

ANNUAL REPORT
Program in Environmental Studies
1985-1986

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

This year saw the implementation of an entirely new curriculum. The core of this curriculum places greater emphasis both on building a sound substantive foundation in the physical and life sciences and on acquiring competency with the skills and techniques required in theoretical and applied research. Both to facilitate this more rigorous core and as a reflection of changes in faculty participants, individual tracks and senior theses are now self selecting rather than required components of the curriculum.

On the basis of this year's experience, the basic structure of the curriculum appears sound and rationale, but some changes are anticipated as the program continues to develop. The required ecology courses will be restructured next year, for example, and program participants have discussed the possibility of introducing an informal seminar that would focus on exchange of student and faculty work and presentations by guest lecturers. Such a seminar, in which all majors would be expected to participate regularly, not only would provide a forum, for discussion of related ideas and interests but could contribute significantly to the identity of the program.

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Prior to registration for the 1986 fall term, three freshmen declared environmental studies majors. Interest in the program, however, is considerably greater than indicated by number of new majors. Freshman orientation meetings, for example, were well attended, and several new students also attended All College Meeting Nights. Based on this level of interest, the number of majors can be expected to increase if the program can successfully establish a clear identity.

ACTIVITIES

Toward building such an identity, a social meeting of interested students and faculty was held during the fall term. During the spring term, the program cosponsored a campus visit Ted Shabad, who lectured on Soviet resource development in context of environmental constraints.

STUDENTS

The 1986 graduating class included five environmental studies majors. Daniel Kaveney graduated cum laude, with departmental honors. Sarah Lewis was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and graduated summa cum laude and with departmental honors. Sarah will begin study of environmental law at Syracuse Law School in the fall.

FACULTY

Next year Steve Trombulak will assume the directorship of the program. While environmental studies has no additional faculty, a number of fine junior faculty members from several disciplines continue to show interest in the program. These individuals, however, share the concern that after meeting the demands of full-time, departmental responsibilities and active research programs, little time remains for additional commitments -- particularly when there is ambiguity about how such commitments will be evaluated in the formal review process.