

Fall 2008 EECP Seminars

SEPT
4

"Flourishing or Growth?" An Ethical Choice for the 21st Century"

by Philip Cafaro

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2008

Location: Room 136 Park Hall

Reception begins at 5pm, with the seminar beginning at 5:30pm.

SEPT
23

"The Influence of the Finnish National Epic, the Kalevala, on Modern Day Finland's Environmental Ethic" by Sanna Barrineau

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Location: Founders Garden House

Time: Special RSVP, details to come

OCT
7

"An Ecological Feminist Perspective on Climate Change" by Cecilia M. Herles

Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008

Location: Founders Garden House

Time: 5:00pm

OCT
21

"The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of the Oil Age, Climate Change, and Other Converging Catastrophes of the Twenty-First Century" by James Howard Kunstler

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Location: University Chapel

Time: 4:00pm

NOV
11

"What's Next for Georgia's Environment" by Neill Herring

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2008

Location: Founders Garden House

Time: 5:00pm

Perspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia
Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

EECP Celebrates 25 years!

Welcome back for the start of a new academic year! The EECP is excited to celebrate its 25th anniversary, which began in April 2008 and continues through the 2008-2009 school year. The EECP has prepared an exciting lineup of seminars for the Fall 2008 semester, so please mark your calendars! The lineup features seminars on climate change, engineered life, the literary basis for environmental ethics, and the role of ethics in environmental lobbying.

We welcome the following students who have joined the EECP since July 2007. Currently, the Program has 55 students (12 graduate and 43 undergraduates).

Graduate Students

Marjorie Palmer—Law

Robert H. Scott—Philosophy

Kristina Summers—Nonprofit Organizations

Lindsey Tuominen—Forest Resources

Undergraduate Students

Zach Anderson—Anthropology

Kristyn Flynt—Environmental Health Science

Blake Fortson—Landscape Architecture

James Hamilton—Economics

Anna Kate Hein—Music, Political Science

Brooke Heinz—Environmental Economics and Management

Molly Hoffmeister—Public Relations

Melinda Kitchen—Pre-Business

Mackenzie Madden—Journalism

Matt Meador—Philosophy

Beth Nielson—Environmental Economics and Management

Sara Skiles—Speech Communication

Natalie Stephenson—Anthropology



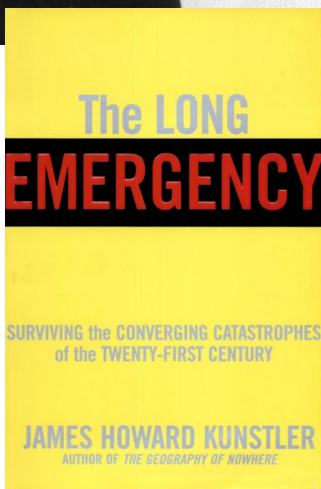
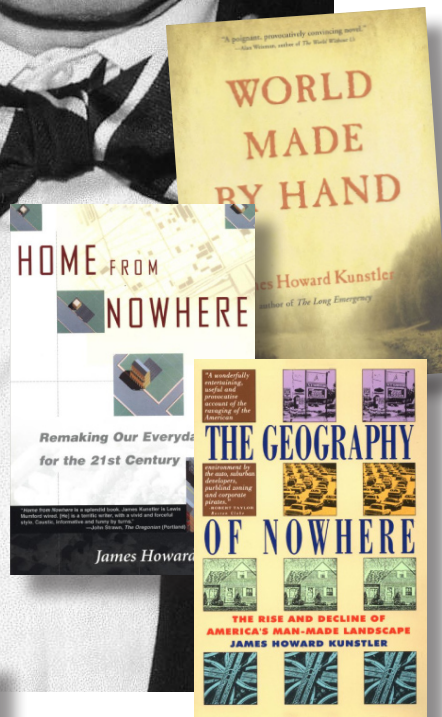
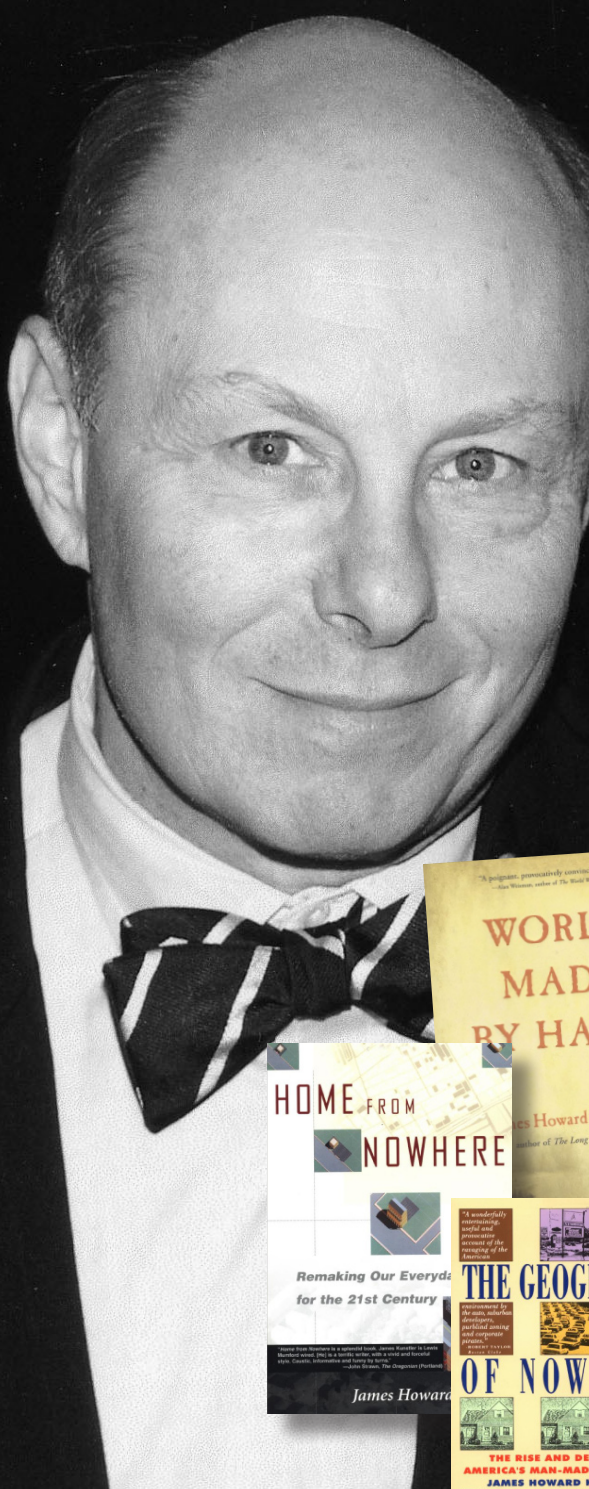
Highlighting the Odum Environmental Ethics Lecture

James Howard Kunstler will deliver the 2008 Odum Environmental Ethics Lecture, co-sponsored by the EECF and the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts. With his classics of social commentary, "The Geography of Nowhere" and "Home from Nowhere", Kunstler has established himself as one of the great commentators on American space and place. Now, with his book "The Long Emergency," he offers a shocking vision of a post-oil future. As a result of artificially cheap fossil-fuel energy, we have developed global models of industry, commerce, food production, and finance that will collapse. "The Long Emergency" tells us just what to expect after we pass the tipping point of global peak oil production and the honeymoon of affordable energy is over, preparing us for economic, political, and social changes of an unimaginable scale.

Mr. Kunstler was born in New York City in 1948. He moved to the Long Island suburbs in 1954 and returned to the city in 1957 where he spent most of his childhood. He graduated from the State University of New York (Brockport Campus), and worked as a reporter and feature writer for a number of newspapers and magazines, including Rolling Stone. In 1975, he dropped out to write books on a full-time basis. He has no formal training in architecture or the related design fields. He has lectured at Harvard, Yale, Columbia, Dartmouth, Cornell, MIT, RPI, the University of Virginia and many other colleges, and he has appeared before many professional organizations such as the AIA, the APA, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He lives in Saratoga Springs in upstate New York.

Our own Betty Jean Craig writes, "James Kunstler explains how the impending convergence of several "catastrophes"—global climate change, water scarcity, and the end of cheap oil—will dramatically change American society in the twenty-first century. In "The Long Emergency" (2005) Kunstler analyzes the new environment, and in "World Made by Hand" (2008) he imagines life in a post-oil age. As one of our nation's most visionary thinkers, Kunstler will probably attract a very large audience of people wondering how we will survive the Long Emergency."

All EECF faculty and students should read "The Long Emergency" in preparation for Kunstler's presentation in October.



Student photos by Peter Harrel unless noted



Amy Anderson



Lee Ellen Carter



Erica Christoph



Suzie Fatkin



Jennifer Guiney



photo by Barrie Collins

Congratulations to Students who have recently Completed Certificates

It's been another successful year for the EECP with 10 undergraduate and graduate students earning their Certificates in the 2007-2008 academic year. Here they are, in alphabetical order, accompanied with title and abstract they wrote for their approved EECP paper. We've included their reader in parentheses.



Brett Maley



Barbara Payne

Courtesy of Barbara Payne



Logan Scholfield



Rebecca Skiba



Claire Thompson



Leslie Smith



Amy Anderson
“Reconsidering Development on Jekyll Island” (Reader: Meryll Alber)

Jekyll Island, one of Georgia’s barrier islands, was privately owned until 1947 when the State of Georgia purchased the island. The State Legislature decided shortly thereafter that the island would become a self-supporting state park, with 35% being developed and the remaining 65% being undeveloped. This percentage division will exist until the State lease to private landowners expires in 2049. Recently, the Georgia Legislature has reconsidered the 35/65 split, in addition to extending the lease to allow new development and revenue for the island. With the exception of the historic district and educational facilities, I argue that Jekyll Island could be better utilized and appreciated if no other development existed on the island.

Lee Ellen Carter
“Achieving Holistic Sacred Sites Conservation for Indigenous Communities in Ecuador” (Reader: Fausto Sarmiento)

Sites held sacred by indigenous communities around the world are facing ever-increasing pressure from tourism. In Ecuador, two communities in the Imbakucha watershed, Cotacachi and Otavalo, provide a prime example of how tourism affects spiritual values and conservation efforts. The watershed includes mountain landscapes that these two communities hold sacred. I investigated the relationship between the two communities and their sacred sites. The data were collected through 30 interviews with people who knew Cotacachi and Otavalo well. The data suggest that as mass tourism becomes more popular in Otavalo, a well-known market town, spiritual values are being lost. In contrast, Cotacachi, which has opted for ecotourism as an alternative, spiritual values are being preserved. All interviewees agreed that a stronger influence of environmental ideals can and should be instilled into the livelihoods of indigenous communities in order to conserve sacred sites. To achieve these ideals, I recommend implementing Robert Wild’s holistic Sacred Site Conservation, which are based on principles of the World Conservation Union. These principles should allow the indigenous communities, especially those like Otavalo, to preserve their ancestral beliefs and values, while also providing economic benefits through ecotourism.

Erica Christoph
“Historic Preservation v. Human Health: Issues Raised by the Presence of Lead Paint” (Reader: Peter Appel)

The federal government has established its interest in both protecting public health and preserving the historic built landscape of the country. What is less clear, however, is the manner in which the government should mitigate the problems that arise when these interests conflict, as they do when the danger of lead-based paint is weighed against the

historical integrity of many of the homes in which it is found. While certain ethical frameworks, especially environmental justice perspectives, indicate that public health should trump historic preservation, the concrete realities of dealing with lead paint in historic homes actually suggest that in the majority of cases neither concern must be sacrificed. Through a careful analysis of historic homes—one which recognizes varying risks of lead poisoning from architectural features that themselves carry varying levels of historical significance—the interest of public health can be served in tandem with the interest of historic preservation.

Suzie Fatkin
“Ethical Considerations for the Effects of Ecotourism on Monkey Species in Costa Rica” (Reader: John Willis)

In this paper, I focus on the effects of ecotourism for monkeys in Costa Rica and the ethical possibilities that several stakeholders have in this situation. Because ecotourism is often praised, I focus on its detrimental effects and possible solutions to various problems. I argue that my environmental ethic, based in biocentrism and ecocentrism, could offer a foundation for thinking about these problems from a non-human perspective. Specifically, ecotourists need to become more ecologically aware of monkeys and monkey behavior, and foster the conservation of monkeys by eradicating selfish anthropocentric attitudes that reduce monkey habitat and increase monkey stress.

Jennifer Guiney
“The State of Recycling in Gwinnett County, Georgia” (Reader: Betty Jean Craige)

Gwinnett County, Georgia is consistently one of the fastest growing counties in the United States. In the 1980s, as the county realized the implications of this growth on its resources, it began to find ways to mitigate the negative effects of the booming population. One of the ways it sought to mitigate its growth was through recycling. My paper discusses recycling in the past, present, and future. It also discusses those areas that do not recycle and the reasons why they do not recycle. This paper emphasizes how other areas, especially those with a predictable future of heavy growth, would be wise to observe how the county’s leaders and its citizens handle the impacts of increased solid waste.

Brett Maley
“Removal of Invasive Species from Navarino Island, Tierra del Fuego, Chile” (Reader: Dorinda Dallmeyer)

Invasive species are recognized as one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity. Since islands are particularly vulnerable to the effects of introduced species, I discuss the recent introduction of mink and beavers to Navarino Island, Chile, which, under the guise of providing economic benefits through the fur trade to the local inhabitants, have

unfortunately devastated some endemic species like birds. I propose four plans to manage the introduced mink and beaver on Navarino Island. I argue for a combination of two of the four plans, which combines ecocentrism with conservationism.

Barbara Payne
“The Value of Ethnobotanical Gardens in Teaching Environmental Ethics” (Reader: Betty Jean Craige)

Ethnobotanical gardens on school grounds may promote environmental literacy and provide opportunities for students to acquire an environmental ethic because they provide a context for people-plant-environment relationships. For example, ethnobotanical gardens provide an ideal framework for engaging students because of their interdisciplinary nature and because students can form a personal relationship with plants in terms of food, medicine, fiber, and housing. However, in Georgia, fewer than five ethnobotanical gardens presently exist. In fact, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act and Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) restrict teachers' ability to deliver instruction in outdoor classrooms. I propose an interdisciplinary curriculum based on multicultural picture books that satisfy the NCLB Act and GPS. This curriculum uses ethnobotanical gardens to support both self-efficacy and environmental decision-making in elementary-aged children.

Logan Scholfield
“Three Films, Two Fellows, and One Environmental Ethic” (Reader: Kevin Deluca)

In 1978, filmmaker Geoffrey Reggio, cinematographer Ron Fricke, and composer Phillip Glass set out to create a trilogy of films that examine the ubiquitous presence of technology that pervades the cultures and invariably the ecosystems of the planet. The three films “Koyaanisqatsi,” “Powaqqatsi,” and “Noqoyqatsi” take their titles from Hopi for “life out of balance,” “life in transformation,” and “life as war,” respectively. I analyze these abstract documentaries/meditations for their implicit and explicit environmental ethic and how the filmmakers go about illustrating their positions. For example, these nonstory, noncharacter films convey abstract emotional experience through unique cinematic devices such as montage, camera movement, alteration of speed, and sound-visual relationships. In Reggio's films, only with a change in the minds of humanity across all levels of power, wealth, and education can a sense of balance be achieved in terms of human beings and their interactions with each other (on a global and local scale) and on the planet. After the films' essential ethic is understood, I compare and contrast it with my own environmental ethic.

Rebecca Skiba
“Adaptive Management to Establish Sustainable Ecotourism in the Serengeti Ecosystem” (Reader: Ron Carroll)

Adaptive management will play a major role in the future conservation of wildlife areas. Adaptive management is a branch of conservation ecology that combines scientific research and experimental design with dynamic ecology. It is flexible and works to integrate successful conservation strategies. For example, the Serengeti ecosystem, composed of a number of parks, is currently under stress from ecotourism. When the parks are managed separately, the importance of the Serengeti ecosystem is not acknowledged, although decisions in individual parks affect the ecosystem as a whole. I argue that implementing adaptive management will establish sustainable ecotourism in the Serengeti.

Leslie Smith
“Peace is War: The Environmental Ethics of Arundhati Roy” (Reader: Betty Jean Craige)

In this paper I examine the environmental ethic of Arundhati Roy by focusing on her fictional novel, “The God of Small Things,” and a collection of her essays, “An Ordinary Person's Guide to the Empire.” I show that Roy's environmental ethic is one based on a holistic view of the world, valuing everything natural, from the smallest, most insignificant organism to the largest. Because Roy recognizes the interconnectedness of all beings, she weaves many issues (e.g., political, economic, and social) into a holistic environmental ethic. While Roy's position on spirituality in her environmental ethic is unclear, I reveal my ecocentric value system that acknowledges the importance of non-living ecosystems and finds a spiritual tranquility in nature.

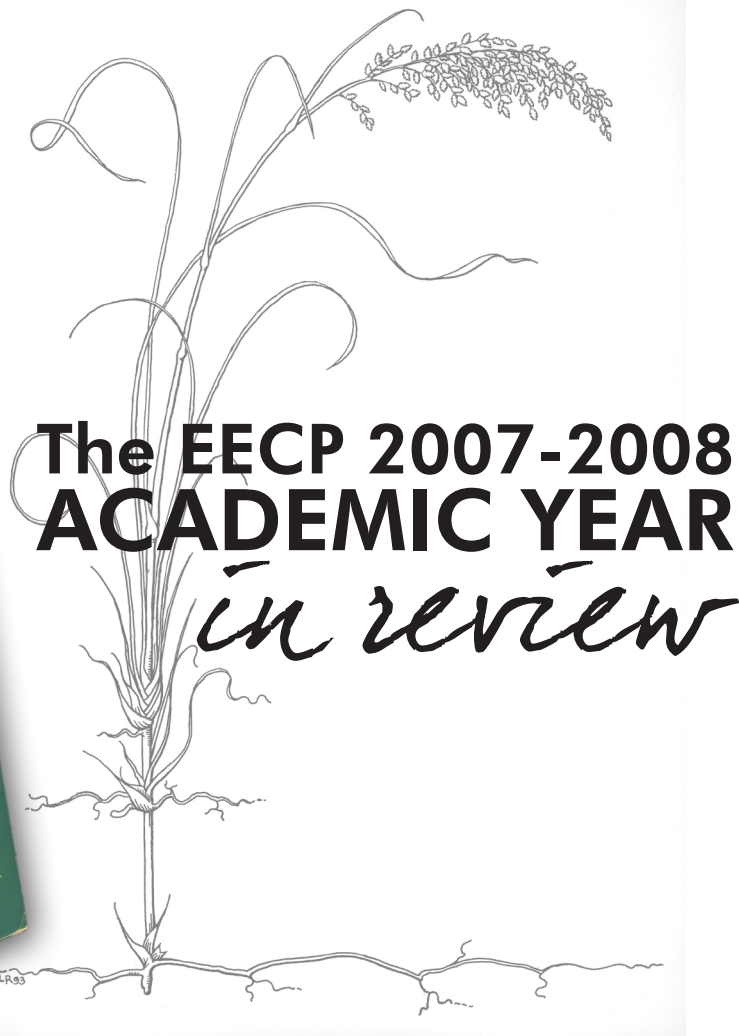
Claire Thompson
“Going to the Mountains: Cultural, Economic, and Environmental Implications of Exurban Development on the Cumberland Plateau” (Reader: Mary Akers)

Although much of the culture, native landscape, and natural ecosystem of the southern portion of the Cumberland Plateau is intact, the area faces exurban development that will have long-term effects on the land, people, and economy. It is necessary to look at the cultural, economic, and environmental development of the Plateau to establish a framework for best management and land-use practices. This framework should consider both public and private interests, and ensure the conservation of the land and a way of life. Without a framework, the Cumberland Plateau may become just another commercially exploited “mountain retreat.” In my paper, I examine Cooley's Rift, a gated community that is currently being considered for development in the Plateau. I look at the advantages and disadvantages of developing Cooley's Rift and address problems faced by developers, communities, and the environment. Although I conclude that development is inevitable within the Cumberland Plateau, it is essential that development is positive for all stakeholders, not just a select few.





Seminar Series



The EECP 2007-2008 ACADEMIC YEAR *in review*

The seminar series in 2007-2008 presented EECP students, faculty, and friends with a number of engaging speakers and presentations. September marked the centennial of the birth of Rachel Carson, founder of the modern environmental movement in America. As a tribute to her work, EECP students and faculty read Carson's *Silent Spring* and viewed a video documentary on her by the PBS

series, *The American Experience*. Discussions about case studies mentioned in Carson's book followed in October. Later in October, Peter Hartel led a Philosopher's Walk celebrating the life of the late Frank Golley, an EECP faculty member who was an important environmentalist at UGA. In November, acclaimed professor and author Holmes Rolston III joined us to present "The Future of Environmental Ethics."

photo by Dorinda Dallmeyer



Philosopher's Walk



Holmes Rolston III

The new year began with a presentation from our own director, Dorinda Dallmeyer, on marine environmental ethics. Dorinda gave the UGA Founders' Day lecture, entitled "Turning the Tide, Saving the Seas."



Founders' Day Lecture

UGA Office of Public Information

To round out January, faculty and students from EECP played a crucial role in the success of Focus the Nation on the UGA campus. Focus the Nation was created to enhance the dialogue between students, citizens, and politicians



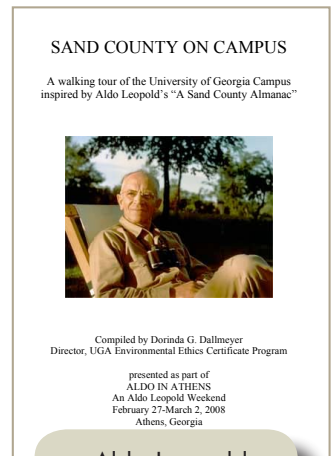
on solving the challenges of global climate change. Together with the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, the EECP brought in writer, activist, and naturalist Janisse Ray to give a talk on "Lessons from the Lost Glaciers: Out of the Clouds and into Action." Many of our

EECP faculty members participated as panelists in the event, including Dan Bodansky, Ron Carroll, John Bergstrom, and Betty Jean Craige. February ended with a presentation by Douglas H. Yarn on the international dispute resolution.

The Athens community also celebrated the life and work of American conservationist Aldo Leopold, author of "A Sand County Almanac." For a tour of the UGA Campus inspired by the book, see the EECP Web site www.uga-eeep.com.

Noted forest canopy ecologist Nalini Nadkarni spoke about how environmental ethics influences her work in forest ecology research. To kick off the 25th Anniversary celebration, Susan Power Bratton, who was the first graduate student to receive a certificate in Environmental Ethics from UGA and who is now Director of Environmental Studies at Baylor University, came back to UGA to give a presentation on environmental values and Christian art.

Sanna Barrineau won the Feighner Award for best undergraduate EECP paper for the 2006-2007 academic year. Sanna's paper was about the influence of the Finnish national epic, the Kalevala, on modern-day Finland's environmental ethic. Her reader was Betty Jean Craige. The academic year also saw Ron Pulliam, Judy Meyer, and John Willis retire after faithfully participating in the EECP program as faculty members for many years. We thank them for their service. John will continue as a faculty reader for EECP student papers.



Compiled by Dorinda G. Dallmeyer
Director, UGA Environmental Ethics Certificate Program
presented as part of
ALDO IN ATHENS
An Aldo Leopold Weekend
February 27-March 2, 2008
Athens, Georgia

Aldo Leopold



photo by Peter Hartel

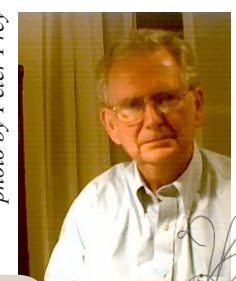
Feighner Award



photo by Tori Bauer



photo by Peter Frey



Pulliam, Meyer and Willis

ENVIRONMENTAL
ETHICS
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



EECP Celebrates 25 years!

Sustaining the excellence of the EECP for the future requires resources from alumni, friends, corporations, and foundations. The EECP 25th Anniversary marks the year for a fundraising campaign to support the certificate program. Gifts provide scholarships for superior students, designate distinguished faculty and researchers, and enrich programming, teaching, and outreach.



How to give!

Please contact **Stephanie Hall**, the Director of Development for the College of Environment and Design. She can be reached by phone (706-542-4727) or email (slhall@uga.edu) or visit the EECP Web site at <http://www.uga-eeep.com/>

PERSPECTIVES Fall 2008 | The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

Perspectives

Environmental Ethics Certificate Program
<http://www.uga-eeep.com/>
Founders Garden House
325 S. Lumpkin St.
University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-1865

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Editors: Sanna Barrineau and Peter Hartel
Graphic Design: Eleonora Machado