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Exploring the Landscapes of Environmental Thought, July 10-28

This July The Center for Ethics is launching what we hope will become a major annual event that will bring people to the Center from around the country. This event features leading scholars in environmental thought who will be teaching courses, as well as offering evening lectures and panel discussions that are free and open to the public. It promises to be a stimulating and enlightening time.

The Institute creates unique educational opportunities for citizens, scholars, students, environmental educators and leaders to come together and discuss important aspects of environmental thought. Please read the articles by Bill



Chaloupka (page 2) and Christopher Preston (page 3) to learn more about the two panel discussions. Also, visit our website at www.umt.edu/ethics for more information about the Institute.

(more details on page 3)

Summer Short Courses in Ethics

This summer the Center will continue its tradition of offering a variety of short courses in ethics. These courses will cover timely social and ethical issue in business, medicine, education and the environment. All classes are open to students and the interested public. You do not need to be matriculated at UM to participate, and you can take these courses for no credit at a reduced fee—just fill out the registration form in this newsletter and you're in. If you're from out of state, there is no non-resident charge. If you want college credit, you can take most of our courses for undergraduate or graduate credit, for a traditional grade or pass/not pass, or you can officially audit courses. Our low rate of \$120 per credit is less expensive than university classes during the academic year, even with the \$135 optional credit recording fee.

Registration: *UM students register via Cyberbear, and non-UM students register on the enclosed form or by visiting our website at www.umt.edu/ethics.*

Life & Death, Love & War: Ethics of Contemporary Controversies, May 18 - 19 and 22 - 26, PHIL/LS 495E: a 7-day course examining ethical issues ranging from the origins of life, to how humans relate to one other, to power over life, to taking life, to end-of-life care. Participants gain an understanding of major ethical issues, including fundamental social values, and develop critical thinking skills with case studies. Taught by Mark Hanson, Philosophy, The University of Montana.

Theory and Skills of Ethics Teaching, June 5 - 11, PHIL 521: a 7-day course designed for those who teach or plan to teach ethics in professional, college, or post-secondary settings. Participants observe themselves as learners to learn more about themselves as teachers; develop materials for teaching ethics for their specific settings; practice a method of systematic moral analysis; identify and analyze concerns about teaching ethics; determine what is required for ethical teaching and learning environments; and experiment with different styles of learning and teaching. Taught by Deni Elliott, Poynter-Jamison Professor of Journalism Ethics & Press Policy, University of South Florida.

Ethics, Education and the Evolution Debate, June 19 - 22 and 26 - 29, PHIL/C&I 495E: an 8-day course examining the contested ground over teaching evolution. Opponents argue that teaching evolution promotes an atheistic, materialistic philosophy. Proponents argue that teaching challenges to evolution, like intelligent design, undermines science education and amounts to state sponsorship of religion. The course includes visiting experts in science education, biology, philosophy and theology who discuss aspects of this debate. Taught by Dane Scott, Director, The Center for Ethics, The University of Montana.

Foundations for Ethical Business Practice, July 7 - 9, PHIL 595/MBA 645: a 3-day course critically comparing the ethical theories behind two distinct approaches to making business decisions. First, utilitarian foundations: what are the pros and cons of cost benefit analysis, a dominant method of deliberation?

(course descriptions continue on page 2)

Summer Short Courses (continued from page 1)

Ethics at Noon Spring 2006

Ethics 2020: Envisioning the Promises and Perils of a Just and Sustainable Future

Feb. 6: Paul Williamson
The Energy Paradigm:
An Ethical Conundrum

Mar. 6: Minkie Medora
Who is Hungry in Montana
and Why

Mar. 20: Richard Barrett
A Responsible
State Energy Policy

Apr. 3: Norman Lavery
Ethics of Community
Justice Initiatives

Apr. 17: Lisa Swallow
Corporate Social Responsibility
Reporting: Sustainability Driven
Innovation, The Triple Bottom Line

May 1: Mehrdad Kia
Covering Islam: Why are We So
Ignorant About the Islamic World

12:10 to 1:00 pm
Gallagher Business Building
Room L14

**Watch Ethics at Noon on
MCAT (Missoula Community
Access TV). Check your local
listings (Bresnan Channel 7
or 8, or Cable Montana 13).**

Research Ethics Online

This asynchronous online course introduces graduate students, principal investigators, professionals, and others to the common ethical issues that arise in the process of scientific, behavioral, or social science research. Unit topics include ethical issues in research, interpersonal responsibility, institutional responsibility, professional responsibility, animals in research, and human participation in research.

[www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/
online_courses.htm](http://www.umt.edu/ethics/courses/online_courses.htm)

Second, practical reasoning founded in virtue ethics: when and why might this approach be preferable? The course examines the forces that gave rise to these approaches and uses cases studies to compare them. Participants question how choices that have moral consequences are made, which leads toward more thoughtful and ethics business practices. Taught by Dane Scott, Director, The Center for Ethics, The University of Montana.

Environmental Justice in Montana's Indian Country, July 10 - 13, EVST 495E: a 4-day course that looks through the conceptual lens of environmental justice at the successes and struggles of Montana's tribes for greater self-determination of their own environmental affairs. The course includes a full-day field trip to the Flathead Reservation's National Bison Range. Taught by Robin Saha, Environmental Studies, The University of Montana.

Foundations of Environmental Thought, online June 5 - July 7 & in classroom July 17 - 21, PHIL/EVST 495E: In an innovative part online, part face-to-face format, this

course explores American environmental history and the writings of significant environmental thinkers. The works of Rachel Carson, Aldo Leopold, and others will be compared with more recent writings on the rise of wilderness advocacy and environmentalism. Taught by Andrew Light, a leading environmental scholar, Philosophy & Evans School of Public Affairs, University of Washington.

How We Experience Nature:

Environmental Aesthetics, online June 5 - July 7 & in classroom July 24 - 28, PHIL/EVST 495E: In an innovative part online, part face-to-face format, this course raises important questions. Environmental aesthetics is a new field of study, and this course gives western and Japanese perspectives. Participants focus on the cultural roots of the aesthetic experience of environment, why an environmental aesthetic is needed, and the complex ethical ramifications involved in environmental appreciation. Taught by Yuriko Saito, a highly regarded scholar in philosophy, Division of Liberal Studies, Rhode Island School of Design.

"The Death of Environmentalism" (see page 3)

Authors Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus published the essay, "The Death of Environmentalism" in October 2004. The authors are young Bay Area activists, and their essay reflected frustration with the perceived limitations of environmental politics. (It is available for free download at Grist.org, which has also covered the subsequent controversy.)

The essay's argument is easily summarized: "Over the last 15 years environmental foundations and organizations have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into combating global warming. We have striking little to show for it." The concern is that green leaders have continued to insist "that we are on the right track."

The essay reports on interviews with over two-dozen environmental leaders and findings from public opinion research. The essay calls for a serious debate over the strategies deployed by the movement in recent years, while also criticizing the movement's leadership for not having engaged in such debates in the past. The authors present themselves as internal critics who pose their critique boldly because there has been so much resistance to opening such a debate.

The 28-page essay suggests a number of questions. The focus is on political approaches,

more than specific policy proposals. They argue that environmentalism has settled for "special interest" status, when its aims are actually much broader. In some cases, including fuel efficiency, they believe the movement settled for too little in legislative negotiations. They worry about the tendency to emphasize technical solutions over broader political and social change.

This brief summary of some positions taken in the essay hardly is a complete summary. Clearly, the essay has elicited broad responses, and its most important contribution may well have been to encourage greens to give voice to their frustrations with their movement's political direction. In any case, the essay drew a remarkable response, with several mentions in the national press, leading to front page New York Times coverage of a conference at Middlebury College in January 2005. Several conferences have been held on the essay, and the debate will likely be revived when a book-length version of the argument is published, probably sometime in the next year.

by Bill Chaloupka, Colorado State University



**Panel Discussion will be
July 20, 7:30 p.m. in
Gallagher Business Bldg 106**

Exploring the Landscapes ... (continued from page 1)

Schedule of Events

Courses (see page 2 for course descriptions)

Environmental Justice in Montana's Indian Country, Dr. Robin Saha, Environmental Studies, The University of Montana

Foundations of Environmental Thought, Dr. Andrew Light, Philosophy, University of Washington & Evans School of Public Affairs

How We Experience Nature: Environmental Aesthetics, Dr. Yuriko Saito, Philosophy, The Rhode Island School of Design

Evening Lectures and Panel Discussions (free and open to the public in the Gallagher Business Building, GBB)

When We Restore Nature, What Do We Owe the Past?, July 18, 7:30 p.m., GBB 123: a lecture by Andrew Light, University of Washington. This presentation offers reasons to believe we have moral obligations to retain elements of industrial or agricultural legacies, or "disturbance memories," in our restorations.

"The Death of Environmentalism", July 20, 7:30 p.m., GBB 106: a discussion of this controversial essay with William Chaloupka, Colorado State University, Daniel Kemmis, Center for the Rocky Mountain West, Andrew Light, University of Washington, and Tracy Stone-Manning, Clark Fork Coalition.

Objectivity in Environmental Aesthetics and Protection of the Environment, July 24, 7:30 p.m., GBB 123: a lecture by Ned Hettinger, College of Charleston, exploring the

possibility of distinguishing between better and worse types of environmental aesthetic appreciation and using such distinctions to justify an aesthetic defense of environmentalism.

The Aesthetics of the Japanese Garden, July 25, 7:30 p.m., GBB 123: a lecture by Yuriko Saito, Rhode Island School of Design. Japanese gardens are praised for their natural appearance, despite the extreme degree of manipulation. How can we explain this paradox? What kind of attitude toward nature and humans is embodied in Japanese garden design? This presentation, accompanied by ample visual images, will explore these questions.

Science, Religion, and the Environment, July 27, 7:30 p.m., GBB 106: a discussion with Holmes Rolston III, Colorado State University, Albert Borgmann, The University of Montana, John Hart, Boston University, Ned Hettinger, College of Charleston, and Christopher Preston, The University of Montana.

Generating Intelligent Life on Earth: Six Looming Questions in Evolutionary Biology, July 28, 7:30 p.m., GBB 106: a lecture by Holmes Rolston, Colorado State University. Cosmologists find a primordial big bang, producing matter and energy. Biologists find another big bang: a genetic information explosion. In one species, *Homo sapiens*, there is a third, a mental big bang: a cultural explosion producing religion, ethics, science. Evolutionary biology supplies incomplete explanations of such Earth history. Evaluation of an evolutionary history that generates intelligent persons leaves biology with looming questions.

Science, Religion, & the Environment (see above)

The intelligent design vs. evolutionary biology controversy recently making headlines from Kansas, to Pennsylvania, to Darby, Montana is but one manifestation of a much larger debate. While the controversy gets pigeon-holed by the media as another ideological battleground between conservatives and liberals, a closer look reveals it as a debate located at a critical place for our self-understanding as reflective human beings. To adequately understand our place in the world we need to know something about where we stand biologically, physically, and historically. But we should also know something about where we stand cosmologically, in relation to events like the big bang, to questions about the ultimate origins of life, and to the possible existence of a supernatural being or beings. Both types of explanation seem to be vital for our sense of who we are, and

what we ought to do. The problem is that the scientific and religious languages, categories, and concepts we use to answer these questions seem to be at odds with each other. It is not surprising that the contested area between science and religion is complex. It lies precisely at the intersection of *faith* and *reason*.

Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Holmes Rolston, III has spent his life at this intersection. As a former Presbyterian pastor, turned naturalist, turned philosophy professor, Rolston is best known for his work in carving out the field of environmental ethics. But Rolston is also one of the premier international voices on the relationship between science and religion. His thesis that there is value in nature is in fact also a thesis about how to think about the divine in relation to evolutionary biology.

Exploring the Landscapes of Environmental Thought

July 10-28, 2006

Take 1 to 3 courses (with a discounted no-credit option for pure enjoyment, or for graduate or undergraduate credit); and/or attend evening panel discussions and lectures; and/or go on field trips.

For more information, visit www.umt.edu/ethics.

Field Trips: Environmental Ethics Institute

National Bison Range, July 12
A full-day field trip led by Robin Saha in conjunction with his course. Non-course participants can also sign up.

Ethical Issues in Ecological Restoration, July 19
An afternoon field trip led by Dan Spencer, Environmental Studies, UM. Ecological restoration sites from 2000 and 2003 forest fires will be visited, and effects of the 2002 Healthy Forests Initiative on ecological restoration work in our nation's forests will be discussed.



Holmes Rolston, III

Panel discussion will be July 27, 7:30 p.m. in GBB 106

A former Gifford Lecturer and Templeton Prize winner, few people are better prepared to think about what evolutionary biology can tell us about ourselves. And few are more insightful about what it cannot.

by Christopher Preston,
The University of Montana

**SPRING 2006
NEWSLETTER**

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From the Director

I would like to call your attention to two projects in the works for next fall. Over the last few months, the Center has been working with the Mansfield Center, Honors College and Business School to begin putting together a new speaker series. The theme for next year will be ethics and leadership. With all the press time given to the ethical failures of people in powerful positions, we would like to turn the spotlight on people of integrity. For this series we will be inviting and discussing leaders who have lived up to high moral standards. Also, the Center will be working with a group of community leaders over the spring and summer to develop a yearlong series of events on the problems and possibilities of ethical development in western Montana. Since coming to Missoula I have been greatly impressed by the many thoughtful citizens who are deeply concerned about its future. It is our hope that the Center can work with these citizens to provide a forum for fruitful discussions about that future. Look for these two works in process, and if you have any suggestions or ideas, please let me know.

On a different note, to all of you who have been in contact with the Center over the last 6 ½ years, you will know of the tremendous contributions Colleen Hunter has made to the Center. On April 12, Colleen will be moving to a new job on campus. This is a good opportunity for Colleen, and we wish her the best. She has been a devoted and extremely able Administrative Officer, and many have commented to me about how her efforts have helped sustain the Center over the years. I would particularly like to thank Colleen for helping me make an efficient transition into my new duties as the Center's director. Many thanks and good luck to Colleen as she starts her new position.

Dane Scott, Director

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THE CENTER'S WORK!**

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