Greetings Naropa Community!

Many blessings to you, my fellow lovers of the Earth; as I sit here I am surrounded by countless acts of beauty of the earth coming alive and celebrating herself: the flowers are in bloom, birds are chirping and the sun shining. It is a beautiful spring day in Boulder, CO!

I am excited to write about Naropa University’s Earth Day celebrations, which took place April 22, 2009. Earth Day is a day meant to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth. It was founded in 1970 by the U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson and is now celebrated in many countries around the globe.

Here at Naropa University, we celebrated Earth Day on campus in true Naropa style! The day was designed and implemented as a joint project between the Environmental Studies Department, the Founders Society and Student Life Programming (SLP). Earth Day fell in the middle of Naropa University’s Naropa Fest week, which was facilitated by SLP and aimed to be a week of fun and celebration for all students, faculty, and staff and give everyone a chance to show their school spirit.

As a graduate assistant in the Environmental Studies Department, I had the pleasure of coordinating the student portion of Earth Day and working with SLP and the Founders Society to guarantee a fun-filled celebration for everyone on campus. The intent of our Earth Day celebration was to foster an atmosphere of celebration for our dear and sacred planet.

Below is a list of the events that took place:

- Boulder Creek Clean-up, sponsored by Naropa University’s student group R.O.O.T. (Reconnecting on Outer Terrain).
- Meditation for the Climate, sponsored by The Naropa Subtle Activism Group.
- “Take Back the Parking Lot” with student and community booths and an open mic for sharing poetry and spoken word.
- Live music on the green by Naomi Maddux, Angela Romany, part of Naropa’s Afro Pop Group and Lunch Money!
- A community lunch, with burgers & veggie burgers sponsored by the Environmental Studies Department.
- Keynote Speaker, Robert Martin (former National Ombudsman of the United States Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C.)
- Eco-Puppet Show (student led)
- Aikido and Yoga (student led)
- The Inaugural Celebration of the William D. Jones Community Greenhouse with a formal tea offering led by Naropa Tea Master Michael Ricci, a song and water blessing led by Environmental Studies Department Staff, and vine-lifting (ribbon cutting) by Naropa President Tom Coburn.

Continued on page 6
Anne Parker and co-author Dominique Susani are well underway towards completing writing their book entitled *Art of the Master Builders Volume 1: Earth Energies*. This book provides the key principles underlying the European tradition of working with Earth energies, long lost and now being revived. Anne's work in this area has led to research that she is planning to carry out during her up-coming sabbatical. Anne will be walking across France and exploring Black Madonna sites to study the history and Earth energy properties of the sites, many of which far predate Christianity. This work of uncovering the old knowledge is a calling towards healing the culture-nature split in the collective European psyche and the personal psyche as well. 

During the sabbatical Anne also hopes to put substantial work into two books: *Blessings Along the Body of the Goddess* and *Initiatory Pathways*, the former, about Anne's work in the Himalayan region over many years, and the latter, a textbook for the Geography, Pilgrimage and Sacred Landscape course she teaches at Naropa University. Working on behalf of her low-income community, particularly moving forward actively on sustainability issues, and engaging in meditation retreat are key elements of her plan for service and renewal during her sabbatical.

"As a trained scientist who spent many years looking at the Earth-based and locally sustainable lives of Australian Aboriginal communities, villages in the remote hills of Nepal and in Central Tibet (prior to the Chinese takeover), I have sought models for how to live in balance and harmony with the Earth from cultures that have maintained this knowledge. It never occurred to me that along the way I would find my ‘way home’ to discovering missing pieces in my European heritage and the culture/ nature split therein. Recovery of reciprocal respect for Earth and land, and internal forgiveness for the destruction of other cultures and lands, comes out of this work. It would have been hard to promulgate such conscious and unconscious destruction, as came out of Europe, had we not initially violently suppressed our own connections to the Earth. I see this healing of the European past as a useful element to join others in leading towards a socially and ecologically just and sustainable world that arises inseparably from spiritual life and respect for all. Such a multicultural world calls for true partnerships and heartfelt advocacy for the rights and needs of all people, all life."

Sherry Ellms was on sabbatical in the fall. She spent one month in Thailand.

I was in Thailand from mid-November to mid-December during the one-week occupation of the Bangkok International Airport by the PAD (Peoples Alliance for Democracy). A few days prior to that I was staying with Lin (Parin Jotisakulratana), 2000 graduate of the Masters in Environmental Leadership Program, in Bangkok where we

![Image](image-url)

Sherri Ellms and Lin (Parin Jotisakulratana): co-leading the NVC workshop in Bangkok.

Continued on page 9
It seems like only yesterday there was a flat grassy yard with a poster of the completed greenhouse that occupied the space where Naropa’s William D. Jones Community Greenhouse finally stands. After countless hours of labor and love from a combination of volunteers, students, faculty, staff and facilities, the William D. Jones Community Greenhouse is up and growing. Plants, inside and out, planted by the Permaculture classes have taken off. Freshly grafted fruit trees are healing and growing in the path of the greenhouse and should be planted outside next year or so. The center bed is freckled with little annual vegetable sprouts surrounding a small fig tree (donated by Anjali Vaidya), a passionflower vine and a very large squash plant. The outer bed is flourishing with tiny annual vegetables, including but not limited to: peppers, tomatoes, squash, radishes, beets, and various leafy greens. Seedlings beg to be transplanted as they sit upon the plastic shelves to the left of the entrance and on the beam above the pond. The pond is still and waits for the arrival of life in the form of fish, snails, along with aquatic plants. The outer east side of the greenhouse has been planted with perennial asparagus and awaits a fruit tree.

Over the summer the greenhouse will be maintained by volunteering students and facilities. In the Fall the addition of a greenhouse technician in the form of a graduate assistant, will be in charge of minimal maintenance in the greenhouse. The rest will be up to the students, and possibly Naropa’s landscaping team.

Dreamt up almost two years ago by students, the greenhouse is continuing to grow and change through the hands of many. If you haven’t already come and seen this magnificent greenhouse, take a moment and come visit; sit inside and notice the instant calm that rises through you and the warmth of the greenhouse that welcomes you.

Welcome!
The first graduating class of the re-designed MA in Environmental Leadership proudly and competently presented their year-long efforts of leading substantial sustainability projects within local businesses, communities, non-profits or governmental organizations.

In the second year of their program, after observing and volunteering in the organization of their choice to understand its goals, work and organizational systems, students developed a leadership project that directly benefitted the organization. Based on approval from the organization, and in full collaboration, they then carried out their project.

The students applied their professional, organizational, and interpersonal skills, developed through the previous year’s coursework, to support the organizations in moving towards a more sustainable, balanced and healthy world.

Students, Projects and Organizations

Amie Winters: Sustaining the Past and Future of Platt Farmhouse: History, Restoration, and Culture, City of Boulder.

Andrea Kintop: Building Community within Neighborhoods, Boulder County Transition

Erynn Simone: A New Web of Communication, PassageWorks Institute.

Beth Keel: Using Traditional Communication Styles and Bringing Ancestral Models Into the Community, Eagle Mountain Spiritual Council.

David Kerr: Endowment as a Living System, Naropa University Endowment Project.

Don Hall: Deepening Community Leadership, a University-level Course, Boulder County Transition.

Jessica Johnson: Supporting Life Purpose, creating a women’s entrepreneurial group


Kristin Wegner: Connection through Sharing Transformative Stories, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Colorado Chapter.

Matt Mulligan: Naropa and Zero Waste, Naropa University.

Natalie Shrewsbury: Beyond Sustainability: Permaculture Design at 910ARTS, Denver.


Roslyn Weiss: Community Roots Social Networking Experiment, Community Roots Urban CSA.

Skeeter Buck and Fabiana Nardi: Cluster Analysis and Sustainability Category Management, Colorado Organization for Responsible Economy.

Teresa Foster: Environmental Outreach and Education Web Site Project, City of Longmont, CO.
The most remarkable feature of this historical moment on Earth is not that we are on the way to destroying the world—we've actually been on the way for quite a while. It is that we are beginning to wake up, as from a millennia-long sleep, to a whole new relationship to our world, to ourselves and each other.

-Joanna Macy

On March 3 – 5, 2009, deep ecologist Joanna Macy graced Naropa with her presence during an Intensive for the first and second year MA students. According to Joanna, “the greatest revolution of our time is in the way we see the world.” Recognizing the destructive flaws in the mechanistic paradigm underlying the Industrial Growth Society, Joanna has dedicated more than thirty years to expound and promote what she calls the “Great Turning.” The Great Turning requires a shift from an economic system dependent on accelerating growth to the realization that we belong to a living, self-organizing cosmos and that the sustainability of the planet depends on our honoring all of creation.

Guiding students through many exercises to help them experience their full range of emotions about the plight of the planet, Joanna concluded the weekend with an exercise called “Going Forth,” an activity evoking the gifts we each carry and need to empower. The weekend nurtured mind and spirit of all who attended. It was a supreme privilege to be in the wise and compassionate presence of a true elder in environmental activism.

Joanna works with students in the Environmental Leadership program every other spring. Alternate years are a weekend intensive with master instructors of (Nonviolent Communication).

Begun in the 1970’s, Joanna’s “Work That Reconnects” aims to heal our broken relationship with the natural world through an array of experiential practices. The MA students had a wonderful opportunity to experience this Work directly from Joanna. She encouraged students to “find a new language for our new way of belonging to self and other that’s bigger than the identity of the Industrial Growth Society.” She repeatedly reminded them that living in this time of great anguish and uncertainty requires living in the present moment with no guarantee of positive outcome. “All we’re asked to do is step forward and offer our gifts.”

Joanna introduced students to the Elm Dance, a simple, lyrical but haunting dance that evolved out of her work in Russia after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, when villagers lost access to their beloved forest due to radiation fallout. Moving left to right, forward and backward to simple steps, in two concentric circles, students wordlessly embodied the reverence we find as we honor the earth and community.
Earth Day Continued

As you can see our day was packed with fun-filled activities that celebrated our mother planet. In all, at least 200 students, faculty, staff and community members attended the celebrations, showing their love and support for our planet! I enjoyed collaborating, celebrating and honoring our earth with everyone who was present, and invite all those who were not present to join us next year for Earth Day 2010!

Many blessings,
Kimberlee Derhammer

President’s Climate Commitment

Naropa University is a signatory of the American College & University President’s Climate Commitment. When Naropa’s President Tom Coburn signed the commitment, there were some 300 universities signed on, and now there are 620 nationwide. As you can see from an excerpt of the commitment (below), the Naropa community is moving towards climate neutrality. Naropa has already done amazing work on xeric landscapes, recycling, and wind energy use and has gathered the necessary information to make our full plan for campus sustainability.

Kai Abelkis, sustainability coordinator extraordinaire for the Boulder Hospital (locally known as the “Green God”), has been asked to join our efforts to coalesce an overall plan that will be presented to the Naropa Board of Trustees in fall 2009. Kai is thrilled to be working at Naropa and is open to all our interaction and input. Environmental Studies interviewed him as part of getting to know him and welcoming him to our community.

“The fight against global warming will shape the 21st century. College and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to eliminate global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by eliminating global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society.”

-excerpt from Presidents Climate Commitment
As part of my senior project in the Environmental Studies Department at Naropa University, I helped to organize a volunteer service project as part of the Green Apple Festival - the nation’s largest Earth Day celebration. I collaborated with Rock the Earth, and we partnered with the City of Denver Mayor’s Office GreenPrint program on an energy efficiency and sustainability education blitz. We focused on the Platt Park neighborhood in Denver.

On Saturday, April 25, 2009, over 40 volunteers gathered outside on a cold and damp morning. We received training on our canvass materials from the Mayor’s office, then were assigned our neighborhoods from the Platt Park People’s Association. Everyone was offered free food and drinks, along with a stylish recycled tote bag full of goodies.

The fun began when, in teams of two, we started knocking on each door of our assigned blocks. Each team visited approximately 60 homes that day. Each home visited was offered the service of exchanging their front porch light bulb from a standard bulb to a free compact fluorescent bulb (CFL). In addition, they were offered free services such as: signing up for a free recycling program, a pilot composting program, reduction of junk mail, participation in the neighborhood garden project, a free tree for their front yard, membership in the neighborhood people’s association, a low-cost battery-powered lawn mower, conversion to wind power for their home, and an income-based energy audit. Qualified homes were offered free energy audits which led to replacement of windows, appliances and more!

We received great reception from most folks who were home. Each team did encounter at least one resident who was not interested in learning more about energy efficiency or sustainability. Overall though, it was a highly successful day of sharing our resources to educate 250 homes about small changes they can make in their every day life which add up to make a huge difference for this beautiful place we all call home.

Green Apple Festival volunteers gathered in celebration at a "Volunteer Appreciation Concert" at Cervantes Masterpiece Ballroom in Denver, Colorado featuring Ivan Neville & The Dumpstaphunk. This New Orleans rooted band not only offers the funkiest grooves on the scene today, but also slams down a serious message about important environmental justice issues happening in the world today. It was a FUNKY GOOD TIME!

I surveyed 20 volunteers at the end of the day to see how their volunteer experience was for them. I found that the majority of folks volunteered to make a difference for the environment, or contribute, and some simply said, "because I live in the neighborhood." All twenty volunteers had a positive experience that day, ranging from "good" to "great" to "awesome." Nineteen out of twenty volunteers met new people that day, and sixteen of them plan on keeping in touch with their new acquaintances. The most important question of the survey for me was, "Does volunteer service provide you with a sense of community?". Eighteen volunteers answered "Yes," while two answered "Yes, definitely!"

With Earth Day being the world’s largest non-secular holiday, it proves to be an opportune time to mobilize people on behalf of our Mother Earth. As the survey reflects, it is yet another way to effectively bring people together in community building. This lovely earth is in all of our hands and together we must care for her. "Together we can win!"

Pictured:

Left: Eager volunteers going door to door, encouraging citizens to live greener!

Right: Tony Hall:
Guitarist for Ivan Neville
The Dumpstaphunk.
http://www.dumpstaphunk.com/
Candice Kearns and Annie Hoffman built beehives in a friend’s (Jay Simon) workshop. In return for helping them make the hives, they will be giving him free honey. They now have a colony of busy bees that have occupied the hive in Denver, CO, as part of Denver Community Bee Project and Urbiculture Front Yard Farms (Candice’s new farm business).

In 2006, a number of worker bees left their hive and never returned. Beekeepers all around the world began to see hives collapse without a clear explanation. This could lead to a substantial decrease of pollination of our food crops, flowers and more.

With help from Annie Hoffman, who will be working as the bee guardian for Urbiculture, we will be creating the Community Bee Project of Denver. We hope to be proactive in education to the Denver community and give presentations to homeowner’s associations and organizations like Denver Urban Gardens (DUG). The myths and issues surrounding the honey bee need to be dismantled.

Annie and I hope to catch feral bees and increase the amount of beehives we have in the backyards of Denver residences. This will give us the opportunity to teach the community about bees, the harm of chemical beekeeping and how to keep them without treatments. It is important for humans and the bees to reconnect because without bees our lives would drastically change.
(Sherry Ellms) facilitated a Non-Violent Communication workshop for 40 people. (See Alumni News for details.) The people attending were from all walks of life: professionals, teachers, parents, and community people, all committed to working through conflict without violence. It was known that some of the attendees supported the PAD (a.k.a. yellow shirts), some were opposed to the PAD (a.k.a. red shirts), and some felt distant from the conflict. As the workshop progressed, it was poigniant and touching to see that cross-culturally, people have the same needs, feelings, aspirations, and challenges, and all are committed to overcoming their own obstacles to achieve communication. They saw that to bring peace to the world, they need to bring peace to themselves and to their relationships with others.

In the northern town of Chiang Rai, I was hosted by Nutt (Nuttarote Wangwinyoo), a 2000 graduate of Environmental Leadership and Vichak Panich, Inter-Disciplinary alumna, 2006 (see Alumni News). Nutt’s Uncle, who is known for his translations of the works of Thich Nhat Hanh and the Dalai Lama, has established a Spiritual Center there – cushions on the floor, outdoor café, library - could have been in Boulder! He also had read many of Choygam Trungpa’s books in the 70’s. The word had gotten out (unbeknownst to me) that a student of Trungpa Rinpoche, who was also faculty at Naropa, was going to be there, and people had gathered. I was spontaneously asked to tell personal stories of my experiences with Choygam Trungpa, Rinpoche. Several had read Shambhala - Sacred Path of the Warrior. One man, who had just returned from the sit-in at the Bangkok Airport, said how important the notion of Trungpa’s spiritual warrior-ship was in giving him perspective on his political involvement. One young woman (20 years old) had just dropped out of Chiang Mai University and wanted to go to Naropa. She had been reading articles by Naropa faculty in the online Elephant Magazine based in Boulder and knew all about us.

Needless to say, to be on the other side of the globe, in a culture vastly different from the United States, I was profoundly affected by the impact that the teachings are having on people personally, as well as on the societal level. I sometimes feel claustrophobic because of the “Boulder Bubble”, so it was good to be reminded that while some folks in Denver know nothing about what we do here, there are people all over the world that are connecting to the uniqueness of what Naropa has to offer.

Vichak and Nutt had both become fathers in the past 3 months. We had a grand family dinner together (See photo on page 13).

Nutt took several of us north into the forest to visit the village of the Karen, an indigenous hill tribe, and to meet their elder, Patee Tazwae. Nutt has been involved with this completely sustainable village for several years and describes his “non-work” relationship with them as one in which there is intention to “empower their guardian spirits to protect their rights to the land, traditional way of living, values, ceremony and expression.” Patee showed us through the village and into the forest, pointing out their tea fields, catfish farms, water source, and the surreal insects that lived in balance with the vegetation. The only thing they need to bring into their village from the outside is salt. Patee spoke neither Thai nor English, but somehow we were able to communicate. At the end of the trek, when he found out I was from the United States, he broke into a big smile and said, “O bama!!” and wanted to know if I had voted for him.

Nutt leads Eco-quests each year to this area for urban people of Thailand to spend time alone in the forest and reconnect with nature and themselves. They spend time with the Karen listening to the stories of their myths, lore, and life. He would love to have Naropa students come for a profound cross-cultural experience. He leads them in November and December.

Because I have a strong connection to elephants, one of my major inspirations to go to Thailand was to see first hand the condition and plight of the elephants, and to discover how the people and the government are responding to them. The history of the elephant in Thailand is poignant and a metaphor for what is happening globally to all sentient beings on Gaia as we see the disintegration, the “unraveling” as Joanna Macy calls it, of the environment and our social structure. I spent time at the Elephant Foundation Sanctuary, run by a remarkable Thai woman, raised in the traditional way by her shaman grandfather, who started a sanctuary in her “back yard” for abused and injured elephants. It expanded through donations to land that can now house and feed thirty-eight elephants that have come to her abused or abandoned. She was voted Asian woman of the year in 2004 and was written up in National Geographic. I wandered in the fields with the elephants including one elephant that had been blinded by his mahout (driver and caretaker). I heard the stories of how newly arrived elephants were welcomed to the “blended family” of this open field orphanage and witnessed their intense loyalty and concern for each other.

Continued at bottom of page 14
Scholarships for ENV Students

For many students, a Naropa education is only possible with financial aid. Fortunately, there are a number of financial aid opportunities for ENV students.

New this year is the Martin Janowitz Scholarship. This $1500, need-based scholarship will be awarded annually to an outstanding undergraduate or graduate student in the Environmental Studies Department.

The Francis Harwood Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Studies in the amount of $1400.

In addition, the department has two Graduate Assistantships available each year. GA’s work approximately 10 hours per week to provide instructional and organizational support to the department, and have a unique opportunity to develop valuable job skills and experience. Graduate Assistants receive a monthly stipend and a partial tuition waiver.

These scholarships and assistantships are available to both new and continuing students. A complete summary of all sources of financial aid is available on the Naropa website. Please see www.naropa.edu/financialaid/index.cfm and make an appointment with a financial aid counselor to learn more.

Student News Continued

Jared Urchek (BA, Current Student)

I am writing a paper on sacred gardens through different cultures and times, within the Islamic culture specifically. Another paper I am doing is looking into what Islam has to say about the environmental movement, deep ecology, and sustainability. The tenets of Islam are deeply ingrained within sustainability as a way of life, and I am very excited to explore this.

Also, we are finishing up another semester of Public Achievement at Whittier Elementary. One group has made a video about how littering is BAD!, and another group raised money to plant a fruit tree, a Bali cherry, hopefully on the Whittier campus! We are so excited about these children, and it is such a blessing to work with them. If anybody is interested in being a coach for a Public Achievement group next semester, please contact me. Any questions or clarifications are also welcomed. We are looking to expand our Public Achievement program, and hope to have a bunch of new volunteers! (Community work-study is available as well, in some cases).

Community Studies: 303-245-4786, americorps@naropa.edu

Angela Karlstedt has been accepted to a training for the Awaken the Dreamer Symposium that is being offered in New Mexico during the first week of June. The ATD Symposium explores the connections between environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment and offers participants an opportunity to work through the emotions and questions regarding these interconnections in a supportive, community oriented environment. The workshop is a powerful experience that can help us wake up to our individual role as the agents of change toward a sustainable future. Next year, Angela will join a few other core facilitators and offer the ATD Symposium to the Naropa community several times in an effort to raise our community’s awareness about and commitment to sustainability.

Theresa Krasner and friends went on a camping trip out to Northern California to do research on old growth and the Tree-Sit movement.

Clockwise: Russell Mendell, Theresa Krasner, Kellie Anderson. Photos by Theresa Krasner
Alumni News

Hello Naropa, this is Aaron Hill, a BA graduate in ‘97 from Environmental Studies. Wow, it seems so long ago, and yet I feel the experiences of Naropa are with me today, as they were the first day I stepped onto the Arapahoe campus. I have found, since being at Naropa, it is the people like us that have the opportunity to create a world in which we all want to live. When I finished the program, I felt as if I had no direction to go in, but in reality I could go in any direction. I eventually found myself falling into a job in soils engineering and environmental remediation. Although I had no formal training as an engineer, I had the training that Naropa provided, which allowed me to bring a different perspective to the rigid environment of an engineering firm. After several years, I realized that soils engineering was not my true path and that I needed to re-find my path. The search has led me to where I am today. I am currently beginning my final semester at Dominican University of California’s MBA in Sustainable Enterprise. It has been an incredible journey, the people who I have met and the experiences that I have had have been wonderful. As I near the completion of the program, I look to the endless opportunities that lie ahead. Today I feel as if I have once again found my path and I have acquired the skills and knowledge needed to continue my way toward creating greater sustainability within business and the world today.

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Cy Englert (MA Graduate, 2007)

Cy’s article “Food Course is Life Changing” has been published in the February/March issue of Olympia’s Food Co-op News, in which he discusses the ups and downs of eating sustainably. He writes, “This past summer I embarked on learning about sustainable food choices. For me, learning about food was the logical, next step in building a sustainable, more self-sufficient lifestyle.” The website for the Olympia Food Co-op is still working on archiving past issues of their newsletter. Read the current newsletter at: http://www.olympiafood.coop/currentnews.pdf.

Cy was also interviewed by IBM as part of their On Demand Community: I Make a Difference Stories. When asked to describe the impacts of his volunteer work and projects, he answered: “NWEI (Northwest Earth Institute) boasts many statistics around people changing their lives to become more sustainable. My personal experience with the food sustainability course, Menu for the Future, has recently been published in our local food cooperative newsletter. I am appearing in March on our local cable television station, TCTV, as one of the guests discussing “Re-Thinking the Whole Economy” (http://www.tctv.net/ch22.php) In this TV special, I represent NWEI and describe how the discussion courses are an excellent way to explore personal habits and initiate changes in behaviors that support the creation of a new economy around ethical and personal values, instead of traditional business values that focus on unending growth and out-of-control consumerism.

cyenglert@gmail.com

Cecelia La Pointe (MA Graduate, 2006)

Hello! I currently reside in my home state of Michigan after moving several times and trying to find my place after I left Naropa in 2006. It is here that I found my place right in my backyard. Michigan will always call me home. I love the people, the water, the forests, sand dunes and the Great Lakes. I recently was hired in March 2009 as a Project Specialist at American Indian Health & Family Services in Detroit. I am active in the blogosphere and maintain my own blog on Aboriginal/First Nations/Indigenous issues as well as write for Indigenist Intelligence Review and the Aboriginal News Group. A recent highlight in my activism was being a part of a Native American Emergency Task Force during the election of ‘08 in South Dakota. I went to South Dakota with another Native activist to stop an abortion ban, distribute culturally appropriate materials to Native communities, GOTV (get out the vote) and mobilize Native communities to vote. It was such an amazing time as our efforts to stop the abortion ban assisted in the bill failing, so we won!

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“...I am the business manager for my partner’s hair school. We’ve only been open since July of last year and I’m proud to say that we’ve become a ‘Thurston County Green Business.’ (Washington) If you get your hair done, you know that being a green salon isn’t easy to do.”

-Cy Englert
"Good morning," I say to kijā with my feet,
As I gently walk on the Earth,
She responds back,
Gently whispering,
Gently slowing me down,
Gently helping me remember the fine dazzelment,
That is each and every leaf,
Bark,
Seed,
Dirt,
And she slows me down,
The rapidness that the concrete induces,
The quickening of my speech,
My writing,
My movements,
Are all slowed down by nature,
By kijā,
Inheritance of abundance unexplainable,
My heart beats slower,
My breath deeper,
My movements slower,
Destiny affirmed in her beauty,
In her touch on my feet,
In how she holds me,
As if she reaches,
As if the dirt,
Sand,
Twigs,
Pebbles,
And compost of all molds my feet,
As if the plants reach and listen,
As perfect counselors,
As if the trees lean over to listen,
All in the perfect workings of kijā,
To fill up my spirit,
To heal,
To radiate the light of my soul,
The work of kijā expands outward across the land,
Emanating throughout the towns,
Throughout all of us,
Kijā infinitely always holding us.

Talking With Kijā – Thy Mother

A Poem by Cecelia R. LaPointe

Alumni News, continued.

Deborah McNamara (MA Graduate, 2004)
I have been working for the Northwest Earth Institute, a Portland, OR based environmental non-profit, for the past 3 and a half years as an Outreach Coordinator and now as the Director of Business Partnerships and Outreach Team Leader. NWEI offers sustainability education programs for individuals and organizations on a variety of topics such as climate change, food choices and sustainability, voluntary simplicity, raising children with the Earth in mind, and Deep Ecology. Our programs are delivered as a series of study guides on ecological issues that can be used anywhere groups would like to meet. Each guide includes articles, questions for reflection and discussion, an action planning process to aid participants in integrating the information into daily sustainability practices, as well as a myriad of resources for living as lightly as possible on our planet. Participants meet for 4-8 weeks for an hour to an hour and a half. The only cost for participation is $20, the cost of the guide (which includes detailed instructions on how to organize the course). The beauty of the programs is that they are self-facilitated and require no outside trainer or facilitator in order to host a program. Our newest study guide is entitled Towards a Sustainable Workplace and is focused on how to effect organizational change.
I work primarily with businesses who are looking to engage employees in sustainability initiatives through implementing our programs in the workplace. In the Northwest I work with Starbucks, Standard Insurance, Hewlett Packard, Intel and others, all of whom are engaging their employees in learning about and taking action to address sustainability concerns. I have recently moved back to Boulder to be closer to family and continue to work remotely for the Northwest Earth Institute. Locally I am working with White Wave Foods to implement our programs, and recently collaborated with Naropa Environmental Leadership Alumni Kendra Sandoval to start one of our programs,
A L U M N I  C O N T I N U E D.

(Deborah cont.) Choices for Sustainable Living, through the Alliance for Sustainable Colorado, in Denver. Representatives from key non-profits in the Denver area are currently assessing the course as a possible offering through their networks, as is the Colorado Alliance of Sustainable Business Associations.

If you’d like to learn more or be involved with this thread of the grassroots sustainability movement, please be in touch! Visit www.nwei.org to learn more, and contact me at Deborah@nwei.org or via phone at 720.565.6114.

Lin (Parin Jotisakulratana) (MA Graduate, 2000)
Lin through her involvement with Thai Peace Action Network began The Listening Project to relate to the political turmoil in Thailand in 2008. She and her project were written up in the National Weekly (similar to our Newsweek or Time). It emerged in response to a death that occurred in 2008 as a result of conflict between the “yellow shirts (anti-government at that time) and the “red shirts” (pro-government, at that time). Lin trained volunteers to act as the third party using NVC principles, and bearing witness practice she learned from Rabia Roberts and Elias Amidon, former faculty in the Environmental Leadership Program.

Lin and her group campaigned to ask both sides to give their weapons to the monks using the Buddhist principle of giving alms. After one major incident in which hundreds got injured and one killed, they made T shirts with the word “mindfulness” on it and went to all sides - government, anti-government, police, and military - to remind all sides to be mindful. The activity was televised on the National channels and in the national newspapers, and Lin and her group were interviewed extensively.

After the incident, The Listening Project organized a Dialogue that included the police, the red and yellow shirts, and people on neither side facilitated by a Professor of the Mahidol Research Center for Peace. It went so well, a national channel televised it and CD’s have been made and are being shown in Universities and communities around the country to show what is possible. One commentator said, “If anyone wants to seek solution in this conflict, take this dialogue as an example.”

Lin, inspired by Marshall Rosenberg, has taught over 1000 people Non Violent Communication. She has given workshops to ethnic youth, students, hospital staff, school teachers, NGO’s from Burma, and Muslim youth in the deep south.

She has translated NVC material into Thai including What's Making You Angry? which has been published and is working on translating two other books about NVC. She has been invited to teach workshops to Tibetan academics, nuns, and youth in Ladakh.

Nutt (Nuttatote Wangwinyoo) (MA Graduate, 2000)
Nutt works with corporations who are committed to creating change and humanizing their operations for the well-being of their people. He has used the Dialogue Process developed by David Bohm’s and Peter Senge’s application of this tool. “My intention is to ... use the form of dialogue to awaken them to unlimited human potential to live and prosper. It is quite challenging for them, with their endless expectation for material growth, to really see the value of spiritual development, but it’s totally possible.” One of the Corporations is the Arrow Corporation, a socially responsible company who supports the Elephant Reintroduction Program, that sponsored the release of the elephant into the wild that Sherry Ellms witnessed.

Nutt has continued the work he began in 1999 with Elias Amidon, former faculty in Environmental Leadership Program, of leading forest walks and Eco-Quest Programs. It is focused on helping urban people make a connection to the land, and spend time in a Karen indigenous hill tribe village that Nutt has been working with for several years. He is inviting Naropa students, staff and faculty to participate for an extraordinary cross-cultural experience. He leads troops in November and December.

Nutt, at the request of the University of Prince of Songkhia in southern Thailand, has given several workshops on mindfulness in education and social awareness. Nutt has also conducted workshops for The Thailand National Council of Education, introducing the contemplative approach in education to people from Universities around the country.
Richard Dart (MA Graduate, 2009) has mapped Boulder County's wilderness from the available City and County GIS data on behalf of his Applied Leadership Project organization, Transition Boulder County. Transition Boulder County is a nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding community resilience and self-reliance through economic relocalization. His work directly supports permaculture design, bioregional awareness, and our need to recover a sense of the Commons. It gives the user an animal's eye view of the land's potential for habitat diversity and abundance with the restrictions of human land-use boundaries. The web site on Boulder County Wildness is www.tbcwildness.com.

Faculty News Continued

(Sherry Ellms) I also had the rare opportunity to witness an elephant being released into the wild. The Royal Family has funded an Elephant Reintroduction Program, and through auspicious coincidence my friend Nutt knew of a release happening when I was in the area. I watched as people made offerings to the forest spirits to protect the elephant, and the Buddhist monks, chanting for their protection, placed white sacred substances on the elephant’s forehead to protect him. The elephant walked to the edge of the jungle and then stopped, turned around (as if to say good bye? thank you?), and then left us—many with very moist eyes. I also visited the only Elephant Hospital in the world where they treat sick and injured elephants naturally with local herbs and medicines. Being with the elephants, as well as the wolves in Yellowstone earlier in the fall, has inspired me to explore further the relationship of animals (domestic and wild) to humans. How are they being affected by the Great Turning, the transition from oil dependency to local resiliency? Is their voice being heard? Are they trying to tell us something? I will be give a more detailed account of what our students are doing in Thailand in the next issue of the Naropa Magazine.
Registration Tips

New Student Orientation takes place on August 17-21 and classes begin August 24th. If you haven’t already done so, meet with your advisor to map out your academic journey for the next semester.

If you are considering an undergraduate major in Environmental Studies, please note that ENV100 and ENV245 are required for entry. Take these two courses as soon as you can to learn more about Environmental Studies, and meet the requirements for declaring an ENV major. For more information, contact Environmental Studies Undergraduate Advisor Keith Kurlander: 303-245-4661; kkurlander@naropa.edu.

Questions about obtaining an MA in Environmental Leadership? Check out the Naropa website or contact Admissions Coordinator Nancy Jane (303-245-4678 or njane@naropa.edu) to learn more about this exciting graduate program!

Environmental Studies Courses: Fall 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BA Courses</th>
<th>MA Courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENV100 Physical Geography</td>
<td>ENV 600 Inner Work for Environmental Leaders I</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 207 History of the Environmental Movement</td>
<td>ENV 610 Groups as Living Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 215 Sustainability</td>
<td>ENV 630 Transforming Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 250 Nature and the Sacred Contemplation</td>
<td>ENV 705 Leadership Skills Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 302 Pollutions and Solutions</td>
<td>ENV 720 Sustainability</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 311 Plant Ecology</td>
<td>ENV 725 Applied Leadership Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 342 Permaculture Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 357 Creating a Learning Community (non-credit)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 363 Indigenous Environmental Issues</td>
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<td>ENV 370 Ecopsychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 420 Environmental Service Learning:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecological Restoration</td>
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ENV Department Resources

ENV Library Update: Most of the Environmental Studies Library was donated to the Allen Ginsburg Library. A small collection is still being kept in the AD’s Office at 2111 Arapahoe Ave. The books available are listed on the ENV Bulletin Board in the Sycamore Building.

Internships, Volunteer Opportunities, and Job Openings Binder is in the ENV Office, available for anyone to come check it out. It is located on the Workstudy desk on the left hand side at the second floor, East entrance. Most of the opportunities are also shared with the Career Coordinator, Sarah Steward: ssteward@naropa.edu, 303-245-4863.

Join the Naropa University’s Environmental Studies Facebook Group! http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=85960125685

Student Resources

Naropa University Student Affairs (Bob, Sandhya, Jenieve, Jennifer, Jacovo, Holly, Sarah, Shirley, Tashi) studentconcerns@naropa.edu 303.546.3562

The Naropa Counseling Center Grazia, Ali, Kimberly, Linda) odigorgio@naropa.edu 303.245.4697

The Naropa Chaplaincy Project chaplains@naropa.edu 303.245.4823

Student Government: Student Life Programming & United Naropa

GET INVOLVED!
Environmental Studies at Naropa University integrates the transdisciplinary study of field science and living systems, social movements and justice, sustainability, sacred ecology, and community learning. Academic study is grounded in contemplative practice and hands-on, community-based service learning.

We believe that through critical examination and understanding of diverse perspectives, engaging in meaningful relationships, and developing appropriate skills, humans can learn how to respond to the ecological crisis and return to harmonious, and sustainable relationships within the living world.

**Calendar of Events**

**Spring:**
- **April 29:** Green Bag Lunch: Sherry Elms– Thailand’s Sacred Elephants  12-1:30pm Lincoln 4130
- **April 29:** Civic Engagement: Group Project Presentations  12-1:30pm PAC
- **May 1:** Drew Dellinger Public Lecture and Poetry Reading  7pm Nalanda Events Center (Free!)
- **May 2-3:** Green Festival: Colorado Convention Center (Jeanine Canty will be speaking about Environmental Justice on Saturday at 3pm!) [http://www.greenfestivals.org/denver/](http://www.greenfestivals.org/denver/)
- **May 6:** Last day of classes! Have a splendid and safe summer!

**Fall:**
- **August 17-21:** New Student Orientation
- **August 24:** First Day of Classes!
- **August 26:** Convocation!
- **September 5-7:** Labor Day holiday: No Classes/ Campuses Closed.
- **September 13:** Community Practice Day: No classes/ Offices Closed.
- **November 26-29:** Thanksgiving holiday: No classes/ Campuses Closed.
- **December 11:** Last day of classes! Have a lovely winter break! (Campuses Closed December 23-January 3)