

EECPerspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

December 2002

EECP Continues Sending the Best and Brightest out into the World



Nathan Taylor

During the 2001-2002 school year, the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program continued its brisk pace in regards to issuing certificates. The program is considered by many faculty members to be one of the most difficult

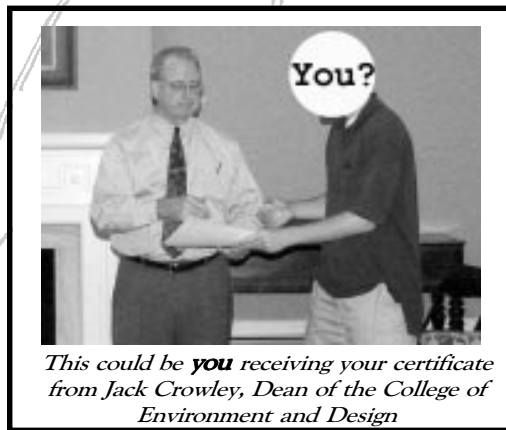
certificates to achieve, because of the stringent course requirements and need for high quality papers. For this reason, we are especially proud of the eight students who completed the Environmental Ethics program during the 2001-2002



Diana Valhuerdi

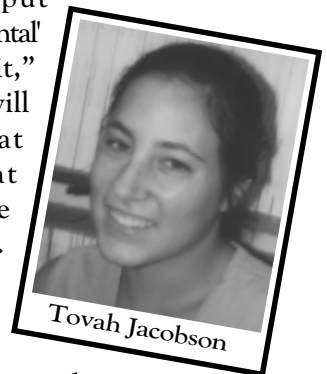
school year: Luke Baine, Sara Blankenship, Tovah Jacobson, Meredith Madden, Gwyneth Moody, Adam Smith, Nathan Taylor, and Diana Valhuerdi. You can see some of their bright, eager faces in the photos scattered upon this page. You can find more photos with the students' abstracts on pages 4 and 5.

Some students, though, approach their work from a unique angle, thereby ensuring that their papers could not be summed up in a short abstract. Tovah Jacobson, for example, submitted a collection of poetry inspired by her work in the EECP. Work such as this exemplifies why the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program operates best as an interdisciplinary study. As Eugene Hargrove wrote in *Foundations of*



This could be **you** receiving your certificate from Jack Crowley, Dean of the College of Environment and Design

Environmental Ethics, "[E]ventually environmental ethics will disappear as... mainstream subject areas adjust and take account of the problems environmental ethics deals with." The lessons learned in this program can be carried into any field and communicated in any manner. Or, as Dr. David Orr said during a recent lecture (see more about that event on pg. 3), "Take any job you want to have once you leave college and put 'Environmental' in front of it," and you will make that job that much more important. And so we see future



Tovah Jacobson

environmental journalists, environmental lawyers, environmental poets, and more pass through our gates.

And we are seeing more of them. The 2001-2002 academic year was the third time that the EECP handed out eight certificates to graduating students. This is part of a growing

trend that we are confident will continue, in no small part because of our new relationship with the recently formed College of Environment and Design, as well as the establishment of a full-time Degree Program Specialist position that will help keep everyone happy and in the know. We wish all of our recent graduates the very best.



Luke Baine



Sara Blankenship

Post-Thanksgiving Thanksgivings

Message from the Chair

In my email message to you in September, I promised that the EECP would do its best to give you a newsletter by the end of the year. Now, after a one year absence, here it is. It has been an extremely hard year. Since I am writing this before Thanksgiving, I've asked that this issue focus on the good things that have happened this calendar year. Dorinda Dallmeyer writes on our progress towards a Certificate in Environment Justice. John Britt, our new degree program specialist, updates you on the work he is doing at the EECP office (including this newsletter). We will also have another issue of *EECPerspectives* in the early part of Spring Semester 2003 that will more directly address current and future EECP events.

There have been a number of people who have helped get the EECP through this hard year, and I would like to thank them publicly; they are:

- Jack Crowley, Dean of College of Environment and Design, who in extremely tight financial times, managed to find funds for a degree program specialist and a modest budget for us.
- Del Dunn, Vice-President for Instruction, who managed to find another year's funds so we were able to teach EETH 3230.
- David Knauff, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, who provided a buffer for me to devote more of my time to the EECP when legitimate questions were being raised about the time I was spending on the Program without



any compensation to my department.

- Three EECP faculty members who taught our core courses: Clark Wolf (EETH 3230, Environmental Values and Policies), Kathy Hatcher (EETH 4200/6200, Ecological Values) and Dorinda Dallmeyer (EETH 5870/7270, Environmental Dispute Resolution).

- The EECP faculty members who were readers for EECP student papers this year: Betty Jean Craige, Andy Keeler, William Griswold, Ben Blount, Ron Pulliam, and Merryl Alber.

- Vickie Davion and Mona Freer, who have continued to do a wonderful job for the journal, *Ethics and the Environment*, when we could not support them financially. (The journal now has over 700 subscribers.)

- John Willis, who helped us build our Foundation account as a buffer against

more hard times .

- Victoria Kamsler, who is helping the EECP write grants for future funding.

- Rudy Quillian, who, in honor of his nephew, Gordon R. Feighner, has funded the Feighner Award for outstanding undergraduate certificate paper. The first Feighner Award will be given in Spring 2003.

To all of these persons, thank you for helping us. In the meantime, the financial future for the EECP remains uncertain. Whether there are more budget cuts in the future and how badly it will affect us is unclear. We will continue to opt for a modest program and hope for the best.

Peter Hartel

The EECP Office Says Hello

The EECP office says hello. The office also says, "Come on down to our Grand Re-Opening, we're now open full-time, five days a week! Bring the kids! If you don't have any, borrow some!" Um, well, it says that via me, John Britt, the new Degree Program Specialist. Hello.

I can typically be found at the Founder's House between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and I eagerly welcome all visitors. If you have any questions, please stop by or contact me at eecp@arches.uga.edu or 542-0935.

Currently, I am working on updating the design and



navigational layout of the website, which is now located at www.uga.edu/eecp. I would appreciate everyone's input on how they would like to see the site laid out, such as suggestions for topics and areas not currently covered on the site.

I also plan to have another issue of *EECPerspectives* in your collective hands at the beginning of Spring semester. That issue will feature the seminar schedule for Spring semester, as well as insight into the future of the EECP as we head into the year 2003.

Remember: I'm here to make your lives easier, so don't think twice about contacting me for help.

TOWARD AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CERTIFICATE

Increasingly, environmental change and human rights are linked. Also economic development requires that development be environmentally sustainable. Rights of participation, freedom of speech, access to information — these human rights are indispensable for the management of environmental problems globally and domestically. Yet it remains unclear how we ensure that no segment of society carries an undue burden of environmental costs. Nor is it clear how we address inequities in access to and consumption of natural resources while respecting individual rights and democratic traditions. Environmental ethicists only recently have begun to address these issues that deeply affect not only existing human societies but also generations yet to come.

As part of its activities within the new College, the EECP is committed to fostering the development of the proposed environmental justice program. Environmental justice was the theme for the 2000-2001 EECP seminar series, which brought nationally and internationally prominent scholars to campus to provide our faculty and students a year-long focus on this emerging issue in environmental ethics. Our experience over the last 15 years in developing a successful certificate program will be directly applicable to the proposed certificate program in environmental justice. The EECP also understands the importance of mentoring to enable students to realize their potential. With the proposed array of scholarships and internships, the new environmental justice certificate program will be able to attract low-income students, especially those from urban and other areas heavily affected by pollution and other forms of environmental problems. The field of environmental justice also offers many opportunities for collaborative research by College faculty in defining theoretical boundaries and practical implications for policy makers.



Currently, members of the EECP Executive Committee are working with the UGA Foundation to identify sources of funds for the Program as a whole and to make this new facet a reality. We also welcome your input on what this new certificate should entail, especially in terms of curriculum needs.

Dorinda Dallmeyer

Elegant Solutions for Obvious Problems

Dr. David Orr Speaks at the 2002 Environmental Ethics Colloquium

"Architecture is pedagogy," Dr. David Orr told the packed room at the Tate Center Reception Hall. "It teaches without knowing."

The "mall and sprawl" education of America, where buildings are ecological hazards that are seemingly built with neither the past nor the future in mind, was the topic of Dr. Orr's November 15th lecture, sponsored by the Center for Humanities and Arts. The lecture was also in honor of Dr. Eugene Odum, who was a founding sponsor of the annual event. Dr. Odum's absence was palpable, as Dr. Orr began his talk with a series of humorous anecdotes which he described as being ones that "Eugene would have liked a lot."

Dr. Odum probably would have also appreciated the fact that this son of a preacher man had come from Ohio's Oberlin College to proselytize to a room full of the converted, and yet he still had something new to show us: the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies.

The Center was built as a model for ecologically healthy

buildings. It purifies its own wastewater. It is solar-powered (and can even return power to the grid when creating excess energy). It even monitors its own activities and displays real-time updates of its functions. Most of all, it was built to prove that one could create a building, "without compromising human and environmental health somewhere else or at some later time." Best of all, it works.

Universities are where the future is molded, so it makes sense that the future would begin at one. To the chagrin of probably most of the people in attendance, such forethought has yet to be instilled in the current construction occurring on the UGA campus.

"The cost of a building is the same," said Dr. Orr, whether you pay it now in the construction of an ecologically sound structure, or later, in both environmental and upkeep costs.

Learn more about the Adam Joseph Lewis Center for Environmental Studies on the web at <http://www.oberlin.edu/envs/ajlc>.

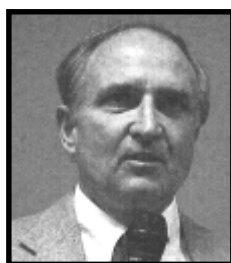


Photo by Frederick Ferre

Abstracts from the 2001-2002 Academic Year

Green Beauty in Vogue

Green marketing trends in Vogue magazine
Diana Valhuerdi

In this paper I examine women's beauty products advertised in Vogue magazine from the early 1900s to today for green marketing. Green marketing responds to consumers who attempt to express their desire to promote sustainability and their personal well-being by purchasing products which have been manufactured efficiently with the least possible environmental impact. Even in 1914, women's beauty products placed a strong emphasis on being natural. I show that green marketing has had a lengthy presence in advertising of women's beauty products. I agree that while it is not new, the increased use of green marketing in advertising is a positive reflection of the progression toward a more widespread green consciousness among American consumers.

Reader: William Griswold

Assessing the Environmental Literacy Requirement at the University of Georgia

Gwyneth Moody

The Environmental Literacy Requirement (ELR) at the University of Georgia has changed considerably from the original requirements promulgated in 1991. To assess student and faculty satisfaction with the current ELR requirements, I randomly surveyed 408 students and 103 faculty and asked them to evaluate the ELR. Among the students, the vast majority (88.9%) was somewhat satisfied or extremely satisfied with the ELR regardless of their discipline or class standing. However, there were certain exceptions. For example, nearly half of the students who took Chemistry 1110 were dissatisfied with their teacher's performance in fulfilling the criteria. A high percentage of both chemistry students (43.2%) and faculty (42.7%) were unaware of the ELR. In contrast to students, a majority of faculty was dissatisfied with the ELR. Nevertheless, both students and faculty thought that the idea of the ELR was important. The results suggest that the ELR program should continue but it could be improved by increasing students' and faculty's awareness of the requirement.

Reader: Peter Hartel

Environmental Issues in Mexico Under NAFTA

Luke Baine

While the creation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) brought about the possibility of economic growth via trade liberalization, it also brought about the possibility of environmental degradation. I discuss how environmental degradation is being controlled under NAFTA, particularly in light of the possibility of NAFTA creating a "pollution haven" in Mexico where lower costs of production result from environmental regulations not being enforced. I use coffee production and water pollution as examples. Future trade agreements between the United States and other nations must include provisions that ensure a healthy environment along with a healthy economy.

Reader: Andrew Keeler

Evolutionary Theory, Developmental Systems, and Contemporary Human Evolution:

Prelude to an Environmental Ethic
Nathan Taylor

In this essay, I explore recent developments in evolutionary theory to see how they might apply to contemporary human evolution and evolutionary ethics. In particular, I look at the Developmental Systems Theory (DST) of Paul Griffiths and others, the multi-level selection theory of Elliot Sober and David Sloan Wilson, and various other theories in game theoretics and evolutionary biology. Using these, I aim for ways at breaking down the dichotomy between biological and cultural evolution. In doing this, I try to offer a new perspective on human population dynamics and the forces driving our current period of exponential growth. Models of population dynamics similar to our own predict a period of destabilization if the population passes its carrying capacity too rapidly. By attempting to more fully understand the time scale of cultural changes or adaptation, and by trying to understand how these cultural changes affect us biologically and ecologically (through longevity, mortality, and fecundity), perhaps we can better prepare for selective forces on our own population. If this can be done, and if ethical systems are part of that preparation, then it seems likely that a genuine environmental ethic will arise through our own informed self-preservation.

Reader: Ron Pulliam

Abstracts continued from pg. 4



The Future of Tobacco

What Should the Government Do?

Adam Smith

Tobacco has been grown commercially in America since settlement began in the 1600s. Its popularity has grown so much that today tobacco is produced in 20 states and raises an immense amount of money for the U.S. government. However, our perspective of tobacco has changed. In this paper, I discuss how decreasing support, changes in the market from an auction to contract system, and quota changes have left tobacco producers with few options. I also discuss how the U.S. government is schizophrenic in its tobacco policies, and how tobacco companies have been unethical in their conduct through withholding information from the public. I evaluate the benefits and costs of what would happen if the government decided to completely stop supporting American tobacco producers. Based on the results, I explain how the government, along with tobacco companies, have been unethical to the American farmer on both utilitarian and deontological grounds.

Reader: Andrew Keeler

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A Hindu Perspective on Ecology

Meredith Madden

Today's world faces the threat of populations exceeding the earth's carrying capacity and the consequences of population pressure on the degradation of the environment. Lives are at stake because of humanity's dependence upon the fragile ecosystems that are being destroyed, most often in the name of capitalism. The country of India is not immune to these problems and has been searching for solutions and new government policies to address their environmental crisis. Globalization has imposed new models of government and changes in lifestyle that have led to a loss of traditional practices and values. With priority given to capitalism and economic interest of the country, environmental degradation has ensued, and one of the main environmental concerns has been deforestation. Industrial companies have moved into heavily forested areas, taken away the people's customary rights to the land, and denuded the areas for commercial gain without compensating the locals. Globalization has also led to lifestyle changes that have threatened many traditional practices deeply embedded in Hindu religion. This paper looks into the interplay between the loss of religious beliefs and the loss of environmental values all in the context of a country experiencing the negative effects of globalization. More specifically, a closer look is given to deforestation and traditional Hindu practices that managed for centuries without causing such environmental degradation. In the end, the paper explores the areas of reform that are needed to ameliorate India's environmental crisis and the role of religion in environmental ethics.



Reader: Ben Blount

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EECP Office

John Britt Phone: 706-542-0935

Founders Mem. House Fax: 706-583-0051

325 S. Lumpkin St. eeep@arches.uga.edu

University of Georgia

Athens, GA 30602-1865

Office Hours: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Monday - Friday

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Environmental Ethics Certificate Program
College of Environment and Design
Founders Memorial House
325 South Lumpkin St.
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1865

