

# The Green Bean

Issue # 12

An ENTS Newsletter for the Carleton Environmental Community

30 May 2001

## ENTS Alum Awarded Gates Scholarship

Matt Varilek, a 1997 Carleton grad and ENTS concentrator, was recently awarded a newly created scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge in the UK. This scholarship program is a venture funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in partnership with the University of Cambridge. The scholarships mimic the Rhodes scholarships in many senses and are dedicated to study at the University of Cambridge. Matt will be pursuing a M.Phil degree in Environment and Development at Queens College where he will investigate how market mechanisms for environmental regulation, such as emissions trading, can be applied effectively in developing countries. This is not the first M.Phil that Matt has gotten. After spending a year as an environmental policy research assistant at the Biosphere 2 Center in Arizona, Matt studied at the University of Glasgow under a Rotary Scholarship. At Glasgow Matt did a dissertation on how to maximize developing country's benefits from Clean Development Mechanism investment under the Kyoto Protocol in the Economic Development Program. In the years between studying in the UK, Matt has been working as the Director of Policy and Research at Natsource LLC in New York. At Natsource Matt leads consulting projects on emissions trading and acts as an environmental brokerage. His clients have included the World Bank and the European Commission amongst other groups. Matt has had an interesting career path since majoring in philosophy at Carleton, but has remained at the center of environmental issues. Coming from a period when ENTS was even more highly scientific than it is today, Matt provides an example of how humanities and social science majors can contribute to environmental issues.

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## Next Year's ENTS Intern Chosen

Jason Mulvihill-Kuntz has agreed to be the ENTS 5th Year Intern next year although the title of the position has changed and as of next year Jason will be called an "Educational Associate." Jason is a history major, an ENTS concentrator, a Naturalist for the Arb, and he did his comps on the historiography of wilderness so he is well qualified for the position. We are excited to have Jason on board for next year and look forward to having him at the helm in the ENTS shak in the fall. To all you juniors: start thinking about applying to be the next educational associate now!

This newsletter was produced by the ENTS Intern Max Wilson. He can be contacted at [mwilson@carleton.edu](mailto:mwilson@carleton.edu). Submissions are encouraged.

## Environmental Statement of Principles Endorsed by the Board of Trustees

The Buildings and Grounds Subcommittee of the Board of Trustees voted on the 18th of May to endorse the Environmental Statement of Principles with only slight modification in the language. The subcommittee decided to take out the wording "as a liberal arts institution" so that the statement would read:

*"Carleton College recognizes that it exists as part of interconnected communities that are impacted by personal and institutional choices. We are dedicated to investigating and promoting awareness of the current and future impacts of our actions in order to foster responsibility for these human and natural communities. Carleton strives to be a model of stewardship for the environment by incorporating ideals of sustainability into the operations of the college and the daily life of individuals."*

The group of trustees commented that the statement was well worded, entirely reasonable, and in fact relatively tame. The statement was endorsed quite quickly and easily with the general sentiment that this would be a natural position for the college to take. When the Buildings and Budget Subcommittee reported on its proceedings to the Board of Trustees as a whole they informed the group of their decision to endorse the statement. Based on parliamentary procedures, if the board does not take issue with the actions of the committees then their actions become policy. As the full board had no questions or concerns about the statement it is approved for the College and is now policy. This is the culmination of a lot of work by students and the EAC and is a terrific recognition of the leadership role that Carleton should play in taking on environmental issues.

## Summer in the ENTS Program

Environmental activities don't just stop once students leave campus for the summer. For several years Gary Wagenbach and Mary Savina have been organizing and leading five day summer training programs for high school science teachers. The program's focus is developing curriculum aimed at preparing students for the Environmental Studies Advanced Placement test. While most of the teachers participating in the past workshops have been from the region, the program has drawn educators from as far as Maine and Taiwan. A scholarship program has been established by the Cannon River Watershed partnership that brings in eight teachers from area schools for this program.

Jim Finholt runs a longer program for which some of the teachers in the Environmental Studies AP workshop stay. This program is more focused on developing lab techniques with teachers working both in the chemistry labs and in Gary's lab. These programs are a great benefit for teachers who are trying to develop environmental science courses as such curriculums have only gained wide acceptance in the last decade or so. The AP test for environmental science was only introduced five years ago. These programs also contribute to the growing emphasis within Carleton's environmental community of bringing environmental education into primary education. Kids for Conservation brings environmental education directly into the schools while many projects in the ENTS and Education departments are focused for developing environmental curriculum and resources for local teachers.

## Format of ENTS 110 to Remain Unchanged

Many of you may have noticed that next fall's ENTS 110 class was titled "Wetlands" instead of the traditional "Envisioning Landscapes" in the printed lists of classes. Some of you may even be wondering what this change could mean for the format and content of the class for next year. For you inquiring souls I have the answer: nothing. The new title of ENTS 110 was a mistake and the course is still "Envisioning Landscapes" and will maintain the same format and faculty as last year.

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## Tree Free Gets Green Light

The Tree Free campaign, which has been working tirelessly all term, got good news from Vice President and Treasurer Barbara Johnson. The campaign is asking that the college make it policy that the paper purchased by the school have 100% post-consumer waste content and be chlorine free. In the past using post-consumer waste paper has been a problem because it has a high lint content that would jam copiers, but the paper has evolved since then and Johnson is committed to working on finding solutions to any problems that might arise. Although there is no mechanism for instituting any steadfast regulation about paper purchasing, Johnson is in effect making it school policy to purchase post-consumer waste paper by directing all offices that deal with paper procurement to phase in the purchase of "tree free" paper. This success is a testament to the hard work and commitment of those who spent months on the campaign and will result in reduced timber harvests and a greater market for recycled paper.

## Junior Colloquium Brings Change

This term's junior colloquium had a different focus than most terms. Instead of reading and discussing the book du jour, the class did small environmental audits on campus with the goal of making recommendations for a more sustainable campus. Groups of three students chose different areas, activities, or practices on campus that they were interested in investigating and looking for routes for improvement in management of practice. The class was urged not to focus solely upon institutional activities or individual activities but instead make recommendations for how both the administration and individuals could make positive change. The subjects of the projects included:

**Eco-Literacy at Carleton**  
**Energy Use**  
**Graduation Waste**  
**Land Use at Carleton**  
**Printer Ink Cartridge Recycling**  
**Recycling Audit**  
**Water Resources**

While all the projects had thorough research and compelling recommendations for improvement a few of the groups actually began putting their recommendations into action. The printer cartridge recycling team has established a program where students can mail their old ink cartridges into a company for free to be reused. This group has also laid the foundation for a program in which student groups could get paid for their cartridge recycling efforts. The Graduation Waste group has worked diligently to create a completely compostable and recyclable lunch for commencement, several elements of which may appear this year.