



## ECKERD COLLEGE

May 26, 2009

Dear ES alum,

We hope the past year was a successful one for you. In this annual update, we report on our ES Alumni Facebook group and provide updates from each of the ES core faculty.

We like to hear about and share news from ES graduates—so please keep us posted! You can visit our ES website to see profiles of ES graduates -- and contribute your own.  
(<http://www.eckerd.edu/academics/environmentalstudies/Alumni/index.php>)

Sincerely,

*Kip Curtis, Beth Forsys, Paul Hindsley, and Alison Ormsby*

Eckerd College Environmental Studies

<http://www.eckerd.edu/academics/environmentalstudies/Faculty/index.php>

### **New ES Alumni Facebook Group**

If you are a member of Facebook and interested in keeping in touch with your classmates after graduation as well as networking with ES graduates around the world, join our new Facebook group. We hope this will provide some helpful connections for everyone, especially as you move on to graduate school and to new places where it helps to know someone.

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=107719781534>

### **Eco-Clamshell**

In July of 2007 Eckerd College alumna Audrey Copeland and Professor Alison Ormsby were awarded a grant from the Environmental Research and Education Foundation to pursue the production of a reusable to-go container and system. This project developed from Audrey's Introduction to Environmental Studies audit conducted in the Fall of 2004. The Eco-Clamshell, designed by Audrey, is now a huge success and has been adopted by many campuses and other facilities around the country. Visit Eckerd's 'green' website to learn more about this project: <http://www.eckerd.edu/green/waste/ecoclamshell.php>



## Eckerd College-Lakewood Elementary Organic Garden Project

With the support of ECOS, the local PTA, and a handful of local businesses, Environmental Studies Professor Kip Curtis volunteered his time to lead 23 environmental studies students in the creation, cultivation, and harvest of an educational organic garden at [Lakewood Elementary school](#), a mostly African American school with a significant number of low-income students. Eckerd students kept a blog for both semesters detailing their experience (<http://theedibleschoolyard.blogspot.com/>). More information about this ongoing project can be found on the Eckerd News pages (<http://www.eckerd.edu/news/index.php?f=detail&id=2744>) and on the Green Eckerd Website (<http://www.eckerd.edu/green/education/index.php>). The project also caught the attention of the St.



Petersburg Times, whose education reporter reported both on its [beginnings](#) in January and its [culmination in a Harvest Festival](#) in April. The garden will be a regular fixture in the environmental studies program and offer students an opportunity to put their environmental education ambitions into practice every semester.

### News from Faculty

**Kent "Kip" Curtis**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Professor Curtis, who has a Ph.D. in environmental history, is beginning his fourth year with the environmental studies program. This past year has been a busy one. In addition to his volunteer garden project, Professor Curtis developed and taught a new upper level synthesis called Urban Ecology. This course studies St. Petersburg as a way of introducing students to the non-wildlands ecology necessary to understand cities and will be a regular spring offering for Environmental Studies majors. Curtis's also inspired two of his Western Heritage freshmen, Wesley Lucas and Andrea Willingham, to organize a new campus environmental group, the Campus Sustainable Congress, which has already spearheaded the creation of a green living dorm for the coming fall. Keep up with their activities at <http://eckercsc.webs.com/index/>. Professor Curtis has been busy with scholarship this year as well, his "Producing a Gold Rush: National Ambitions and the Northern Rocky Mountains, 1853-1863," will appear in the *Western Historical Quarterly* this August, and an article about land-based pedagogy titled "Henry David Thoreau and a Radical Re-Engagement of Place" will appear in the *Radical History Review* in the fall. Additionally, Dr. Curtis chaired and commented on papers in a session about native and invasive species at the annual American Society for Environmental History meeting, and he participated in a panel discussing the role of historians in environmental studies programs at the same conference. He was also invited to present his [Brazilian Pepper](#) and Organic Schoolyard projects as part of a panel on education for sustainability pedagogy at the American Historical Association's annual meeting in New York. Professor Curtis continues to work closely with Eckerd students in everything he does.

**Beth Forsy**, Professor of Environmental Science, is looking forward to teaching the largest group of ES seniors in our 14 year history (63 seniors)! These seniors will continue to work hard in the

Alumni Grove where many of the trees you helped plant and weed are growing strong. A new bat box is in place and we still hope to attract some barn owls to the barn owl boxes that were put up in 2008. This fall she presented her research (that many of you have helped with including Mark Mueller, Diana Mangone, John Lawler, Kyle Flannigan, Louis Sanderson, Tony Henner and Heather Bolint) on the decline of the Least Tern in Florida at the Wildlife Society meeting in Miami. This summer Beth is working with two current ES majors, Jim Rutledge and Evan Bollier, and they will be banding Least Tern chicks that have fallen off rooftops (and putting them back up) to try and determine why this species is declining.

**Paul Hindsley**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, has begun to focus on the newly created Coastal Management Minor. Professor Hindsley will act as coordinator of the newly created minor with the help of Professor Gregg Brooks (Marine Science) and Professor Tony Brunello (Political Science). Professor Hindsley is currently working on developing an interdisciplinary sampling program for Pinellas County shorelines with the goal of researching coastal management issues in the county. His research agenda includes an array of coastal and marine topics including investigations into recreational fishing in the Southeast US and measurements of US residents willingness-to-pay for rebuilding New Orleans hurricane defenses post-Hurricane Katrina.

**Alison Ormsby**, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies, is now on sabbatical. She received a Fulbright grant to conduct research on sacred forests in India, where she will be from October 2009 to May 2010. In the future, she hopes to take students on a winter term course to India. She has been working on an article based on her research project with Professor Forsy on beach user attitudes toward beach-nesting birds in Pinellas County, Florida. Alison and her Ford Scholar Heather Bolint presented about the beach-nesting bird project at the Florida Academy of Sciences conference in March 2009. Alison will have a chapter about sacred forests of Ghana in the forthcoming book "Sacred Sites and Species: Lessons in Biocultural Conservation."

*We appreciate your assistance in keeping us updated on your whereabouts, job and study news.*

**THANK YOU!**

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