

Environmental Thought & Practice

Celebrating 10 years of ETP | spring 2012



ETP class of 2011



ETP '08 members with Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute friends, Colón, Panama

Dear ETP Alums,

May 2012 brings commencement for the tenth Environmental Thought & Practice graduating class. I recall when Claudia Jirón-Murphy asked excitedly in 2002 if she could apply for admission! While ETP seemed an uncertain, somewhat risky proposition back then, the program has become a training ground for private and public sector leaders in the US and around the world.

ETP remains one of the most genuinely multidisciplinary BA programs on the environment, but it has morphed over the years. Internationalism is now a vital component of the ETP curriculum, because the effects of our domestic environmental policies ripple far outside our borders. Environmental leaders in the 21st century must imagine themselves as part of the global community. We must also appreciate the myriad ways in which class, race, and the environment are intertwined.

The Panama Initiative, which I have directed since its launch in 2007 by President Casteen, Provost Garson, and Vice Provost Grossman, provides a conduit for connecting ETP students with these themes. In 2008 I traveled to Panama with Professor Janet Herman and nine ETP 401 students. We came to understand better the relationship between Panamanians and their natural environment. Subsequently, Panama Initiative Scholars Reem Alamiri (ETP '08, Batten School '09) and Elizabeth Ritch (ETP '10) undertook research in month-long stays in Panama.

In 2010 a Harper Endowment teaching grant brought environmental issues in Panama and Virginia to the forefront of ETP 4010. Team Virginia worked with outside experts to address greenhouse gas emissions in Virginia, while Team Panama worked with the US EPA, RTI International, Professor Janet Herman, and a colleague from Panama (Dr. Stanley Heckadon-Moreno) to analyze policy options for Colón's 70-year-old active uncontrolled dump, which the US military operated for decades. Two members of Team Panama – Courtney Mallow and Peter Swigert – traveled to Panama with Professor Herman and me to present (in Spanish!) the team's report to Colón's mayor, city council,

and members of the public. Lindsay Parra presented Team Virginia's report to the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board, the state's air pollution policymaking and regulatory body, which I served on from 2002 to 2012.

ETP's stellar reputation extends outside the University. High school students or undergraduates enrolled elsewhere often write us, wanting to attend the University because of ETP. Prospective graduate students inquire about applying to ETP under the mistaken assumption that we offer a graduate degree.

What might the next ten years bring? While resources are more constrained than ever, one logical next step would be to offer a one-year ETP MA program that could be accomplished in five years by UVa undergraduates. We are researching whether we can offer an affordable, unique, and competitive curriculum that UVa's administrators will support.

Your stellar accomplishments demonstrate that the ETP program was worth the gamble taken by UVa's faculty and administrators in 2002. It's wonderful to share your successes with the current ETP majors, who are charting their own career directions. We hope to expand our new ETP blog to alums to facilitate networking.

Many, many thanks for your thoughtful testimonials. We are also grateful to those who have donated directly to the program over the years. May you continue to find meaning and happiness in your lives! Do stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Vivian Thomson
Associate Professor
Environmental Sciences
Politics
ETP Program Director

Testimonials

"The skills that I acquired through ETP such as the ability to think critically within the scope of a technical framework have served me well in the working world." - Ben Abraham

"The ETP Program was an extremely rewarding and amazing experience, and solidified my passion for the subject. Graduating with an ETP degree prepared me for the multidisciplinary nature of most work I've encountered inside and outside the University - without the ETP program, I think I would have had much less exposure and a much narrower perspective on environmental policy and sustainable development, and would not have found the opportunities that I have thus far." - Reem Alamiri

"The ETP Program fostered my desire to work in a profession that allowed me to analyze and problem solve complex interdisciplinary issues. ETP helped me develop the skills necessary to easily transition between the boundaries of law, science, economics, and policy." - Claudia Andre



Lindsay Parra, Clark Belote, Bert Richards, and Ben Abraham (10), with Hullie Moore (Chair, Virginia Air Pollution Control Board) and Sterling Rives (Vice Chair), Richmond, Virginia

"The same desires for environmental and social justice that fueled my ETP studies are what keep me motivated working in high need schools." -Rebekah Berlin

"The ETP program gave me substantive background in environmental law and policy and also the analytical tools to effectively evaluate a wide range of issues and problems, environmental and otherwise." - Sarah Buckley

"The ETP Program helped give me a fundamental understanding of how various fields (e.g, science, economics, politics) are incorporated into management and policy decisions and how oftentimes this blend can be complicated and controversial, requiring an open mind and the ability to listen to others." - Elizabeth Dubovsky



ETP Class of 2008

"The ETP program gave me the flexibility to explore the environment in many contexts, from food to planning to ecology to politics to literature, challenging me to analyze law and policy issues in an interdisciplinary way and strengthening my interest in a career in environmental law." -Halley Epstein

"ETP began me on the path that now hopefully has me farming and teaching for the rest of my days. I am trying to change things from the bottom-up; one tomato at a time." - Anne Eschenroeder

"Our ETP trip to Panama in 2008 especially taught me that environmental regulations are not a priority for even the environmental arm of the government sometimes, and other

times, when the regulations exist, weak enforcement and bribery can get in the way of implementation. A good warm-up for these 2 1/2 years in Egypt!" - Tori Evans

"ETP helped make sustainability and environmental stewardship a priority in my life that I encourage in my teaching and daily life." - Jen Fier

"The ETP program was crucial to my understanding of how our built environment impacts the planet, and it inspired me to get into planning, development and real estate, giving me a well balanced education from which to start my career." - Mike Figura

Testimonials

"I use my background in ETP every day as I navigate the ever-changing landscape of government policies and incentives pertaining to the small wind industry worldwide." - Ryan Gilchrist

"In both a professional and an academic setting, I have found the knowledge, analytical skills, and problem-solving perspective I acquired through the ETP program essential to realizing my career ambitions." -Jacqueline Goodrum (Tolson)

"ETP gave me the freedom to explore fields from political science, to urban planning, to economics, to environmental law, each of which is a vital component of my continued research. For this, I am ever thankful." - Mike Hankinson

"The multidisciplinary ETP experience now proves useful in developing creative solutions where human beings compete and fight for limited resources." - Christoph Herby

"While I haven't worked in activities directly related to environmental issues, the ETP program helped me realize that multiple problems, and therefore solutions, are inter-related, and as such, one has to take an interdisciplinary approach to them, and to life in general as well. I tried to instill this way of thinking in my students this past year, and I hope it will help create a more socially and environmentally-aware generation, ready and willing to tackle all the social and environmental challenges we will face in the future." -Elio Jordan

"My ETP major enlightened me on environmental policy issues, which remain important to me today, and also improved my policy research and writing skills." - Taylor Martin

"I feel the interdisciplinary nature of ETP has enabled me to see the bigger picture in both my academic and professional endeavors post-graduation." - Kelly McElwee

"My experience in the ETP program has provided me a broader understanding of the ways in which environmental problems require integrated scientific, economic, social, and political solutions. ETP also gave me a deeper appreciation for the science that drives environmental policy and has helped me view specific meteorological questions and challenges from a wide range of perspectives." -Caroline Normile

"ETP was the foundation and launching point for my passion for sustainability." -Suzanne Pinckney

"I thoroughly enjoy the multidisciplinary nature of the program because it reminds me of the ETP program at UVA. Thanks to the ETP curriculum, I bring a comprehensive perspective to my law school classes and am always looking for opportunities for agreement between industry and agencies and how to achieve better compliance." - Erin Potter



Elizabeth Ritch, Courtney Mallow, and Peter Swigert, with Dr. Stanley Heckadon-Moreno (Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama), and students and faculty from Universidad de Panamá, Colón, Panama



ETP class of 2007

Testimonials

"Working at Morven was a natural transition after majoring in ETP – considering that both require flexibility, an open mind, and the ability to work with people coming from different disciplines and ideologies. I still appreciate the wide range of electives I was able to take during my time at UVA to fulfill the ETP requirements - the ETP program does not combine the student to a box, but rather allows you to explore and discover your interests on your own volition." - Michelle Rehme

"The ETP program has proven very beneficial to my career, because litigation requires the same critical thinking and analysis that are such an important part of the ETP curriculum." - Ben Rottenborn

"At Tulane, I regularly apply environmental science from Tom Smith's ecology class, eco-literature from Tim Beatley's classes, and Architecture School urban planning/zoning concepts, all of which help me to understand the environmental issues present in the legal field." - Emily Russell

"It's been really fulfilling to work with current students coming up through the ETP program and see their passion reflected in the University's shifting focus towards environmental conservation." - Kendall Singleton



ETP Class of 2010

"The holistic approach to the ETP Program has provided me with a great foundation for my legal studies, especially in areas that I never thought I would find myself in, like statistics. If nothing else, I will never forget the Clean Air Act and the 'behind closed doors' negotiations that got it passed." - Kate Spidalieri

"The ETP program equipped me with the skills to study the environment, while also granting me the opportunity to apply my knowledge in the field." - Beth Stein

"I benefited most from the ETP Program's emphasis on critical thinking. No other program at UVA required its students to process and analyze information from so many different fields, industries and sources and pull everything together into a comprehensive answer, and that is the only way to approach so many of the problems our generation faces." - Peter Swigert

"Studying ETP...cultivated my ability to critically evaluate the geopolitical, economic and cultural factors that influence energy mix and availability and corresponding environmental and security impacts both domestically and abroad, a topic I continues to explore in my current profession." - Bridget Wandelt

"The interdisciplinary and practical nature of the ETP program has prepared me for a similarly diverse curriculum in my professional program at the Batten School." - Alex Wilkerson

"My undergraduate degree in Environmental Thought and Practice has provided me with a solid foundation to build my prospective career in environmental law." - Jessie White

"I earned a lot from ETP program. I benefited from its rich curriculum that makes me love UVA so much more, and offers me the only chance to approach environmental policy in undergraduate study. I miss it." - Shiming Yang

Class Notes

2003 **Erin Potter** is currently in her second year at The University of Tulsa College of Law, concentrating on a certificate program entitled "Sustainable Energy and Resource Law." It is a program designed to prepare students for the fields of energy, environmental, and natural resource law. This upcoming summer, Erin will be a Clerk at the EPA Office of Compliance and Enforcement in Washington, D.C.

Ben Rottenborn graduated from Stanford Law School and clerked for a federal court in Arizona. Ben is currently practicing law in Chicago, where he focuses on complex civil defense litigation.

2004 **Claudia Andre** is an attorney at a law firm in Philadelphia. She practices corporate and commercial litigation, which often includes environmental law matters.

Mike Figura owns a real estate company called Mosaic Community Lifestyle Realty in Asheville, NC that focuses on green building, historic homes, and walk-able and bike-able properties. His company has a focus on sustainability, and hires a building scientist to do an energy audit for every home that they sell. Since moving to Asheville, Mike has also worked as a sustainable planning and development consultant with a firm called GreenPlan Inc. and has been a partner in a green building/urban infill development company, developing many small infill green homes and a net zero home made from hemp.



2005 **Elizabeth Dubovsky** runs an outreach program that she founded five years ago in Alaska for Trout Unlimited, a national non-profit organization. Through her program, Elizabeth educates and engages commercial fishermen, seafood processors, chefs, retailers, and consumers in some of today's biggest Pacific salmon conservation issues. Elizabeth has also served as the interim Executive Director for a regional seafood development association in Alaska, working for commercial salmon fishermen to help them adapt to economic and ecological changes. Recently, she partnered with local fishermen to start a Community Supported Fishery (CSF) program in Alaska's capital as a way encourage a more sustainable local food system.

Christoph Herby raced bicycles professionally for two years after graduating, competing around the world from China to the Dominican Republic to the Blue Ridge Mountains. He outgrew the metaphorical spandex in 2008, dusting off the ETP degree to serve as a Peace Corps Environmental Resources Advisor in the small West African country of Benin. Now he works for the International Committee of the Red Cross, coordinating food assistance and livelihood projects for victims of armed conflict in the Central African Republic.



Samantha Hudson moved to Hawaii to work as an Environmental and Facilities Planner in 2007. Since then—she's surfed quite a bit—and also obtained accreditations with the USGBC and the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). She now works as a Program Manager/Senior Planner for Enterprise and Sustainability Programs with Kamehameha Schools.

2006 After graduation, **Anne Eschenroeder** led teenage boys building hiking trails in Idaho for four months, and then moved to Portland, Oregon where she managed an urban garden and was a garden educator for two years. After participating in a farming apprenticeship program at U.C. Santa Cruz, Anne moved to New Paltz, NY where she is now the farm manager for a not-for-profit educational working farm, Phillie's Bridge Farm Project (www.philliesbridge.org).



Class Notes

Suzanne Pinckney has been working in corporate sustainability strategy consulting with 2 former Batten Fellows (Darden), Brian and Mary Nattrass of Sustainability Partners. She is in Tarrytown, NY near Stone Barns Center where she intern in the field and greenhouse and carries on her passion for sustainable agriculture started in Portland, OR where she helped found a community farm. Suzanne is finishing her last year at Bainbridge Graduate Institute for an MBA in sustainable business.



2007 Following graduation, **Jacqueline Goodrum (Tolson)** married her high school sweetheart, a fellow Hoo, and moved to Cambridge, England. During four years abroad, Jacqueline worked in London with the UNEP's SEED Initiative, a sustainable development project, and the Environmental Law Foundation, a non-profit environmental law firm. This past summer, she returned to the U.S. to begin study at Vermont Law School where she am enrolled in the joint JD/Masters in Environmental Law & Policy program.



Taylor Martin worked three years in economic consulting before entering the Masters in Public Policy Program at Carnegie Mellon's Heinz College. This past summer, Taylor was an intern at Resources for the Future and worked on a project involving wind turbines. In her final year of graduate school, Taylor is interning at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the Office of Enforcement.

Kendall Singleton has stayed in the Central Virginia area through a handful of internships and jobs including a season apprenticeship at Waterpenny Farm and a stint at Perrin Quarles Associates. As of August 2009, Kendall has been back on Grounds in the role of U.Va. Dining's first Sustainability Coordinator, working to further Dining's sustainability programming through waste management (i.e. reusable to-go containers), food procurement (i.e. establishing a relationship with the Local Food Hub), and education/outreach initiatives (i.e. farm tours).



Bridget Wandelt is a consultant with ScottMadden, Inc., a general management consulting firm with offerings chiefly in the energy and corporate and shared services fields. An interest in energy informed her decision to study environmental sciences and ETP as an undergraduate student and environmental sciences as a graduate student. After college, she took her interest abroad, working for the clean energy practice of a management consulting firm in Switzerland and serving as a Transatlantic Renewable Energy Fellow in Germany.

2008 **Reem Alamiri** received her Masters in Public Policy from UVA in 2009 and spent a few months working with the Panama Initiative, gathering information about the solid waste management system in Colon, Panama, including a month residence in Colon. Reem received a fellowship from the Aga Khan Development Network to work at the Brookings Institution on issues of international development - an Early Childhood Development project and a water management project for the Jordan River Valley.



Following graduation, **John Bernhardt** moved to the Bay Area and spent 2.5 years working as an environmental educator and program coordinator with the Alliance for Climate Education. While at ACE, John presented a live, dynamic multimedia presentation about climate change to over 30,000 high school students and managed a national student leadership program that hosted 55 leadership trainings for over 1,100 students across the country. John then worked as Support Director for Run While You Can - a charity ultra-endurance hiking event than traverses 2,650 miles on the PCT while raising around \$160,000 for Parkinson's Disease research. John is now working for the Clean Coalition - a Bay Area clean energy advocacy group - managing communications and operations.

Class Notes

Following graduation, **Tori Evans** worked for a non-profit in Alaska that retrofitted native community buildings to save energy for rural, low-income communities. In 2009, Tori landed in Cairo, Egypt to teach English and explore some cross-cultural exchanges. After about a year and a half of freelance teaching English, yoga, and some workshops on air and water pollution, Tori started working at an environmental consulting firm, coordinating projects like environmental and social impact assessments, national solid waste management planning, and environmental monitoring and enforcement.



Elio Jordan interned at Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research in D.C. (a progressive political and consulting firm) for one year before moving back to Lima, Peru. There, Elio worked as an external consultant for Right to Play, an international NGO that focuses on child development through the use of sport and play, as well as at a local leading corporate communications firm as an Internal Projects consultant. Elio then joined EnseñaPeru, a young organization based on the Teach for America model, where young professionals are recruited to teach for two years at low-income and vulnerable-area public schools to try to improve education in the country. He is about to begin his second year teaching English.



Caroline Normile worked for a year as a Meteorological Analyst for the NOAA National Weather Service testing weather equipment before entering the graduate school in the Department of Meteorology at Penn State. She recently completed her Master's thesis on tropospheric ozone transport and detection by satellites.

After graduation, **Emily Russell** worked in Richmond, VA for communities affected by hazardous waste, including the TVA coal ash spill. Emily is now in her second year at Tulane University Law School, taking environmental law classes and assisting a professor with research on renewable energy regulations.

Since graduating, **Beth Stein** traveled the country working in various environmental jobs. She managed invasive plants in the National Parks of the Southwest, kayaked the Mississippi River taking marsh bird surveys, and trapped prairie dogs in the South Dakota badlands. Beth is currently pursuing a PhD in the remote sensing of forest resources at Virginia Tech.

2009 Sarah Buckley spent two years working as Delegate David Toscano's Legislative Aide in the Virginia General Assembly where she was able to use her ETP skills in drafting and analyzing environmental legislation, most notably bills to expand the use of small-scale, distributed green power through "net metering." Sarah is currently a 1L at UVA Law and plans to pursue a career in environmental law.



Jen Fier is in her third year of teaching students with severe disabilities a class incorporating therapeutic recreation in Springfield, Virginia. Jen spent a summer working at an outdoor expedition camp in Colorado, volunteer with the Nature Conservancy, and race triathlons. She will be racing my first Ironman triathlon in September.

Since graduation, **Ryan Gilchrist** joined a start-up small wind turbine manufacturer called Urban Green Energy, headquartered in New York City. Over the past two years, UGE has more than tripled in size and Ryan is the Business Development Manager, leading a team of 11 people. As the 2011 sales numbers are finalized, UGE sold twice as many small wind turbines in 2011 than in 2010 in 54 countries, and is poised to be the world leader in small wind turbines in 2012.

Class Notes

Danielle LaRock went on to complete her M.S. degree in Environmental Science at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She is now a fellow in the Presidential Management Fellows program, a flagship leadership development program in the federal government for advanced degree candidates. This prestigious two-year program is designed with a focus of developing government leaders and provides opportunities to gain experience in public service through challenging work assignments, formal classroom training, and a developmental project. Danielle is working at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV on professional training courses dealing with climate change, structured decision-making, and strategic habitat conservation.

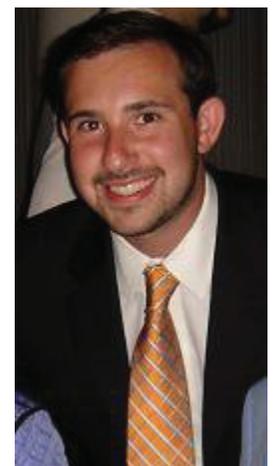


Kelly McElwee spent the year after graduation volunteering with Americorps in West Virginia. Post-AmeriCorps, she started the Masters of Environmental Management program at Duke. At Duke she has spent time researching environmental conflict and peace building, and has worked for a nonprofit in Raleigh on environmental legislation. She will graduate (and get married) in May, 2012.

Katie Spidalieri is a second-year law student at the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in Ohio. She is an Associate member of the Cleveland State Law Review and looks forward to any scholarly writing experience. During the Summer of 2011, Katie worked under Maryland's Department of Natural Resources for the Critical Area Commission for the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays where she got to assist in the process of writing regulations for the state. Katie plans take the bar exam in North Carolina in July 2013 and would love to seek employment that entails the writing of regulations that govern the conservation of wildlife species in zones of urban development along the coast.

Jessie White began law school at the University of South Carolina in the fall of 2009. He has focused her J.D. degree by taking environmental courses including Federal Environmental Law, Coastal Law, Climate Change Law & Policy, Constitutional Issues in Property and Land Use Planning. Jessie has held an internship with the Coastal Conservation League in Charleston, SC in the land use and planning department as well as an internship with the Conservation Voters in Columbia, SC where he helped promote environmental and conservation legislation at the State House. Most recently Jessie spent the summer clerking for the Department of Natural Resources.

2010 Ben Abraham has moved to Washington D.C. to work in an Environmental Consulting position with The Cadmus Group. His team's client work is on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor Environments Division as well as the ENERGY STAR Program. Ben works on a wide variety of issues including but not limited to Children's Health, Green and Healthy Schools, Asthma and Environmental Tobacco Smoke. In support of these programs a large chunk of his assignments center themselves around the specific realm of Marketing and Communications.

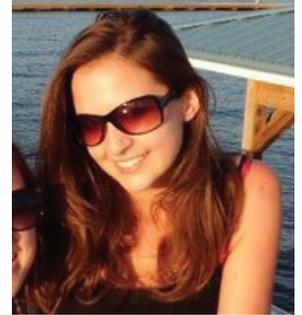


Rebekah Berlin is a 2010 Teach for America Corps member in Memphis, TN. She is going to continue working in Memphis, next year at a charter school.

Mike Hankinson is a Ph.D. student in the Joint Program in Government and Social Policy at Harvard University. His research uses spatial econometrics to understand land use and development patterns, regarding both urban development and suburban sprawl. Broadly speaking, he wants to know where people live and why. Currently, Mike is collaborating with the NYU Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy to model the drivers of neighborhood change and gentrification in New York City.

Class Notes

Rachel Nelson worked for a year as project manager with local sustainability non-profits Better World Betty and Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) in Charlottesville. Rachel is now completing my Master's degree in Urban and Environmental Planning at UVA's school of Architecture.



Following graduation, **Peter Swigert** worked for The Nature Conservancy both in Montana and in Washington, DC doing wildlife research and geographic information systems (GIS). Peter joined the global consulting firm Accenture in 2011, and has since worked on projects for the Department of Homeland Security and the Postal Service.

2011 After graduation, **Halley Epstein** spent the summer backpacking through China, Nepal, and India. She is now a first-year student at Yale Law School, and will be working as an environmental law intern for a state government this summer.

Michelle Rehme is lucky enough to remain in Charlottesville to work for the UVA Foundation at Morven Farm – a 3,000 acre property that has become a landscape for critical thinking, retreats, and interdisciplinary classes for the University. Michelle lives and works at Morven, where she manages a 1-acre educational garden (complete with a chicken flock) and coordinates events and classes that take place on the beautiful property.

Alex Wilkerson has returned to Charlottesville to complete his MPP degree through UVA's Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy. Alex is currently looking for a career in environmental or sustainability consulting.

Shiming Yang is pursuing a Master of Science on Environmental Policy and Planning at the University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE). This past summer and fall, she participated in a state-funded research project in China, focusing on Inland Aquaculture Pollution Management and Policy.