

Alexander and Elizabeth Swantz Endowed Specialist in Cooperative Extension

Dr. Edwin Grosholz, Professor and Specialist in Cooperative Extension
Dept. of Environmental Science and Policy
des.ucdavis.edu ● tedgrosholz@ucdavis.edu

College Celebration

Friday
OCTOBER
14
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5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Pavilion
UC Davis

We hope you will be able to join us.

ENDOWMENT PURPOSE

The Alexander and Elizabeth Swantz Endowed Specialist in Cooperative Extension was established in 2004. And though the Swantz's left the fund's specific designation to the Dean of the college, they created this endowment to support research, extension education and outreach in agriculture or environmental science, with primary consideration given to water use management.

RESEARCH

My applied research program addresses the health and productivity of habitats from inland Delta habitats to coastal bay and estuaries. This region is of critical importance for the state both from the perspective of coastal habitats providing necessary ecological services and also being an importance source of economic activity for the state. From fisheries and aquaculture to coastal tourism, these coastal areas bring many billions of dollars or revenue into the state. My applied research program address the risks that these habitats face from a range of human-mediated stressors including habitat loss, invasive species, climate change, overexploitation and other processes. During this most recent periods, I used the endowment funds for two applied research projects: 1) the impacts and population change of introduced invasive species including eastern oyster drills and European green, and 2) restoration of native Olympia oyster beds including as part of a Living Shoreline project and consequences of estuarine acidification for native and commercial oyster growth and survival.

TEACHING

I teach an undergraduate course ESP 123 in alternate years in the Spring Quarter. This is a field methods and statistical analysis course for upper division majors. I also taught a graduate seminar ECL 290 on the San Francisco Bay Goals Report, which is the key management document for the San Francisco Bay region. I also supported graduate student research credit hours as well.

STUDENTS

These funds briefly supported students who assisted with applied research on invasive species and restoration in San Francisco Bay and in Tomales Bay. This supported graduate student James Farlin for one quarter and graduate student Jordan Hollarsmith for one quarter. These funds also supported an outreach coordinator (Progra Representative) Janice Kelley for nine months who worked on an RREA funded project developing and educational online website for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).

OUTREACH

These funds permitted extended work on the RREA project (I was coPI with PI Leigh Johnson) developing and online website application for identifying and reporting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). These funds also permitted extending applied research involving restoration of native oyster bed habitats in Tomales and San Francisco Bays.

PROJECTS SUPPORTED

The work on habitat restoration in San Francisco Bay has brought together a broad range of agency and industry partners in developing methods for restoring entire shorelines from oysters and eelgrass to tidal marsh plants. This program is restoring vital ecosystem functions and services including habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife as well as active shoreline protection from sea level rise

THANKS

I would like to sincerely thank Dr. and Mrs. Swantz for establishing this endowment and Alex in particular for his support and approval of the activities that I have undertaken with endowment support.