

ALUMNI LINK

Newsletter of the Program on the Environment Alumni Advisory Board April 2007

Message from the Board

The PoE Alumni Advisory Board is beginning a new phase. The board is looking for new members, as our current term is ending. There is no better opportunity to reconnect yourself with the Environmental Studies program and work with a dedicated group of professionals seeking to enhance not only PoE, but also the surrounding community. The current board has built a solid foundation for PoE's future alumni. With the help of PoE staff, we have established a mentoring program, developed a webpage on PoE's website, conducted an alumni census, and have made connections with other valuable UW alumni networks. Our goals are to continue to look for opportunities to assist alumni in any way possible and to look for opportunities to enhance PoE's undergraduate experience. We encourage all alumni to consider the opportunity of becoming a member of the PoE Alumni Advisory Board and we look forward to your nomination.

Goodbye from PoE Director Dave Secord

I am sitting here getting ready to head to Sea-Tac to catch a flight to Japan, my first true vacation with Amy in the three years since I began the zany and fabulous roller-coaster ride of leading PoE. In reflecting on this extraordinary chapter of my life and mentally prepping for my next adventure in conservation philanthropy at the Wilburforce Foundation, I am struck by the hundreds of people I have had the great privilege to interact with in this job. It is this very sort of collaboration with brilliant, creative, wildly diverse, and sometimes infuriating people that makes PoE tick - and that reflects the complexity of the big, broad world outside academia. Preparing students to thrive in that world, and helping the UW contribute to it, are what I believe higher education should be all about. It is impossible to say in a few words how much fun it has been to try to make PoE an exemplar of this type of work. I am gratified by PoE's receipt of the Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence this year, a team effort of the first order. Making clichés like "catalyze and collaborate, rigor and balance" into authentic activities of daily living is why PoE is here. I have learned so much from each of you, and will eagerly watch PoE's successes in its second decade. Please keep in touch!

PoE Undergraduate Program Coordinator Returns from Semester Teaching in China

A familiar face has returned to PoE. After six years of advising Environmental Studies students and helping to expand the program, Michelle Hall took a leave of absence from her role as PoE's Undergraduate Program Coordinator from September 2006 until March 1, 2007 to serve as a visiting foreign faculty member at Zhejiang Forestry University (ZFU) in Lin'an, Zhejiang Province, China, where she taught English to undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty in environmental disciplines. With an M.A. in English and several years of teaching experience in English literature and composition, Michelle saw this as a rare opportunity both to return to teaching in her discipline briefly and to learn about environmental programs and pedagogy at universities in China. The opportunity arose when Michelle's husband was invited to ZFU to pursue research on bamboo resource systems and to teach graduate courses on sustainable community development and applied ecological design. Located amid some of China's most notable bamboo landscapes, ZFU is a key research center for bamboo and agroforestry studies. In addition to trekking through bamboo forests and teaching English, Michelle also visited other major universities in Hangzhou, Nanjing, Chengdu, and Hong Kong. She invites all PoE alumni interested in travel, work, or study in China to talk to her about her experience.

Upcoming Seattle Events

To learn more about environmental events in the Seattle area check out the following websites:

PoE's "What's Happening" Listings – <http://depts.washington.edu/poeweb/happening/index.html>

Puget Sound Action Team's Calendar – <http://www.psat.wa.gov/Events/Events.htm>

Featured Article: Earth Club hosts Earth Week April 14-22 (and invited alumni!)

By Laura Knudsen

Once again the Earth Club at the UW is preparing exciting events leading up to Earth Day on April 22. The fun begins on Saturday, April 14 at 10 a.m. in Red Square where Earth Club will lead a group of students and interested citizens to the "Step It Up" Protest Rally for the National Day of Climate Action with Bill McKibben in Occidental Park. On Tuesday, April 17 Earth Club will show John de Graaf's fantastic film *Affluenza* in Kane 220 starting at 7 p.m, followed by a Q&A session with Mr. de Graaf himself! Continuing with the excitement, everyone should attend the environmental mixer on Wednesday April 18 at the Parnassus Café in the Art Building basement beginning at 6:30 p.m. – **PoE alumni are encouraged to attend this event and interact with other alumni and current students.** On Thursday April 19, the annual Earth Fair on the HUB lawn will take place complete with on-campus and off-campus organizations, a Full Circle Farm display, a variety of booths with sustainability and conservation tips, and much more! This year the Earth Fair will commence at 10:30 a.m. and continue until 2:30 p.m. For some international conversation, check out the global video conference sponsored by Earth Club and Americans for Informed Democracy from 7 a.m. – 9 a.m. in Kane 19 on Friday April 20th where participants will have a chance to talk with people from around the world about the "Global Environment". Help yourself to free refreshments too! Lastly, express your passion for nature on Earth Day and attend the clean-up at Coleman Park through Americorps Citizen Action on Sunday April 22nd during the day! More details on the clean-up and additional information will be posted on the Earth Club website at <http://students.washington.edu/uwearth>. Also, feel free to directly e-mail uwearth@u.washington.edu. Earth Club looks forward to seeing you at this year's events!

Featured Alumna: Marisa Lown

Class of 2005

Degree: Environmental Studies: Ecology & Conservation ; Anthropology (emphasis in pre-historical environmental/human relationships)

Marisa is a paralegal and office manager at the Washington Forest Law Center, a non-profit, public interest law firm dedicated to providing legal services to organizations that monitor and protect natural resources on 10 million acres of Washington's private and state-owned forest lands. She works closely with legal, political, and advocacy groups to help ensure that logging on these forests complies with State and Federal laws and is managed in a sustainable manner.

Alumni Updates and Congratulations

- Sheri Davis (December 2006) accepted an Environmental Scientist position with Sound Environmental Services in January 2007.

- Peter Chen (Spring 2001) graduated from the University of Washington with a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering in December 2006.

Support Program on the Environment

- *Keep in touch with Program on the Environment* by updating your contact information and/or joining the alumni list serve by writing poealum@u.washington.edu . We'd like to hear from you!

- *Participate in career fairs and alumni panels* by contacting Michelle Hall at poeadv@u.washington.edu.
 - *Support the projects of the Program on the Environment Alumni Advisory Board* by attending events or volunteering your time. Write poealum@u.washington.edu for more information.
 - *Serve as a mentor for a current student or host an intern at your organization or company.* Write poeadv@u.washington.edu or call 206-616-1208 for more information
 - *Talk to the PoE Director or staff if you have ideas for projects or initiatives* that would be worthwhile investments for you or for other alumni.
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Program on the Environment Alumni Advisory Board Members: Josh Reese (Chair, 2002), Kirsten Anderson (2005), Allison Leighton (2000), Linda Lyshall (2002), Fatima Oswald (2000), Jackie White (2005)

Questions, comments, or article ideas? E-mail poealum@u.washington.edu.