

***Environmental Science and Policy Distinguished Scholar/Activist in Residence***  
**Environmental Science and Policy**

The Environmental Science & Policy (ES&P) Program proposes that the College establish an environmental scholar-in-residence program to bring distinguished environmental policy makers, writers, scientists, and activists to campus for variable periods of time, from as short as a few days to as long as 2 years. The objectives of this program are to give Smith College national and international visibility in environment-related affairs; promote change in current practices which limit sustainability; create new connections for faculty and students; expose Smith faculty and students to cutting-edge information and ideas; and blur the boundaries between the co-curriculum and the curriculum. The mission of the ES&P program is not just to study environmental issues but to promote positive environmental change and model how to achieve it. Scholars and academics have a role in this mission but individuals outside the ivory tower can sometimes have greater impact. We need our students and our academic culture to invite the outside in and to be at the forefront of change itself and not merely observers.

What's in it for Smith: The visiting individual could amplify and stretch the academic experience at Smith in traditional as well as non-traditional ways. While in residence at Smith s/he could guest lecture in ES&P courses, chapel services, or house meetings; meet with interested faculty and students, and give public lectures. But primarily we would hope that the individual would promote, motivate, or directly organize environmental policy changes or programs at local (the College or in the City of Northampton), regional, national, or global levels. We would expect that the individual would involve Smith students and faculty in these endeavors and provide cogent examples of how to work effectively to promote environmental change in the 'real' world.

Who: The position would seek out individuals who would bring new energy to campus and who would serve as role models for students interested in pursuing environment-related careers. Individuals could be from our local community or from far outside Paradise. Individuals could be politicians, activists, lobbyists, government officials, journalists, administrators, industrial leaders, executives, lawyers, accountants, religious leaders, health professionals, NGO leaders, military engineers, or any other individual who has a passion for making a positive impact on our environmental problems and whose passion has tangibly made a difference. The ES&P Steering Committee will nominate candidates for this position after soliciting suggestions from other members of the college community (e.g. administration, student organizations, physical plant). Former alumnae would be ideal.

What's in it for them. For alumnae the answer is easy. Our alums have repeatedly asked to be more involved with the ES&P program and with change at the College in general. They feel that their life experiences and expertise are being underutilized. For others the opportunity to brainstorm with enthusiastic and energetic women who do not yet know the boundaries of life can be reenergizing and revitalizing. Also the open environment of active interchange is how new and bold ideas are born. Smith women are known to be

strong and creative organizers, thinkers, and doers. Many individuals outside Smith would love to tap into this creative and intelligent resource. Finally, some individuals are at points in their career in which time and space for reflection are limited; at these times the opportunity for a change in direction, place, or pace give a second wind to those on the front lines.

Submitted October 16, 2006 by Virginia Hayssen, Professor of Biology and Joanne Benkley, Coordinator, Environmental Science and Policy Program.