

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SECTION – ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Purpose

The purpose of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Section is to 1) promote environmental justice, i.e. the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes and educational levels with respect to the development and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, 2) encourage the development, application and use of ecological research to address environmental issues, particularly those that disproportionately impact underrepresented or low income groups, 3) stimulate education and outreach efforts that will provide better use and understanding of ecological concepts and research by non-scientists, 4) increase participation by individuals from underrepresented groups in the Ecological Society of America (ESA) and 5) take leadership in advancing EJ concerns within ESA, and in the work of ESA members with other organizations engaged in EJ issues.

Activities

2009 Annual Meeting

EJ Section Business Meeting agenda included discussion of:

- 1) Report and celebration of what we've achieved
- 2) Elections – Nominations for officers
- 3) Reports re past EJ activities at ESA meetings and the Copenhagen meeting
- 4) Planning for 2010 meeting: a workshop re "Education, Equity & EJ" & a symposium re "Climate Change & Equity"

Other items of discussion focused on future efforts for increasing interactions with other sections, developing a "Not So Rapid Response" approach for community outreach, growing the section, establishing an award to recognize best EJ paper/talk, and the need for ESA to reduce its footprint.

Following the yet-again active presence of Environmental Justice (EJ) activities at the 2009 ESA Annual Meeting, the EJ Section moved forward with plans for the 2010 meeting. Section enrollment was a discussion item with recognition of the need to increase membership via reminders to enroll. The result of these efforts, by the way, was a section membership of 65 as of January 2010.

In addition to the first-ever EJ Section Business meeting, the section helped to organize a number of activities at the 2009 annual meeting. These included:

- 1) INVITED SYMPOSIUM 3: Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities, Locally and Globally. Organizer: Mimi E. Lam, University of British Columbia and University of New Mexico. Co-organizer: Leanne M. Jablonski, Marianist Environmental Education Center.

2) INVITED SYMPOSIUM 13: Addressing ecological needs for 2020: Educational ingredients, recipes, and preparation. Organizer: Margaret Lowman, New College of Florida. Co-organizer: Carlos L. de la Rosa, Catalina Island Conservancy

3) WORKSHOP 13: Mentoring for Success. Organizer: Christopher Beck, Emory University. Co-organizers: Jennifer H. Doherty, University of Pennsylvania; George A. Middendorf, Howard University.

4) WORKSHOP 22: Environmental Justice in Ecology Curricula and Community Engagement. Organizer: Leanne M. Jablonski, Marianist Environmental Education Center. Co-organizers: Jessica R. Miesel, Ohio State University; George A. Middendorf, Howard University; Mimi E. Lam, University of British Columbia and University of New Mexico; Charles H. Nilon, University of Missouri, Columbia

There were several other, presentations with EJ material, including:

- PS 48-86: Environmental justice and the step to a more sustainable community through policy making. Erica Fernandez, SEEDS and Central Coastal Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy
- PS 84-106: Training the next generation of environmental problem solvers: The School of Global Environmental Sustainability at Colorado State University
- Cynthia S. Brown, Michael K. Brydge, Tracy E. Smith, Richard T. Conant, Kathleen A. Pickering, and Diana H. Wall. Colorado State University
- COS 5-4: The politics of green: Civically engaging undergraduate students. Denise Mitten, Ferris State University and Scott M Herron, Ferris State University.
- INVITED SYMPOSIUM 16: The Ecology of Place: Charting a Course for Understanding the Planet. Organizer: Mary V. Price, University of California, Riverside. Co-organizer: Ian Billick, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory

2010 Annual Meeting

EJ Section activities planned for the 2010 Annual Meeting in Milwaukee include:

1) 2010 Environmental Justice Section BUSINESS MEETING

2) WORKSHOP 24 - Environmental Justice Education and Community Partnerships Addressing Global Warming and Planetary Stewardship
Organizer: Leanne M. Jablonski, Univ of Dayton. Co-organizers: Jessica R. Miesel, Univ of Wisconsin-Madison; Charles H. Nilon, University of Missouri; Mimi E. Lam, Univ of British Columbia and University of New Mexico; George A. Middendorf, Howard University

3) ORGANIZED ORAL 3: Communicating the Ecology and Justice Dimensions of Climate Change to Diverse Audiences: Educational Opportunities and Challenges. Co-organizers: Leanne M. Jablonski, Univ of Dayton and Chris Beck, Emory University.

4) SPECIAL SESSION 23: Using Best Science to Educate a Public Confused about Global Climate Change. Organizer: Kenneth M. Klemow, Wilkes University. Co-organizers: Catherine L. Cardelus, Colgate University, Leanne M. Jablonski, Univ of Dayton, George A. Middendorf, Howard University.

5) INVITED SYMPOSIUM 15: Climate and Justice: Exploring Equity through Land, Water and Culture. Organizer: Samir K. Doshi, University of Vermont. Co-organizers: Deane Wang, University of Vermont; Gillian Bowser, Colorado State University.

6) INVITED SYMPOSIUM 24: Revolutionary Ecology: Multidisciplinary and Multimedia approaches to Cooling the Planet. Organizer: Ana Elisa Pérez-Quintero, University of Puerto Rico Co-organizers: Charissa Jones, New College of Florida (SEEDS alumni); Serge A. Farinas, University of Michigan (SEEDS alumni); Malaya Lualhati, Oregon State University (SEEDS student); Melissa Armstrong, Ecological Society of America; Elizabeth R. Uses Knife, Oglala Lakota College (SEEDS student); Mattias Lanas, Stanford University (SEEDS student); Marla Striped Face-Collins, University of New Hampshire (SEEDS alumni).

EHRC: EJ Section members, Middendorf and Jablonski, served on EHRC (Education and Human Resources Committee) and attended the October weekend meeting/retreat and participated in quarterly conference calls. EHRC discussions included many issues common to environmental justice, education, along with issues pertinent to the student section and diversity initiatives. A major initiative arising from the EHRC meeting was a proposal for a series of articles for *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* focused on “The roles, responsibilities, and relationships of ecologists in the 21st century.” Submitted by George Middendorf, Catherine Cardelús, and Meg Lowman, the series included coverage of EJ issues, particularly identifying career and training opportunities, recruiting for diversity, civic environmental literacy, ecological outreach, ecological activism for policy and sustainability, and new developments in teaching ecology.

The EJ Section webpages are available at www.esa.org/chapters_sections/.

2010 Election Results:

Chair: Leanne Jablonski
Vice-Chair: Ana Elisa Pérez-Quintero

Each position is for a two-year term of office that will begin at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh. The position of Secretary will be open next year, in 2011.

Submitted by:
George Middendorf (outgoing Chair)
Leanne Jablonski (incoming Chair)