

**MEMO**

**To:** John Koker, COLS Dean  
**From:** David Barnhill, Director, Environmental Studies  
**Re:** Environmental Studies Annual Report 2008  
**Date:** 7/4/08  
**cc:** John Cross, ES Faculty

**ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES (2007-2008 AY)**

**MAJORS AND MINORS**

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

	<b>Majors</b>	<b>Minors</b>		<b>Graduates (majors)</b>			
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	3		
10/10/2006	67	32		Aug-07	2	2007	14
4/2/2007	67	28		Dec-07	9		
9/1/07	76	30		May-08	13		
5/1/08	81	29		Aug-08	1	2008	18?
				Dec-08	4?		

**FACULTY**

- ES won approval for a growth agenda position in environmental science.
- The addition of Paul Van Auken, joint Sociology/ES (2/3-1/3), has proven to be a great benefit to the program (as expected).
- Christine Roth (English) and Stephanie Spehar (Anthropology) have become active members of the ES faculty. Dr. Spehar will offer two new courses in the program next year.
- Political Science 395: Global Environmental Politics has been revived (since the loss of Tom Bickford), and Tracy Slagter will teach it regularly.

## **COURSES AND CURRICULUM**

- The most important development was a year-long discussion among the faculty concerning a new structure for the major. By the final mini-retreat in May, the ES faculty approved a new curriculum with two emphases: Environmental Science and Environmental Policy and Values. This proposal will be shown to the UW system reviewer as part of the program's review.
- Maureen Muldoon and Pete Brown offered a new international field studies course fall interim in Belize on Approaches to Resource Management of Tropical Ecosystems. We plan to offer that course every other year.
- Several courses were approved for the ES curriculum:
  - Anthropology 370: Primate Behavior and Ecology (Spehar). Approved as upper level elective in the Applied Science area. 4/23/08.
  - Communication 455: Environmental Communication (Hinrichs). Approved as upper level elective in the Environment, Community, and Culture area. 4/3/08.
  - ES 382: Bioregionalism (Barnhill). Approved as upper level elective in the Environment, Community, and Culture area. 4/3/08.
  - ES 410: Global Environmental History (Jim Feldman). Approved as upper level elective in the Environment, Community, and Culture area. 4/23/08.
  - Sociology 313: Rural Sociology (Van Auken). Approved as upper level elective in the Environment, Community, and Culture area. 4/3/08.
  - Sociology 315: Demography (Van Auken). Approved as upper level elective in the Environment, Community, and Culture area. 4/3/08.
  - These will be sent to the Math/Science Division later this summer for its consideration.
- Three courses had minor changes.
  - ES 260: Environmental Science: Change prerequisites for to "restricted to ES majors and minors." 12/6/07.
  - ES 390: Special Topics & 391: Special Topics in Environmental Science. The faculty approved allowing students to repeat the courses up to 12 credits as long as the topic is different. 4/3/08.
  - Sociology 342: Social Ecology (Van Auken). Approved for cross-listing as an ES course. It will get a new number, 357, which works for both Sociology and ES. 4/23/08.
- We were informed by Religious Studies that with their new hire, they will no longer teach Environmental Ethics. This will be a major loss to the program. However, they stated that the new professor would teach a course on Religion and Ecology, which is likely to substitute for the ethics class in our core curriculum.
- We still lack a course on environmental law and regulations, something our major definitely needs.

## **CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

- Four student groups continued to be active. Community Gardens Oshkosh, 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.

- In cooperation with Career Services and the Center for Community Partnerships, we offered a “speed networking” event in which students met with potential employers. We plan for this to be an annual event during Earth Week.
- 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 participated 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.

### **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 “pizza with the profs.”
- The ES program had its 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 UWO. Foundation continues to support student awards.
- We established a new webpage for the ES program.

### **DIVERSITY**

The ES program continues its collaboration with African American Studies, Social Justice, and Women’s Studies minors in offering courses that count for each least two of these programs. Fall 2007, the course Gender and Nature was offered jointly 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**

##### ***Research***

- Book chapter in press. “East Asian Influence on Recent North American Nature Writing.” *Teaching North American Environmental Literature*. Ed. Frederick O. Waage. New York: Modern Language Association.
- Article accepted, to be published in 2009. “The Social Ecology of Gary Snyder.” *Indian Journal of Ecocriticism*, 1.1 (premier issue).
- Scholarship in progress:
  - “Deep Ecology” and “Social Ecology.” To be published in *The Spirit of Sustainability*, one volume in the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of Sustainability*. Berkshire Publishing.
  - Continued work on a book on radical politics in American nature writing, to be published by Rowman and Littlefield.

### ***Scholarly service***

- Co-Chair of the Religion and Ecology Group of the American Academy of Religion. Attended the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November, 2007, and recruited and organized panels for this year and next.
- Member of Board of Advisors of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.

### ***Teaching Initiatives***

- Co-organized (with Jim Feldman) a Faculty College on infusing sustainability into the curriculum, May 2008.
- Continued work on the development and promotion of the international field studies course in Belize.
- Supervised four independent studies and six internships.

### ***Departmental, College, and University Service***

- Co-Captain of the Chancellor's Campus Sustainability Team
- Faculty advisor for student groups Campus Greens, Community Gardens, and SEAC.
- Chief organizer for
  - The Fair Trade Festival, November 29, 2007.
  - Aldo Leopold Day, February 29, 2008.
  - Community Gardens and UW Oshkosh. April 9, 2008
  - Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming, national telecast. April 16, 2008.
  - Earth Week, April 20-25, 2008.
- Active in the planning and promotion of Earth Charter the week-long Earth Charter Community Summit in October 2007.
- Spearheaded a drive to have UW Oshkosh declared a Fair Trade University, a proposal that was approved in spring by all four governance groups.
- Active in the Social Justice program.
- Advisory Board of the Environmental Health major.
- Member of the External Grants Expansion Plan team.
- Faculty development reviewer
- Collaborative work with African American Studies, Social Justice, and Women's Studies (joint courses, campus events)

### **Jim Feldman**

#### ***Publications***

##### **1. Books**

- *A Storied Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Rewilding of the Apostle Islands*. Under contract from the Weyerhaeuser Environmental Books series of the University of Washington Press.

##### **2. Articles:**

- James Feldman and Lynne Heasley, "Recentering North American Environmental History: Pedagogy and Scholarship in the Great Lakes Region," *Environmental History* 12 (Oct 2003).

##### **3. Reviews**

- Feldman, James, review of *Sustainability or Collapse? An Integrated History and Future of People on Earth*, ed. Robert Costanza, Lisa J. Graumlich, and Will Steffen, forthcoming from the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*.

- Feldman, James, review of *Drawing Lines in the Forest: Creating Wilderness Areas in the Pacific Northwest*, by Kevin R. Marsh, forthcoming from the *Pacific Historical Review*.
- Feldman, James, review of *The Environmental Justice Reader: Politics, Poetics, Pedagogy*, ed. Joni Adamson, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein, forthcoming from Nevada Historical Society Quarterly.

#### ***Faculty Development Grants (Research)***

- Summer 2008 salary for work on *A Storied Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Rewilding of the Apostle Islands*

#### ***Conference Presentations***

- Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2007, “Production, Consumption, and State Power in Wisconsin, 1880-1970”
- American Society for Environmental History, March 2008, Boise, ID; round table, “Tradeoffs & Compromises: Environmental Historians in Environmental Studies Programs—Pedagogy”

#### ***Teaching Initiatives***

- Co-organized (with David Barnhill) Faculty College on infusing sustainability into the curriculum, May 2008

#### ***Departmental, College, University, and Professional Service***

- Service on the Chancellor’s Campus Sustainability Team
- Campus Parking Policy Advisory Committee
- Service on the Liberal Education Resource Group
- Service on the Student Conduct Panel
- Speaker brought to campus for Earth Week: Nancy Langston, Nelson Institution for Environmental Studies, UW Madison
- Speakers brought to campus, a part of the Earth Charter Community Summit, October 2007:
  - Steve Heins, Orion Energy
  - Jessica Garrels, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters
  - Dan Hirschert, United States Forest Service, Wildlife Services, Waupun, WI

#### ***Community Service***

- Public lecture, “A Storied Wilderness: Nature, History, and the Rewilding of the Apostle Islands,” Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, Bayfield, WI August 2007

**Note:** *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**

- ES major **Riley Irwin** was awarded the Environmental Studies Academic Excellence Award in May, 2008 for the highest g.p.a. in the major.
- ES major **Jacob Jungers** was awarded the Environmental Studies Leadership Award in May, 2008. He served as President of the Environmental Studies Club and was active in the Community Gardens Group.
- **Jacob Jungers** won the Lynn Westbrook Research Award (Biology).
- ES minor **Justin Reuter** received the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence.
- **Justin Reuter** won the Student Leadership and Involvement Award.
- ES major **Jessica Rickert** won the Nevin James Scholarship (English Department)

**GOALS FOR THE 2008-2009 AY**

- Complete a successful search for an Environmental Scientist.
- Complete a successful UW system review.
- Begin the process of implementing the new ES curriculum.