsh onto a forested hillside. Also on the acreage is a small boat basin, rare in the crowded bay area.

The land is valued at approximately \$18,000.

Though old age limits his activities to his house, Metcalf's memories of the land and its meaning to him clearly have not faded.

"This was a good country. There were deer and elk all over, and millions and millions of ducks. If you waved your arms in the air and scared those ducks they'd fly up and darken the sun," said Metcalf, pausing to take a contemplative draw on his pipe. "The hunters will kill them all off though. They're already taking away all the breeding grounds."

"We'd go out on those mudflats with a crooked stick about a foot long," said Metcalf, "and just stick it down in the mud. We'd twirl that stick around and around and up would come a big clam—they were that close together . . ."

"If they keep on fishing for crabs there aren't going to be any left. They've got thousands and thousands of huge pots out there each day, there's no place for a crab to go," said Metcalf. "When I was a boy, we could go out on the flats and under each lump of seaweed there'd be a crab."

"In just a little space I'd get all the clams I could pack ashore, but I always left some," said Metcalf.

"One time a fellow came by to show me a whole bunch of clams he'd dug. 'I got every one of them,' he said, and he probably did. He was raised here on the slough just like me, but he lived up in Eugene most of the time," said Metcalf, as if that explained the man's lack of concern.

Metcalf raised two sons near the land he donated to the University. "Oh God," said Metcalf. "Those kids lived on that land more than in the house."

Rudy said the grant came with two stipulations. "First, we've agreed to keep the area in its natural state—no extensive structures of any type." The Metcalf family has also asked that the land be used only for educational and research purposes.

The University has named the area the "Henry A. Metcalf Estuarine Research Area" in honor of its donor.

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