

EVERGREEN
 THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

**MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
 THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE**

**MARCH 2004
 VOL. 5 ISSUE 1**

MES CONNECTION

Wilderness Program Connects Undergraduates, Graduates and the Community

By Tyler Winchel

During the 2002-3 academic year I was able to take a once in a lifetime opportunity as an undergraduate at Evergreen. Dr. Edward "Ted" Whitesell, a former MES faculty member, and Dr. Oscar Soule, also another former MES faculty created a year long academic program called Protecting Washington Wildness. The project would create the first citizen's guide to protecting and restoring 'wild' places in the state of Washington. The book is filled with chapters ranging from activist oral histories, biological and geomorphic assessments of Washington state, and political analysis of the newly emerging "movement for wildness." Now people will have access to a nearly complete history of the preservation and conservation movement, as well as detailed current case studies (on the Olympics, Puget Sound Lowlands, Cascades, and Columbian Basin/Blue Ridge, Selkirk, and Rocky Mountains of Eastern Washington) and a comprehensive and analytical assessment of the movement in order to give future activists a better outlook on the state's political landscape.



About 20 different students worked collaboratively on these chapters in order to create this guide. The research was extensive: the group traveled to the far remote corners of Washington in search of 'wildness' and the advocates that work to protect these places. Towards the end of this historic project, The Mountaineers' Press agreed to publish, promote and distribute the book across the Northwest. Proceeds from the book will be put into a trust for TESC to help fund programs for undergraduate and graduate work like the Protecting Washington Wildness Program. The book is due to be published in the spring, and released at the Mountaineers Club in Seattle.

-Tyler Winchel is currently a first-year MES student.

Inside this Issue:

Page 1

**Wilderness Connects
 Rachel Carson Forum
 Water Conference**

Page 2

**Director's Column
 MES Staff**

Page 3

**The Rainier Connection
 Alumni Spotlight**

Page 4

Staying Connected



Located near Washington State's Capital, MES and Evergreen offer unique opportunities for students and alumni.

Rachel Carson Forum

This free annual event, organized by MES students, brings today's top environmental leaders to Evergreen to speak on a variety of issues.

DATE: Thursday, May 13, 6pm
 Location: The Evergreen State College



The Changing World of Water Conference

Conceived and organized by MES students, this solutions-oriented conference seeks to explore one of the most important issues of our time.

DATE: Friday, May 14, 8am-5pm
 Location: The Evergreen State College



Director's Column

Changes on the Horizon in Year 20 for MES

By John Perkins

This fall, the 20th entering class began work on their MES degrees! Even more pleasing than the fact that the program succeeded is the record that MES graduates have achieved over the years in the public and private sectors in in Ph.D. work.

Changes, nevertheless, must come. Budget reductions in the State of Washington have been severe and are unlikely to recover. MES must take new initiatives if it is to continue thriving.

One of the most important additions that may come soon is in "extended education." Evergreen is studying the potential for offering a wide variety of short courses, possibly leading to certificates, in a variety of subjects. We believe that environmental work has significant potential for this enterprise.

People currently working in the environmental field are often in need of updating and expanding their skills. Take just one example, the Council on Environmental Quality is currently studying the possibility of "modernizing" the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). One avenue of change may be for the Council to issue new guidelines on projects that are categorically excluded from NEPA's provisions.

Federal agency workers will need to understand any such changes. Environmental professionals working for consulting firms and non-profits, too, will need to understand any changes made in the provisions for categorical exclusions. Evergreen could be of assistance to all parties by offering extended education courses on NEPA and any changes in its implementation.

As alumni, you can be of great assistance to us. Let us know what sorts of materials you would find useful in extended education short courses. Good ideas will help us put together offerings that are of most use to professionals.

Second, MES graduates have traditionally enter public service in federal, tribal, state, and local governments. We expect the majority of future graduates to do the same, but we also believe that significant job opportunities exist in the private sector. Consulting firms are a major economic force in environmental work, and many of them have needs for MES graduates.

Similarly, private companies in manufacturing and development have needs for professional-level staff in environmental affairs. More than just avoiding fines, good environmental work is increasingly recognized to increase efficiency and profitability.

We have started efforts to enlarge opportunities for MES students and alumni to work in the private sector. If you have ideas along these lines, please let us know.

Finally, to aid both the development of extended education and expansion of opportunities in the private sector, we are assembling a new MES Advisory Board. We want all sorts of people from the public and private sectors to provide input on future developments. Some will be MES alumni. I've talked with a few alumni about this, and I'd like to hear from all folks that have good ideas for people we could ask to be on the Board.

MES looks forward to entering its next 20 years. With your input, we seek to continue the quality and vibrancy for students, staff, and faculty.

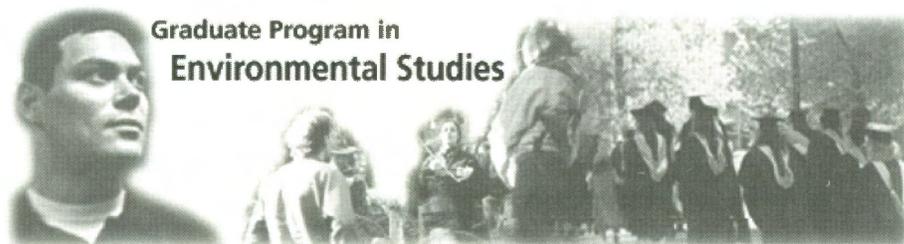
MES Program Staff

DIRECTOR
John Perkins

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JT Austin

SECRETARY LEAD
Sue Sanders

FACULTY
Stephen Beck
Jeff Cederholm
Gerardo Chin-Leo
Carolyn Dobbs
Peter Impara
Cheri Lucas-Jennings
Jean McGregor
Ralph Murphy
Charles Newling
John Perkins
Timothy Quinn
Jim Stroh



Graduate Program in Environmental Studies



The Rainier Connection

By Carolyn Dobbs

This past summer we placed three MES students, as well as seven undergrads, in internships working at Mt. Rainier National Park (and one at North Cascades National Park). The internships focused on several different inventory and monitoring projects at the Park, including lakes and streams, amphibians, wildlife, vegetation, and carrying capacity with visitors.

Two of the MES interns have the following to say about their experiences on the Mountain.

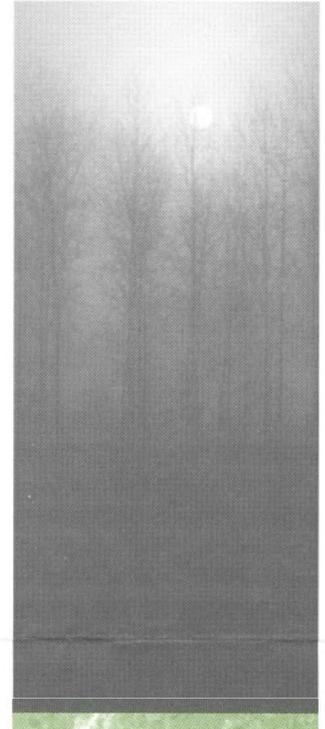
-Alex Callender: "We were conducting surveys and documenting itineraries of visitors for a study of the social carrying capacity of Mt. Rainier National Park. These itineraries will be used to create a cutting edge dynamic GIS model that will help managers to control congestion and crowding. The fieldwork was really rewarding. There is nothing like a five to fourteen mile hike to the 'office.' My favorite work was in the pristine management areas of the Park."

-Casey Dennehy, who worked on the lakes and stream crew: "Spending the summer working for the National Park Service was invaluable exposure with a government agency. I observed the inner workings and dynamics between field scientists and government policy which no class can truly portray. Not to mention the rewards of spending the summer hiking and camping on magnificent Mt. Rainier."

The internships were full time and ran for 14 weeks, starting mid-June. There was a \$1500 stipend; housing and in-Park transportation were also included. The internships provided an excellent opportunity to see and do science in a national park and gain a fuller understanding of the connections to policy, management, and environmental education. I can also speak from my work at Rainier as a volunteer for several years with meadow restoration and as a member of the Rare Plant Project crew this last summer that the staff are great to work with and learn from and as Alex and Casey remark, the workplace doesn't get much better than the slopes of Mt. Rainier!

This internship program is based on a multi-year contractual arrangement between the College and the Park, and we are starting to plan for the season next summer. There should again be positions for two or three MES students. Contact Carolyn Dobbs at dobbsc@evergreen.edu for information

-When not collaborating with MES students, Carolyn Dobbs volunteers with Mount Rainier National Park.



"The first rule of intelligent tinkering is to save all the pieces."

Aldo Leopold



Alumni Spotlight—Debora Holmes

By Todd Burley

Like a salmon returning to its natal redd, Debora Holmes, who graduated from the MES Program in 2001, has returned to work at TESC for *Environmental Practice*, the journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP). As the Managing Editor of this prestigious journal, Debora daily utilizes the interdisciplinary and critical thinking skills she developed as a graduate student and the connections she gained through a graduate assistantship. "Without an ounce of hesitation I should say that I would not be in this position if it weren't for the knowledge and experience I received in the MES program." Debora was honored with the NAEP's President's Performance Award last year for her work with *Environmental Practice*.

Recent issues of *Environmental Practice* have covered the growing issues of brownfields and environmental conflict resolution among other subjects. Check out the next issue of *EP*, which is a special issue focusing entirely on NEPA (the National Environmental Policy Act), or call Debora at 360-867-5955, for more information.

2700 Evergreen Parkway NW
Olympia, WA 98505-0002
Phone: 360-867-6707
Email: graduatestudies@evergreen.edu

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE
MASTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympia, WA
Permit No. 65



Send your alumni update to:

Attn: JT Austin, MES Asst. Director
Master of Environmental Studies
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Pkwy. NW
Olympia, WA 98505

Stay Connected . . .

Contact Information

Name:

Year Graduated:

Address:

Phone Numbers:

Home:

Work:

E-mail:

Current News

Professional Life?

Personal Life?

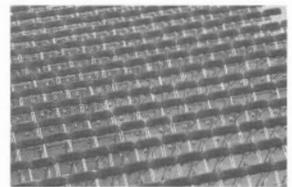
Future Plans?

Staying in Touch

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

Would you be willing to have MES spotlight you for future newsletter?

We hope you stay in touch throughout the years, strengthening the MES network. Feel free to contact us at any time.



Keep the MES tradition vibrant with your feedback.