

Environmental Policy Initiative
September 2004 Newsletter

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Ohio State Biocomplexity Project funded by NSF – \$1.4 million over 4 years

At last, the Biocomplexity project, “Large Lake Ecosystems: Modeling Interactions among Human, Biological, and Physical Processes”, has been funded by the National Science Foundation, which will provide \$1.4 million over 4 years beginning September 1, 2004. David Culver, Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, is the principal investigator.

The Environmental Policy Initiative played major role in this successful proposal. EPI funded a Biocomplexity Working Group that

- Identified research talent at Ohio State, including a few key individuals in rather unexpected places, and assembled a team that contributed extensively to refining project objectives
- Organized and sponsored 2 workshops that brought together OSU biocomplexity researchers and distinguished national and international authorities, to help outline and develop a viable proposal
- Completed a substantial initial modeling exercise that gave substance and credibility to our proposal

EPI members on the project team include Co-Principal Investigators Elena Irwin and Alan Randall, and senior investigators Tim Haab, “Jay” Jayaprakash, Jay Martin, Alan Murray, and Keith Warren.

Additional information from The Ohio State University Research Communications can be found at <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/biocomp.htm>

Seed Research Grants

EPI offers Seed Research Grants to advance research on topics within the field of environmental policy science. Proposed projects must be collaborative and multidisciplinary, preferably across more than one department or college. Preference will be given to proposals that establish new collaborations among OSU researchers. A primary selection criterion will be the potential

incremental contribution of a Seed Grant to the eventual establishment of a strong and well-funded research program.

Over the summer, a Seed Grant was awarded to further research of watershed management in the drainage basin of Quito, Ecuador. The research, headed by Prof. Douglas Southgate, is being done in the context of meeting the capital's growing need for water. The funded project is eliciting farmers' willingness to accept compensation in exchange for reducing hillside farming and other depletive activities. This contingent-valuation information will further research on alternatives to damming and piping in water from another drainage basin.

EPI Support for Visitors

EPI has the ability to bring in speakers from across campus or around the world to speak about issues in the environmental policy and science field. If you would like to have someone speak at OSU, please email epi@osu.edu and let us know! We'll do our best to secure a date.

Potential visitors

EPI is currently working with Prof. J. Craig Jenkins to bring Dr. Robert Brulle of Drexel University to campus. Jenkins and Brulle have been working on tracing the organizational foundings/deaths/mergers of environmental organizations in the U.S. from 1877-2000. EPI sponsored seminars will focus on some of the results of this work and on the environmental justice movement in general.

EPI is also working with OSU's Clusters of Interdisciplinary Research on International Themes (CIRIT) and Prof. Ileana Rodriguez to help bring Dr. Astrid Ulloa Cubillos, an anthropologist interested in environment/development issues, to campus as part of CIRIT Seminar/Lecture series, see <http://oia.osu.edu/cirit/clustertwo/global/speakers.htm>. Dr. Ulloa Cubillos' research is on environmental crisis, using a critical view of the relationship of indigenous people with the environment and their use of political strategies to propose alternative developments.

Watch for further announcements about these and other EPI distinguished visiting speakers.

Summer Dissertation Prospectus Grants

The Environmental Policy Initiative offers a research grant program for OSU graduate students preparing doctoral dissertation proposals for work in environmental policy. Recipients receive an award of \$1200/month over the summer, and also have the opportunity to present their work before the EPI membership the following year.

Congratulations to 2004 recipients:

- **In-Young Yeo** (City and Regional Planning, Advisors: Steven Gordon & Jean Michel Guildmann), *Modeling optimal land-use patterns and critical buffer land locations for reducing nonpoint source pollution.*
- **Louie Rivers III** (Natural Resources, Advisor: Dr. Joseph L. Arvai), *Investigating intra-racial differences in African-American risk perception and perception formation relative to the White Male Effect*

On July 23, last year's grant recipients presented an EPI workshop on the progress of their research. These presentations included:

- **Johanna Haas** (Geography, Advisor: Becky Mansfield), *Reclaiming the Mountains: Large-scale Surface Mine Reclamation and Economic Development in the Southern Appalachian Coalfields.*
- **Alicia Weaver** (Sociology, Advisor: Kazimierz M. Slomczynski), *Investigating the Link Between Environmental Values and Behavior.*
- **Xiaolan Wu** (Geography, Advisor: Alan Murray), *Quantifying Spatial Properties of Landscape in Habitat Design.*

Graduate Student Professional Travel Grants

The Environmental Policy Initiative is offering Graduate Student Professional Travel Grants of up to \$600 for graduate students presenting research papers at professional meetings related to environmental policy.

The travel fund program is offered to graduate students who hold associate membership status in EPI and are advised by an EPI faculty member. To qualify for a travel grant the graduate student must be the primary author and presenter of a paper at a professional conference related to environmental policy. In return for travel support, the recipient agrees to acknowledge the support of the Environmental Policy Initiative in a footnote on the conference paper and/or on a title page of their presentation.

Feel free to send any comments, questions, or suggestions to:

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