

MEMO

To: John Koker, COLS Dean
From: David Barnhill, Director, Environmental Studies
Re: Environmental Studies Annual Report 2007
Date: 6/1/07
cc: John Cross, ES Faculty

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES (2006-2007 AY)

MAJORS AND MINORS

Environmental Studies has remained strong in number of majors and minors.

	Majors	Minors		Graduates			
5/5/2003	32	26		May-04	3	2004	3
9/15/2003	26	26		May-05	4		
5/10/2004	45	21		Aug-05	1	2005	10
				Dec-05	5		
9/15/2004	51	20					
5/5/2005	60	23		May-06	8		
				Aug-06	3	2006	16
9/15/2005	57	26		Dec-06	5		
5/5/2006	70	33					
				May-07	4		
10/10/2006	67	32		Aug-07	0	2007	17
4/2/2007	67	28		Dec-07	13		

FACULTY

- Our search for a joint Sociology/ES (2/3-1/3) position was successful. We look forward to having Paul Van Auken part of the program.
- We continue to be without any faculty members in Political Science teaching in the program. Tom Bickford was not replaced with someone with environmental expertise, and requests for faculty in that department with environmental expertise have not been granted. Because of administrative responsibilities, Jim Simmons continues to be unavailable to teach for ES.

COURSES AND CURRICULUM

- Building on last spring interim's offering by Greg Kleinheinz, another field studies course (ES 395) was offered during the summer of 2007 by Colin Long. The class enrollment, however, was terribly low (6 students), so Dr. Long taught the course at an unacceptably reduced rate of compensation. Students continue to say they really want field studies courses, but apparently summer (with extra tuition cost) won't work – spring interim appears to be the best time. That is a problem, as we don't have a regular "extra" course to buy out a faculty member's course as we did with Dr. Kleinheinz (we lost an extra course we previously had when the shared position with ES/Sociology was approved). We need to continue to explore ways of offering a field studies course.
- Preparations for a fall interim field studies course continued. Four faculty (Stefan Becker, Pete Brown, Maureen Muldoon, and Bob Pillsbury) completed a preliminary trip in January of 2007, and the course will be offered during fall interim 2008. We plan on joining an affiliation with UW Platteville to open applications for this course to their students.
- A new course Env Stds/Management 450: Environmental Management was offered in spring 2007.
- Four courses were added to the ES curriculum:
 - ES 391: Special Topics in Environmental Science
 - ES 396: Field Studies in Environmental Science
 - Geography 472: Advanced G.I.S.
 - Geography 335: Climatology.
- ES 390: Special Topics was changed to be repeatable for credit if the course content is different.
- The number of internships and independent studies has continued to increase.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

- This was the first year of a new position: Green Events Coordinator. Jessi Dresen served as Coordinator. This year the position was paid (\$1,000) out of funds from Johnson Controls. Next year it will be paid out of the ES budget. The Coordinator oversees various environmental events, including the Fair Trade festival, Aldo Leopold Weekend, and especially Earth Week.
- The ES Program was active in the week-long Earth Charter Community Summit in October 2006. 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 2007. Here too ES faculty participated in a variety of panels and other events, which drew students, faculty, and the broader community.
- A new student group, Community Gardens Oshkosh, was formed. Three existing 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.
- In ES 490: Senior Seminar, students are trained in interviews and participate in a mock interview.
- Extensive information on summer jobs, environmental careers, and graduate schools on the ES website continues. 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 continues to serve as active faculty advisor to SEAC and Campus Greens, in addition to be faculty advisor to the new Community Gardens Oshkosh.
- Jim Feldman continues as 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 fourth 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.

DIVERSITY

The ES program has the joined African American Studies, Social Justice, and Women’s Studies minors in building collaboration. Dean Koker approved an “extra” course each semester that would serve at least two of these programs. In that way, one course will strengthen at least two programs. This also will help bring greater diversity to the ES program. This fall the course will be Gender and Nature, with Women’s Studies. We hope to offer in the future a course on environmental justice that might link ES with African American Studies.

FACULTY RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

David Barnhill

- Book chapter published: “Zōka: The Creative in Bashō’s View of Nature and Art.” *Matsuo Bashō's Poetic Spaces: Exploring Haikai Intersections*. Ed. Eleanor Kerkham. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006. 33-60.
- Book chapter published: “The Spiritual Dimension of North American Nature Writing,” *Oxford Handbook on Religion and Ecology* (ed. Roger S. Gottlieb, Oxford University Press), 2006.
- Article published: "Deep Ecology." *Encyclopedia of Earth*. Eds. Sahotra Sarkar and Linda Kalof. (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Information Coalition, National Council for

Science and the Environment). [First published October 11, 2006; Last revised October 12, 2006; Retrieved October 31, 2006]. <http://www.eoearth.org/article/Deep_ecology>

- Book chapter in press: “East Asian Influence on Recent North American Nature Writing,” *Teaching North American Environmental Literature* (ed. Laird Christensen, Mark Long, and Fred Waage, MLA).
- Conference presentation: “Always Coming Home: Paradoxes of the Journey in Ursula Le Guin’s Speculative Fiction.” American Academy of Religion, Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., November 19, 2006.
- Scholarship in progress: Continues work on a book on radical politics in American nature writing, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield.
- Scholarly service:
 - Elected as Co-Chair of the Religion and Ecology Group of the American Academy of Religion.
 - Continues to serve as member of Board of Advisors of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.
- Faculty Development Grant (Research): One month summer salary for researching article on the East Asian influence on the American nature poet Kenneth Rexroth.

Jim Feldman

- Article published: “Public Opinion, the Leopold Report, and Reform of Federal Predator Control Policy,” *Human-Wildlife Conflicts* 1 (no. 1, Spring 2007): 112-124
- Review published: *Conservation of the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog*, ed. John L. Hoogland, for the *Journal of the West*
- Submitted for publication: “State Power, Consumer Society, and the Spontaneous Rewilding of the Apostle Islands,” in *Restoria: The Presence of the Past in Ecological Restoration*, ed. Marcus Hall. MIT Press.
- Work in progress: *A Storied Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Rewilding of the Apostle Islands*. I have completed two chapters of this manuscript. On the strength of these two chapters, I have been told that I will receive an advance contract from the Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books series of the University of Washington Press, although the paperwork for this has not yet been completed.
- Conference presentation: Social Science History Association Conference, Minneapolis, MN, November 2006, “Rights over Access: Outdoor Recreation, Nature Protection and Treaty Rights in the Creation of Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.”
- Conference presentation: Restoring or Renaturing? The Presence of the Past in Ecological Restoration—A Transatlantic Workshop, July 2006, Zurich, Switzerland, “Before Rewilding: State Power and the Transition from Production to Consumption in the Apostle Islands.”
- Conference attendance: American Society for Environmental History, March 2006, Baton Rouge, LA.
- Faculty Development Grant (Research): Summer salary and Fall 2007 course release for work on *A Storied Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Rewilding of the Apostle Islands*

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

TEACHING INITIATIVES

DAVID BARNHILL

- Internship: Green events coordination, Jessica Dresen, fall 2006.
- Independent study: Bioregional analysis of selected sites in Wisconsin, Mark Mueller and Joshua Shere, spring interim 2007.

JIM FELDMAN

- Independent study: Independent study project on sustainability in education, Rebecca Griese, Spring 2007
- Honors thesis: oversaw the honors thesis of Margaret LaBorde, Spring 2007

FACULTY SERVICE

DAVID BARNHILL

- served on the Campus Sustainability Team as “squad leader” of the sustainability across the curriculum squad.
- read research grant applications for faculty development.

JIM FELDMAN

- served on the Campus Sustainability Team,
- served on the Campus Parking Policy Advisory Committee, 2006-2007
- served on the Institutional Review Board, 2006-2007

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- ES major Margaret LaBorde received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.
- Renee Dick was awarded the Environmental Studies Academic Excellence Award in May, 2007 for the highest g.p.a. in the major.
- Jessica Dresen was awarded the Environmental Studies Leadership Award in May, 2007. She served as Co-President of the Student Environmental Action Coalition and served as the Green Events Coordinator for 2006-7.

GOALS FOR THE 2007-2008 AY

- Review the program and develop a growth agenda during the 2007-2008 AY, which will be followed by the UW system review in 2008-9.
- Continue to increase information about and opportunities for field studies and field trips and hands-on activities that develop career skills.