

# Perspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

## Fall 2009 EECP Seminars

SEPT  
**15**

**"Sand County on Campus" by  
 Dorinda Dallmeyer, Director of EECP**

Date: September 15, 2009  
 Location: Starting at the top level,  
 North Parking Deck,  
 Jackson Street  
 Time: 5:15 p.m.

OCT  
**6**

**"Trust is Everything! Reciprocal  
 Learning to Create Meaningful  
 Partnerships" by Alan Covich, EECP  
 Faculty Member**

Date: October 6, 2009  
 Location: Founders Garden House  
 Time: 5:00 p.m.

NOV  
**3**

**Willson Center-EECP Odum Lecture,  
 "The Moral Obligation to Act" by  
 Janisse Ray, Environmental Activist  
 and Poet**

Date: November 3, 2009  
 Location: The Chapel  
 Time: 4:00 p.m.

NOV  
**10**

**"Toxins in Newborn Babies: What are  
 the Consequences?" by Ken Cook,  
 the Environmental Working Group,  
 followed by a panel discussion**

Date: November 10, 2009  
 Location: The Chapel  
 Time: 5:30 p.m.

DEC  
**1**

**"Whales, Environmental Ethics,  
 and the International Whaling  
 Commission" by Gerry Nagtzaam,  
 Monash University**

Date: December 1, 2009  
 Location: Founders Garden House  
 Time: 5:00 p.m.

## EECP Support Fund receives gift from Walter Alan Richards Foundation



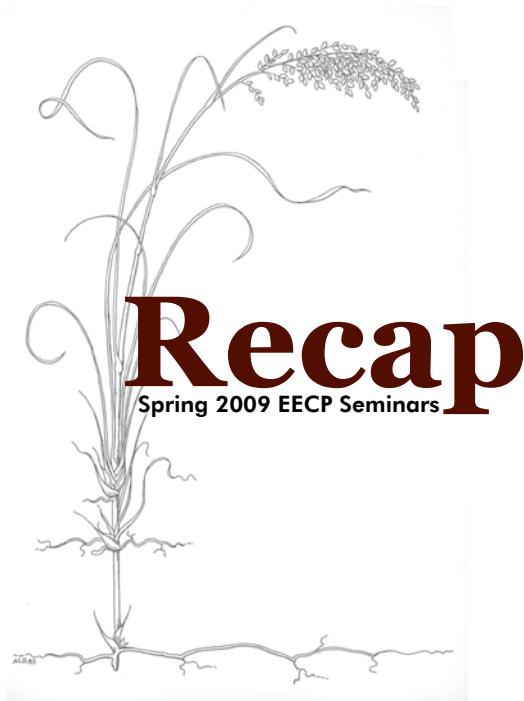
*Zada and William Feighner, and Rudy Quillian  
 (photo by Dorinda Dallmeyer)*

The EECP received a gift of \$4,000 from the Walter Alan Richards Foundation in Columbus, Georgia. The Foundation was created by William Feighner, the father of Gordon Feighner. Rudy Quillian created the Feighner Award in honor of Gordon, his nephew. The Feighner Award is given annually to the best undergraduate EECP paper. The gift will go into our general EECP support fund. We deeply appreciate this significant gift to the EECP. ■



**No gift is too small.** For more information about donating to the EECP, please contact: **Stephanie Crockatt**, CED Development Director at (706) 542-4727, or [crockatt@uga.edu](mailto:crockatt@uga.edu)





**Peggy Barlett**  
**“Moving Toward a Sustainable Food System on College Campuses”**

In a standing-room-only Ecology auditorium, Peggy Barlett of Emory University spoke about the challenges of getting college campuses to be more sustainable. The University’s goals include applying sustainability in classrooms, having people drive less, and teaching students about the history of the land in order to create a passion for care and a commitment to the environment. Barlett spoke specifically about Emory’s food system. Not only does Emory want to incorporate sustainability into its dining system by buying locally and offering healthier menu choices, but also the University wants to take international trade issues into consideration for items like fair trade coffee. Emory’s dedication to changing their campus stretches as far as trying to get Food Alliance-certified food, which takes into account variables such as land use, biodiversity, animal and worker welfare, and pesticide use. Indeed, Barlett promised continuous improvement on Emory’s part and hoped that other schools around the United States would take up similar sustainability initiatives.

**Rasmus Karlsson**  
**“Environmental Citizenship”**

Rasmus Karlsson, a PhD Candidate in political science at Lund University, Sweden, is a skeptic of traditional green politics. In order to open the path to sustainability, Karlsson believes that moral reform is neither necessary nor possible for every human being in the Western world. Instead, he believes sustainability is built around trade reform and harnessing the dynamics of an already present economic system. Karlsson advocates a move to a welfare state (like many Scandinavian countries) which,

historically, lifts people out of poverty and results in periods of long economic growth. In addition, removing trade barriers opens the free market to poor nations and allows them access to modernity and enriches their lives. With fewer poor people, it is then possible for developed countries to focus on technological development to solve problems like climate change.

**Gretchen Daily**  
**“Ecosystem Services in Decision-Making”**

by Jenna Brown

Gretchen Daily is a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Stanford University. Throughout her career she has received numerous awards and has published more than 150 scientific and popular articles. Her most recent book, *The New Economy of Nature: The Quest to Make Conservation Profitable*, served as the basis for her talk at the annual Odum Lecture.

Daily spoke on how to incorporate the values and benefits of natural systems with business and corporations in order to create policies and conservation investments. This idea serves as the foundation for Ecosystem Function Reserves. These reserves align economic forces with ecological areas and counter the popular notion that environmental conservation is not profitable. The profits derived from these reserves could be, but are not limited to, climate stabilization, water purification, biodiversity resources, scenic beauty, and carbon sequestration. Currently her research focuses on investigating ecosystem services and priorities for their conservation aligned with financial investments.

**Carol J. Adams**  
**“The Sexual Politics of Meat: A Feminist-Vegetarian Critical Theory”**

by Jenna Brown

Carol J. Adams is an author and active ecofeminist. Adams received her Masters of Divinity from Yale University. Her books that address a vegetarian/vegan experience include *Living Among Meat Eaters: The Vegetarian Survival Guide*, *Help! My Child Stopped Eating Meat!* and *The Inner Art of Vegetarianism*. She has also published numerous articles on the on the issues of vegetarianism and veganism, animal advocacy, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Adams’s presentation was a slideshow based on her popular book *The Sexual Politics of Meat*. Included in the presentation were slides recreating the original chapters and theories in her book. The presentation and book revolve around the idea that animal liberation in a feminist issue. According to Adams, advertisements, public relations, and the concept of eating meat disregards and oppresses women in numerous ways. By eating meat, men and women are perpetuating the notion of male dominance; by becoming vegetarians, men and women stop this notion.

## **Symposium on Ecofeminism and Environmental Justice, co-sponsored by the Institute for Women's Studies**

In recognition of this year's national Women's History Month theme "Women: Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet," the Institute for Women's Studies sponsored a number of events, films, and lectures of interest to the EECF community. For the month's keynote event, EECF joined with Women's Studies to present a symposium in honor of the late Australian philosopher Val Plumwood, a leading contributor in the development of ecofeminism and radical environmental philosophy. Entitled "Environmental Justice and Ecofeminism: Ethical Complexity in Action," the symposium brought together prominent theorists, activists, and community members working on issues and questions that are deeply social and ecological.

### **Dr. Charles Zerner**

#### **"Stealth Nature: Biomimesis and the Weaponization of Life"**

Charles Zerner, Professor of Environmental Studies at Sarah Lawrence College, spoke about the dangers of introducing stealth "animals" into nature. Zerner's current research focuses on the emergence of a dimension of the environment he calls "stealth nature:" the creation of forms of life, designed by biologists and engineers, containing electromechanical components. Stealth insects, including Monarch butterflies with cybernetic components, or purely mechanical "warbots" in the form of dragonflies, are being designed to conduct surveillance operations. These creatures are designed to blend in with other living creatures and environmental ecologies, thus making stealth and surveillance possible. Crossing the boundaries of culture, biology, engineering, and ethics, Zerner's research on military design and anticipated uses of vivisystems as potential tools for surveillance and attack, a process he calls the weaponization of life, poses unsettling questions in the humanities and the arts. This seminar was co-sponsored by the Center for Integrative Conservation Research and the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts.

### **David Foster,**

#### **Director of the Harvard Forest**

#### **"Environmental History: A Study of Landscape and Legacy"**

David Foster is concerned with the history of land. History provides a story, a story provides a connection, and a connection leads to a caring relationship. Foster maintains that if people were responsible for growing their own products, then they would take care of the land. In a transformed landscape, people have become disconnected with the land, resulting in misuse and misunderstanding. In throwing an economic caveat into his lecture, Foster advocated that the more people protect the environment, the less we would be spending on infrastructure to clean it up. Along with protecting nature, we would be protecting community and history. ■

*Congratulations*  
to Students who have recently  
**COMPLETED CERTIFICATES**

**Dustin Elliot**

#### **"Intergenerational Obligation and Sustainability: What Should We Save For Future People?"**

Reader: Piers Stephens



In assuming that current generations have certain ethical obligations to future generations (especially with regard to the natural environment), the question arises: what exactly should we sustain for future generations? While "weak" sustainability theorists assert that passing on an appropriate amount of economic capital to future generations is the best and only way of fulfilling our obligations, "strong" sustainability theorists argue that our sustainability policies must also involve the maintenance of particular noneconomic goods. In this essay, I challenge the two major assumptions of weak sustainability theories—namely, that 1) we cannot know what future generations will need or want and 2) that all resources, economic and natural, are substitutable. A series of hypothetical examples demonstrate the intuitive problems related to these two assumptions. Moreover, by drawing on Bryan Norton's explication of communal values, I contrast weak sustainability's focus on the maintenance of individual welfare with an alternate focus (found in strong sustainability theories) on the maintenance of specific stuff—that is, stuff conveying certain social and communal values. This contrast not only highlights additional problems with using individual welfare models in measuring sustainability, but also underscores one of the principal objectives of natural resource protection and strong sustainability in general: to shape the values and preferences of future generations. ■



Seminar Series  
 details on the cover.  
 All events are free!

OCT 6 NOV 3 NOV 10 DEC 1

## Trust is Everything! Reciprocal Learning to Create Meaningful Partnerships



**TRUST**  
 is Everything!  
 Reciprocal Learning  
 to Create Meaningful  
 Partnerships

EECP faculty member **Alan Covich** will lead a discussion on how environmental ethics influences his work as a conservation biologist. Covich joined the UGA faculty as Director of the Institute of Ecology (2003-2006) and is currently a Professor at the Odum School of Ecology. He previously served as head of Colorado State University's Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology and was a professor of zoology at the University of Oklahoma, and an assistant professor of biology at Washington University in St. Louis. Covich received his Ph.D. in biology from Yale University (1970). He was also a past-president of the Ecological Society of America.

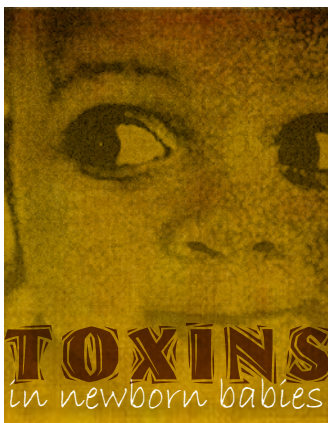
## The Moral Obligation to Act



**THE MORAL**  
 OBLIGATION TO ACT

**Janisse Ray**, environmentalist and poet, who spoke at UGA's Focus the Nation, will return to UGA to give the annual Odum Lecture on the moral obligation to act. Ray teaches nature, community, sustainability, and the politics of wholeness. As an organizer and activist, she works to create sustainable communities, local food systems, a stable global climate, intact ecosystems, clean rivers, life-enhancing economies, and participatory democracy. She is the author of *Pinhook: Finding Wholeness in a Fragmented Land* (2005), *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home* (2003), and the critically acclaimed *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* (1999). She is also a frequent contributor to numerous magazines and newspapers.

## Toxins in Newborn Babies: What are the Consequences?



Humans are contaminated with hundreds of industrial chemicals—with little or no understanding of their consequences. Even babies are born with as many as 300 industrial chemicals in their bodies when they enter the world. What are the implications, not only for human health, but also for our sense of bodily integrity? **Ken Cook**, Director of the Environmental Working Group, will lead a discussion on this topic, followed by an expert panel discussion with Dr. Jeffrey W. Fisher of the UGA Interdisciplinary Toxicology Program and Dr. Maria E. Faase, Director of Neonatology at Athens Regional Medical Center.

This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Environmental Sciences, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences; Environmental Ethics Certificate Program; and Knight Chair in Health and Medical Journalism, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

## Whales, Environmental Ethics, and the International Whaling Commission



Australian environmental theorist **Gerry Nagtzaam** of Monash University will present a seminar discussing the ethical and practical problems of controlling whaling at the international level. His expertise covers both international environmental law and domestic environmental law.

Dr. Nagtzaam will be visiting UGA as the guest of EECP faculty member Piers Stephens.

Perspectives

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