August 25, 2009

Dear LECL Students,

Fall is quickly approaching and we have some exciting new developments in the LECL program to share. In addition, we want to provide you with some course/scheduling and staffing information as you develop your program of study.

Dr. Heather Burns has been hired as a new full-time fixed-term faculty member. She is a graduate of the LECL program, has 11 years of experience as a university instructor at PSU, the University of Portland, PCC and OSU, including 8 years in international programs, and she directs her own Community Supported Agriculture business, Little Frog Farm. Dr. Burns will also serve as the new LECL Program Coordinator and Learning Gardens Coordinator.

Dr. Burns will be in attendance at the LECL Student Orientation on September 26th from 1:00-4:00pm at the Learning Gardens Laboratory. We encourage you to attend the Orientation to meet new students and re-connect with current LECL colleagues. Dr. Burns will also spend a few minutes that day discussing course/program schedules and the upcoming LECL program review. As you know, the LECL program is under an admission moratorium while the program is revised. It is our intention to include students in discussions of the future of the program as we meet PSU budgetary demands and develop a stellar sustainability education degree.

To that end, we have included below a list of program updates (along with an attached list of courses and potential LECL specialty foci for the 09-10 academic year) so that you can make informed decisions about course selection and degree pursuits. Specifically, **culminating project requirements have changed to facilitate student graduation** AND **students can develop their own LECL thematic specialty focus from a broad array of LECL and ELP courses**. In short, there is no longer a required "set" of LECL courses. Students may work with their advisers to develop a LECL thematic focus that best meets their own learning needs and objectives. In addition, Dr. Burns has developed **new internship/practicum opportunities**. Finally, she also created some "sample" strategies for LECL specialties (see attached).

Wishing you the very best in the new academic year!

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Staffing/Advising:

- Dr. Rosalyn McKeown will be on leave for Fall 2009. Dr. McKeown will be unable to provide advising, course, project, or thesis support during this time.
- Dr. McKeown's advisees will be temporarily re-assigned to Dr. Heather Burns, LECL Program and Learning Gardens Coordinator.
- Dr. Heather Burns will hold a series of advising/information sessions. Any questions about the program, courses, projects, or thesis should be directed to Dr. Burns, LECL Coordinator, at hburns@pdx.edu, 503-725-8252
- Dr. Dilafruz Williams will continue her teaching and advising roles in the program including her focus on gardens-based education. She is also teaching a new course on Service Learning that will travel to India during Winter term.

Course Requirements/Changes:

- **LECL Comprehensive Project/Thesis**: As noted earlier, all new students (Summer/Fall 2009 admission) will be required to complete the new LECL Comprehensive Project course. Students who are currently working on their projects/thesis have the option of continuing OR switching to the new requirement (4 credits total—instead of 6 credits). Continuing students are Welcome and Encouraged to attend (with or without registering) the new LECL Comps course ELP 506 with Dr. Heather Burns that will be offered each term this year.
- **LECL Thematic Specialization**: Students may develop their own thematic specialization with their adviser from LECL and ELP courses. Attached are course schedules and sample specializations.
- **ELP Department Professional Core Courses**: All students are still required to complete the core courses (select 4 from the list of 5 courses, 16 credits total).
- **Program Electives**: Students can select any graduate level courses from ELP.
- **Program Completion**: Students must complete the professional core courses (16 credits), courses that form a thematic specialization (20+ credits), and a comprehensive project (4 credits). Electives and internships/practicum are optional. Total number of credits required to graduate is 45.
- **ELP 509 Learning Gardens Laboratory Internships:** New graduate internships have been developed for leadership positions at the Learning Gardens Lab. More information will be forthcoming.

Course Offerings Overview: Please see attachment for a more complete listing of other LECL and ELP courses.

Fall Term:

ELP 506 LECL Comps (1-4 credits)
ELP 550 Advanced Leadership for Sustainability
ELP 510 Permaculture I

Winter Term:

ELP 506 LECL Comps (1-4 credits)
ELP 517 Ecological and Cultural Foundations of Learning
ELP 548 Global Political Ecology
ELP 510 Permaculture II
ELP 501 Theory & Practice of Sustainability

Spring Term:

ELP 506 LECL Comps (1-4 credits)
ELP 548 Global Political Ecology
ELP 517 Ecological and Cultural Foundations of Learning
ELP 519 Sustainability Education