

# EECPerspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

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August 2000

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## New Core Course for Fall 2000

To better meet the needs of EECP students, EETH/ECOL 4200/6200 (Ecological Concepts) has been renamed Ecological Values. The new 4-hour course will be offered for the first time this fall. It will be taught by Peter Hartel and Kathryn Hatcher, and will include a tutorial component. This completely restructured course satisfies the requirements for a course in ecology and a course in ethics. The required EECP paper is also part of the course and this negates the 3-hour independent study course.

Students taking this option must offset the loss of credit hours in core courses with a concomitant

increase in elective hours. Graduate students are still required to take an additional course in ethics, either EETH/PHIL 6250 (Technology and Values) or EETH/JURI 7870 (Environmental Dispute Resolution). As Ecological Concepts is no longer offered, graduate students may satisfy their ecology core requirement by taking a substitute ecology course at the graduate level. Both undergraduates and graduates must still take EETH 4000/6000 (Environmental Ethics Seminar). If you have questions about this new option, contact Peter Hartel or the EECP office.

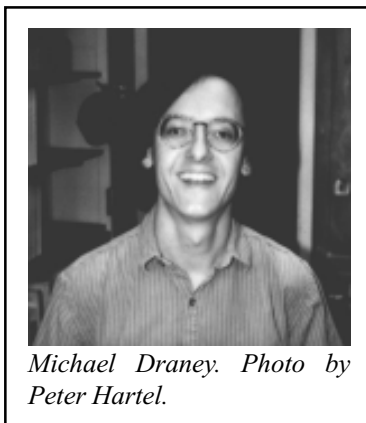
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## New Feature: EECP Alumni Updates

*Note: Starting in this issue of EECPerspectives, we will be providing updates on EECP alumni and how the Certificate program has enhanced their lives and careers.*

Michael Draney, who received his graduate certificate from the EECP in January 1995, now has a tenure-track position in the Biology Department of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where he teaches invertebrate classes, conservation biology and introduction to environmental sciences. Having the Certificate helped him to get the job, as the search committee felt this background would help in teaching courses in environmental science and conservation biology.

Draney's research focuses on aspects of ecology and taxonomy of terrestrial invertebrates, particularly spiders. His Certificate paper, titled "Ethical



Michael Draney. Photo by Peter Hartel.

Obligations Toward Insect Pests" was published in the journal *Ethics and the Environment*.

According to Draney, the Certificate program "expanded my ability to teach topics relating to the environment, where science is not, by itself, sufficient for understanding the various issues and viewpoints." He has found the Certificate to be very useful in teaching, in which his ultimate goal is "to give students tools to help them think critically and independently. This not only

makes them better scholars, but also better citizens." Another important goal is to raise the status of much-maligned invertebrates - "I strive to show students that insects, spiders, worms and the like can be fascinating and even aesthetically pleasing!"

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## EECP Seminar Series 2000-2001

The theme of this year's EECP seminar series is environmental justice. Dorinda Dallmeyer and Laurie Fowler are chairing the series. Fall seminar topics will include: an introduction to the seminar series; justice and evolutionary biology; scale and the determination of disparate impact; and a panel discussion of environmental justice legislation in the Southeast.

This year's seminar series will give the EECP the opportunity to collaborate with the Center for Humanities

and Arts. The Sixth Annual Odum Environmental Ethics Dialogue will be held on Friday, November 3, with speakers Michael McCally (Greenpeace USA) and Alejandro Nadal Egea (El Colegio de Mexico) discussing "Environmental Justice in a Global Society." Then in February, Ramachandra Guha, Center for Humanities and Arts Visiting International Scholar, will lead an EECP seminar on Third World environmentalism. For a tentative schedule of Fall 2000 seminars, see the calendar on page 7.

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## EECP Annual Report 1999-2000 Highlights

The Environmental Ethics Certificate Program Annual Report for 1999-2000 has been completed and distributed to various EECP faculty members and UGA administrators. Any EECP faculty, students, or friends that would like a copy of the report should contact the EECP office.

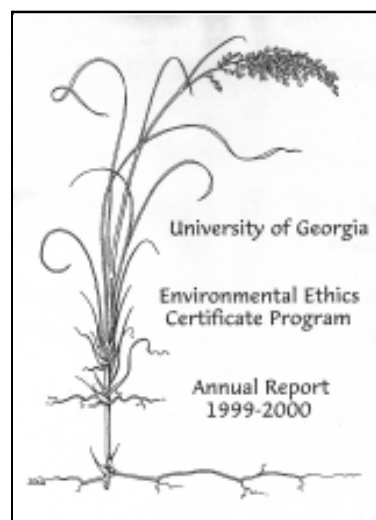
Highlights of the report include the following 1999-2000 events:

- As of May 21, 2000, there were 74 undergraduates and 18 graduates in the EECP.
- Seven students, all undergraduates, completed their certificates.
- Thirty-four undergraduates and four graduates joined the EECP. These students represent a diverse array of departments, including agricultural and applied economics, anthropology, business, chemistry, ecology, environmental health science, forestry, history, journalism, landscape architecture, philosophy, political science, and sociology.
- Two new EECP faculty were accepted to membership, bringing the total number of EECP faculty to 46. The new faculty members are John Bergstrom (Agricultural and Applied Economics) and Kevin DeLuca (Speech Communication). The EECP faculty now represent 25 different departments within the University.
- In order to better serve the needs of EECP students, the course Ecological Concepts (EETH/ECOL 4200/6200) was restructured to satisfy the Certificate's ecology and ethics core requirements, as well as the required EECP paper. The course was renamed Ecological Values.

- The programs of the EECP were supported in part by a grant from the National Science Foundation, which has been extended to May 2001. Project activities in 1999-2000 included two conferences and a workshop.

- The EECP held nine seminars, focused primarily on environmental ethics and the media. Other seminars were on beauty and ugliness, and Georgia coastal development. Two Philosopher's Walks were also held.

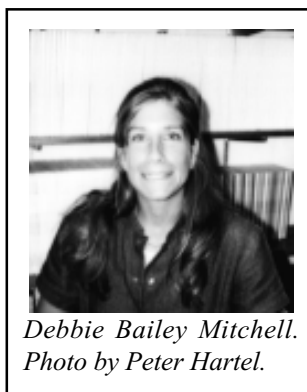
- The faculty of the EECP voted unanimously to move to the proposed College of the Environment should this College come into existence.



## Human Nature and Sustainability

*Note: Debra Bailey Mitchell, a Botany major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in February 2000. The following is an abstract of her EECP paper.*

Humans have evolved physiologically, mentally, and culturally with our environment. Included in the many human characteristics determined by adaptation to the environment is that of aesthetic preference. One of the ways this aesthetic preference is manifested



*Debbie Bailey Mitchell.  
Photo by Peter Hartel.*

is by human manipulation of nature, such as the landscaping of property or the cultivation of preferred fruits and vegetables. Humans in the past lived sustainably with the earth; today most humans live unsustainably on the earth. We have refined the list of needs for human survival and have created

technologies to satisfy our wants and individual aesthetic preferences. The manufacture of these "needs" is destroying the earth, depleting nature of its original essences, species diversity, and integrity.

Psychological studies have shown that nature experiences are of greater benefit to humans than non-natural experiences. Younger people now have a fear of nature due to their lack of experience with it. Our psychological advances have allowed us to distance

ourselves from the natural environment in which we developed, and this has, ironically, been detrimental to us psychologically.

We must use our mental abilities to realize the interconnectedness of all living and non-living parts of the earth, educate others, and change our "wants"

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## Planning for a Sustainable Future: The 1991 INBio-Merck Deal

*Note: Beth Allgood, an Interdisciplinary Studies major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in May 2000. The following is an abstract of her EECP paper.*



Beth Allgood. Photo by Peter Hartel.

In 1991, over 100 billion dollars in worldwide sales were earned from drugs derived from fungi, plants and animals of tropical countries, yet these countries received little in the way of profits from these sales. In response to negative press and other factors, Merck & Co. Inc., whose 1991 profits were estimated to be more than seven billion dollars, attempted to capitalize on the natural resources of Costa Rica, while also giving something back to the country.

In a 1991 deal hailed as a model for other nations

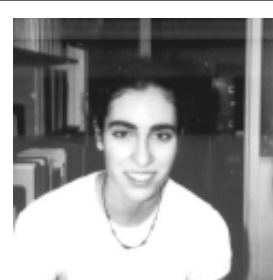
around the world, Merck signed a two-year contract with Costa Rica's National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio) for one million dollars in exchange for screened samples from within the country's protected areas. This deal has received praise as well as criticism from the international community.

This deal raises ethical questions about placing an economic value on natural resources, as well as the claim by INBio that this new awareness of the value of biodiversity will provide incentives for biodiversity protection. The INBio-Merck deal, with careful consideration and planning, has the potential to be a valuable tool for sustainable development and conservation of resources.

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## Reconnecting with Wilderness in America

*Note: Lori Powell, a Recreation and Leisure Studies major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in August 1999. The following is an abstract of her EECP paper.*



Lori Powell. Photo by Peter Hartel.

Wilderness has played an important role in the lives of people in the US, even before the land was called the United States. The role of wilderness in the lives of people has changed drastically over the years, just as the amount of wilderness and the understanding of the term has changed drastically. People living in today's society are much more disconnected from the land than our predecessors. Society underwent many changes that caused people to become

disconnected with the land physically, historically, ecologically, spiritually, and psychologically. These disconnections were the result of development, urbanization, industrialization, mechanization, science, technology and globalization. Results of this disconnection from land range from personal dissatisfaction to larger societal problems.

Reconnection with the land is sought for many reasons, and individuals and society as a whole can benefit from this reconnection. Seven inter-related wilderness values relate to the reconnection with the land people are seeking and can experience in wilderness. Wilderness has scientific value, heritage value, ecological value, spiritual

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## Right to Pollute, Right to Health: A Look at the Ethics of Air Pollution



Maggie Kelly. Photo by Peter Hartel.

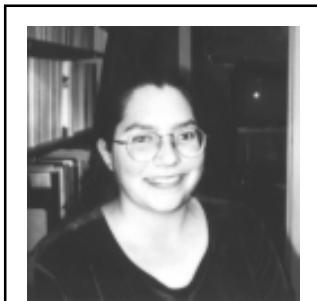
*Note: Maggie Kelly, an English major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in May 2000. The following is an abstract of her EECP paper.*

My paper considers the sources of air pollution affecting Atlanta and explores the ethical implications of these sources. I determine that it is unethical that the people who produce most of the pollution are not the ones that bear the costs. Further, I consider the ways in which the political and physical infrastructure of the city perpetuates these discrepancies rather than alleviating them. Addressing these discrepancies will require efforts on both an individual and systemic level, including grassroots environmental justice and citizen groups, non-profit organizations, the private sector, government agencies, and the efforts of individuals acting as citizens and consumers.

## The True Cost of Making Man's Dreams a Reality: An Evaluation of Corporate Responsibility in Global Gold Mining

*Note: Carrie Brooks, an Ecology/Geology major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in April 2000. The following is an abstract of her paper.*

When answering a phone, riding a bicycle, turning on a lamp, or getting a cavity filled, most people do not consider where the metal that is being used comes from. In today's world, humans use a wide range of metals and other minerals without ever thinking about their impacts. The majority of these minerals



Carrie Brooks. Photo by Peter Hartel.

must be mined from the Earth through processes that can have severe consequences on the environment.

Gold mining is one particularly destructive type of mining. Currently, gold is mined for a variety of uses, such as cellular phones, cameras and ATM machines, but the major use of gold (over 80%) is in jewelry. Most gold is mined through a process called cyanide heap leaching, which often leads to environmental and social problems.

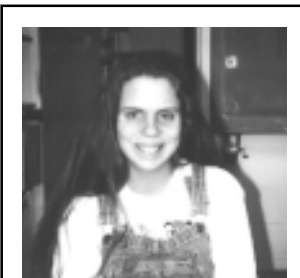
The companies mining a particular area can have life-or-death control over the land and

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## The Bahá'í Teachings on the Environment

*Note: Erica Grinder, a Recreation and Leisure Studies Major, completed her undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in January 1999. The following is an abstract of her EECP paper.*

One option when searching for a coherent and workable environmental ethic is to turn to religion, the source of human ethics. I propose that we examine the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh for guidance on the very modern issue of sustainability. Although the Bahá'ís believe that humans have a higher station in this world than plants and animals, we do not believe that this allows humans to run free with total disregard for the rest of creation. The teachings of Bahá'í call for humans to balance their spiritual and material natures, and



Erica Grinder. Photo by Peter Hartel.

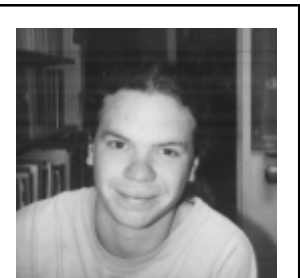
exercise moderation in all things. People should strive to fulfill their needs, but not necessarily all of their wants, which are unlimited. Bahá'í teachings also emphasize that we should consider what is in the best interest of humanity and not just our own interests.

While Bahá'í teachings don't directly address particular environmental issues, they can provide a strong basis for changing human behavior toward the environment. As Shoghi Effendi writes, "We need a change of heart, a reframing of all our conceptions and a new orientation of our activities. The inward life of man as well as his outward environment have to be reshaped if human salvation is to be secured."

## Indigenous Peoples: Complex Problems, Complex Solutions

*Note: Nick DaSantos, a Philosophy major, completed his undergraduate Certificate in Environmental Ethics in April 2000. The following is an abstract of his EECP paper.*

In his essay *Indigenous Peoples: The Miner's Canary for the Twentieth Century*, Jason W. Clay describes some of the many injustices that have been committed against indigenous groups by outsiders, including the denial of their rights to land and natural resources. One example given is that of gold mining in the territory of the Yanomami Indians of northern



Nick DaSantos. Photo by Peter Hartel.

Brazil, which has had many negative social and environmental impacts, including the introduction of mercury into local rivers.

For many years, indigenous peoples have faced difficulties in dealing with state governments that have refused to recognize them as citizens and recognize their rights to land and other natural resources. Clay believes that to remedy this situation, indigenous peoples need to work with outside groups to overcome their problems while maintaining their unique cultural identities. However, his proposed

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## EECP Administration and Executive Committee

After several months without (Felicia Wright resigned in late 1999), the EECP hired a new Degree Program Assistant in May 2000, **Sandra Crismon**, who will also serve as the editor of *EECPerspectives*.

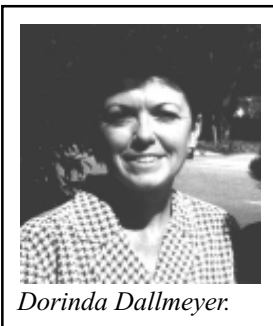


*Sandra Crismon. Photo by Peter Hartel.*

Sandra is a doctoral student in the Anthropology Department and an EECP graduate student. Her dissertation research will focus on how differences in power affect access to freshwater resources on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, the site of a US missile testing range. Sandra has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the University of Iowa.

Working part-time, Sandra will staff the EECP office located in Room 132 of the Marine Sciences Building. Office hours will be Monday through Thursday from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. She can also be reached by e-mail at [eeep@arches.uga.edu](mailto:eeep@arches.uga.edu).

The EECP Executive Committee has elected a new chair for the 2000-2001 academic year, **Dorinda Dallmeyer** of the Dean Rusk Center for International and Comparative Law. She is replacing **Kathy Hatcher**, who will now serve as past chair (and Natural Sciences Representative) on the Committee.



*Dorinda Dallmeyer.*

Other newly-elected Executive Committee members are **Peter Hartel** (Natural Sciences Representative), who is replacing **Theresa Perenich**, and **Clark Wolf** (Humanities and Social Sciences Representative), who is replacing **Frank Golley**. **Bill Griswold** will be serving his second year as a Humanities and Social Sciences Representative. Many thanks to outgoing Committee members, and to Kathy for all her hard work this past year.

**PLEASE NOTE that Fall 2000 seminars will start at 5:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM. We will have snacks, but will no longer have a "social half-hour" before the seminars begin.**

## Human Nature and Sustainability

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from those of instant material gratification of the self to those benefitting the whole. One way to start is to preserve and reintroduce sustainable practices. Another is to examine our view of the earth in comparison with the view of those humans who have lived sustainably. These steps will maintain sociocultural and ecological diversity, fortify the integrated structure of the earth, and allow the spirit of nature to once again be present in human life.

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## Reconnecting with Wilderness

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value, psychological value, cultural value and intrinsic value. The existence of wilderness serves as a reminder of our connection with the land, and wilderness experiences help foster an understanding of this connection as well. Perhaps wilderness will provide enough of a reminder of our connection with the land that as a society we will not, as the Union of Concerned Scientists warned, "so alter the world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know."

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## Global Gold Mining

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organisms near the site. However, I could not locate a definition of corporate responsibility relating to mining, and so I developed a new, broad definition of corporate responsibility, drawing on the ideas of several philosophers and businessmen. Using the criteria from this definition, the corporate responsibility of four gold mining companies - Pegasus Gold, Placer Dome, Galactic Resources, and Freeport McMoRan - is evaluated. In addition to solutions to existing problems, alternative methods of gold mining and mine reclamation are also discussed.

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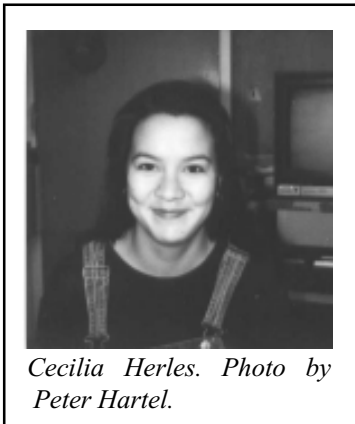
## Indigenous Peoples

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solutions may be too simple for the complex problems indigenous peoples face. In his examples of positive change, he fails to mention negative elements involved in these situations, including violence and possible coercion. Understanding the complexity involved in indigenous issues and responding accordingly is the only way the problems of indigenous peoples will ever be solved.

## Second Kleiner Fund Award

EECP graduate student Cecilia Herles, a Ph.D. student in Philosophy, was selected as the second recipient of the Margaret Shippen Kleiner Environmental Ethics Award. The award enabled her to travel to the University of Leeds (UK) to present a paper at the Gendering Ethics/The Ethics of Gender conference in June 2000. Her paper is titled "Muddying the Waters Does Not Have to Entail Erosion: An Examination of the Logic of Purity from an Ecological Feminist Perspective."



Cecilia Herles. Photo by Peter Hartel.

The Margaret Shippen Kleiner Fund provides travel awards for EECP graduate students to present environmental ethics-related papers at conferences. Awards are given out annually. The EECP Executive Committee reviews all applications for funds. More information on how to apply for the Kleiner Award will be provided in the October issue of *EECPerspectives*.

*Note: The following is a report from Cecilia Herles on the conference. The abstract of her EECP paper will be published in the October EECPerspectives.*

Within feminist scholarship, there has been a

growing interest in the kinds of ethical dilemmas which recent developments in science and technology raise. Gendering Ethics/The Ethics of Gender was an international interdisciplinary conference which addressed some of these issues. I was very fortunate to be able to present my EECP paper at this event. Gender, nature, and animals; the ethics of science and technology; and feminist critiques of development were only a few of the many fascinating themes that were discussed. Scholars from Australia, North and South America, Asia, Africa, and Europe traveled to attend this first major international, interdisciplinary feminist conference in the UK to address these ethical issues. I am very grateful to the EECP and especially to the Kleiner family for all of their support, which enabled me to attend this inspirational event.

## Note to EECP Faculty

The topic of the fall faculty meeting (to be scheduled) will be EECP curriculum. One major task for the fall is to update the list of courses that satisfy EECP electives - please let us know about any courses you are aware of or teach that contain environmental ethics-related content.

We are also considering the possibility of incorporating an Environmental Justice Certificate Program into the EECP. Please let us know about any courses you are aware of or teach that might satisfy a core requirement or an elective for this program. We'd also appreciate any general thoughts you might have on the development of this new portion of the program.

## EECP Course Offerings 2000-2001

### Fall Semester

EETH 4200/6200	Ecological Values	4 CR	Hartel/Hatcher
EETH 4220/6220	Environmental Ethics	3 CR	Davion
EETH 4250/6250	Technology and Values	3 CR	Preston
EETH 4020/6020	Directed Readings	3 CR	Various
EETH 4010/8010	Undergrad/Grad Research	3 CR	Hartel
EETH 4000/6000	Environmental Ethics Seminar	1 CR	Hartel

### Spring Semester

EETH 5870/7870	Environmental Dispute Resolution	2 CR	Dallmeyer
EETH 4020/6020	Directed Readings	3 CR	Various
EETH 4010/8010	Undergrad/Grad Research	3 CR	Hartel
EETH 4000/6000	Environmental Ethics Seminar	1 CR	Hartel

## EECP FALL 2000 CALENDAR

**Seminar: Intro to the Environmental Justice Seminar Series** **Tuesday, August 29**

Ecology Seminar Room, 5:00 PM

**Dorinda Dallmeyer** and **Laurie Fowler** will provide an introduction to the 2000-2001 seminar series.

**Philosopher's Walk/Potluck Dinner**

**Wednesday, September 6**

The Fall Philosopher's Walk will be a potluck dinner held at Eugene Odum's cabin. All those planning to attend should RSVP to the EECP office at 706-542-0935 or [eeep@arches.uga.edu](mailto:eeep@arches.uga.edu).

**EECP Executive Committee Meeting**

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, Date and Time TBA

**Seminar: Justice and Evolutionary Biology**

**Tuesday, September 19**

Ecology Seminar Room, 5:00 PM

**Douglas Yarn** is an Associate Professor at Georgia State University College of Law, where he teaches alternative dispute resolution and professional responsibility.

**Tuesday, October 10**

**Seminar: Reflections on the Question of Scale in the Pursuit of Environmental Justice**

Ecology Seminar Room, 5:00 PM

**Hilda Kurtz** is a newly-appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at UGA.

**EECP Executive Committee Meeting**

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, Date and Time TBA

**EECP Faculty Meeting**

EECP Office, 132 Marine Sciences, Date and Time TBA

Topic: EECP Curriculum

**Seminar: Environmental Justice in a Global Society**

**Friday, November 3**

Tate Center Reception Hall, 2:00 PM

**Michael McCally** of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (and Chairman of the Board of Greenpeace USA) and **Alejandro Nadal Egea** of El Colegio de Mexico will be the featured speakers at the Sixth Annual Odum Environmental Ethics Dialogue. This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Humanities and Arts and the Environmental Ethics Certificate Program.

**Seminar: Southeastern Environmental Justice Legislation**

**Tuesday, November 14**

Ecology Seminar Room, 5:00 PM

Speakers TBA

## 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 ([eecp@arches.uga.edu](mailto:eecp@arches.uga.edu)) your updates.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ I am a  student  faculty  friend  alumnus

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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### EECP 2000-2001 Executive Committee

Dorinda Dallmeyer (Chair), Dean Rusk Center

Clark Wolf, Philosophy

Peter Hartel, Crop & Soil Science

William Griswold, Journalism

Kathryn Hatcher (Past Chair), Institute of Ecology

### EECP Office

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