



mes/mpa

Update

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MES Student = Zombie

I stand at the resting place halfway through my tenure as the MES/GSA Student Coordinator. At the end of January I handed in the Quarterly Evaluation to the S&A Board listing the events and services that the MES/GSA had provided, how they had transpired and what we planned for the future. The list, which I have included below, is impressive.

Fall Events:

- MES Student Orientation (September 22nd)
- Beach Trail Service Project #1 (September 23rd)
- Reaching the Summit: Pathways of Environmental Action (October 18th)
- MES Student/Faculty Meeting (October 25th)
- Beach Trail Service Project #2 (November 4th)
- Graduate Holiday Reception (December 13th)

Winter & Spring Events:

- "Courage of the People" (January 16th)
- Chinfest (February 3rd)
- 2nd Year Students Core Response (February 28th)
- The Rachel Carson Environmental Forum
- Nature Writing Workshop
- Program Retreat
- MES Student/Faculty Meetings
- Student Advisory Board Meetings
- 1st Year Students Core Response
- Beach Trail Service Projects
- Thesis & Essay of Distinction Abstract Publication
- Super Saturday Smoothies
- Graduation Reception

The students of the Master of Environmental Studies program should feel justifiably proud of our past record. The (see page 2)

Note from Carol

I want to thank the MES community for their support at my farewell luncheon in January. It really meant a lot to me. The flowers and card are really nice reminders of our solidarity.

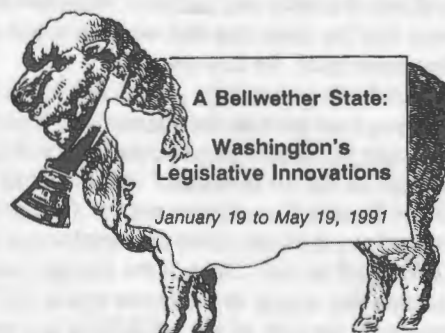


[Editor's note: Carol's husband, Sgt. Wayne Simila-Dickinson, is currently in Saudi Arabia and serves with the 116th Support Center for Rear Area Operations. He is a graduate of Evergreen and is currently a computer science and data processing instructor at Centralia College. Carol is on leave of absence from Evergreen to take care of her family during these difficult times - we miss her.]

Museum Hosts Lectures

The Washington State Capital Museum presents a series of lectures entitled "A Bellwether State: Washington's Legislative Innovations." Lectures begin at noon at the museum, 211 W 21st Ave, in Olympia:

- March 13 - "Washington's Lemon Law"
- April 3 - "Understanding Urban Schools"
- May 16 - "Those Wobbly Warriors"



bell-weth·er n. 1. a male sheep, usually wearing a bell, that leads the flock; 2. a leading political indicator, or barometer (a bellwether electoral district); 3. a state that initiates innovative policies or programs that are soon adopted in other states.

UPDATE Needs Your Submissions!

Winter Deadlines: **Mar. 8** (alumni mailing)

This is the last day for submissions. Please place them in the newsletter mailbox in Lab I Room 3023.

Personal contract, internship and alumni updates are strongly encouraged! Please feel free to also submit:

News Releases	Poetry	Event Reports
Feature Articles	Photography	Editorials
Quotes	Illustrations	Resource Listings

All submissions must have legible names, phone numbers, and references when needed. It would be extremely helpful to have submissions entered on a Mac computer disk.

Editors: Allen Pleus (MES), Peter Moulton (MPA)

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Zombie (from front page)

MES/GSA is one of the most active groups on campus and for an association of graduate students that attends night classes and tries to support themselves by day, that speaks highly.

This does not mean that everything has gone off smoothly. The film "Courage of the People," scheduled for January 16th, was cancelled due to the start of the war with Iraq. The Chinfest, though still a fine gathering, was meant to honor the adjunct faculty. But Bill Hashim was the only adjunct faculty who was able to attend. The van trips, both in the Fall and Winter, have consistently failed to provide a useful service to the MES students. And student activism as an endorsed and organized policy of the MES/GSA has failed to materialize. This is how I expressed it in the evaluation. This is how I'd like to express it to you: **MES Student = Zombie?!**

The sign on the blackboard says it all. Blank, uncomprehending stares whenever someone suggests participating beyond turning a paper in on time. Perhaps the GSA should only concern itself with events that require simple decisions such as the proper tableware for a reception. But that would be falling short of the intent and integrity of its mission statement. As Coordinator, I need to interpret my responsibilities based upon my own personal experiences *as well as* the advice of the MES students, faculty and staff. So what's the problem?

When I stand in front of you, whether in Core or in an elective, it is like a horror show. I feel as if I am facing the class of the living dead. One does not get action out of the living dead. One does not get comments or advice out of the living dead. And consensus will never come from the living dead!

We all have our lives outside of MES. Yet it is my belief that as students in MES we have the responsibility and privilege granted to us by our education to be part of the solution not part of the same problems that we discuss in seminar. Who among us does not recognize that many environmental problems can be laid at the doors of apathy and inaction? Why then are we so willing to walk into the same trap that we have asked others to avoid. So few participate. So few respond.

If we, as a graduate community, are not headed in the right direction, then you must provide the alternatives. If you do not, then I can no longer fulfill the role of a coordinator of ideas, for there are no ideas for me to coordinate! I told some of you last fall that I am the Student Coordinator not the Student Dictator but failing to find any direction from the members of the GSA what other role is left to me? Chair of the Social Committee?

I have written this article in the hopes that it will prompt some dialogue over the role of the MES/GSA and the MES/GSA Coordinator. As a student in the GSA I have wanted both to be active at school and in the community. But you are also a student of the GSA. What do *you* want?

Together we make up an association of students united by the study of environmental issues. At most graduate schools that is where it would end and I feel a certain privilege to be at a institution where I can frame the question: Can we be an association of students united by environmental action as well? But will I ever receive an answer or am I truly addressing the inhabitants of a cemetery?

If you have an obit, comments or thoughts on this issue please contact me. You can leave a note in my box or the GSA mailbox or call me at home - 459-1025.

Workshops & Conferences

Water Quality Monitoring Workshop

A water quality monitoring workshop for educators and youth group leaders will be held on April 10, 17, and May 1 from 4-7:30 p.m. topics will include county, state, and federal monitoring policy making; how to test for fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen nutrients, pH, turbidity, and other parameters. The Environmental Protection Agency's *Stream Walk*, Oregon Fish & Wildlife Service *Stream Scene*, and Poulsbo Marine Science Center's *Puget Sound Project* will be used as activities. Agency presentations and field trips to sites will be included.

One college credit or 10 clock hours are available. To receive a registration form call WSU/Thurston County Cooperative Extension at 786-5445 or 1-800-624-1234 ext. 5445. A \$10 registration sent with the completed registration form is necessary to reserve your place in the workshop.

Olympia Stream Team

Upcoming workshops are listed below. To sign up or for more information call Liz Hoenig at 753-8314. Each evening session is from 7-9pm, followed by a Saturday project.

- March 21 - "Landscaping for Health"
- May 1 - "Streams, Wetlands, Wildlife & You"
- June 5 - "Streamwalks"

Northwest Aquatic & Marine Educators Conference

The Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators Regional Conference will be held July 7-10 at Fort Worden in Port Townsend. Here's your chance to share your program with peers or just be rejuvenated by learning new ideas.

If you'd like to present at the conference, contact Laurie Dumdie at 779-5549 as soon as possible. To register for the conference or volunteer to help, contact Kathleen Heidenreich, 509 N. Thomas, Olympia, WA 98502.

Environmental Education Association

EEAW will hold its first annual conference from April 26-28 at the Cispus Learning Center in Randall, WA. To register contact EEAW, 2105 Hwy 20, Sedro Wooley, WA 98284 or call 856-5700 or 647-0850.

Environmental Law Conference

The University of Oregon's annual Public Interest Law Conference is one of the premiere environmental law gatherings in the world. This year's conference, entitled "Global Environmental Responsibility - Sharing Practices and Philosophies," will be held March 7-10 in Eugene. And the best part is for students and citizen activists, it's basically free!

Anna has ten registration forms (important if you need overnight floor space or want to attend the banquets), and is looking into an Evergreen van and car pooling. Contact her for more details.

To the "Mud Bay Quarterly"

by Eli Sterling

*"Everyone should learn a manual trade:
It's never too late to become an honest person."*

— Edward Abbey

We stand at a window. Outside, the rains falls as if it were a fabric, a lacy mist, woven from the needles of hemlock and fir, breaking apart at any contact and sprinkling onto the forest floor which is presently covered with red brick and sidewalk curbing. You ask a good question when you ask for the inside story on the Master of Environmental Studies program, the straight scoop, my honest advice. I wish you could ask the same of everyone in the program. If you did, I am sure we would have more than a few good stories to share. I am also certain we would find a good deal more individual reason than we would collective rhyme as to how and why people feel the way they do. But perhaps this is best... now only one of us can get in trouble. So the straight scoop. My honest advice.

To begin, the program is worth your time... as long as you are aware that the emphasis is environmental studies, not environmental sciences. Assuming you know this already, the next thing you need to be aware of is that there is a distinction between what is the straight scoop and what is honest advice.

Graduate schools, as any professor will tell you, are quite good at teaching you the straight scoop. They are lousy at teaching you to be honest. The straight scoop in the MES program, you will soon learn, is that you must do a tremendous amount of reading, listen to four hour lectures, prepare and participate in seminars, achieve a coherent synthesis of the material, write papers, make speeches, take exams, and on the whole, go where ever it is that your faculty leads you.

In your first year you will be overworked, rarely at ease, you will stay up late, wake up tired, and wonder what in the heck you were thinking when you decided to enroll. By the end of the first year you will have generally fulfilled the administration's image of what it means to be a graduate student. By the end of the second year you will no longer flinch when asked to jump through hoops. You will simply do it. You will have arrived. The straight scoop handed back the way it was handed out. A complete success. You will not however, have been taught to be more honest. That you will have chosen, or not chosen, to learn to do for yourself.

And why is that significant? Because the difference between the straight scoop and honesty is the difference between the hard, cold world of reality and the alternative reality we as an environmental community so urgently need to achieve. Structurally, the MES program is the real world; there are simply not enough resources available for it to be otherwise. Classes are held at night, limiting group access to facilities, speakers, and daily campus activities. The majority of students are older, have families, hold jobs in the community and are taking classes on their own personal dollars and time.

The program itself is policy, not science oriented, thus the daily structure of lab and field research is absent. And the faculty, as part of the Evergreen philosophy, continually rotate in and out of the program potentially reducing continuity for many of the students. The result? A constant shifting of classwork along the real world scale of personal priorities so

that by the time you are ready to graduate all you will want to do is finish up and get out. As the beer commercial says, it doesn't get any more real than this.

So why the case for honesty? Because the truth is that the inherent value of the MES program, unlike others, is not defined in the straight scoop of its structure. It is defined in the honest exchanges of its people. Whether it be with faculty, staff, or other students, it is just these exchanges, not the term papers, which provide you an opportunity to renegotiate and challenge society's present definition of a successful reality.

As David Orr wrote: "The plain fact is that the planet does not need more "successful" people. But it does desperately need more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every shape and form. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make a world habitable and humane." I cannot tell you what it will mean for you to have moral courage; to learn to be honest in the real world of the MES program. I only know that while on the one hand no class, no text, no faculty will teach it, you will still have in your other hand a rare and precious opportunity to live it.

So it is up to you. There is no escaping the choice. You can skim through, collect your real world degree and become, I am certain, a better person for it. Or you can choose to take a risk and try to integrate moral courage with environmental problem solving. If you opt for the latter, you may well be in the minority, especially if this year's entering class is the trend of the future. So here are some suggestions: Be prepared to read and read to be prepared. If you fall behind, challenge the tendency to do what is convenient. Become instead a student of inconvenience. Think with your hands as well as your mind. Be loose. Be open. Inquire. And above all else, remain a student of heart: never apologize for your passion and always elevate the success of those around you. Will you save the world? No. But nor will you cave in to the call for mediocrity.

If that's too much and all you want is simply the degree, like I said, you won't be alone. But perhaps you should consider looking into another program. Or better yet, you could go look up Edward Abbey and get the straight scoop from him.

Fields In December

*The days curl to a close
Like a thick, calloused hand
laid upon a supper table
Dirt beneath its nails
Unable to grasp any thing smaller than
Twelve stalks of grain, one for each hour.
Twilight, like a splinter from a rail
Which comes early at work
aches but will not bleed
Lingers above an orchard of mist
Dampening to the marrow
even the bones of the moon.
Tonight, my own thoughts
Like curved, carved handles
Of oak, hickory, and ash
which in the warmth of spring
will bend earth into wheat
Lean at rest in the woodshed
But not out of starlight.*

— Eli Sterling



Internships & Employment

If you are interested in pursuing an internship, complete an orange internship form from the bin outside my office and return it to me. Please keep me informed of your status — Bonita
Lab 1, Room 3022 — 866-6000 x5703

WHO: NW Assoc. of Marine & Aquatic Educators
WHAT: Awareness to Action Conference Assoc Planner
CONTACT: Laurie Usher @786-5445
DURATION: Spring, Summer Quarters 1991
SALARY: Volunteer, possible future stipend
DEADLINE: A.S.A.P.

WHO: Thurston County Public Works
WHAT: Administrative Intern/Assistant
CONTACT: Cheryl Henderson @ 786-5485
DURATION: 2 quarters min. - W/Sp/Su
SALARY: \$6 +/hr. DOE 10-20 hrs./wk
DEADLINE: Open until filled

WHO: Dept of Ecology
WHAT: Ass't to Education Coordinator
CONTACT: Glen Alexander, Padilla Bay Estuarine Reserve
1043 Bay View-Edison Rd, Mt Vernon 98273
SALARY: Volunteer
DEADLINE: Ongoing

WHO: Nisqually Reach Nature Center
WHAT: Various projects
CONTACT: Pam Miller @459-0387
DURATION: Ongoing
SALARY: Volunteer
DEADLINE: None

WHO: WASHPIRG
WHAT: Varied Internships
CONTACT: Laura Reed @ 866-6000 x6058
DURATION: Winter Quarter or check on Spring/Summer
SALARY: CALL; 10-40 hrs/wk
DEADLINE: CALL

WHO: Institute for Local Self-Reliance
WHAT: Environmental Research Intern
CONTACT: Personnel Manager @ (202)232-4108
DURATION: 6 mo-1 year in Washington D.C.
SALARY: \$600/mo + board
DEADLINE: March 1, 1991

WHO: Univ. of Washington - College of Forest Resources
WHAT: 3 Faculty Positions: Forest Policy and Law; Forest Recreation and Amenities Management; Forest Soils
CONTACT: College of Forest Resources, AR-10, U of W, Seattle, WA 98195
DEADLINE: March 29, 1991

WHO: Discovery Park
WHAT: Park Intern
CONTACT: Gale Gruz @ 386-4236
DURATION: Neg.
SALARY: Volunteer
DEADLINE: At least 2 wks before internship begins

WHO: Friends of the Earth - NW
WHAT: Various projects
CONTACT: David Ortman @ 633-1661
DURATION: Neg.
SALARY: Volunteer; after 10 wks - neg.
DEADLINE: Ongoing

WHO: MEIP - Minority Environmental Internship Program
WHAT: Minority Placement Service
CONTACT: Bonita @ 866-6000 x5703
DURATION: Summer and year-long
SALARY: Unknown
DEADLINE: Call

WHO: Nat'l Network for Envir. Studies (NNEMS) Div. EPA
WHAT: Funding specific topics w/internships/fellowships
CONTACT: Ginger Wandless @ 202-475-9477

WHO: Thurston Conservation District
Dobbs Crk Model Farm
WHAT: Insect Survey Intern; Benthic Organism Intern; Manure Composting Intern; & Watershed Topographical Model Intern; OR PROJECT PROPOSAL
CONTACT: Chris Walline @ 754-3588
DURATION: Neg. over Spr. Sum, & next Fall + quarters
SALARY: N/A Call
DEADLINE: Until filled

WHO: Washington State University
WHAT: Avian Ecologist - Assist. Prof.
CONTACT: Richard Shew, Dept. of Nat. Res. Sciences, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164-6410
DURATION: Nine month, tenure track start Aug. 1 or later
DEADLINE: March 15, 1991

WHO: Dept. of Ecology
WHAT: Education Assistant
CONT.: Brian Lynn 459-6774 / Nordica Holochuck 438-7538
DURATION: 1 year, start April 1, 1991
SALARY: \$1200-1600/mo.
DEADLINE: March 4, 1991

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