May 2013

TO:  Incoming Nelson Institute Graduate Students

FROM:  Jim Miller, Graduate Advisor, 608-263-4373
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SUBJECT:   A few essentials and an invitation to the Nelson Institute Fall Orientation

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the University of Wisconsin-Madison and, in particular, to the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. In an effort to make your transition a bit easier, we want to make you aware of some resources available on campus. Please take a few moments to read the information below.

If for any reason your plans have changed and you will not be enrolling, please inform us as soon as possible!

Enrollment information from the Registrar’s Office will be e-mailed to you in late June. If you wish to access the Timetable through the Internet, it can be found in your Student Center on My UW (https://my.wisc.edu/). New graduate students can start enrolling for Fall 2013 on July 8th.

To introduce you to the UW-Madison campus, the Graduate School’s welcome events will be held Wednesday, August 28th starting at 11:30AM (see http://www.grad.wisc.edu/education/gradstdntlife/welcome.html for further details). We encourage you to attend this informative presentation of campus services. The Nelson Institute will host its own fall semester orientation on Thursday, August 29th at 1:30 pm in Room 180 Science Hall. Besides giving you an overview of the Nelson Institute, it is a great opportunity to meet other new environmental studies students, continuing students, faculty and staff. We certainly hope that you will be able to attend.

Enrollment
Depending upon the Nelson Institute graduate program in which you will enroll, there are a number of courses we would like to recommend to you for the Fall 2013 semester. These are outlined below:

• We strongly encourage all new Nelson Institute graduate students to enroll in ENVIR ST 901 Environmental Studies Orientation Field Trip and Seminar. It offers an excellent introduction to the interdisciplinary nature of the Nelson Institute programs. It will also provide an opportunity to meet some of the faculty and other new graduate students in the Nelson Institute. The field trip portion of the course is a work in progress. Professors Fred Madison and Pete Nowak are leading the trip this year. You won’t want to miss it as many past cohorts have stated it was one of the highlights of their academic career!

• Students in Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development (CBSD) are strongly encouraged to enroll in ENVIR ST 975 Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development Seminar.
• Students in Environment and Resources (ER) should check out the pre-approved course list at http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/docs/courses.pdf (it is the same list for both the MS and PhD). As a point of note, ER students are not relegated to the courses that appear on this list. It is just a sampling of all that is out there in the various departments!

• All Water Resources Management (WRM) students are encouraged to take the ENVIR ST 717 Water Resources Management Practicum Planning Seminar I with program chairperson Ken Potter. WRM students should contact the program chair (Potter) for specific course suggestions. To see the pre-approved course list, please go to http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/docs/wrm_courses.pdf but do realize WRM students are not relegated to the courses that appear on this list. It is just a sampling of all that is out there in the various departments!

• Students interested in energy issues should consider ENVIR ST/PUB AFFR/URB R PL 809 Energy Analysis and Policy Seminar and should speak with Dr. Richard Shaten. Richard is the academic coordinator for our Energy Analysis and Policy graduate certificate program. He is an excellent resource if you are interested in learning more about energy-related courses.

Enrolling for courses is always a concern for new students. Enrollment for new graduate students begins Monday, July 8th. If you find that you are not eligible to enroll for a course or that the course is closed, please contact the department or the instructor to inquire about waiting lists or other options for getting into the course. We suggest attending the first day of class and talking with the instructor about enrolling.

**Student Space and Facilities**

Here in Science Hall, mailboxes will be provided for all Nelson Institute graduate students by request shortly after classes begin. All mailboxes are in the basement of Science Hall unless you have requested that we send your mail to another campus address. It is recommended that you check your mailbox regularly since all mail will be directed there throughout the semester. We also encourage you to visit our Nelson Institute facilities in Science Hall including our student commons area (Room 15).

• The Nelson Institute Student Commons Area in Room 15 contains lockers that you can request access to. If you wish to sign up for a locker or have building access after posted building hours and/or on weekends, please see Tara Mohan (tcmohan@wisc.edu) to get keys to the building and to the student commons.

• You can set up your individual e-mail account by accessing the Internet and going to the My UW portal (http://my.wisc.edu/portal). The DoIT help desk phone number at 608-264-HELP can assist with campus computing questions. If you have questions about Science Hall computer support, please visit the Science Hall Computing Help Desk web page at http://helpdesk.shc.wisc.edu/portal.

When you reach campus, please plan to stop by our Nelson Institute Academic Programs Office in 70 Science Hall to chat about important program information as well as graduate student life in general.

**Funding**

Because funding can be a major issue, we have prepared a webpage which offers strategies for finding support (http://www.nelson.wisc.edu/education/funding.php). We regularly circulate notices of available funding opportunities to our new and continuing students via e-mail.
**Housing**

Those of you who will be looking for housing may wish to check out the Campus and Community Information Welcome Desk at Union South, 1308 W. Dayton St. This is a clearinghouse for all kinds of campus information including maps and apartment listings. Housing information is also on the Internet at [http://housing.civc.wisc.edu/](http://housing.civc.wisc.edu/).

We are certainly looking forward to meeting you this fall. If you have any questions, please contact us at the numbers previously listed. In fact, we encourage you to call or stop by our office *any time* you have a question or concern. See you soon!