

EECPerspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

December 1998

Dr. Elliott Norse on Global Marine Biodiversity

by Maggie Kelly

Dr. Elliot A. Norse, famous for his contributions to the concept of biological diversity, spoke to a gathering of EECP students, faculty, and friends on Monday, October 5, 1998. An incredibly accomplished man, Norse has worked with the Environmental Protection Agency, served as Staff Ecologist for the President's Council on Environmental Quality, served as Public Policy Director of the Ecological Society of America and held many other important positions. He has succeeded also as a writer, and has many publications to his credit.

What is most impressive about this man with such an impressive resume, however, is his down-to-earth, witty demeanor. Early in his lecture, Dr. Norse emphasized that he is "not a philosopher," but because he holds a doctorate of philosophy he is entitled to philosophize.

Dr. Norse asked the audience to consider the discrepancies between our land and marine ethics. For example, the 1998 Federal Budget Request called for 121 times more money for national parks than for national marine sanctuaries. Further, he offered, the Endangered Species Act has saved some land animals, but animals of the sea are given almost no protection. The underlying assumptions that allow such discrepancies deal with our perception that the sea is huge and therefore invulnerable. By comparing the situations on land and sea, Norse hoped to illustrate that "our land ethic is not strong enough, but our prevailing marine ethic is even worse."

Not to leave us deflated and hopeless, though, Norse quickly changed gears and moved on to a discussion of what can be done about these problems. The root of change, Norse believes, lies in our ethic, and the first step in changing our current marine ethic is to raise awareness.

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Dr. Elliott Norse. Photo courtesy of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute.

Dr. Stephen Kellert on Marine Environmental Values

by Matt Johnson

During his recent visit, Dr. Stephen Kellert of Yale University met with students, faculty, and friends of the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program and delivered an EECP Seminar on "Human Ethics, Values, and the Marine Environment." Dr. Kellert is no stranger to interdisciplinary study of the environment: along with Harvard biologist Edward



Dr. Stephen Kellert (center) talks with David Dallmeyer (left) and Gene Helfman (right).

O. Wilson, he has contributed much to the biophilia hypothesis, the idea that humans are utterly dependent upon the rich texture of the natural physical environment due to genetic adaptations since the origin of life. Drs. Kellert's and Wilson's ideas have intrigued members of the academic community across the nation. Dr. Kellert related some of these ideas using examples in the marine environment.

The most poignant example Dr. Kellert utilized was that of the over-harvesting of the whale. Public opinion about the whale was instrumental in its change from profitable as a consumable good to profitable as an exhibit in aquariums, amusement parks, and from the decks of tourist boats. Dr. Kellert emphasized this change as one of departing from the use of the great whales only as a utilitarian commodity and the realization "of other equally legitimate and beneficial values of nature, whales, and the marine environment." This sort of change serves as an example of "moderation and

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The Organic Philosophy: Will Regulatory Action Resolve the Uncertainty?

by Christi Henson

Note: Christi Henson, a Political Science major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in September 1998. This is an abstract of her EECP paper.

In recent years there has been a tremendous surge in the sales of organic foods. Indeed, the organic foods industry is a booming business in the United States, and sales are estimated to reach \$6.5 billion by the year 2000. As such alternative farming practices are viewed as more ecologically minded, the increasing attraction of organic agriculture reflects the broader trend of preserving the environment currently found in the United States and throughout the world. However, it appears that regulatory action addressing organic production methods is essential. Presently, no



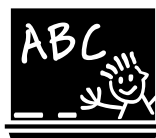
Christi Henson. Photo by Peter Hartel.

consensus is found among organic certifiers, and there exists a wide array of opinions on the issue of defining organic. Furthermore, 11 states and 33 private organizations regulate the organic industry. The variety of seals and labels used by

the various certifiers also contributes to consumer confusion. As the definition of certified "organic" is so vague, a set of national standards for all organic producers must be established in order to preserve the integrity of organic practices and foods.

The Organic Foods Production Act (OFPA) was enacted by Congress as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The OFPA established the National Organic Program (NOP) within the USDA to define, oversee, and enforce organic standards. On December 16, 1997, the USDA issued their proposal of the NOP and called for public review. In response, there was intense opposition to several aspects of the USDA's definition of organic and the proposed standards. On May 8, 1998, the USDA announced the Proposed Rule would be revised.

A practical compromise is necessary so that both the USDA and organic supporters will be content with what the term "organic" signifies. Politics plays a role in this debate; the public's perceptions on various issues, including the definition of organic farming, affect what goes on in the legislatures. One must also ask if choosing organic farming practices over conventional methods is more ethical. There seems to be little question that organic farming methods are superior to conventional agriculture as one considers the health of the planet. Indeed, the benefits of transforming



News for Students

Student Loan Consolidation. For a short time, borrowers can refinance outstanding federal student loans at a new, lower interest rate of 7.46%. Students with direct loans or parents with PLUS loans can take advantage of the refinancing. Anyone who is out of school and paying back loans can also realize savings from consolidating and refinancing.

The deadline for applications to consolidate is January 31, 1999. To obtain an application, call 1-800-557-7392 or see the website at www.ed.gov/directloan/consolid2.html.

Morris Udall Scholarships and Fellowships. Doctoral students working on dissertations in the area of environmental public policy and conflict resolution are eligible for the Morris Udall Dissertation Fellowships. Interested students can contact the UGA Graduate School for information on applying for the fellowships, but do so quickly: the deadline is January 15, 1999.

The Udall Program also offers scholarships for undergraduate students planning to enter careers related to environmental public policy. Contact the Scholarship Review Committee at 2201 North Dodge Street, Iowa City, IA 52243-4030 or by fax at 319-337-1204 for information on deadlines and applications.

Marine Environmental Ethics Seminar. The EECP is offering a new course during Spring Semester 1999: Marine Environmental Ethics is an experimental course that will cover the topic from an interdisciplinary perspective combining science, ethics, and policy issues. The class will meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:20 to 1:10 p.m. in the Marine Sciences Building. The course provides three credit hours; in addition to two class meetings each week, students will also be required to attend the EECP evening seminars. Students will prepare case studies examining ethical aspects of managing coastal and marine ecosystems.

If you're interested in taking Marine Environmental Ethics, phase IB of Spring Semester registration runs December 18 - January 4; you should also be able to add the course during Drop/Add, which runs January 7 - 12. You will need to contact the EECP office at 542-0935 or eeep@arches.uga.edu in order to register, however. The course will provide elective credit for students pursuing the environmental ethics certificate.

farms from conventional technology to organic methods exceed the costs. Therefore, the USDA should do what the majority of consumers and farmers desire. Implementation of a single national organic standard is the only safeguard for consumers.

EECP 1998-1999 CALENDAR

Seminar: Ethics and the Coastal Scientist

Tuesday, January 19

Ecology Seminar Room, 7:30 PM

Dr. Orrin Pilkey is a Professor of Geology and Director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines (PSDS) at Duke University. He is co-editor of the *Living With the Shore* series published by the Duke Press.

EECP Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 20

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, 4:00 PM

EECP Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, January 27

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, 4:00 PM

Topic: Curriculum

Seminar: Not Just Fish: The Impact of Marine Fisheries on the Public Good Tuesday, February 9

Ecology Seminar Room, 7:30 PM

Dr. Daniel Pauly is a Professor at the Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia, and the Principal Science Advisor for the International Centre for Living Aquatic Resource Management in Manila, Phillipines.

EECP Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 17

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, 4:00 PM

Seminar: A Place in the Sea

Tuesday, March 2

Ecology Seminar Room, 7:30 PM

Mark Sagoff is Senior Research Scholar at the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy, University of Maryland, and the President of the International Society for Environmental Ethics.

Seminar: The Law of the Sea and the Common Heritage Principle

Tuesday, March 23

Ecology Seminar Room, 7:30 PM

Professor Louis B. Sohn is Bemis Professor Emeritus of International Law at Harvard Law School. He has written extensively on the United Nations, the law of the sea, and human rights law.

EECP Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 24

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, 4:00 PM

EECP Faculty Meeting

Wednesday, April 7

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, 4:00 PM

Topic: New Programs

Seminar: Integrating Ethics and Values into the Marine Policy Process

Tuesday, April 13

Ecology Seminar Room, 7:30 PM

Biliana Cicin-Sain is co-director of the Center for the Study of Marine Policy at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware and the author of *Integrated Coastal and Ocean Management*.

EECP Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 21

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, 4:00 PM

Philosophers' Walk

Tuesday, April 27

Location TBA, 5:30 PM

Special Spring Semester Lecture: The Aesthetic Value of the Sea

Date and Location TBA

Also during Spring Semester, world-renowned underwater photographer **David Doubilet** will visit UGA. His visit is co-sponsored by the Center for Humanities and Arts and the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program.

State of the Art (SOTA) Conference on Marine Ethics

June 3-6, 1998

Georgia Center for Continuing Education

Speakers from UGA and around the world will address topics such as the Value of Marine Biodiversity, Educating Marine Scientists About Ethics, Indigenous Management of Coral Reef Ecosystems, and others.



The Job Seeker

<http://www.tomah.com/jobseeker/>

"Specializing in natural resource and environmental vacancies nationwide" reads the banner at the top of this website. With its stated mission to "serve the natural resource and environmental communities by providing an information link between employers and potential employees," the Job Seeker is a great source for jobs in the natural resource and environmental fields.

The Video Project

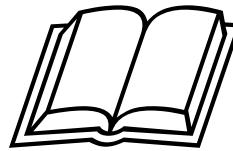
<http://www.videoproject.org/>

This is the website for The Video Project, a non-profit distributor of educational videos and other media pertaining to the environment. As their website states, the Video Project provides programs that "celebrate the natural world, examine threats to our environment, and offer solutions." On the website, you'll find their complete catalog, information about The Video Project in general, and lists of new releases and current specials. There is also a page for on-line ordering. This is a great source for anyone who needs teaching materials or just wants to see some important and compelling works from across the globe.

Congratulations!

EECP faculty member **Peter Brosius** was recently elected President-Elect of the Anthropology and Environment Section of the American Anthropological Association. Dr. Brosius will serve as President-Elect until November 1999, when he will begin a two-year term as President.

EECP faculty member **Laurie Fowler** of the Institute of Ecology is the first recipient of the Odum Award, bestowed by the Georgia Environmental Organization. Named for famed UGA ecologist and EECP faculty member **Eugene Odum**, the award honors those whose work is important in protecting the state's environment.



New Book Bridges Science-Religion Gap

Ecology and Religion: Scientists Speak, recently released by Franciscan Press, is the first volume in which an inter-faith group of scientists articulate their understanding of the relationship between religion and ecology. EECP faculty member **Carl Jordan** and recent EECP speaker **Elliott Norse** are contributors. The book is available from Franciscan Press; contact them at 217-228-5670 or www.quincy.edu/fpress. If you'd like more information or a book order form, contact the EECP office at 542-0935 or eeep@arches.uga.edu.

Dr. Elliott Norse

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Norse ended his discussion on a hopeful note, sharing the work and successes with which he has been involved. Currently President of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute (MCBI), which he founded in 1996, Norse and his colleagues have been very successful in promoting Marine Conservation Biology. They organized the first symposium on Marine Conservation Biology and had a high turn-out, and they regularly hold scientific workshops on relevant issues. They produced a "Troubled Waters" pamphlet that was signed by over 1,500 scientists and covered on both television and radio. They have recently joined a more than \$800,000 partnership with the American Oceans Campaign. Norse reminds us that hard work is needed, but that we can achieve our goals. His successes offer an affirmation of what can be done.

Maggie Kelly is an undergraduate English major working on the Environmental Ethics Certificate.

Dr. Stephen Kellert

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balanced consideration," according to Dr. Kellert.

Philosophers took notice of Dr. Kellert's use of a utilitarian argument to validate the protection of the natural world. Dr. Kellert's claim that humanity cannot be healthy without contacts with wild environments is crucial to this argument. Dr. Kellert stresses that we must protect the unspoiled environments, such as the seas, for the greater good of those who follow us. Members of the audience examined this frame of thought carefully, and some voiced concern about the neglect of the intrinsic value of nature in this argument.

Dr. Kellert seemed pleased to debate the finer points of the arguments he presented. The active discussion of controversial topics is one of the greatest benefits of the EECP Seminars, and Dr. Kellert and his audience took advantage of it.

Matt Johnson is an undergraduate English major working on the Environmental Ethics Certificate.

Ethics & the Environment

Many readers may not be aware of the connection between the EECF and the journal *Ethics and the Environment*. The journal is edited by EECF faculty member and philosophy professor **Victoria Davion**, who is aided by Editorial Assistant **Mona Freer** and Graduate Assistant/EECF Student **Cecilia Herles**. *Ethics and the Environment* is supported by the EECF in partnership with the UGA Philosophy Department and the UGA Center for Humanities and Arts. The journal is published twice each year and provides an interdisciplinary discussion of ethical theory and ecological philosophy as they pertain to environmental education, management, ecological economics, and ecosystem health.

Volume 3, number 2 of *Ethics and the Environment* has just been published; this issue includes the following items:

"Future Generations, Natural Resources, and Property Rights," by Gillian Brock.

"Kantian Ethics and Environmental Policy Argument: Autonomy, Ecosystem Integrity, and Our Duties to Nature," by John Martin Gillroy.

"On the Moral Significance of a Hunting Ethic," by Charles J. List.

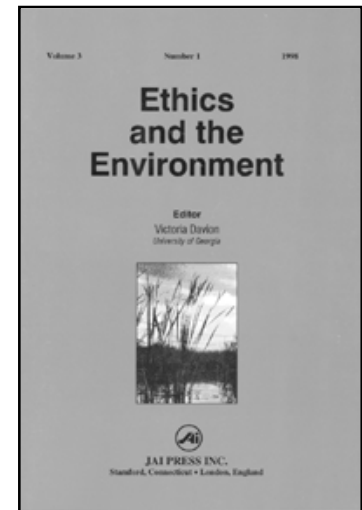
"Ethical Theory Versus Unethical Practice: Radiation Protection and Future Generations," by Kristin Shrader-Frechette.

A review of *Earthcare* by Carolyn Merchant; reviewed by Patsy Hallen.

A review of *Faking Nature: The Ethics of Environmental Restoration* by Robert Elliott; reviewed by Eric Katz.

If you are interested in this or other issues of *Ethics and the Environment*, contact Mona Freer at 542-2362 or check the web site at www.phil.uga.edu/eande; it contains the table of contents and abstracts for each issue. The EECF library also has copies of the journal, and EECF students, faculty, and friends are welcome to use them for short-term borrowing.

Yearly subscriptions to the journal are \$125 for institutions and \$70 for individuals; if you're a member of the American Philosophical Association, the International Society for Environmental Ethics, the Radical Philosophy Association, or the Society for Women in Philosophy, an annual subscription is just \$35. You can order a subscription through the publisher, JAI Press, at their website: www.jaipress.com.



News From the Rest of the World . . .

Ethics and Justice is an interdisciplinary public affairs journal covering topics in applied ethics, social and criminal justice, and politics. The journal is seeking manuscripts for publication in future issues, especially in the area of environmental ethics. To submit a manuscript, e-mail it as an attachment to editor@ethics-justice.org. For more information or for a free sample issue of the journal, check the home page at www.ethics-justice.org.

The Aldo Leopold Leadership Program aims to train "scientist communicators" for the future and aid the flow of accurate scientific information to policy makers, the media, and the general public. Oregon State University will coordinate the program for the Ecological Society of America using a grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. To learn more about the program, check the website at www.leopold.orst.edu or contact Judith Vergun, Project Director, at Oregon State University.

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics was created in 1989 to be a public voice advocating protection of our National Forests and to make sure environmental recommendations are not squashed by politicians and private interest groups. Membership consists of forestry professionals and concerned citizens in addition to Forest Service employees. To learn more about the group, contact them at 541-484-2692 or afsee@afsee.org

EECF Fund Update

The EECF Fund now officially has a home at the UGA Foundation. This means that donations to the EECF Fund must be made payable to the Foundation, rather than to the EECF. You can assure that your donation goes to the correct fund by putting "EECF Fund (Acct. No. 50R3900)" in the note section of your check.

The fund first began with proceeds from the sales of books edited by EECF faculty. This past summer, the EECF fund was given a shot of adrenaline by a challenge pledge from an anonymous donor: if EECF faculty, friends, and students will donate \$500 collectively, the anonymous donor will match it with an additional \$500. We are more than a third of the way to the \$500 goal.

The fund will cover expenses for the EECF Seminar receptions, refreshments for our morning discussions with speakers, and expenses related to Philosopher's Walks and other special events.

Many thanks to these supporters of the EECF Fund:

Karen Holbrook

Nathan Baker

If you would like to make a donation to the EECF Fund, please send a check payable to **UGA Foundation**. In the note, indicate that it is for the EECF Fund (Acct. No. 50R3900). Mail it to EECF, Room 132 Marine Sciences, UGA, Athens, GA 30602-3636.

Please Help Us Stay Current!

The EECP mailing list needs your help—please send us any updates to your mailing address, phone number, or e-mail address. Complete this form and mail it to the EECP office at 132 Marine Sciences, UGA, Athens, GA 30602-3636, or feel free to call (706-542-0935) or e-mail (eeep@arches.uga.edu) your updates.

Name _____ I am a student faculty friend alumnus

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Comments _____

_____ Today's date _____

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