Call for Papers
Writing Across Communities Four Corners Graduate Student Conference: Earth Day 2010
April 22 & 23, UNM Campus, Albuquerque

Mapping the Field(s) through Time and Space:
Earth and Environment across the Disciplines

Keynote: Bruce T. Milne, Professor of Biology and Director of Sustainability Studies, UNM

In the 40 years since the first Earth Day, changes in science, technology, politics, and social and cultural paradigms have all caused shifts—some great, some small—in our understanding of and connection to the earth. For the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, the University of New Mexico Writing Across Communities (WAC) program is hosting an interdisciplinary graduate student conference. The conference will be held April 22 (Earth Day) and April 23 at the University of New Mexico campus in Albuquerque.

WAC, which “seeks innovative approaches to developing literacy resources, and helping students gain the knowledge needed for leadership in academic, professional, and community contexts,” has always promoted cross-disciplinary and intercommunity efforts to expand knowledge, share information, and promote community solutions to difficult questions. What better forum than Earth Day to think dialectically and converse openly about the important research that promises to shape our future relationship with this planet?

We seek papers and presentations from all disciplines that explore the paradigm shifts, present new knowledge, (re)interpret old knowledge, or ponder new epistemological ways to approach the gathering of knowledge about the earth.

Papers and presentations of any format are welcomed, but individual presentations must not exceed 15 minutes. For panel or group presentations, please contact conference organizers.

Framing questions might be: What constitutes environmental justice? Where are the intersections between climate science, public discourse, and environmental policy? What do literary representations of nature and the environment suggest about our relationship with the earth? How do Romanticized notions of nature or the environment help or hurt contemporary environmental movements? How has “environmentalism” changed in response to or in spite of changing science? How do natural resource science and environmental activist/environmental justice concerns meet or diverge? How does or should the green jobs movement bring together environmental and economic concerns? How are local and global environmental concerns related and mediated through different social and cultural lenses? What impetus is there for setting aside wilderness spaces or for improving nature? What are the intersections between gender studies, sexuality studies, globalization, colonialism, scientific and environmental concerns? What does investigating these interstices offer scholars and citizens?
Please send your presentation proposal or paper abstract of 250 words or fewer to: earthdayconference@gmail.com no later than March 26, 2010. Please also include a brief bio specifying your institution, department or discipline, and research interests. Please forward to others who might be interested in attending this unique conference!

Possible subject areas include (but are by no means limited to):

Activism
Agriculture
Art
Astronomy
Biology
Climate Science
Community/Regional Planning
Environmental Justice
Environmental Management
Environmental Science
Film/Media Representations of Nature
Forestry
Geology
Indigenous studies/Land claims
Land/Landscape
Literary Representations of Nature
Nature and Culture
Nature/Place in Literature
Nature Writing
Paradigms of Environmentalism
Recycling
Restoration
Rhetoric of Environment
Space, Place and Environment
Southwest Studies
Sustainability Studies
Technology and Nature