

MES ALUMNI CONNECTION

Volume 3, Issue 2

April, 2001

The Evergreen State College

THE
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COLLEGE

MES Alumni Connection

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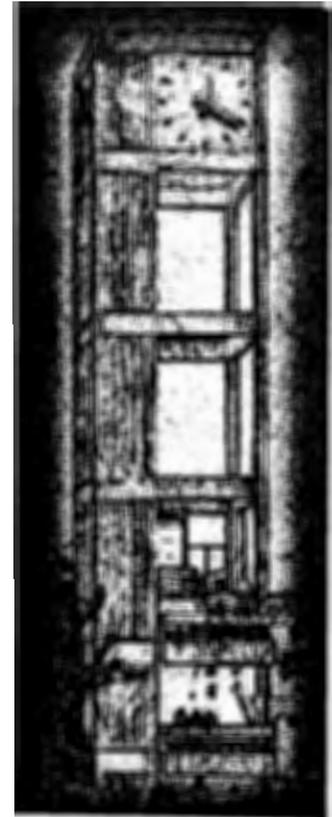


DAVE FOREMAN TO SPEAK AT RACHEL CARSON FORUM ON APRIL 12 by Nikolai Kazakov

For thirty years, Dave Foreman has been at the front lines of the political and cultural fight to save wilderness. Born in 1947, into the family of a U.S. Air Force employee, Dave was active from an early age. As a young man, he was the chair of the Young Americans for Freedom organization; for most of the 1970s, he worked for the Wilderness Society. Several thousand days and nights spent by Foreman during 40 years of backpacking and rafting in the wilderness brought him to an intimate understanding of the problems facing wilderness. As the Southwest regional representative for the Wilderness Society, he lobbied congressional members on Capitol Hill to introduce and support wilderness legislation.

In the early '80s, disillusioned by the compromises made by mainstream environmental groups, and alarmed by the endorsement by politicians of the continued degradation of wild lands, he co-founded Earth First! with Howie Wolke. From 1980-1988, Dave was the editor of the Earth First! Journal. Later, he grew increasingly uncomfortable with his role as agitator and underwent a major transformation. A lifelong champion of "deep ecology", he began to move in the direction of eco-constructivism and eco-science.

Since 1991, Foreman has headed up the Wildlands Project. Started by a small group of activists, the organization is dedicated to preserving and restoring "true wilderness" across North America. The final goal of the Wildlands Project is to set aside approximately 50 percent of the North American continent for the preservation of biodiversity. The project calls for the creation of core roadless wilderness reserves large enough to maintain genetically diverse populations of species, including large predators. These reserves would represent all types of ecosystems and environments, and would be surrounded by protective buffer zones and linked by connecting corridors that allow species to freely move back and forth. "We need to look at the whole landscape, at the connectivity between protected areas," says Foreman. During his life Dave Foreman



(continued on page 2)

(Foreman/Rachel Carson Forum, continued from page 1)



Rachel Carson was a writer, poet, and devotee of nature. In 1962, her book *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement. She questioned the use of pesticides and emphasized the strong links between living resources, pollution and human health.

has written several books: *The Big Outside* (with Howie Wolke), *A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching* (1985), the autobiographical *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior* (1991) and his only fictional novel, *The Lobo Outback Funeral Home* (2000).

Foreman will speak on "Rewilding" (see article below) at the 12th Annual Rachel Carson Forum, to be held on Thursday, April 12, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in Library Room 1000. For over a decade, the Masters in Environmental Studies Graduate Student Association has presented the Rachel Carson Forum, an annual event organized by MES students and dedicated to environmental and social problems.

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
PRESENTS

The 12th Annual
Rachel Carson Forum
with
Dave Foreman
speaking on Rewilding

Date: Thursday, April 12, 2001

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: The Evergreen State College, Library Room 1000

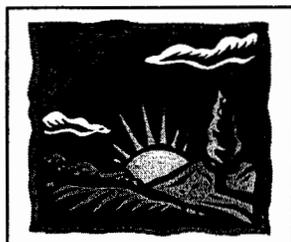
Admission: Free

Parking: \$1.25

For further information: Call MES Dept., (360)867-6181
or e-mail Nikolai Kazakov at greenik@hotmail.com

REWILDING

Rewilding is a current development in the modern wildlife conservation movement. It involves the restoration of large stretches of wilderness based on the ecosystem roles of large predators. Three independent features characterize contemporary rewilding: 1) Large, strictly protected, core reserves, or "the wild", 2) Connectivity, and 3) Keystone species. Keystone species are those whose influence on ecosystem function and diversity are disproportionate to their numerical abundance. They enrich ecosystem function in a unique and significant way. Although all species interact, the interactions of some species are more profound and far-reaching than others, such that their elimination from an ecosystem often triggers cascades of direct and indirect changes. In North America, it is most often the large carnivores that are missing or severely depleted. The rewilding argument posits that large predators are often instrumental in maintaining the integrity of ecosystems; in turn, the large predators require extensive space and connectivity. (Adapted from *Rewilding and Biodiversity*, Michael Soule and Reed Noss, 1998.)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS



Plunging into the Global Warming Battle:
Rhys Roth, '90

After graduating from the MES program, Rhys Roth first worked in the Thurston County Health Department, and then proceeded to do contract work at Olympia's Energy Outreach Center. But in 1996, Rhys felt compelled to go full-time into the battle over global warming. Now, as director of Climate Solutions, a project of the Earth Island Institute based in Olympia, Rhys is working to stop global warming by helping the Northwest become a world leader in practical and profitable solutions. Climate Solutions also focuses on solutions that deliver many benefits to this region – from job creation and economic development to environmental protection and a better quality of life.

"The MES experience was enormously valuable to me. It's a major reason I'm savoring the cosmic blessing of a career that aligns perfectly with what I think is the most important work for me to be doing," says Rhys. "If we don't stop global warming, most of the other great things we're working for could go down the toilet. If people want to tame this big monster, they can join Climate Solutions and help us," he adds.

Rhys currently lives in Olympia, and reports "that little baby Skyler that I hauled around through the MES days is now 14 years old, almost as tall as me, definitely smarter, and one of the most wonderful people I know." Rhys can be contacted at rhys@climatesolutions.org: "It's inspiring and it's fun; I'd love to tell you what we're up to!"

MES Grad Addresses Transportation Planning and Policy Issues
Todd Litman, '95

Since 1995, Todd Litman has been director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative tools for transportation decision making. Previously, Todd worked as Transportation Research Analyst Consultant to the Ministry of Transportation and Highways out of Victoria, British Columbia, but his journey of work along the transportation highway began perhaps as early as 1984, when he was lobbyist and program coordinator for the Bicycle Federation of Washington.

"My education at Evergreen provided an excellent foundation for my career," says Todd. "Much of my work involves integrating environmental and social values into transportation decision-making, which requires really stretching the boundaries of existing institutions. I decided to establish my own research institute, which provides a platform for consulting and independent study."



In the last several years, Todd has worked on numerous studies that evaluate the full costs and benefits of alternative transportation policies and investments. As director at VTPI, he has also helped develop many transportation demand management and parking management plans, and recently completed the Online TDM (Transportation Demand Management) Encyclopedia, a comprehensive Internet resource for identifying and evaluating innovative solutions to transportation problems. His research has been used worldwide for transportation planning and policy analysis.

Todd is an Affiliate of the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and has been appointed to three Transportation Research Board committees, including the new subcommittee on Sustainable Transportation. He was recently awarded a research fellowship by the Lincoln Institute for Land Policy. In addition to technical writing, Todd has co-authored two travel books, *Washington: Off the Beaten Path* and *The Best Bike Rides in the Pacific Northwest* with his wife, Suzanne Kort. Todd and Suzanne currently reside with their two children in Victoria. Alluding to his career as a transportation expert, Todd quips, "who would have thought that this all would have evolved from a love of bicycling?"

The VTPI website has many resources addressing a wide range of transport planning and policy issues, including the Online TDM Encyclopedia, a practical tool for identifying and evaluating innovative solutions to transportation problems. For more information, please visit <http://www.vtpe.org>.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

John Perkins April, 2001

THE WONDERFUL RE-BIRTH OF SPRING

As I came in from the parking lot at Evergreen today, I noticed the osoberry

(*Oemlaria cerasiformis*) was in bloom. This was along a pathway I usually don't use, so perhaps it had been out for several days. Nonetheless, it was marvelously refreshing in the delicacy of the flowers and the vividness of the pale green leaves. Once again, it was good to be reminded that no matter how many things are cluttering or burdening your mind, the simple regular habits of other species can bring a skip of joy to your heart.

It was also good to be reminded that the renewal of spring encourages a fresh outlook on all of life. We need that fresh approach, because the past four months have been momentous in terms of bringing in a new context for environmental work, and few of the changes are likely to give environmental workers a boost. Probably the two most salient changes are in the presidency and in the likely turn around of the economy.

I harbored an optimism some months ago about the new administration of President George W. Bush. Although most of my environmental friends thought I was misguided, I still held out hope that good scientific evidence on issues like climate change would make an impression on the new crew in Washington, D.C. And if that impression were made, the new President was in an excellent position to convince members of his party about the threats to human health and safety from global climate change. Former Vice President Al Gore put greenhouse gases and climate change on the agenda, but it will take a President Bush to forge a majority in Congress to work on change.

Despite my joy in seeing the osoberry flowers, I had exactly the opposite reaction a few days ago when I read the speech of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham on energy policy. The heart of the matter was that demand for energy was going up so supplies had to be increased. New electrical plants, new oil and gas wells, and cleaner burning

of more coal seemed to be all that was on the Secretary's mind.

Where was conservation? Where was a policy to promote research on renewable energy resources? Where was a sense that environmental regulations on energy production were supposed to protect people and other species? What would the new administration do about climate change and the Kyoto Protocol? To my regret, I could find nary a significant word on these important subjects in the Secretary's speech.

The likely downturn in the economy makes the omissions of the energy speech even more serious. Despite the lack of empirical evidence suggesting that good environmental practices preclude a prosperous economy, every economic downturn always seems to ignite special pleading that we've got to tone down our environmental protections to promote growth and jobs.

Hence I've decided to refocus my optimism on the joys of the spring blossoms of osoberry. Osoberry's gentle presence will also inspire in all of us, I hope, a rededication and rebirth of our commitment to know and respect our environment. Educational programs continue to play a vital part of shaping how people will live on the earth. MES in particular can draw inspiration from the modesty and beauty of the blooming osoberry.

I hope this spring has given you a sense of quiet and confidence needed to continue good work. We know a great many of our alumni are laboring patiently and, like osoberrys, this work will prevail in the long run. Keep it up!



Reference:

Abraham, Spencer, A National Report on America's Energy Crisis, to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Energy Summit, March 19, 2001, http://www.energy.gov/HQDocs/speeches/2001/marss/energy_speech.html

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ROUNDTABLES

Robin Shoal

On two Saturdays in February, The Evergreen State College sponsored Environmental Justice Roundtables at its urban program in Tacoma, Washington. A lively, interested audience of Evergreen and other college students, faculty and staff, and Tacoma community members were in attendance. Faculty members Lin Nelson and Tyrus Smith coordinated the event—"Environmental Justice: Making Connections in Washington Communities." When asked about their intent, Nelson said, "As faculty, students and college staff, we can learn a lot from our neighbors and regional colleagues—those working in the public sector, tribal governments, unions and community-based organizations. Our intent was to gather these various representatives as our guests and teachers, in hopes that the roundtables would also serve as catalysts for us all becoming more effective collaborators."

The first day's panel featured five speakers: one each from the US Environmental Protection Agency's Region 10 office, the Washington State Board of Health, and the Washington State Department of Ecology; a state senator from the Tacoma district; and a member of the Puyallup Tribe, whose ancestral territory includes the Tacoma area. The second day focused on community advocacy. Yolanda Sinde, director of Seattle's Community Coalition for Environmental Justice, discussed her organization's strategies for community organizing, and recounted their successful campaign to close a medical waste incinerator in a Seattle neighborhood. United Farm Workers representative Lupe Gamboa spoke about the environmental conditions of farm worker populations in Washington State, emphasizing pesticide exposure issues, housing, and availability of clean water. Against the backdrop of the federal exclusion of farm workers from collective bargaining laws, the environmental justice concerns of farm worker populations are especially severe.



Other topics considered at the roundtables ranged from the siting of industrial facilities and hazardous waste dumps to urban pesticide application, the use of community-right-to-know legislation, and the preservation of Native American culture and heritage. Jeffrey Thomas, Forest Resource Manager for the Puyallup Tribe, offered a perspective on environmental justice that considers the importance of places and activities that perpetuate social meaning, and the impacts of environmental hazards on cultural and other aspects of tribal life. Altogether, the panelists' presentations and the questions from the audience made for a dynamic two days, full of food for thought about the complexities and implications of environmental justice issues.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

April 5-8	Cascadia Activism and Ecology Conference, TESC *see page 9 for more information
April 12	12 th Annual Rachel Carson Forum, TESC *see page 2 for more information
April 21	Procession of the Species; evening Downtown Olympia
June 14	First People's Graduation; 6-9 p.m.
June 15	Graduation; 1 p.m.
June 16	Super Saturday, featuring Root Beer Garden and All-Alumni Gathering, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. in Library 4300
June 25	Summer Sessions Begin

ALUMNUS ROBERT STEELQUIST ON LIFE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL AND WRITER, AND ON THE EVERGREEN EXPERIENCE

Robert Steelquist, '94

I have been living near Sequim Bay since 1977, when I came to the Olympic Peninsula to work for Olympic National Park as a trail crew leader. Building a home in the woods and working in the mountains through all of the seasons was very powerful in shaping my educational goals; I knew that I'd be committing my life to a specific place. My education became a way to develop the skills necessary to both make a living and – more importantly – to commit my life to advocacy for that place.

I recognized early on that the necessities of raising a family, making a living, and balancing a life would mean that I would have to commit to good works through a profession. I ended up choosing public service to the environment, out of a sort of Jeffersonian vision of commitment to the common good, mixed with some remnant of 60's political activism. I'm still trying to carry on the "revolution" that seemed so palpable on the



first Earth Day in 1970. This has taken the form of working for state and federal environment agencies and, in particular, environmental education. It has been very satisfying to bring real substance to young people's lives in terms of the work of protecting the environment, nurturing community, and developing personal responsibility and vision.

Writing has really helped me direct my ongoing self-education. As early as 1980, I was writing about the Olympics for newspapers and magazines. In 1984, while still an undergraduate, I wrote the introduction to a book of photographs about the Olympics taken by Tom and Pat Leeson,

wildlife photographers. That book, The Olympic Peninsula, published by Oxford University Press, was the first of 13 that I wrote over the years. Each new book I have written has meant a new quest, whether about the historical geography of Washington (Washington: a Portrait of the Land, American Geographic Publishing, 1989), or about salmon (A Field Guide to Pacific Salmon, Sasquatch Books, 1992), or about bison (A Field Guide to North American Bison, Sasquatch Books, 1998). Writing has actually been a way to stay in graduate school forever.

I originally graduated from Evergreen with a BA in Environmental Studies in 1985, just as the MES program was starting. I immediately saw the program's potential for me personally. It took a few years and some job and life rearranging to make it all come together in 1988, the year I started the MES program. Evergreen helped me to see that learning and teaching are fundamentally the same process – a "proper" education equips us to become our own teacher; those insights spill over to sharing what you learn with other people. This, in turn, helps them receive the great joys of discovery and revelation and finally, their roles as agents of change.

As a parent, I've made my work and my values accessible to my two sons, who are now 15 and 12, respectively. I believe that if they know what it is I do and feel that it's important, I'm on the right track, and they both give me good advice on career choices and projects. My wife Jenny and I have been married for almost 26 years. She teaches art at Port Angeles High School and is taking a group of her visual arts students to China in April of this year.

Today, I am working on some new challenges at Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. As Education Coordinator, I administer a wide range of education programs with the National Park Service, coastal Indian

(continued on page 7)

(Steelquist, continued from page 6)

tribes, non-profits and others. We are developing strong programs for youth on the Makah and Quileute Indian reservations, as well as good marine science programming for students in Forks. I am also developing a research program in the archaeology of paleoshorelines of the Olympic Coast. We hope this work will result in the eventual discovery and protection of prehistoric archeological sites that are now offshore and which pre-date sea level rises.

On and off the job, new experiences keep popping up driven by curiosity and commitment to the environment, as well as the analytical and other formal skills fostered in me during my years at Evergreen. I truly feel that the Evergreen experience has had an enormous impact on my life and work, and I hope other students will also be inspired to push their limits.

Bob has been Education Coordinator at NOAA's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary since 1994, when he graduated from the MES program. A freelance author for the last nineteen years, Bob is the author of many books, articles, and guides. He recently appeared in the PBS series "Anyplace Wild" as guest host on an episode about bison, Badlands ecology, and Theodore Roosevelt's conservation legacy. Bob may be contacted at robert.steelquist@noaa.gov.



INTRODUCING FREEDA M. WARREN **Associate Director for Graduate Studies**

Freeda Warren has joined the staff of Evergreen as Associate Director of Graduate Studies. This position is new with responsibilities for developing an information outreach program for the three graduate programs: in public administration, environmental studies, and teaching. The Associate Director also has general oversight responsibilities for the Graduate Studies Office in Lab I.

Freeda joins us with an interesting background in university recruitment and marketing, marketing and legal analysis for major corporations, and legal work in the public sector. After receiving her bachelor's degree in African American Studies from the University of California, Davis, Freeda attended law school at Seattle University. She received her J.D. degree in 1995. Her first work in marketing and recruiting was as an admissions counselor at Seattle University. Her tasks focused on recruitment of students of color in the San Diego area. She then moved to the University of Puget Sound, where she served as Director, Access to College Initiatives. This program was a broad-based effort to find, recruit, and retain students historically underrepresented in higher education and at UPS.

Freeda reports that she enjoyed the university work immensely, but found that she needed some direct exposure to major corporations. Thus she worked for a number of years at the Weyerhaeuser Company in Federal Way and the Xerox Corporation in Tukwila.

Her new job at Evergreen, Freeda notes, allows her to return to her first love working in higher education. We are delighted to have Freeda bring her extensive experience to our efforts to improve enrollments in each of the three graduate programs. You'll find her in Lab 1, 3016.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

Shinya Yoshida, 2nd-Year MES Student

Shinya Yoshida, now in his second year in the MES program, hails from Nagoya, which is located between the cities of Osaka and Tokyo (see map). Nagoya is one of the largest cities in Japan, in spite of the fact that it was destroyed in WWII, and had to be almost completely rebuilt. Toyota is headquartered near Nagoya, and Toyota-related companies are a big part of Nagoya's industry. Shinya received his undergraduate degree at Shiga University, located west of Nagoya. There, he majored in economics, but it is also where he first became interested in environmental issues while being involved in an environmental economics seminar for two years.

While at Shiga, during summer vacation, Shinya was also able to squeeze in some travelling. He went to SE Asia for a month and a half, spending time in Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia. He also spent about two weeks in Australia. When he first came to the U.S., he spent half a year at Illinois State University, and then two years at the University of Kansas, before coming to Evergreen. Shinya says he came to the U.S., in part, to obtain international language skills; he felt it would be highly useful to learn English and to live in the U.S. for a while.

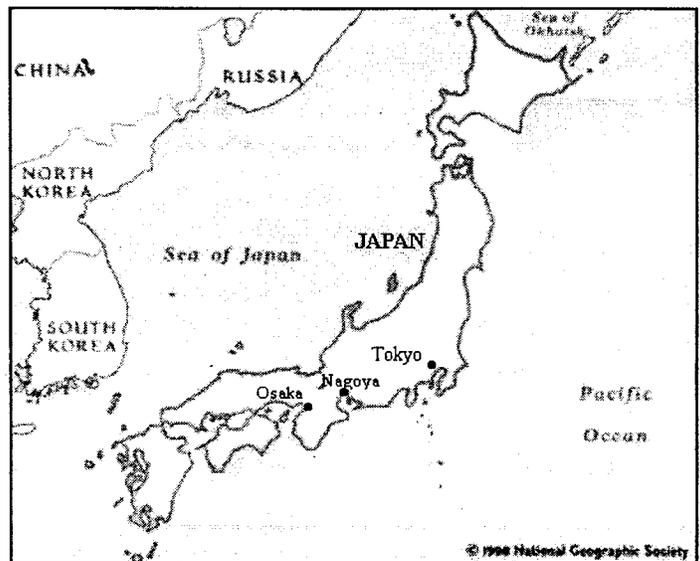
Regarding environmental and other issues, what are some of the major differences Shinya has seen between Japan and the United States? For one, he reports that U.S. non-profits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are more prevalent, appear to be better run, and also seem to wield more influence. Also, different environmental problems are focused on in Japan. Because of its density, Japan has major problems with landfills and lack of space, traffic jams, incinerators and air pollution. Shinya feels that Japan is forced to work harder on these issues.

For a typical student in Japan, Shinya reports that "high school is very competitive, very hard core. It is meant to prepare for college, where people who plan on going into business and other careers in bureaucracy then go." He adds, "If you're going to travel, college is the time to do it, and a lot of students do, since it also becomes much harder to get away when you are in the work world."

In Japan, paying attention to the economic situation is very important, as there are few resources, and Japan must rely heavily on trade (around 70% of their food

is imported from other countries). Technically and otherwise, Japan needs to be one of the best in order to be competitive in the global market. Now, since there is more of a global trend toward environmentally sound, greener products, Shinya feels that Japan also needs to pay attention to that market. Part of the purpose behind Shinya's thesis is to emphasize this. He is investigating how private companies could better contribute to the environment, and looking at the roles of non-profits, NGOs, and government entities and how they may better interact with private companies to solve environmental problems.

One of the things Shinya likes about the MES program is that "I have more freedom and flexibility to go where I want with research and writing. Also, I



get good help and guidance from the faculty." He values the many friendships he has made here. Shinya has been a teaching assistant part of this year in a Japanese culture and language class, and really enjoys it. He also loves computer work, although, like most of his peers, he did not work on computers until he came to the U.S. "I had to learn how to type as well as learn English," Shinya tells me. "In Japan, cell phones became popular before computers! But the times are changing and Japan's technology is now rapidly growing, since the Internet infrastructure went more global."

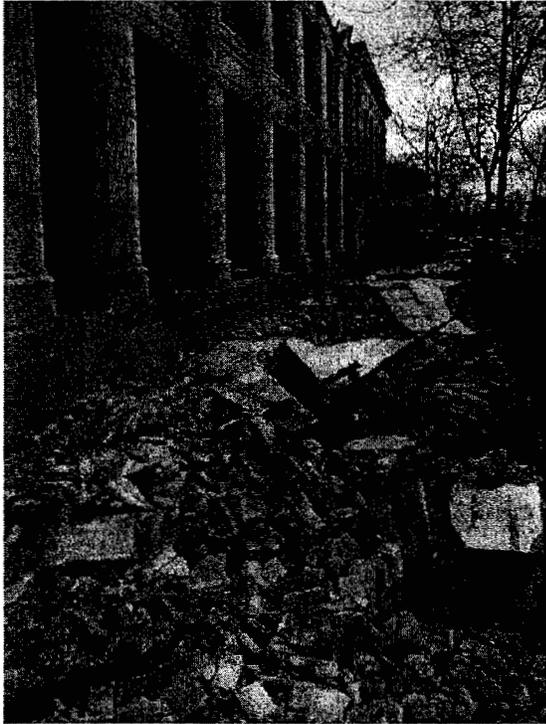
Shinya will return to Japan after getting his MES here, and would like to work with environmental NGOs, non-profits, or government programs helping developing countries. If he gets a job with a private company, he would like to work with them on environmental issues. At any rate, as he says, "I will always use my environmental experiences, and it's good to have this knowledge."

EDITOR'S CORNER:

Of Evergreen, Editor Experiences, and Earthquakes

Debora R. Holmes

This issue is a memorable one for me. Since I graduate (at least that is my hopeful assumption) in June, this is the last time I will be carrying out my duties as editor of the MES Alumni Connection. This has been much more than a duty, however. I've had a great deal of fun and many interesting experiences working with alumni, students and faculty who contributed to this publication. Thanks to all of you who have been a part of this effort.

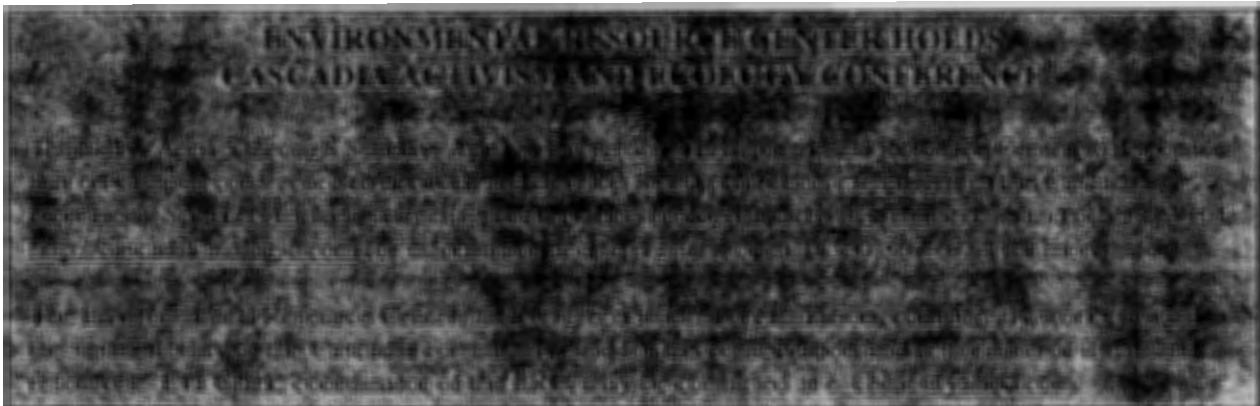


The Washington Federal Bank Building, one of Olympia's hardest-hit buildings, houses the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, a public service organization of The Evergreen State College.

Photo: Jim Mayfield

This issue is also memorable because I was just beginning to work on it when the February 28 earthquake struck. A former Midwesterner, I had never experienced an earthquake, but *thought* I wanted to. Our last earthquake here, a smaller temblor in July of 1999, registered a 5.5 on the scale, but since I was all the way up in Tacoma, outdoors, and near a railroad, I thought it was just a train. Upon hearing it was an actual earthquake and that ostensibly everyone else in Olympia had experienced it, I felt cheated. This mentality may have originated in my Iowa childhood when our home was hit by a tornado; somehow, it had seemed unfair that I never got to see the funnel cloud that carried off our garage. Now that I've finally felt my first earthquake, though, I don't feel particularly consoled...but my curiosity is satisfied just fine, thanks.

Indeed, the 6.8 magnitude earthquake brought a bit of hardship upon Evergreen, which remained closed for five days following the quake. Damage on campus is estimated to be around three-quarters of a million dollars. The Library Building was hit the hardest, with additional damage affecting the Arts Annex, several roads, a few elevators, and miscellaneous offices and classrooms. As it usually does, however, life returned to normal shortly afterwards, and I don't mind being repetitive when I say that this experience made many of us look at the big picture in a whole new manner. Soon, I will leave the MES program, more personally enriched, intent, attuned than before I entered; and as in the days after the quake, I'll be viewing the world through a new set of eyes.



Send Us An Update

Many graduates of the MES program have gone on to do creative, original, and exciting things in their professional and personal lives. We would like to hear about some of these things! Use the form below, or email Amy Blasen, and tell us what you've been doing since you graduated.

If you have any questions, please call Amy Blasen at (360) 867-6181 or e-mail her at blasena@evergreen.edu.

Name: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Address: _____

Year graduated: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____

(Work) _____

What has been your career path since graduating?

Would you like to receive job postings and other weekly updates by e-mail?

Yes

No

Would you like to share any personal events in your life?

We would like to spotlight different MES alumni in each edition of the newsletter. Would you like to take part in this?

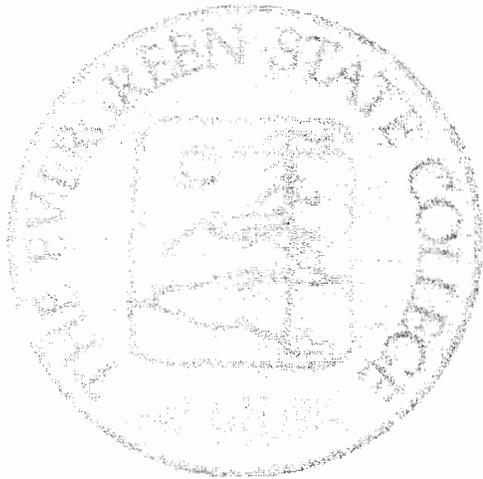
Yes

No

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Rachel Carson Forum, Dave Foreman, Rewilding, Re-birth, Alumni Updates, Student News, & More