Blue Mountain National Park, Australia
1,600 year-old human handprints
Photographer: Paul Huntley
WELCOME

The rising and the setting of the sun over the oceans of the world, snow-capped peaks, great plains, majestic forests, shimmering deserts, animals great and small — across time and cultures, nature evokes in the human heart a sense of wonder and reverence. As we unravel the mysteries of the universe, we have begun to understand the incredible impact our existence has on the very fabric of life on Earth. The greatest challenge of humankind is balancing our desire to live bountiful and prosperous lives while preserving the integrity of the natural world in order to sustain generations to come. Achieving this balance is at the heart of the Bren School’s vision. 

Ours is a community of students, scholars, and visionary leaders who marvel at the beauty and majesty of nature. Through extraordinary expertise we strive to find solutions that ensure humankind will enjoy an abundant yet responsible co-existence with a flourishing natural world.
Knowledge gained in Bren Hall teaching laboratories is translated into recommendations for policy solutions worldwide.
SCIENCE TO SOLUTIONS

The Donald Bren School of Environmental Science & Management has emerged as the preeminent institution for the research and training of solution-centered professionals through a comprehensive, balanced, interdisciplinary approach to environmental science and management. The curriculum and research combine environmental science, policy, economics, management and law. Positioned in California on the coast looking out to the Pacific Rim and linked through research to the world at large, the Bren School’s international faculty, administration and students address global environmental issues. In collaboration with multinational corporations, governments and academic institutions, the School advances innovative solutions along the trajectory from scientific research to implementation.
PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Through tailored corporate and private partnerships, student and faculty research projects, global initiatives, unique programs, summer internships and full-time job placement, the Bren School is making a transformative impact on the environment worldwide.

The Corporate Partners Program is the means through which the Bren School forms mutually beneficial alliances with corporations and non-governmental organizations that share our commitment to sustainable enterprise, leading-edge research, and educational programs of preeminent quality.
Innovative corporate partnerships leverage and combine industry and academic strengths to address complex environmental challenges as vast as climate change, species conservation and air and water quality to achieve global environmental balance.
GROUP PROJECTS

One unique aspect of the Bren School is the Group Project. Serving as the master’s thesis, the three-quarter, 12-unit Group Project brings together 4–5 Master’s students and a faculty advisor to address a client’s environmental problem. The Group Project experience provides Bren students with real-world training unequaled at any other school and unparalleled preparation for environmental leadership in the 21st century.

In partnership with Deckers Outdoor Corporation™, Bren students develop new industry standards for green shoe production as well as examine reuse and recycling programs.

Tegucigalpa City, Honduras
Each year, through collaborative research with scholars, government officials and non-governmental organizations around the globe, the Bren School’s faculty advances the state of knowledge of environmental science and management. To ensure that this research has its intended impact worldwide, it must be organized and presented in a format that is useful to decision makers. This activity is often best accomplished in high-level conferences, where eminent thinkers at the forefront of diverse fields can come together and, through synthesis and analysis, provide critical direction for strategic courses of action. As an academic institution, the Bren School provides an ideal venue to convene conferences free from distraction and partisan influence.

Special Projects provide governments, organizations and corporate leaders the opportunity to contract with Bren School students and faculty to focus on specific outcomes to advance a solution critical to that entity.

Global Impact Initiatives and Special Projects can bring strategic insight to your industry and the broader policy community for the benefit of the environment.
While the environmental challenges facing the world today seem daunting, they present tremendous opportunities for “eco-entrepreneurs” who have the training to advance an innovation along the trajectory of science to solution. Never before has the market been so ready to accept innovative technical and business solutions, and never before has a graduate program existed that was designed to give innovators the tools to succeed.

In collaboration with the Technology Management Program at the College of Engineering, the Bren School has launched the nation’s first program in Eco-Entrepreneurship to promote the innovation of environmental products, services and technology transfer. This program teaches graduate students how to move an environmental solution from concept to market for their personal and financial benefit as well as for the betterment of the environment.

From natural catastrophe to environmental innovation – Bren students developed an award-winning green modular housing solution.
The Bren School places a strong emphasis on professional experience, and expects all Master’s students to complete internships between their first and second year of study. National or international summer internships provide an important opportunity for students to apply what they have learned in the classroom, gain valuable work experience, and make key contacts in the field. Many of these internships have been instrumental in helping students locate career positions after graduation and are an excellent way for a company to gain some experience with a prospective new employee before making an offer.
The world is changing rapidly. Sudden shifts in governance, economy, and the environment can present unexpected learning opportunities for students and faculty. The Fund for Excellence supports the Bren School’s ability to take immediate and decisive action in environmental problem solving.
THE FUND FOR EXCELLENCE

By supporting the unique academic and research endeavors of our students and faculty, The Fund for Excellence allows the Bren School to retain and expand its world-class standing. Financial resources strategically targeted to meet a critical need can have a transformative impact on the life of a faculty member or student. Such gifts can be leveraged to secure additional funds and generate new opportunities.

The Fund for Excellence makes it possible for our faculty and students to seize important opportunities that often arise at a time when existing resources are stretched to meet an array of competing needs.

Gifts of all sizes are welcome and encouraged. In accordance with University Policy and Presidential approval, we are pleased to acknowledge in perpetuity, some endowed gifts by naming selected prominent spaces in Bren Hall to honor the vision and generosity of our donors.
The most direct and personal impact you can make on the environment today is by supporting a student who is dedicated to a lifetime of environmental problem solving. In your name, the Bren School can recruit and support the best and the brightest Master’s and Ph.D. students from across the nation and around the globe. Through your mentorship, guidance and generosity you become a part of this extraordinary community. Corporations can simultaneously support Bren School students while increasing their pool of prospective interns and full-time employees.

Craig and Gayle Cummings, (UCSB ’72 and ’75 respectively, left), with lifelong friends Tom Peters, and wife Joy Dittberner (UCSB ’73 and ’76 respectively, right), pooled resources to support outstanding 2009 Master’s student Patrick Roehrdanz.
Bren Hall, a magnificent 85,000 sq. ft. living laboratory overlooking the Pacific Ocean, opened its doors in 2004 with a Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) Award, the highest level of distinction the US Green Building Council can bestow upon a capital project. Bren Hall demonstrates the core values of sustainability by minimizing the impact on air, water and land while showcasing energy efficient products and services. Building with these concepts is what it means to be “green”.

Bren Hall is the greenest laboratory building in the United States and serves as a model demonstration site for the UC system and the State of California. The building and its materials are continuously monitored so that data on its energy performance and materials use can inform others on best practices in the green building movement. It has become a national symbol of sustainable “green” building design and exemplifies the convergence of ecology and energy efficiency.
Diversity and affirmative action are integral to the University of California Santa Barbara’s achievement of excellence. It enhances the ability of the University and the Bren School to accomplish its academic mission. Educational excellence that truly incorporates diversity promotes mutual respect and makes possible the full, effective use of the talents and abilities of all to foster innovation and train future leaders. For information on University policies regarding affirmative action, please contact the Director of Equal Opportunity at (805) 893-4504. If you require this information in another format as an accommodation, please contact (805) 893-5743.

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