

# *Coastal Forests and Fog in the California Channel Islands*

A Geography Colloquium presentation by

## **Professor Christopher Still**

**3:30 – 4:45, Thursday, October 20; 1930 Buchanan**

### **Abstract**

The California coast and offshore islands harbor a large number of relict and endemic plant and animal species, including many conifers. A central objective of my group's research has been to understand how the low-level stratus clouds and fog that are common to these coastal regions influence ecosystem carbon and water cycling, plant stress and mortality, and plant geography. This research is centered on a Bishop pine (*Pinus muricata*) forest on Santa Cruz Island in Channel Islands National Park off the Santa Barbara coast. For this research, my group and I combine research approaches from plant and ecosystem ecology, biogeography, isotope biogeochemistry, remote sensing, and dendrochronology. In this talk, I will discuss our findings from this project, and also highlight future research directions.

### **Christopher Still**



My research program focuses on interactions between terrestrial ecosystems and the atmosphere, carbon cycle science, and the biological impacts of climate change. I am studying how coastal clouds influence ecosystem structure and function, the biogeography and biogeochemistry of C<sub>4</sub> vegetation, and linkages between the carbon and water cycles. I seek out and enjoy interdisciplinary collaborations, and I am interested in scientific questions that interface natural science with other disciplines, including social science and engineering.