

# EECPerspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

May 2003

## Plan Ahead! Fall 2003 Seminar Schedule is Official

The EECP is finally giving you a chance to plan your Fall in advance. We are excited to announce our Fall 2003 seminar schedule before you've even hit the beach. As some newer members may not know, the EECP does not offer seminars during Summer semester, so the Fall seminar series will offer you your next chance to mingle with your Environmental Ethics compatriots and enjoy some engaging discussions.

We start the semester off on Tuesday, September 2, with UGA Geology professor David Dallmeyer and his presentation, "Global Warming and Sea Level Rise: Fact or Fiction." Dr. Dallmeyer has first-hand experience in Earth's colder climates, and looks to provide a geological perspective of Earth's climate changes through time and allow for comparison with present-day climate shifts.

On September 23, Dick Field, from the Georgia Center for Continuing Education, will lead us on a Philosopher's Walk along the newly completed Greenway. Our walk will end at Sandy Creek Park with a boxed dinner.

EECP graduate student Carrie Freeman will present the animal rights video "Peaceable Kingdom" on October 14. This video will cover the topic of animal rights as it relates to farming and the environment. Carrie will then lead a discussion of the material presented in the video.

On Friday, November 7, the EECP is particularly proud to present New York University's Andrew Light, guest speaker for the Annual Environmental Ethics Lecture, sponsored by the EECP and the Center for Humanities and Arts. Andrew Light is Assistant Professor of Environmental Philosophy, Director of the Environmental Conservation Education Program and Co-Director of the Applied Philosophy Group at NYU. He is also a Research Fellow at the Institute for Environment, Philosophy & Public Policy at Lancaster University. Dr. Light has been eager to visit our campus, and the EECP had even tried arranging for him to speak this past Spring. We would like to thank Victoria Kamlser and Betty Jean Craige, who were invaluable in organizing Andrew's visit to UGA. Please note that this seminar will take place outside

### Fall Seminar Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 2: David Dallmeyer, UGA  
Global Warming and Sea Level Rise: Fact or Fiction

Tuesday, Sept. 23: Dick Field, UGA  
Philosopher's Walk along the Greenway

Tuesday, Oct. 14: Carrie Freeman, UGA  
A Peaceable Kingdom: A Video Discussion on Animal Rights

Friday, Nov. 7: Andrew Light, NYU  
CHA/EECP Annual Environmental Ethics Lecture

Tuesday, Nov. 18: EECP 20th Anniversary  
A celebratory evening at Dr. Eugene Odum's cabin

environmental ethics certificate program

of our normal schedule. This seminar will be on Friday, November 7, at 2 p.m. at the Tate Center in Georgia Hall "A." We will have more about Andrew Light in the next issue of *EECPerspectives*, which will be out in the Fall.

We will end the semester with a special event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Environmental Ethics Certificate program. Yes indeed, as some of you may not realize, it was back in 1983 when the Graduate Council approved our fine program, allowing the first Environmental Ethics Certificate Program in the United States to blossom into existence. On Tuesday, November 18, we will gather in celebration of this fact at Eugene Odum's cabin, with surprise guests from the EECP's past. Again, expect more information regarding the festivities in the next issue of *EECPerspectives*.

Enjoy your summer, be on the lookout for our Annual Report in June, and don't forget to mark your calendar for the fall!

## Welcome the New EECP Executive Committee

As the end of the year draws near, it has come to say goodbye to the current EECP Executive Committee. Ben Blount, Merryl Alber, Peter Hartel, William Griswold, and Dorinda Dallmeyer have served us well, but we must tip our hats to them and say hello to a whole new group of faces.

"A whole new group of faces?" you may ask. "Don't we have staggered elections so that only two members at a time are voted on?"

Typically, yes. But last year there was no one to organize an election, so the committee agreed to remain "as-was," so to speak, and stay on until an election could be cobbled together. We compensated for this by having the EECP faculty vote for one Science Representative to serve a full, two-year term, and one Science Representative to serve a halved, one-year term; we

also applied this process to the Humanities Representatives.

The results? Say hello to our new Executive Committee: **Victoria Davion** (Philosophy) and **Kevin DeLuca** (Speech Communication) will serve as Humanities Representatives; **Hilda Kurtz** (Geography) and **Todd Rasmussen** (Forest Resources) will serve as Science Representatives. Victoria and Hilda will each serve one-year terms, and Kevin and Todd will each serve two-year terms. Peter Hartel will remain on the committee as Past Chair. The new Executive Committee will appoint a Chair during their Fall meeting.

Due to travel and other circumstances, we were unable to get a nice group photo of our new committee. Rest assured that pictures will be taken at their first meeting, and published in the next issue of *EECPerspectives*.

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# Final Words on the Century of the Environment

## Message from the Chair

This is my last message to you as chair. Under the EECB Bylaws, I have served two two-year terms and must now sit out for one year. It has been a pleasure serving you. I continue to serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee as your graduate and undergraduate coordinator. I look forward to keeping the teaching arm of the EECB going.

It has been a hard year financially for the University and the prospects for the upcoming year are not good. Furthermore, in these hard times there are a number of University administrators who feel that continuing the EECB has little merit. One might conclude from these remarks that I am worried about the future prospects for the EECB. Nothing could be further from the truth. However, I want to ensure that you know where we stand.

The University evaluated us in 2001 when we were part of School of Marine Programs. The reviewers liked our program and our evaluation was extremely positive. Nevertheless, the reviewers gave us four recommendations. First, they recommended that the Program be given more and better space. When we voted to move to the new College of Environment and Design (CED), the college gave us this space: the Founders House is not only a beautiful location for us, but also it serves our needs well. This recommendation has been fulfilled.

Second, because of increasing student numbers in the Program, the reviewers recommended that we obtain a full-time degree program specialist. The CED has funded a full-time position this academic year, and despite limited funding for the CED this upcoming academic year, the College will continue to fund this position. Our ability to have this position filled has meant not only that we are not only able to fulfill our administrative responsibilities, but also that we are able to provide better service to our students. In any case, this recommendation has been fulfilled.

The third recommendation was to buy faculty time in order for us to teach our environmental ethics courses. While the Vice President Office for Instruction has graciously provided funds for us to teach one of our courses, Environmental Values and Policies

(EETH 3230), for the past two years, this funding is ending. Although it is premature for me to comment on this problem, I expect to fulfill this recommendation this year. The fourth recommendation was for a program director. We are actively searching for funds, but our timing is not the best.

Please permit me to return to our critics. There are University administrators who think the EECB has little merit, and their arguments are both academic and financial. We are criticized for teaching ethics when they are presumably part of every University course. We are criticized for duplicating effort already existent in other departments. Above all, we are criticized for not carrying our financial weight. In an age where money is power, an interdisciplinary program with an all-volunteer faculty and an average 20-year annual budget of \$5,865 is perceived as having little merit.

In terms of teaching ethics, I think this is a nonproblem. One needs only to consider

how a recent failure of ethics has tarnished our wonderful University's name to convince oneself that we need more ethics training, not less. I think teaching environmental values is also a nonproblem. I believe E. O. Wilson when he says that this century will be the "Century of the Environment." Students continue to realize that many of our environmental problems are getting worse, not better, and they will continue to sign up for our certificate in ever-increasing numbers. Certainly that is what our enrollment shows. In terms of our financial worth, the EECB has received five grants totalling \$160,505 since 1992, and our financial future is clearly demonstrated in the confidence that the CED is showing in us by funding our program.

Nevertheless we must continue to convince our critics of our academic worth. Although we've done a lot with very little, we need to do more. We must pursue outside funding more vigorously. We must ensure that we get better credit for our teaching. We must fulfill the remaining recommendations of the University review committee. We will do this.

*Peter Hartel*



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## Congratulations to the newest members of the EECB

### Faculty

Dan Bodansky (Law)  
Karen Mumford (Vinson Institute of Government)  
Judith Wasserman (Environmental Design)  
Jace Weaver (Religion)

New faculty members were voted on during the Spring Faculty Meeting, held on April 22, 2003. All four new members were unanimously approved.

### Students

Tim Bono (Landscape Architecture)  
Gordon Harper (Anthropology/Poli. Sci.)  
Sally Marrone (Ecology)  
Maureen McGowan (Law)  
Lee Anne Phillips (Anthropology)  
Nathan Ratledge (Anthropology)  
Wendy Wallace (Ecology)  
Matt Wells (Philosophy)

## Whatever Happened to Sandra Crismon?

*Can you remember her Atoll?*

Hi all. I survived my year (plus some) in the Marshall Islands doing fieldwork for my dissertation in anthropology. I was on Kwajalein Atoll, where the US does a lot of missile testing – it is a bizarre and fascinating place! Going from the US base to the Marshallese side was always a shock.

Food is one of those things we really take for granted. My diet during the year included large quantities of Spam and soda (these are actual food groups for the Marshallese) which still gives me nightmares. And then there were the joys of my *E. coli*-contaminated water catchment!

Although my research is on the history of US-Marshallese relations and physical and cultural borders on the atoll, the experience also gave me plenty to think about pertaining to environmental ethics. One issue that came up was how hard it can be to try to promote environmental protection when many Marshallese don't have the basics of food, water, shelter and healthcare. Of course, some environmental efforts go hand in hand with human health issues, as sewage

in the lagoon is also bad for the kids who swim there and people who fish there. Population is a huge issue, but many people don't want to go back to outer island traditional life,

and some don't even know what that is anymore! Also, there are still many issues associated with the US nuclear testing program in the Marshalls and its effects on Marshallese people's health. Some people couldn't return to their home atolls even if they wanted, as several islands have yet to be properly rehabilitated and decontaminated from nuclear testing.

Of course, then there is the always-lurking possibility of sea level rise, which if it happens in the Marshalls will mean they will disappear, as most of the atolls are only a few feet above sea level.



Just some things to think about.

Thanks for caring, one of the many things that make this program great.

*Mere hours after submitting this article, Sandra Crismon was back on her way to Kwajalein Atoll for a month-long stay.*

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## EECP Recognizes the Efforts of Our Terrific Members



As the end of the semester drew near, we recently took the chance to show our gratitude to three of our hardest-working members, two of whom will soon be departing. At our Spring Philosopher's Walk, we presented Certificates of Appreciation to Clark

Wolf and Victoria Kamsler.

Clark has faithfully taught the College of Environment and Design's EETH 3230, Environmental Values and Policy, since its creation two years ago. He has also been a supportive and helpful reader on a great number of certificate papers. Professor Wolf has accepted the position of Director of the Bioethics Program at Iowa State and will be moving on from our program, where we will truly miss his insight.

Victoria will also be departing Athens soon, and she has also been a valuable asset to the program. She has been invaluable in teaching the Department of Philosophy's Environmental Ethics 4220/6220. We would also like to thank her for taking the time to write a proposal for a Rockefeller Fellowship Grant in Environmental Justice, as well as being instrumental in helping bring NYU's Andrew Light to campus in the Fall.

At our Faculty meeting on April 22, Dean Crowley presented Dorinda Dallmeyer with her own Certificate of Appreciation. But she's not leaving anytime soon. While Dorinda is stepping down from the EECP Executive Committee, she continues to be as active as ever in the program. We want to thank her for her administrative leadership as a member of the Executive Committee, as well as her

continuing service in developing a certificate in Environmental Justice. We also would like to show our appreciation to her for past and future role teaching EETH 5870/7870, Environmental Dispute Resolution.

Our program has grown because of the work of all three of these people.

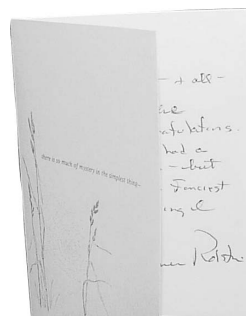


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## Holmes Rolston wins Templeton Prize

*And still takes the time to thank the EECP*



As you may know, Holmes Rolston III was recently awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities. The award is valued at just over \$1 million and carries with it not only the chance to participate in an award ceremony at Buckingham Palace on May 7, but also places the author of "Is There an Ecological Ethic?" in the same company as Mother Theresa.

The EECP recently sent Dr. Rolston a congratulatory letter, and he responded in kind (*card pictured*). Holmes wrote, "Thanks for the note of congratulations. I must have had a couple hundred - but yours is the fanciest and most imposing I have had."

We again congratulate Dr. Rolston on his latest achievement.

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## Our Back Pages

**Literary Announcement One:** EECF Faculty member Fausto Sarmiento has donated a copy of *Montanas Del Mundo* to our office library. From Dr. Sarmiento:

"It is a state of the art in mountain ecology with the Latin American perspective. It took me over three years of collaborating with more than 110 people who provided input with boxes and chapters, including examples of case studies and photographs. I was commissioned by UNU, UNESCO and SDC (Swiss Development Corporation) to edit this book and offer it to the Latin American audience, when I was president of the Andean Mountains Association and we met in an international congress I organized in Quito, December 1998. The general points of the Mountain Agenda are included in the original English version of 1997, but the book in Spanish that I had the privilege of editing, brings a lot of current geographical and ecological narrative for the new montology of the Andes."

*Everyone (who can read Spanish, I suppose) is welcome to borrow this text from our office.*

**Literary Announcement Two:** The Cullasaja Summer Workshop at Highlands is an intensive one-week seminar in nature writing for emerging writers of nonfiction, fiction and poetry. Set in a secluded private studio in Highlands, North Carolina, the seminar is intended to help writers, published and unpublished, develop skills and confidence and, most importantly, to explore their own sense of artistic mission through workshop-style classes, readings, discussions, and working field trips devoted to exploring the art of nature writing.

Chris Camuto brings to this seminar his expertise in the literary, philosophical and scientific roots of nature writing and experience as a published author.

Space is limited to 12 participants. A "rolling acceptance" of candidates begins on April 30, continuing until May 31. Participants will be selected by Chris Camuto based on their writing. A brochure is available online at [www.uga.edu/eecp/resources](http://www.uga.edu/eecp/resources). For more information, contact [christaf@arches.uga.edu](mailto:christaf@arches.uga.edu).

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### EECP 2002-2003 Executive Committee

Peter Hartel (Chair), Crop & Soil Sciences

Dorinda Dallmeyer (Past Chair), Dean Rusk Center

Merryl Alber, Marine Sciences

William Griswold, Journalism

Ben Blount, Anthropology

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