

MEMO

To: John Koker, Interim Dean
From: David Barnhill, Director, Environmental Studies
Re: Environmental Studies Annual Report 2006
Date: 7/6/06
cc: John Cross, ES Faculty

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES (2005-2006 AY)

MAJORS AND MINORS

Environmental Studies has continued to grow.

	Majors	Minors		Graduates (majors)			
5/5/2003	32	26		May 2004	3	2004	3
9/15/2003	26	26					
5/10/2004	45	21		May 2005	4		
9/15/2004	51	20		August 2005	1	2005	5
5/5/2005	60	23					
9/15/2005	57	26		January 2006	5		
5/5/2006	70	33		May 2006	8	2006	16
				August 2006	3		

FACULTY

- We have lost a very important faculty member whose teaching and leadership in the program will be sorely missed: Tom Bickford. Indications are that Political Science will not be asking for someone who can teach in the ES program.
- In addition, it appears that Jim Simmons will continue to serve as Chair of Political Science and be very active in the new Fire and Emergency Management program. It is doubtful that he will be able to teach courses that count for ES. So we have lost a critical link with the Political Science Department.
- The search for the combined Sociology/Environmental Studies position was unsuccessful. We will be doing a second search this coming fall.

COURSES AND CURRICULUM

- A new field studies course (ES 395) was offered during spring interim by Greg Kleinheinz. Majors have expressed very strong interest in having field courses. Ideally we would like to offer a field studies course every year.
- A new course Env Stds/Management 450: Environmental Management was approved and will be offered in spring 2007.
- A faculty development grant for the creation of an international field studies course in Belize was approved, and work on the grant began in the spring of 2006. Four faculty (Stefan Becker, Pete Brown, Maureen Muldoon, and Bob Pillsbury) have agreed to co-develop the course and be available to teach it if their schedule allows it. They will conduct a preparatory trip in January 2007, and the course will be offered for the first time in January 2008.

- The faculty approved changing the Biology lab course that counts for the program from Biology 104 to Biology 105 in order to give students a more rigorous training in Biology.
- Informal “tracks” in Environmental Studies were created to assist majors and advisors in developing the students’ complementary expertise in another field.
- Other refinements in the ES curriculum were approved:
 - History 342: American Environmental History will become a cross-listed course ES/History 326.
 - Prerequisites for ES 282 were approved: ES 101 and ES 162/243/244.
 - The description of prerequisites for ES 490: Senior Seminar was updated (but not materially changed): ES 260, 261, and 282
- ES faculty teaching core courses in social sciences and humanities produced a review of the following: dimensions of their courses: History, International Perspectives, Gender, and Social Justice.
- The number of internships and independent studies has increased significantly.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

- The ES Program, in conjunction with Earth Charter Oshkosh, has approved a new position: Green Events Coordinator. The Coordinator will oversee various environmental events, including the Fair Trade festival, Aldo Leopold Weekend, and especially Earth Week. The Coordinator will receive \$1,000 and may receive three credits of ES internship.
- The ES Program was active in the week-long Earth Charter Community Summit in October 2005. ES faculty participated in a variety of panels and other events, which drew students, faculty, and the broader community. David Barnhill and Jim Feldman are active in the ongoing planning concerning Earth Charter.
- The ES Program was a major organizer of the Earth Week celebration in April 2006. Here too ES faculty participated in a variety of panels and other events, which drew students, faculty, and the broader community.
- A new environmentally-related student group was formed: a chapter of Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group (WISPIRG). Three other environmental student groups continued their activities: the Environmental Studies Club, the Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC), and Campus Greens.

FOCUS ON CAREERS AND GRADUATE SCHOOLS

- In cooperation with the Career Services Office, the ES Program offered a panel on environmental careers, internships, and graduate schools.
- Careers were stressed in ES 282: Environment, Community, and Values, and students received training from Career Services in resumes and interviews.
- Information on environmental careers and graduate schools on the ES website was expanded. We offer regular notices of jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities. In addition, we purchased subscriptions to two bi-weekly comprehensive listings of environmental careers, which are available only to ES majors and minors.

CLOSE CONTACT WITH STUDENTS

- Extensive, personal advising continues to be emphasized.
- The David Barnhill was very active in SEAC, and Jim Feldman was the faculty advisor to the 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 periodic student-faculty “happy hour” and “pizza with the profs.”

- The ES program had its third annual end-of-the-year gathering for faculty and students. Various 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” at the U.W.O. Foundation continues to support student awards.

FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

David Barnhill

- Published: “Buddhism -- East Asian;” Aesthetics and Nature in China and Japan;” “Kawabata Yasunari;” Le Guin, Ursula; “Matsuo Bashō;” “Matthiessen, Peter;” “Rexroth, Kenneth.” *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*. Ed. Bron Taylor. Bristol, England: Thoemmes Continuum, 2005.
- In press: “The Spiritual Dimension of North American Nature Writing,” *Oxford Handbook on Religion and Ecology* (ed. Roger S. Gottlieb, Oxford University Press).
- Accepted and forthcoming: “East Asian Influence on Recent North American Nature Writing,” *Teaching North American Environmental Literature* (ed. Laird Christensen, Mark Long, and Fred Waage, MLA).
- Completed and under consideration at *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*: “Surveying the Landscape: A New Approach to Nature Writing.”
- Completed and accepted “Gary Snyder’s Ecosocial Buddhism,” forthcoming in an anthology of scholarly articles on Buddhist environmentalism edited by Richard K. Payne, which is being considered by Wisdom Publications.
- Book reviews published:
 - *Conserving Words: How American Nature Writers Shaped the Environmental Movement*, by Daniel J. Philippon. Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 2004. *Capitalism, Nature, Socialism* 16.2 (June 2005).
 - *Genesis, Structure, and Meaning in Gary Snyder’s Mountains and Rivers Without End*, by Anthony Hunt. Reno & Las Vegas: University of Nevada Press, 2004. *Western American Literature* 40.2 (Summer 2005).
- Conference presentations: the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, Annual Meeting, Gainesville, Florida, April 8-9, 2006.
 - “The Emergence of Religion and Ecology as an Academic Field” (panel participant).
 - “Spiritually Based Eco-Anarchism in American Nature Writing” (paper). International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture, Annual Meeting, Gainesville, Florida, April 7, 2006.
- Continues work on a book on radical politics in American nature writing, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield.
- Scholarly service:
 - Continues on Steering Committee of the Religion and Ecology Group of the American Academy of Religion.
 - Appointed member of Board of Advisors of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.

Jim Feldman

- Accepted for publication by the peer reviewed journal, *the Berryman Bulletin*, “Public Opinion, the Leopold Report, and Reform of Federal Predator Control Policy.”
- Accepted for publication by the peer reviewed journal *Environmental History*, co-authored by Lynne Heasley: “Two National Narratives in One Environmental History Classroom: Teaching Comparative Canadian-U. S. Environmental History.”

- Book Review: For *Journal of the West: Oneida Lives: Long-Lost Voices of the Wisconsin Oneidas*, ed. Herbert S. Lewis.
- Conference Presentation: American Society for Environmental History, March 28-April 1, Minneapolis, MN, co-presented with Lynne Heasley, “Recentering the ‘American Environmental History’ survey: A Great Lakes and Canadian Studies Approach From Two Campuses”
- Awards: The Blegen Prize, from the Forest History Society, for the best article on forest and conservation history not published in the journal *Environmental History*, for “The View From Sand Island: Reconsidering the Peripheral Economy” published in the *Western Historical Quarterly*, August 2004.
- Campus Talks
 - February 10, 2006, “Rights over Access: Nature Protection and Treaty Rights in the Creation of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore” for the Teachers Academy for the Study of American History Symposium.
 - July 2005: “Thinking about Wilderness in Wisconsin,” for the Teachers Academy for the Study of American History Symposium.

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

- Iryna Depenchuk, Olesya Savchenko, and Anne Thiel received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.
- Iryna Depenchuk was awarded the Environmental Studies Academic Excellence Award for the highest g.p.a. in the major: 4.0.
- Jessica Dresen was awarded the Environmental Studies Leadership Award in May, 2006. She served as Co-President of the Student Environmental Action Coalition and was one of the founders of the UWO chapter of WISPIRG. She was hired as the Green Events Coordinator for 2006-7.
- Cassandra Choudoir served as Co-President of the Environmental Studies Club.

GOALS FOR THE 2006-2007 AY

- Review the science component of the program, evaluating the rigor of the scientific training and possible overlaps and gaps.
- Extend and refine the job/internship/graduate school information available to students, including a regular posting of new opportunities.
- Continue work on developing the field studies course in Belize.
- Establish annual field trip in ES 282.