

## **MEMO**

**To:** Michael Zimmerman  
**From:** David Barnhill, Director, Environmental Studies  
**Re:** Environmental Studies Annual Report  
**Date:** 6/10/04  
**cc:** John Cross, ES Faculty

### **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES (2004-2005 AY)**

#### **MAJORS AND MINORS**

- In the fall of 2003, ES had 26 majors and 24 minors. By May 2004 there were 45 majors and 21 minors. In May 2005 we had 60 majors and 23 minors.
- In May 2004, we had our first 3 majors graduate. In May 2005 or by the end of summer, 4 more majors and 1 minor will graduate minor. 10 majors and 2 minors plan to graduate in December 2005. 10 majors and 1 minor plan to graduate in May 2005.

#### **NEW FACULTY**

- The program was significantly enhanced by the arrival of two key faculty members. Jim Feldman gives the program an expert in environmental history. Stefan Becker gives us expertise in physical geography and adds to the international expertise of our faculty. Both have proven themselves to be excellent and energetic instructors as well as eager team players in the ES program.
- Because we have added electives to our major, two additional faculty members are now members of the program: Steven Dunn in Operations Management and Greg Kleinheinz in Biology/Microbiology.

#### **COURSES**

- New elective courses were officially approved for the program:
  - Env Stds/History 339: Public History
  - Env Stds/History 345: History of American Wilderness
  - Env Stds 375: Ecosocial Advocacy
  - Env Stds/Anthro 380: Globalization
- An additional course is in process of being approved:
  - Env Stds/Management 450: Environmental Management
- ES faculty teaching the core met several times during the year to develop coordination and integration of topics, texts, and approaches in the core courses. We will continue this as a way to avoid both gaps and overlaps and to enable faculty to know what students have already had in previous courses.
- Planning began for a new ES 395: Field Studies course, to be taught by Gregory Kleinheinz in the spring interim 2006. Majors have expressed very strong interest in having field courses. Ideally we would like to offer a field studies course every year.
- Planning began for another field studies course, this one in Belize during January interim. The ES program will submit a grant proposal to support the development of this course.
- For the first time we offered internships and independent studies in the program.

#### **CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

- The ES Program was active in the week-long Earth Charter Community Summit in October 2004. ES faculty participated in a variety of panels and other events, which drew students, faculty, and the broader community.

- The ES Program was a major organizer of the Earth Week celebration in April 2005. Here too ES faculty participated in a variety of panels and other events, which drew students, faculty, and the broader community.
- A new environmental student group, the “Environmental Studies Club,” was formed. This is a service and educational group, distinct from the more politically involved Student Environmental Action Coalition and the Campus Greens.

#### **FOCUS ON CAREERS AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS**

- In cooperation with the Career Services Office, the ES Program offered its second Environmental Studies Career/Internship/Graduate School Fair in December 2004. There was a panel that featured representatives of various environmental organizations discussing internship and career opportunities, and another panel with representatives of Wisconsin’s three master’s programs in environmental studies: U.W. Green Bay, U.S. Madison, and U.W. Stevens Point. Students were able to discuss graduate school opportunities with those representatives.
- Careers and graduate school were stressed again in ES 490: Senior Seminar, with students receiving training in resumes, interviews, networking, and public speaking.
- Information on environmental careers and graduate schools on the ES website was expanded. We have begun work on having regular notices of jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

#### **CLOSE CONTACT WITH STUDENTS**

- Extensive, personal advising continues to be emphasized.
- The Director was very active with both student environmental organizations, SEAC (Student Environmental Action Coalition) and Campus Greens. The Director was awarded “Outstanding Organizational Advisor” for Campus Greens during 2004-5.
- Jim Feldman served as advisor to the new Environmental Studies Club.

#### **PROMOTION OF THE PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY BUILDING**

- The ES Program was represented in Summerview and the Preview Days.
- The ES program continued its student-faculty “happy hour” and “pizza with the profs.”
- The ES program had its second annual end-of-the-year gathering for faculty and students. For the first time, awards were given out to students: Academic Excellence (highest GPA in the major for a graduating senior); Student Leadership (effective activism and leadership on and off campus by a graduating senior); and certificates of appreciation for helping with the ES program (open to all majors and minors).
- An “Environmental Studies Fund” was established at the U.W.O. Foundation to support student awards.
- The first “Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter” was sent out in April 2005.

#### **FACULTY RESEARCH**

- **David Barnhill** published *Bashō’s Journey: The Literary Prose of Matsuo Bashō* (State University of New York Press, 2005). This is the second of a two-volume translation of Japan’s most famous poet and nature writer. He also submitted two articles for publication: “The Spiritual Dimension of North American Nature Writing,” to be published in *Oxford Handbook on Religion and Ecology* (ed. Roger S. Gottlieb, Oxford University Press, forthcoming), and “East Asian Influence on Recent North American Nature Writing,” submitted to *Teaching North American Environmental Literature* (ed. Laird Christensen, Mark Long, and Fred Waage, MLA, forthcoming). He continues work on a book on radical politics in American nature writing, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield.
- **Jim Feldman** published “The View from Sand Island: Reconsidering the Peripheral Economy,” *Western Historical Quarterly* 35 (2004): 284-307. He was chair and respondent to the panel “Ideology & Recreational Environments” at the American Society for Environmental History Annual

Conference, March 2005, in Houston. He was awarded a Canadian Studies Faculty Enrichment Grant, with Lynne Heasley, Departments of History and Environmental Studies, Western Michigan University, to turn the course "American Environmental History" into a transnational US-Canada North American environmental history course. He received a UWO Faculty Development Grant for research on "Nature Protection and Traditional Rights in Postwar America: The Creation of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, 1962-1985." He served as break-out session leader, Teachers Academy for the Study of American History, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, July 2004. He also won two awards: the Baench Prize for best dissertation in Wisconsin History (from the UW Madison History Dept), and the Bert M. Fireman Award for the best graduate student essay published in the *Western Historical Quarterly*.

- The research activities of other faculty participating in the ES program are included in the end of the year reports of other departments.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

### *Alumni*

- Michael Greene, one of the first three graduates last year, has begun his studies in the UWO Educational Leadership MS program.
- Nick Pustina, also a 2004 graduate, was accepted in the PACE masters program in teacher education at the University of Portland.
- Angela LeNoble, 2004, assumed the position of Materials Leader at Ariens Company. She plans on entering an M.B.A. program in the near future.

### *Current Majors*

- Nicole DeKeuster served as President of the Student Environmental Action Coalition.
- Nick Berger served as President of the Environmental Studies Club.
- Steven Jeffery served as Treasurer for the ES Club.

## **GOALS FOR THE 2004-2005 AY**

- Continue working on the core program to coordinate and integrate topics, texts, and approaches.
- Extend and refine the job/internship/graduate school information available to students, including a regular posting of new opportunities.
- Begin advising students earlier on careers and graduate schools. Shift some of the career training from the ES 490: Senior Seminar to the core course ES 282: Environment, Community, and Values.
- Consider developing informal "tracks" that students choose relatively early in their studies in order to place them in a better position for careers and graduate school.
- Offer a successful field studies course in spring interim, and attempt to offer one each year.
- Obtain a grant to develop a field studies course in Belize during January interim.
- Facilitate students in obtaining hands-on experience in environmental work, such as volunteer water monitoring.
- Consider having field trips associated with particular courses and/or trips open to all majors and minors.
- Consider having reports on several informal elements of the program: gender, international perspectives, history, and social justice. Analyze the current way and degree these are part of our program, and consider possible ways of enhancing their presence.