



Western Washington University  
**Western CEDAR**

---

Huxley College Newsletters - Historical  
Collection

Huxley College of the Environment

---

3-29-1995

## Huxley Hotline, 1995, March 29

Traci Edge  
*Western Washington University*

Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://cedar.wvu.edu/huxleynewsletters>

 Part of the [Environmental Sciences Commons](#), and the [Environmental Studies Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Edge, Traci and Huxley College of the Environment, Western Washington University, "Huxley Hotline, 1995, March 29" (1995). *Huxley College Newsletters - Historical Collection*. 18.  
<https://cedar.wvu.edu/huxleynewsletters/18>

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Huxley College of the Environment at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in Huxley College Newsletters - Historical Collection by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact [westerncedar@wwu.edu](mailto:westerncedar@wwu.edu).

# Huxley Hotline

## Thomas Terich Dons His Sea Legs for a Year Abroad

Huxley professor Thomas Terich is taking a professional leave to teach a semester at sea. He will be a faculty member aboard the University of Pittsburgh's *Semester at Sea Program*. This ship is essentially a floating university, which goes out twice a year with 400 or 500 students from all over the country.

Terich will teach geography and oceanography while aboard the ship. Twenty-five faculty are hired from all over the United States. He applied for the job a year and a half ago. Terich has been to Europe, South America and Russia. These world travels helped him land the job.

The ship will leave in September and return in December, stopping at several ports around the world. Field trips take the place of classroom teaching while at port, enhancing boat studies. Terich has field trips scheduled in Odessa, Ukraine, Israel and Ho Chi-Minh City, Vietnam. Students who attend the semester at sea will receive credit at their home university. A few of the courses offered are cultural anthropology, global ecology, marketing and economy of China and USSR. This is an expensive way to learn for students, costing \$12,500 per semester.

Courses which would normally be taught by Terich will be canceled or there will be a replacement teacher. Terich hopes to obtain a whole new view of the world. "My wife always hoped to see the world by marrying a

geographer, now she will," Terich said. "I hope to bring back the importance of the world to my students." He also hopes to make new friendships.

While interviewing Terich, I could sense his great excitement to teach while at sea. He acts bubbly and can't believe it will soon be here. His excitement is obviously building day by day. He will be great for this unique teaching experience.

I think students at Western will benefit from his semester at sea and may end up learning more from him upon his return.



Photo by Cassandra Burdsal

Christine Armev

## Don't Gut Endangered Species Act

*As it appeared in the Bellingham Herald "Letters" section on March 3, 1995.*

I am concerned about recent threats to the strength of the Endangered Species Act. Congress is currently focusing on ways to cut the federal budget.

Many current proposals would weaken environmental protection, including the Endangered Species Act.

There are many other ways to cut spending, some of which could actually be good for the environment.

For example, in 1993 the cost of running timber sales in 81 of the 110 National Forests with commercial timber sales programs far exceeded the receipts from the sale of timber resource sales. Specifically, Congress could stop construction of damaging and unnecessary roads in our National Forests, which would save at least \$100 million annually.

Gutting the Endangered Species Act is not a viable way to cut spending. In the long run, it will cost us more. Endangered species protect us by identifying early warning signals that - like the canary in a coal mine - could be

threats to human existence.

Additionally, thousands of jobs in businesses like the salmon fishing industry depend on protecting endangered species. In many cases the act brings economic benefits.

We need to give people the real facts on how the Act protects us. Part of this responsibility lies with local newspapers.

Julie Thielges

Good job Julie! This kind of activism gets people to take notice of your efforts and exposes people to environmental concerns like the Endangered Species Act.

If you have something to say to the Editor of the *Bellingham Herald*, their address is:  
PO Box 1277  
Bellingham, WA 98227

## Dean Smith: Leading Huxley with an Interest in Students

I admit that I was nervous when I went to his office. As he gestured me to sit at the far side of the table, my eyes darted around the room. I noticed his desk, which was covered with papers. On the other side of the room I saw a fish tank and a picture of a duck. After talking to him for a few minutes I realized there was nothing to be nervous about.

Talking to Dean Bradley Smith is very easy. He has a good sense of humor and an interest in students and the environment.

Huxley welcomed Smith as the new Dean last September. Smith now enjoys having a "life beyond work."

"I wanted to get back to the university life," Smith said, "I was a tenured professor before working at the EPA... I knew I wanted to be director of a program. I wanted to get away



Photo by Cassandra Burdsal

from the demanding federal life to university life."

Smith explained that a typical day for him at Huxley involves meet-

ing with students, looking at budget issues, charting the future.

"I'm on the phone around the country a lot. You have to network, establish links, make contacts, communicate!" Smith said. Although networking has sometimes been used as a negative term, Smith stressed that it is actually beneficial in the working world.

Describing Huxley as a "juggling act between social and natural sciences," the Dean said, "Keeping the balance is a commitment that all faculty members share. What is unique about Huxley is the ability to choose from a multitude of perspectives."

Looking back on the past six months, Smith has done a lot to promote Huxley. He has given a number of grants to students, funded Huxley

**See Dean on p. 3**

## Creation-centered Christianity Promotes Environmental Faith

I frequently hear Christianity being blasted in my classes at Huxley. Generalizations are often made concerning Christianity. I have found my peers often assume it only teaches human-centered ethics, where people are granted dominion over the environment. While their assumption makes sense considering the English translation of Genesis 1:28 says, "...fill the earth and subdue it," the idea of subduing nature comes more from our cultural background than from the actual teachings of the Bible.

A couple of weeks ago, I spoke to Shirley Osterhaus of the Shalom Center and discovered many of the English translations of the original Hebrew Biblical text are inaccurate.

"The more accurate English interpretation of 'dominion' or 'subdue' is 'caress,'" Shirley said. "Humans do not have dominion over the earth. Humans need to caress the earth."

Christianity has been used as a scapegoat for our Western culture's lack of respect toward the environment. Anytime we get into trouble we use the Genesis story to back up our actions. As a culture, we take for

granted all that sustains us and trample over that which we only recognize as commodities.

"Part of the reason the church has taken so long to arrive at a sense of environmental consciousness is because our culture has become alienated from nature," said David Bloom, Director of Urban Ministry for the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle.

There is a definitive movement in Christianity to reassess humanity's role in nature. Many people today are looking for a way to unite their spirituality with their link to nature. Creation-centered spirituality, an alternative way of viewing Christianity, has offered me that opportunity.

Creation-centered spirituality takes a more holistic approach to viewing the environment. It is universe-centered rather than human oriented. According to Shirley, humans are just one of the spokes in the wheel of creation. God is looked at as mother and child as well as father. Sexuality is viewed as a celebration of passion. Eternal life is not something achieved after death but during the present. Traditional righteousness is

abandoned for justice in creation-centered spirituality. Human's connection with nature through the theory of evolution is accepted, while the biblical creation story is valued for its symbolic rather than literal message.

"I think people are changing now because of the state of the planet," Shirley said. "We are becoming more conscious that something is happening and we need to respond to it. We are looking at what we are doing and comparing it to what God's design was."

Creation-centered spirituality also borrows teachings from other faiths and cultures making Christianity less egocentric and more open-minded. As David told me, he feels Christianity is just one way, to be in touch with spirituality and God. Creation-centered spirituality is a way for people to reliance themselves to the circle of life.

I think it is time for critical Huxley students to reevaluate Christianity with the same open-mindedness they advocate for environmental issues.

**DeAnna Woolston**



## Riding Horses in an Old Growth Graveyard

A couple of Saturdays ago, Elissa and I packed our horses in a trailer and headed for Galbraith Mountain. Gray dampness hovered at our shoulders throughout the day and the rain was a steady companion. We didn't care about the weather though, we just wanted the chance to ride in an open space. Simon, Elissa's young thoroughbred, mirrored our excitement by prancing and hopping the entire five hours of our ride. My mare, DaMesa was more concerned about heaving her roly-polly body up the mountain side.

The ride up was fairly steep, but the view from atop the barren, clearcut mountain is fantastic. I was torn between enjoying being outside with my horse and lamenting the charred

stumps surrounding us. The foreground looked like an abandoned graveyard—each stump was a headstone and the second growth thicket represented the unattended lawn. In the distance, the lovely San Juan Islands wore a veil of mist. Together the opposing scenery created a confusing impression.



Photo by DeAnna Woolston



Photo by Elissa Torres

### Dean continued from p. 2

publications, and sent *The Planet* magazine to government representatives and the President.

"I've been giving presentations for different radio shows, meetings and media," he said.

Smith will have a booklet out next month called *Environmental Studies 2,000*, which will promote Huxley. He has also been working on a project with General Motors and the City of Detroit to develop an "Environmental Technology Institute" for alternative high school students.

Working with students is Smith's favorite activity as Dean. "I'm impressed with the diversity, commitment, and enthusiasm of the students that I have met here. The students reinforce the belief that there is a future to look forward to. I'm optimistic of Huxley's future; we have strong support of the administration."

When he is not working, Smith enjoys fishing, canoeing, archaeology and gardening. "I like the outdoors, and I've always been interested in the environment," he said.

As he thought of the things he

own. I know of no greater feeling than racing DaMesa along a straightway. I get a dual perspective of nature on top of DaMesa. Simon and DaMesa both had their heads held high and ears pricked forward. They reveled in their time without fences and arenas as much as we did.

Our adventure started across the street from Lake Padden and somehow we ended up right by Lake Whatcom. Elissa and I ate sandwiches on the yard of a saddlebred farm while our horses peacefully munched grass. I couldn't help wishing horses were still used for transportation. Perhaps then there would be more open spaces and days like this one would not be a rarity.

DeAnna Woolston

would still like to do at Huxley, Smith smiled and said, "Just give me another \$50,000 for my budget, and I will be really happy... Maybe we'll have a giant bake sale!"

Leaving his office, I felt comfortable knowing that the Dean's philosophy involves education and making a difference in the future. "It's all about you guys, it's all about how we prepare you to be positive change agents in the future," Smith said before I left his office. It is good to know that Dean Smith is promoting Huxley college and supporting its students.

Traci Edge

## Now Get Out There and Do Something!

The student employment center in Old Main 110 buzzed. Phones rang, people talked, and papers shuffled. I found Rachel Vaughn and Debbie Driver. They were both overwhelmed but apologetic.

"This has been the craziest day!" Debbie said, smiling. "It's usually busy in here, but today has been non-stop!"

Nevertheless, graduate students Driver and Vaughn, both AmeriCorps education volunteers, found the time to explain the program, their jobs, and how students can get involved in the program.

The AmeriCorps service network of programs is coordinated by the Corporation for National Service, which was set up in 1993 by President Clinton's National and Community Service Trust Act.

AmeriCorps volunteers serve either full-time (1,700 hours over nine to 12 months) or part-time (900 hours over two years) terms. After completing these terms, participants receive an educational award of \$4,725 for full-time work, and \$2,363 for part-time work.

Although AmeriCorps does not specifically offer internships for students, Driver suggested that interested students request funding through a participating business and AmeriCorps.

"If a student has an idea for an AmeriCorps position, that person would have to find a business sponsor and suggest the idea to the 'AmeriCorps team'," Vaughn said.

Serving Washington State, Vaughn teaches "consistency service learning" to different schools in the district. "I'm teaching the common foundation of service learning with flexibility," she said. Vaughn is also the founder of the LINK and LEAD programs.

Driver works nationally with five other colleges. She is currently working with campus faculty and students, and the LINK and LEAD programs. "Our job as service volunteers is to integrate service learning into the curriculum," Driver said.

AmeriCorps programs are evaluated by congress monthly or quarterly to determine funding, which is commissioned by the state.

Despite the fact that AmeriCorps provides "an opportunity for young people to dedicate a years service to the community while earning money for an education," the House of Representatives wants to eliminate the program. The elimination of AmeriCorps would mean the loss of its over 350 programs and 20,000 plus members.

"I'm urging students to contact their local senator to support AmeriCorps," Vaughn said. "Volunteer service can go on for so long and then you can make a career out of it."

For more information, contact Rachel Vaughn, Debbie Driver or Carolee Cummings at x 7728.

To participate call 1-800-94-ACORP for national programs, or 1-206-394-5839 for state programs. Participants must be ages 17 to 24 and must have a high school diploma or the equivalent.

Traci Edge



Photo by Cassandra Burdall

**Rally for Endangered Species: Thursday, March 30 at noon in Red Square. For more information call x6129.**

### *The Hotline Staff is:*

Editor: Traci Edge Copy Editor: Britney Bartlett-Curley

Writers: Christine Arney, Julie Thielges, DeAnna Woolston

Advisor: Michael Frome

*The Hotline is printed on unbleached, recycled paper.  
The opinions expressed in the Hotline are those of the Hotline staff.*