

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION  
ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATES MEETING

APRIL 6, 2007

GOAL I

To advance innovative educational research methodologies and pedagogies in environmental and sustainability education. This work will include developing methods for the assessment of sustainability, philosophical research, and curriculum and program development, and will take place in a variety of educational settings and geographical locations, ranging from local to global.

Environmental and Sustainability Education Books

*A Voice for Earth: Writers Respond to the Earth Charter*

The Director and Associate Director continue work on an edited volume of literary responses to the Earth Charter. This book, entitled *A Voice for Earth: Writers Respond to the Earth Charter*, was a considerable aspect of their research in 2006. It is currently under formal review at the University of Georgia Press.

The goal of *A Voice for Earth* is to create a literary language to bring to life the concepts in the Earth Charter, to open the hearts and minds of readers to the responsibilities and opportunities before them, and to contribute to the discourse about the principles embodied in the Earth Charter. *A Vision for Earth* demonstrates through the vitality of literature the power and importance of the ethical principles of the Earth Charter.

Contributors include Homero Aridjis, Rick Bass, Leonardo Boff, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Robert Michael Pyle, Janisse Ray, Steven C. Rockefeller, Scott Russell Sanders, Mary Evelyn Tucker, and Terry Tempest Williams.

The Office of the President has promised \$10,000 to support this project.

*Toward a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action*

The Director edited with a staff intern a collection of essays that describe the way in which the Earth Charter has been used in a wide variety of settings; the collection is entitled *The Earth Charter in Action: Toward a Sustainable World*. It was a major commitment of two staff from November 2004 to November 2005.

Publisher and copyright holder: KIT Publishers, Amsterdam, in cooperation with the Earth Charter International Secretariat, San Jose, Costa Rica

The Center is listed as a major partner in this undertaking.

Chief Editor: Peter Blaze Corcoran

Editorial Assistant: Brandon Hollingshead

This book demonstrates the rich diversity of uses of the Earth Charter, and points toward its many future possibilities. Thematic essays, stories, narratives, interviews, photographs, and artwork from around the world inspired by the Earth Charter demonstrate its utility in diverse cultural contexts, including its ability to bridge the Islamic and Christian worlds and its promise in working across the divide between the northern and southern hemispheres. Acknowledging the role of early key contributors such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Maurice Strong, and Ruud Lubbers, this volume also celebrates five years of accomplishments by Earth Charter activists since its launch at the start of the new millennium.

#### Environmental and Sustainability Education book series in progress

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. *Education and Sustainable Development*, proposed book series, co-edited with Arjen E.J. Wals, to celebrate the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014, Under consideration at Wageningen Academic Press.

#### Environmental and Sustainability Education books in progress

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. *Young People, Education, and Sustainable Development*, co-edited with Philip Osano. To be published in the proposed Wageningen Academic Press. 2008.

#### Environmental and Sustainability Education publications by Center Staff

Corcoran, Peter Blaze and Philip Molo Osano. "Learning for a World Changed by Intergenerational Equity". *Southern African Journal of Environmental Education*. 2007 Special Edition. In press.

Weakland, Joseph P. "Progress Toward a Humane and Sustainable Food System at Florida Gulf Coast University". *Earth Ethics*. Washington: DC. In press.

Hollingshead, Brandon and Peter Blaze Corcoran. "Learning and Living with the Earth Charter" chapter with Michael C. Slaby. In Wals, A.E.J. (Ed.), *Social Learning Towards A More Sustainable World: Principles, Perspectives, and Praxis*. Wageningen Academic Press, 2007.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "Sustainability as an Outcome of Transformative Learning," chapter with Arjen Wals. *Drivers and Barriers for Implementing Sustainable Development in Higher Education*, UNESCO, Paris, 2006.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze (Ed.). *The Earth Charter in Action: Toward A Sustainable World*. Royal Tropical Institute Publishers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. 2005. Published in Dutch, Spanish, and English languages.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "Sustainability as Emergence: A Plea for Transformative Learning in Higher Education" with Arjen E.J. Wals. *Earth Ethics*, Spring 2005, Vol. 13, No. 1.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "How the Earth Charter Can Give Meaning to Education for Sustainable Development." *Earth Ethics*, Spring 2005, Vol. 13, No. 1.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze, and Arjen Wals, eds. *Higher Education and the Challenge of Sustainability: Problematics, Promise and Practice*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 2004.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "The Earth Charter: Possibilities for Ethical Policy in Practice." *Environmental Education, Ethics, and Action in Southern Africa*. 2004.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "The Earth Charter as an Integrative Force for Peace Education and Environmental Education." In *Educating Toward a Culture of Social and Ecological Peace*. SUNY Press, 2004.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "What If...? Educational Possibilities of the Earth Charter." *Educational Studies* 36.1 (2004). Special issue on eco-justice and education.

Wohlpart, A. James and Peter Blaze Corcoran. Review of *Wild Card Quilt: Taking a Chance on Home*. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 11.2 (Summer 2004): 307-308.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze, Kim E. Walker, and Arjen Wals. "Case Studies, Make-Your-Case Studies, and Case Stories: A Critique of Case Study Methodology in Sustainability in Higher Education." *Environmental Education Research* (February, 2004).

#### Environmental and Sustainability Education presentations by Center Staff

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Keynote speaker, "Toward an Enduring Earth: The Earth Charter in Higher Education for Sustainable Development." *International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development*, Yonsei University. Seoul, South Korea, January 31, 2007.

Wohlpart, A. James. "Environmental Humanities." *Fifth Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities*. Honolulu, Hawaii: January 12-15, 2007.

Wohlpart, A. James. "Listening to the Forgotten Language: A Journey into Stillness and Peace." *27<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the International Listening Association*, "Listening: The Language of Peace." Salem, Oregon: April 20-22, 2006.

- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Keynote speaker, “La Educación Superior y la Carta de la Tierra,” and workshop organizer, Earth Charter adoption by the University of Guanajuato. Guanajuato, Mexico, March 8-9, 2006.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze, Brandon Hollingshead, Donna Roberts, and Jessica Solimano. Invited presenters, "Earth Charter + 5: Toward a Sustainable Future". Earth Charter of Sanibel, Sanibel Island, Florida, January 31, 2006.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. “Toward a Sustainable World: The Earth Charter in Action.” Talk given at Shell Point Village, Fort Myers, Florida, January 27, 2006.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited participant and chapter author, “Drivers and Barriers for Learning for Sustainable Development in Higher Education,” Goteborg, Sweden, December 7-9, 2005.
- Roberts, Donna and A. James Wohlpart. Facilitators, Higher Education Thematic Session. *Earth Charter+5 Meeting*. Amsterdam: 7-8 November 2005.
- Hollingshead, Brandon and Jessica Solimano. Invited participants, *Earth Charter Youth Initiative+5 Meeting*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: November 5-6, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited presenter, “Sustainability in Higher Education: Developing a Comprehensive Research Plan and Strategies,” *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*, Halifax, Nova Scotia, October 27-29, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. “Mainstreaming Environment and Sustainability in African Universities,” United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya, October 12, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited Scientific Committee Member, invited rapporteur and chair, *World Environmental Education Conference III*, Torino, Italy, October 2-6, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. “The Earth Charter in Practice: Ethics for Environmental Education.” Invited talk at *World Environmental Education Conference III*, Torino, Italy, October 5, 2005.
- Wohlpart, A. James. “A Voice for the Earth: The Rachel Carson Center and Environmental Literature at Florida Gulf Coast University.” Presentation at *Sixth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*. Eugene, Oregon: June 22, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. *Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership Resource Project Consultation*. Goteborg, Sweden: 8 May 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited participant, *Wege Foundation Conference on Economicology*, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2005.

- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "The Earth Charter and Education for Sustainable Development." Cypress Cove, Fort Myers, Florida, April 13, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "The Earth Charter in Education for Sustainable Development." Talk given at *Southern African Development Corporation Regional Environmental Education Programme*, Howick, South Africa, March 14, 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "What's Love Got to Do with It?: Caring for Earth in Higher Education." University Lecture. *UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development Speaker Series*. Michigan State University: 14 February 2005.
- Hollingshead, Brandon. Facilitator, *Earth Charter Study Circle and Discussion Group*. Hosted by Earth Charter of Sanibel. Sanibel Island, Florida: 21 February 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "An Ethical Framework For Sustainability In The Context Of Globalization" Keynote Address: Plenary Conference Session. *International Conference on Education for a Sustainable Future*. Ahmedabad, India: 18 January 2005.
- Hollingshead, Brandon. "Everglades Education Initiatives: Inspiring Citizen and Community Communication." *Everglades Coalition Conference*. Naples, Florida: 14 January 2005.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. *Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership Resource Project Consultation*. Burlington, Vermont: 12-15 July 2004.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. "State of the US Campus Environment." *Sustainable Development Education: Holistic and Integrative Educational and Management Approaches For Ensuring Sustainable Societies*. Monterrey, Mexico: 10 June 2004.
- Wohlpart, A. James and Peter Blaze Corcoran. "The Challenges of Infusing Sustainability Across the Campus: The Curriculum and Campus Operations at Florida Gulf Coast University." *Sustainable Development Education: Holistic and Integrative Educational and Management Approaches For Ensuring Sustainable Societies*. Monterrey, Mexico: 9 June 2004.
- Wohlpart, A. James and Peter Blaze Corcoran. *Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership Resource Project Consultation. Sustainable Development Education: Holistic and Integrative Educational and Management Approaches For Ensuring Sustainable Societies*. Monterrey, Mexico: 8 June 2004.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited Participant and Rapporteur. *Swedish Prime Minister's Conference on Education for Sustainable Development*. Goteborg, Sweden: 4-7 May 2004.
- Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited Keynote Address. *Japanese National Conference of Decade of Education for Sustainable Development*. Tokyo, Japan: 6 March 2004

Wohlpert, A. James and Peter Blaze Corcoran. "Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership Resource Project Consultation." *Reorienting Teacher Education Toward Sustainability Conference*. Miami, Florida: 14 February 2004.

#### Scholarly positions held in Environmental and Sustainability Education

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. *Southern African Journal of Environmental Education, Ethics and Action*, Grahamstown, South Africa, Journal of the Southern African Environmental Education Association, Editorial Board Member.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*, Hamburg, Germany, Editorial Board Member.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. UNESCO United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, Reference Group Member.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Invited Scientific Committee member and Co-chair of Programme Strand on Applied Ethics and Environmental Education, World Environmental Education Congress IV, Durban, South Africa, July 2-6, 2007.

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. International Advisory Committee for the UNESCO Fourth International Conference on Environmental Education (Tbilisi + 30).

Wohlpert, A. James. Redesign Scholar, National Center for Academic Transformation.

Wohlpert, A. James. Advisory Board Member, University Press of Florida.

Wohlpert, A. James. Lead Reviewer, Quality Enhancement Plan for the University of North Texas' SACS Reaffirmation of Accreditation.

#### Earth Charter Meal

We continue to develop the Earth Charter Meal as a pedagogy of the Earth Charter. We gained important experience through the successful FGCU Earth Charter Meal on Friday, September 22, 2006. We put this experience to use at the Earth Charter International Council's meeting in Amsterdam, where we served an Earth Charter Meal on October 2, 2006 in partnership with the Center for Respect of Life and Environment. We were also pleased to be invited by CRLE to co-sponsor an Earth Charter Meal at the Latin American Launch of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in San Jose, Costa Rica on November 1, 2006. We are developing a guide to the Earth Charter Meal as a pedagogy for the Earth Charter to be widely distributed by the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development at University for Peace.

Ongoing research projects

Corcoran, Peter Blaze. Environmental education and education for sustainable development in the South Pacific, emphasis on Fiji. Informal affiliation with The University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji. Invited to serve as a Visiting Professor, August to December 2007.

Earth Charter in Southern Africa, emphasis on education.

Wohlpart, A. James. A Mind of Sky and Thunder: Remembering the Forgotten Knowledge in Contemporary Women's Literature. Emphasis on women's literature, Native American literature, and environmental literature. Book project.

GOAL II

To educate for an ecologically literate citizenry and to advance civic engagement in the critical environmental issues of the Western Everglades and Barrier Islands. Key areas of emphasis will include ethics, activism, and the literary arts.

Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture Series

In order to advance the goal of ethics, activism, and the literary arts, we have created the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture, a signature event of the Center, that works to bring public intellectuals to southwest Florida to discuss issues such as sustainability, ethics, democracy, and literature.

*Eyes to See Otherwise: The World of Homero Aridjis*

Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures delivered by Homero Aridjis

Friday, February 23, 2007, 1:30 pm

Florida Gulf Coast University, Arts Complex Theater Lab, Fort Myers, Florida

Friday, February 23, 2007, 7:30 pm

Thomas A. Edison Congregational Church, Fort Myers, Florida

*Lessons from Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, Katrina, Rita, and Wilma: Environment, Politics, and Global Destabilization*

Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures delivered by David W. Orr

Friday, February 18, 2006, 10:30 am

Florida Gulf Coast University, Whitaker Hall Sprint Room, Fort Myers, Florida

Friday, February 18, 2006, 7:00 pm

St. Michael and All Angels Church, Sanibel Island, Florida

*A Barbara Kingsolver Weekend*

Spring 2005 Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture delivered by Barbara Kingsolver

Friday, February 25, 2005, 7:00-8:30 PM  
Schein Hall at BIG ARTS Complex, Sanibel Island, Florida

*Open Space of Democracy Tour with Terry Tempest Williams*

Fall 2004 Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures

Monday, October 25, 2004, 10:00 – 11:30 AM  
Florida Gulf Coast University Student Union Ballroom, Fort Myers, Florida

Monday, October 25, 2004, 7:00-8:30 PM  
St. Michael and All Angels Church, Sanibel Island, Florida

*Open Space of Democracy Student Dialogue with Terry Tempest Williams*

Sunday, October 24, 2004, 1:00-2:30 PM  
Florida Gulf Coast University Student Union Ballroom, Fort Myers, Florida

*Ethics of Sustainability: A Dialogue with Mary Evelyn Tucker and Alison Hawthorne Deming*  
Inaugural Rachel Carson Distinguished Lectures

Thursday, March 25, 2004, 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
St. Michael and All Angels Church, Sanibel Island, Florida

Friday, March 26, 2004, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon  
Florida Gulf Coast University Senate Chambers, Fort Myers, Florida

Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue Series

The Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue series focuses on sustainability and education for a sustainable future, including students' role as stewards of natural, cultural, social and political environments. Intended to spark youth activism and inspire the intellectual climate among the FGCU and southwest Florida communities, the initiative fosters an open space for dialogue and student ownership of that dialogue.

*Food, Ethics, and Sustainability: A Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue Panel Discussion*

Tuesday, September 16, 2006, 7:00 pm  
Florida Gulf Coast University, Sugden Welcome Center  
Fort Myers, Florida

Panelists represented The Humane Society of the United States, Coalition of Immokalee Workers, California Student Sustainability Coalition, and Worden Farm. Closing remarks by Oannes Arthur Pritzker, Director, Yat Kitischee Native Center.

*Social Justice and Human Rights in Immokalee, Florida: A Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue Panel Discussion*

Tuesday, October 18, 2005, 7:00 pm  
Florida Gulf Coast University, Sugden Welcome Center, Fort Myers, Florida

Panel discussion moderated by Faculty Associate Dr. Maria F. Roca. Panelists included faculty and community groups. Center Board member Oannes Arthur Pritzker served as respondent and advisor.

Talks by Young International Scholars

*Youth Participation in Sustainable Development: An East African Perspective*  
Presentation and conversation by Philip Molo Osano

Thursday, March 22, 2007, 2:00 - 3:00pm  
Student Union, Room 213, Florida Gulf Coast University

*Environmental Challenges: Local Activism and Global Affairs*  
Talk given by Dumisani Nyoni of Zimbabwe as part of campus events during National Environmental Education Week.

Tuesday, April 12, 2005  
Florida Gulf Coast University Senate Chambers, Fort Myers, Florida

Other Center Events

*University Lecture Series*

The Associate Director has co-chaired (2006) and chaired (2007) the University Lecture Series Committee. Both the Director and Associate Director worked with the Chair of the ULS Committee to bring President Mikhail Gorbachev for the Spring 2006 University Lecture held Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 6:00 PM. The 2007 University Lecturer was Colin Powell. He spoke on Friday, March 23, 2007 at 6:00 PM in FGCU's Alico Arena.

*Center Outreach in Naples*

The Center's first outreach in the Naples community was held in conjunction with President Mikhail Gorbachev's University Lecture on March 28, 2006. Alexander Likhotal, President of Green Cross International, spoke at the home of Board of Advisors Member Jack Crocker to a gathering of Center Advisors and staff, University officials, and members of the Naples

community. Likhotal spoke on the Earth Charter, the work of Green Cross International, and previewed President Gorbachev's University Lecture.

*Julia Butterfly Hill*

The Associate Director coordinated the visit of Julia Butterfly Hill to Florida Gulf Coast University. All FGCU freshmen read her book *The Legacy of Luna* as part of the First Year Experience. The Center was a major sponsor of this event.

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00-9:00 pm  
Student Union Ballroom, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers, Florida

Thursday, November 3, 6:30-8:00 pm  
Doris Corbin Auditorium, Edison College, Fort Myers, Florida

Center Outreach with WGCU FM 90.1

Speakers in both the Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture and Terry Tempest Williams Student Dialogue Series above are regularly featured on the public radio call-in show of the Campus station, "Gulf Coast Live." Recent broadcasts have included Homero Aridjis, Rick Clugston and Tim Galarneau, and David Orr.

Florida Gulf Coast University Renaissance Academy Course in Environmental Literature

The annual Environmental Literature class focuses on consideration of politics and ethics. Emphasis was on the development of ethics and the role of politics in communities. Through the readings and discussions in the course, each student works towards developing her or his own politics and ethics of sustainability. Readings have included selected works from Alison Hawthorne Deming, Barbara Kingsolver, David Orr, Janisse Ray, Steven C. Rockefeller, Mary Evelyn Tucker, Terry Tempest Williams, and the Earth Charter. Many of these authors have come to the class to interact with the students.

### GOAL III

To provide professional development for educators in environmental education and education for sustainability. The priority audiences will include University administrators, faculty, and in-service and pre-service teachers.

#### Teaching materials

The Center developed curriculum material for FGCU faculty on teaching President Mikhail Gorbachev in advance of his University Lecture. This Gorbachev Primer was distributed to Faculty Associates of the Center and made widely available online for University faculty.

We continue to develop an Earth Charter teaching guide for the University. We have several good ideas from faculty and plan to develop a draft by Autumn 2007.

#### In Service for Teachers

Workshop with the Lee County Environmental Education Program Faculty Representatives. Conversation and Lecture, “Educational possibilities for the Earth Charter.” April 4, 2007

#### Faculty Associates conversations with visiting scholars

*Sciences and Humanities in Sustainability Education, A Conversation with Alison Hawthorne Deming*

On February 24, 2007 during the 2007 Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture, several faculty gathered with Associate Director Jim Wohlpart and poet Alison Hawthorne Deming to discuss the importance of sustainability as an overarching concept among the humanities and the sciences.

*Creating Spiritual Community, A Conversation with Mary Evelyn Tucker*

This was an informal conversation during the 2006 Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture weekend. It continued a tradition begun with “Sherry with Terry” during the Autumn 2004 Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture weekend. Such conversations provide the opportunity for Faculty associated with the Center to discuss matters of importance to them with members of our Board of Advisors. We believe these discussions contribute to the professional growth of faculty and staff and allow Advisors to better understand the University. The discussion with Mary Evelyn centered around questions of creating spiritual community.

*Environmental and Sustainability Education in Higher Education, Lunch and Conversation with David Orr*

The Center and the FGCU Quality Enhancement Plan Training Institute co-hosted a student and faculty luncheon and conversation with David Orr on Friday, February 17, 2006, 12:00-1:30 p.m. The QEP Training Institute provides development activities for faculty that are teaching courses that address the two learning outcomes—ecological perspective and community involvement.

The luncheon provided attendees an opportunity to discuss the concept of sustainability in higher education with one of the leading experts in the field.

### Earth Charter+5

Earth Charter+5 marked the fifth anniversary of the launch of the Earth Charter and began a new phase of the Earth Charter Initiative. The conference in Amsterdam coincided with the twenty-fifth anniversary on the throne of Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands. Associate Director Jim Wohlpart and Graduate Assistant Donna Roberts facilitated a thematic session on utilizing the Earth Charter in Higher Education. Student Assistants Brandon Hollingshead and Jessica Solimano participated in events of the Earth Charter Youth Initiative. We were privileged to be able to have attendance by five staff members with the support of the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, NCDO, and Earth Charter of Sanibel.

### Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership - Resource Project

We work closely with University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, which is the higher education program of CRLE. This work has primarily been with the Global Higher Education for Sustainability Partnership - Resource Project. Funding from ULSF has greatly extended this work. The Director and Associate Director have participated in regional consultations on this project in several regions of the world. The last of the series of global consultations took place in March 2005 in South Africa with participants from throughout Central and Southern Africa; it took place under the leadership of the Center.

### Halifax Consultation: Sustainability in Higher Education: Developing a Comprehensive Research Plan and Strategies

The goal of the Halifax Consultation was to develop a research plan that will benefit sustainability in higher education stakeholders through increased knowledge and action. To meet the goal and objectives of the Research Plan, the Halifax Consultation brought together a group of international sustainability in higher education researchers to concentrate on assessing the current state of Sustainability in Higher Education research, and on developing a comprehensive sustainability in higher education research plan and strategies to guide academics and practitioners in the future. The outcome of these sessions will be a series of working papers and reports outlining the various aspects of a global and comprehensive sustainability in higher education research plan.

### Collaboration with Other Educational Institutions

We look forward to educational activities with partners, both on-campus and off-campus. This would include other FGCU university centers, such as the Whitaker Center for Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education, and community partners such as the Wahkochobee

Earth Charter Project, and public school partners such as the Lee County Schools' Environmental Education Monday Group. There will be cooperation with the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development of The University of the South Pacific through the Director's sabbatical work there as a Visiting Research Professor.

#### GOAL IV

To provide opportunities for faculty, administrators, staff, and students from across the campus to engage in scholarly activity, teaching, and service related to environmental and sustainability education. The Center will cooperate with other FGCU Centers and Institutes to advance common interests and to achieve the University's environmental mission.

##### Faculty and Staff Associates

Several faculty from all the Colleges of FGCU have expressed an interest in serving as Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education Faculty Associates in research. Over time, we hope this will greatly enhance opportunities for faculty and the research capability of the Center itself. We have been engaged much less actively with this group than we expected. We see today's meeting as an important opportunity to advance the opportunities to share faculty interest in education for sustainability.

##### Quality Enhancement Plan

The Director has served as a committee member in the development of the Quality Enhancement Plan for the University's reaccreditation under the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Over the next year, the Director and Associate Director will continue to assist in the QEP process.

##### President's Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee

The Director and two student assistants sit on the President's Environmental Stewardship Advisory Committee, which has played a key role in supporting the environmental mission of the institution. We are concerned about the lack of robust participation by the ESAC in Campus affairs.

##### Study of current food practices, including humane and sustainable alternatives and draft guide to eating humanely and sustainably with the Earth Charter at Florida Gulf Coast University

The Center has undertaken a study of current food practices at Florida Gulf Coast University, with an emphasis on examining the regional, humane, and sustainable alternatives available to student diners. We are developing a model of the University's food sourcing, and will evaluate

these practices against a set of ethical criteria inspired directly by the Earth Charter’s vision of “universal responsibility.” The results of this study are being used to create a guide for eating humanely and sustainably with the Earth Charter at FGCU and will be broadly useful among many other institutions of higher education.

### Successful Initiative for Cage-free Eggs in Dining Services

On February 9, 2007, the Center scored a modest victory for humane food systems when campus food service provider Aramark announced a switch to cage-free liquid – a change that will ensure nearly 98 percent of eggs eaten by student diners will have been laid by chickens outside of battery cages. This is a direct example of students collaborating with Aramark to bring a humane food alternative to the University. The Center’s Food Working Group is examining possibilities for future food initiatives, and seeks to uplift the University’s environmental mission across dining services.

### Earth Charter Meal at Florida Gulf Coast University

On September 12, 2006, the Center hosted an Earth Charter Meal on campus. This was a beginning exercise in linking the Earth Charter to sustainable living choices. The Center used the meal as an educational tool to bring together student leaders from a diverse range of campus groups and organizations united around the common goal of working toward a humane and sustainable University food system. In preparation for the meal, Center staff worked with Aramark to bring vegetarian and organic options to the table. A sustainable menu was created based on criteria such as regional food availability and fair trade. The evening concluded with a “World’s Café” discussion on humane and sustainable food initiatives at FGCU.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Memberships with non-University Organizations

*Center for Respect for Life and Environment:* CRLE promotes reverence by humanity for the natural environment. Intentions of the Center are to bring awareness and concern to the environment through higher education and religious institutions. We also work closely with University Leaders for a Sustainable Future, which is the higher education program of CRLE. This work is primarily with the Global Higher Education for Sustainability Resource Project. Funding from ULSF has greatly extended this work.

*Earth Charter Initiative:* The College of Arts and Sciences is in the process of negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding with the Earth Charter International Council. The Center will serve as manager of this working relationship on behalf of the Dean. Brandon Hollingshead works with the Earth Charter Youth Initiative Core Group leadership. Peter Blaze Corcoran is an advisor to Earth Charter International and is a member of the Education Committee.

*Orion Grassroots Network*: Membership with OGN began in October of 2004. OGN is a network of environmental and community based organizations across the nation. OGN groups are diverse in primary interests, as efforts range from conservation to environmental education to environmental justice.

*People United for the Restoration of our Rivers and Estuaries (PURRE)*: PURRE promotes the protection and restoration of the Caloosahatchee, its estuary, the Southwest Florida environment, and the broader South Florida ecosystem.

#### Partnership with Green Cross International

As a result of the visit of President Mikhail Gorbachev to Florida Gulf Coast University in March 2006, we have been invited to host the winner of the Russian National Junior Water Prize. The contest stimulates creative activities of high school students focusing on problems of drinking water, treatment of waste waters, preservation of biodiversity in urban and rural fresh water reservoirs, and studies of correlation of water-related, climatic, and other factors. The Office of the President has agreed to support the room, board, and living expenses of the winner of the Prize. The Center will facilitate this visit on behalf of the University in Summer Term 2007.

#### Rachel Carson Award

On occasion, not even annually, the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education gives its highest award to a recipient who embodies Rachel Carson's contributions most relevant to the Center: public policy-based on sound science and ethics, active participation of an ecologically-literate citizenry, and appreciation of the natural world through the literary arts and environmental education. The recipients have been:

Terry Tempest Williams – October 2004

Richard Clugston – February 2006

Bill Hammond – February 2007