**MES Core Faculty Biographies**

**Kevin Francis, Ph.D., MES Director**

Kevin is a historian and philosopher of science, with particular interest in the development of the environmental sciences. Kevin studied biology and philosophy at Reed College. After graduating, he spent several years working as a wildlife biologist for Mt. Hood National Forest. His graduate studies at the University of Minnesota focused on history of science and medicine. His historical research concerns scientific efforts to understand the mass extinction of North American megafauna (e.g. mammoth, mastodon, giant ground sloth) around 12,000 years ago, especially the way that various disciplines approach this problem.

**Erin Martin, Ph.D.**

Erin is an aquatic biogeochemist whose research focuses on examining the role of rivers in the global carbon cycle. Rivers are large sources of carbon to both the atmosphere and the ocean and are consequently critical to our understanding of the global carbon cycle. While working in the Amazon Basin, her research demonstrated that bacteria living in the river produce high levels of carbon dioxide through respiration, and this carbon dioxide is subsequently lost to the atmosphere. Her current research in the Mekong Basin (i.e. Cambodia) focuses on characterizing the type of organic carbon that is exported by large rivers to the ocean. Specifically, she uses molecular tracers to determine where in the watershed the carbon originates from, and uses radiocarbon analyses to determine the age of this material. Such information is necessary in order to understand the preservation of terrestrial carbon in the ocean, which can affect atmospheric carbon dioxide levels over long time scales. Through her training (master’s and doctoral degrees from the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington), Erin has research experience working in streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Additional interests include ocean acidification, estuarine ecology, evaluating the impacts of dams on downstream processes, and microbial ecology. Her past and present research has been conducted through collaborations with colleagues in Brazil, Cambodia, and the Pacific Northwest.

**Kathleen M. Saul, M.A., M.E.S**.

Kathleenreceived her BA in French and BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and MA in Management from the Wharton School of Business (University of Pennsylvania) before turning her attention to environmental issues and eventually joining the MES program at Evergreen.  After completing her degree in 2009, she taught Statistics in the Evening and Weekend studies program and Qualitative Methods, an Energy elective and gCORE in the Graduate Program on the Environment. Kathleen then moved to the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy at the University of Delaware to pursue her PhD. Her dissertation research focuses on the displacement of people that results from large scale technology projects, with a focus those involving nuclear technology.  While at Delaware, she participated in research projects looking into the energy policy implications of the Fukushima nuclear disaster as well as alternative administrative forms for organizations devoted to energy conservation, efficiency, and sustainable energy options. She also taught in the undergraduate Introduction to Energy Policy and Sustainable Energy Policy and Planning courses.  Her engineering acumen, business sense, and environmental awareness all come together in understanding modern energy systems and the green energy economy.

**Miranda Mellis**

Miranda is the author of *Demystifications* (forthcoming, Solid Objects 2017); *The Instead*, a book-length dialogue with Emily Abendroth (Carville Annex 2016); *The Quarry* (Trafficker Press, 2013); *The Spokes* (Solid Objects, 2012); *None of This Is Real* (Sidebrow Press, 2012); *Materialisms* (Portable Press at Yo-Yo Labs, 2009); and *The Revisionist* (Calamari Press, 2007). Her stories and essays have appeared in various publications including Harper’s, The Believer, Conjunctions, the New York Times, Fence, McSweeney’s and elsewhere. She has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the John Hawkes Prize in Fiction, and has been an Artist in Residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts and Millay Colony. She is an editor at [The Encyclopedia Project](http://encyclopediaproject.net/) and teaches at The Evergreen State College. Raised in the city of San Francisco, she now lives in the woods of the Pacific Northwest.

**John Withey, Ph.D.**

John Withey is an ecologist with extensive field experience studying birds in temperate (Pacific Northwest) and tropical (Panama and South Florida) environments. After examining crow population dynamics and behavior for his Ph.D. at the University of Washington, he completed postdoctoral research at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. He then taught Biology (for non-majors) and Ecology as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR for one year. He completed a second postdoc in quantitative landscape ecology at the University of Washington, examining how different groups of wildlife species are expected to respond to land-use change in the continental US under different policy scenarios, and developing an approach to calculating conservation “return-on-investment.” For 4 years he was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Florida International University, Miami’s public research university. He taught Ecology, Vertebrate Biology, and Urban Ecology at FIU. He currently conducts interdisciplinary research at large (regional to continental) scales, including 1) calculating phenological mismatch in migratory songbirds, 2) optimizing land use choices to benefit sage grouse and other wildlife, and 3) patterns of land use change in listed species’ critical habitat areas.

**Ted Whitesell**

Edward (Ted) Whitesell has been a Member of the Faculty at The  Evergreen State College since August 1998.  A past Director of Evergreen’s Master of Environmental Studies Program, he teaches  environmental and sustainability studies at both the graduate and  undergraduate level.  His courses address interdisciplinary environmental studies, the relationships between justice and conservation, and effective political engagement by scholars and students.  Prior to teaching at Evergreen, Ted was  Assistant Professor of Geography at Michigan State University, where  he worked from 1992 to 1998.  He holds master’s and doctoral degrees  in geography from the University of California, Berkeley, and a  bachelor’s degree in environmental biology from the University of  Colorado, Boulder.  Since 1970, Ted has been an active advocate for conservation in Colorado, Alaska, and Washington State.  He was the first recipient of the Junior Tyler Ecology Award for his wilderness advocacy in Colorado and Alaska as a young man.  Since moving to Washington, he has served in various capacities on the Board of the Washington Wilderness Coalition (now Washington Wild), including service as its president.  Ted is the editor of *Defending Wild Washington: A Citizen Action Guide* (The Mountaineers Books, 2004), which was written by his students in a yearlong program at Evergreen.

**MES Adjunct Faculty Biographies**

**Richard Bigley, Ph.D.**

Richard Bigley is a forest ecologist who teaches sustainable forestry and on occasion a forest ecology class. His current work focuses on the restoration of riparian forests to older forest conditions in western Washington, and the ecology and management of headwater streams and wetlands. He works for the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Over the last 21 years with DNR, he has served as the team leader for the Forest Ecology, Wildlife Science and the Habitat Conservation Plan Monitoring and Adaptive Management Teams. He also advises other organizations on the development of conservation plans. Before DNR, he worked as an ecologist for the Forest Service PNW Experiment Station and private industry. Richard earned a Ph.D. in Forest Ecology and Silviculture and a M.Sc. in Botany from the University of British Columbia. He has been an Assistant Professor at the University of Washington, College of the Environment, School of Forestry since 1994. As member of the Northern Spotted owl “5-year review” panel in 2004, Richard was a contributor to the first comprehensive evaluation of the scientific information on the Northern Spotted owl since the time of its listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1990. After his family, his passions are the science of natural resources management and conservation, and boating.

**Sarah Hamman, Ph.D.**

Sarah is the Restoration Ecologist for the Center for Natural Lands Management. Her work is aimed at restoring rare species habitat in PNW prairies using rigorous science and careful conservation planning. Sarah holds a B.A. in Biology from Wittenberg University and a Ph.D. in Ecology from Colorado State University. Most of her training and experience has been in ecosystem ecology, with a focus on fire effects on forest and grassland soils. She has also studied climate change impacts on Minnesota tallgrass prairies, wolf behavior and demographics in Yellowstone, fire effects on invasive species in Sequoia National Park, and restoration techniques for endangered species in central Florida rangelands. At Evergreen, she teaches Fire Science and Society and Restoration Ecology for the Graduate Program on the Environment.

**Jean MacGregor, M.S.,**

Jean is a Senior Scholar at the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education at The Evergreen State College. She directs the Curriculum for the Bioregion Initiative, a faculty and curriculum development initiative, whose mission is to prepare undergraduates to live in a world where the complex issues of environmental quality, community health and wellbeing, environmental justice, and sustainability are paramount.  The Curriculum for the Bioregion initiative involves hundreds of faculty members at colleges and universities throughout Washington State. Prior to work at Evergreen, she helped develop the environmental studies program at Warren Wilson College near Asheville, North Carolina.  Earlier in her career, she developed and/or evaluated environmental education programs for both youth and adults at nature centers and science museums, and in various outdoor and wilderness learning settings.*.*

**Timothy Quinn, Ph.D.**

Timothy Quinn has served as chief scientist of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s habitat program since 1999. Quinn recently served on the Science Working Group that came up with scientific underpinnings and a technical framework for the development of the Puget Sound Partnership. He has a B.S. in Biology from Western Washington University (1979), an M.S. in Physiological Ecology of Marine Fish from Western Washington University (1987), and a Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from University of Washington (1993).

**Michael Ruth, M.Sc.**

Mike is a professional GIS practitioner for Esri (Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc).  Mike has been a project manager and consultant for Esri, helping a wide variety of agencies learn and exploit geographic information systems.  His clients have included major non-governmental organizations, tribal and state governments, and US federal agencies.  Mike studied Environmental Science in college, later specializing in Geology at George Washington University.  For his Master’s degree, Mike completing a field mapping project studying the geology of the western Dominican Republic along the Haiti border area.  After completing his Master of Science degree, Mike worked for the Spot Image Corporation, developing GeoTIFF and other satellite imagery methods for GIS integration.  Now at Esri, Mike has focused on Africa projects for non-profit organizations over the past few years.  Recent projects address the applications of GIS technology for improving polio vaccination success in Nigeria, agricultural improvement for small holder farmers in Tanzania, and participatory community conservation activities in the western Serengeti, among other projects.

**Scott Morgan, M.P.A.**

Scott is the Director of Sustainability at Evergreen. He has a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, with an emphasis upon organic and bio-chemistry, and a Master of Public Administration from The Evergreen State College. Scott has worked in agriculture and private industry, founded and managed a small non-profit, and taught both pre-college basic education and graduate-level courses. This diverse set of perspectives informs his recognition that long-term sustainability will require a dynamic harmony between environmental, social, and economic health. On campus, Scott works across all divisions of the college, from operations to academics, to support Evergreen's carbon neutrality and zero-waste goals. Off campus, Scott is a co-coordinator for the Washington Higher Education Sustainability Coalition (WAHESC), a founding coordinator of the Sustainability Professionals of Thurston County, as well as a board member of the Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) and member of two municipal citizen advisory committees.

**Joslyn Rose Trivett**

Joslyn moved from Vancouver, British Columbia to study ecological science at The Evergreen State College. After graduating in 1994, she pursued a career in restoration ecology. She worked for the wetland mitigation monitoring program at the Washington State Department of Transportation, the Revegetation & Wilderness Monitoring crews for Olympic National Park, and she ran restoration planting projects and nursery operations for Sound Native Plants in Olympia, Washington. Her interest shifted toward social psychology, and in 2011 she obtained a Master’s in Human Development, specializing in Leadership in Education and Human Services from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, California. She brings her mix of ecological and social expertise to SPP to support education, evaluation, and expansion of the SPP model nationwide. She is studying restorative justice as a model for resolving conflicts of all kinds, including as an alternative to conventional criminal justice.

**Lola Flores, M.E.S.**

Lola completed her undergraduate degree in Guadalajara, Mexico, her home city. With a BS in Biology she decided to pursue graduate studies at The Evergreen State College, where she earned a Master of Environmental Studies degree. In Mexico she has had both academic and work experience in government offices with management and regulation on environmental issues. She is currently a research analyst at Earth Economics where her passion in studying environmental policy and documenting economic repercussions of ecosystem loss is being put to good use in Washington State and Latin America project work.