## **WELCOME!**

Congratulations on your enrollment in Evergreen’s Graduate Program on the Environment and the Master of Environmental Studies (MES). The MES faculty and I look forward to working with you in realizing your academic and professional objectives. We hope you will find the program and its courses current with contemporary environmental critical thinking and problem solving.

This handbook is a guide to the policies and operational details of the program. Please keep it with your basic reference documents, as it will serve as the initial source for answers to your questions on these topics. The Assistant Director, Student Assistant, and Director may be consulted at any time regarding policies, choices and decision-making as you navigate through the program. Faculty and staff are committed to helping you successfully complete the program. The Director is the primary academic leader of the program, and the Assistant Director is responsible for administrative support for students.

As a member of an MES cohort, you are also a member of the Evergreen community. The entire community collaborates to create a learning environment and your participation is necessary to make the entire community function. All members of the community observe the Evergreen conduct code. Please refer to the code as a guide, a source of information, and a set of steps for interacting with others in the community. As Director, I am here to assist students and faculty within the program to meet their educational and employment goals. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in a difficult learning situation. Always act with the greatest amount of respect and professionalism.

A companion document, the Thesis Handbook, will help you when it comes time to initiate and complete the required thesis; students will receive the handbook in their second year. The 16 credit thesis project must be completed in the second year. Beginning in Fall Quarter Case Studies, students work with faculty to complete a thesis prospectus. Thesis work is done in conjunction with faculty during Winter and Spring Quarters in thesis workshop classes.

The Director and staff continually work to improve curricular offerings, procedures, and policies. Final decision-making on policy changes is done in consultation with MES faculty, staff and students. Revisions are clearly stated and published.

Again, welcome to the Graduate Program on the Environment. At this time of increasingly difficult environmental conditions, the expertise you gain through this program will enable you to join previous MES graduates in many walks of life dedicated to the protection and restoration of environmental quality, both here in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Martha L. Henderson, PhD.

Director, Graduate Program on the Environment

Member of the Faculty, Professor of Geography