

U Students Give Crowfoot a Golden Apple



Crowfoot

Quality teaching matters. This was the message delivered in person to PitE Faculty Associate Professor Jim Crowfoot earlier this semester. Representatives from Students Honoring Outstanding University Teaching (SHOUT) surprised him at a local café and told him he had been chosen as this year's Golden Apple Award recipient.

The Golden Apple is the only university teaching award given by the student body. Each year's awardee is chosen based on the quantity and quality of student nominations.

Crowfoot teaches his first year seminar, "Environment, Sustainability and Social Change" for the Program in the Environment and the Michigan Community Scholars Program.

Though the course only enrolls twenty students a year, it consistently leads them to further studies in the environment. PitE senior Maddie Morley says, "His class is the reason I'm here." Morley entered LSA undecided about a major. She thought she might study math. Then she took Crowfoot's seminar and her path became clear. "He essentially jump-started my passion for working toward a more sustainable future."

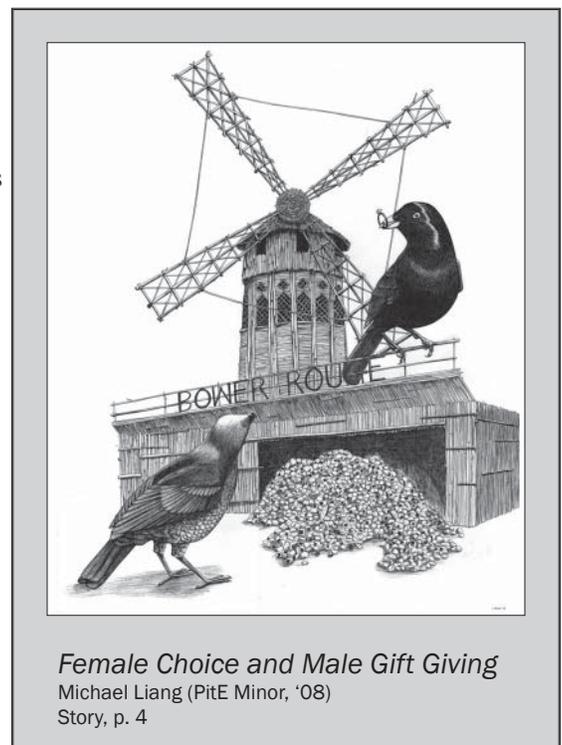
In the Program's early years Crowfoot also taught an upper-level course "Society and Environment." Alumna Carolyn Westbrook took that course. She e-mailed the program when she heard the news. "I am thrilled that Professor Crowfoot has been honored in this wonderful manner. His insight into the workings of our society and the effect of our interaction with the environment provided me with understanding and desire to be a better steward."

Crowfoot does not confine these

insights to the classroom. At his "Ideal Last Lecture" – the Golden Apple's public recognition ceremony – Crowfoot called on the university to make sustainability education a required part of the curriculum for all students.

Crowfoot has been a fixture at the university for nearly 25 years. He was a faculty member in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) and served as the school's dean for eight years. Crowfoot began a tiered retirement several years ago. He is the first emeritus professor to receive the Golden Apple Award.

Emeritus Professor and PitE Faculty Associate Burt Barnes also received the Golden Apple Award. He was honored in 2001. ▪



Female Choice and Male Gift Giving
Michael Liang (PitE Minor, '08)
Story, p. 4



Director's Letter: Crossroads and Connections

From its inception, the Program in the Environment was conceived as an intellectual crossroads. It was expected to build connections across campus, whether between schools and colleges, academic departments or individuals. This it has certainly done.

- Our ever-increasing **enrollment** count now exceeds 300 students. We have over 200 concentrators and more than 100 minors in the program. These students bring interests in business, ecology, urban planning, engineering, and the performing and visual arts.
- Our **faculty associates** are drawn from nine schools and colleges, and dozens of departments therein. We are in the process of renewing and seeking new faculty associate commitments. This ensures high quality instruction and research remain a feature of the Program. In addition, the Regents have approved us to share in our first joint faculty appointments. We are delighted to have as our first joint appointees Rita Loch-Carusio, Gloria Helfand and Paul Webb. The other parts of their shared appointments are in the School of Public Health, the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE), and both SNRE and LSA, respectively.
- Our **alumni** are not only connecting with professions as diverse as their academic interests, they are reconnecting with each other. Read on page 6 about alumni who have found themselves reunited as professional colleagues.
- Our **supporters** are finding much

in our mission worth supporting. We continue to be contacted by potential donors. They want to fund the unique education we offer at Program in the Environment. Most recently this was demonstrated by a \$150,000 endowment gift from David Bonderman for need-based Field Experience scholarships. President Mary Sue Coleman matched the gift, bringing the endowment total to \$300,000. We look forward to making awards from the endowment in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Solutions to the environmental problems we face will take collective problem solving and effort. We are pleased with the connections our program, our students and alumni, our faculty and staff, and our friends are making to each other and the larger world.

Respectfully,

The Program in the Environment is now LSA's **14th most popular concentration** and **7th most popular minor**. This according to the most recent college enrollment data compiled at the end of Winter 2007 semester.

Alumna in Different Line of Fire

When Emily Garlough graduated from the Program in the Environment in 2006, she immediately began a cross-country bicycle fundraising trip for Habitat for Humanity. After successfully completing the coast-to-coast ride, she started her assignment as a wildfire fighter with the U.S. Forest Service. She writes below about her most memorable days of service.

Most of the people I talk to back home just think I'm nuts. They don't know anything about firefighting. I didn't know anything about it until I got this job. All I knew was: Stop, drop and roll.

On this last fire near San Diego, I had my closest call yet.

I'm the third chain saw on my crew. That means I'm closest to the fire. My job is to get into the fire and limb trees up so the fire doesn't spread.

A few days ago, we were up in the hills. I looked up and saw my crew captain sprinting down the hill, yelling.

I had earplugs in and the saw was on, so I couldn't hear anything. But I knew he was scared. I turned around and saw the rest of the crew screaming and running.



Garlough

So I turned off that saw and just barreled down that hill.

I'm telling you, we just tore out of there. There was this huge burst of flame right behind me. Those hills are so dry. When the wind changes, you've got just a moment or two to get to the firebreak.

This fire was really different from the other ones I've fought. We usually don't deal with the urban interface and people. We're more comfortable just out in the woods.

But on this fire, we had to watch out for exploding propane tanks.

And dogs on fire. I don't know why people leave their pets, but they do. I guess they're trying to fit as many possessions as possible in their cars.

The little kids around here put notes in our lunches: "Thank you, firefighters, for saving our homes."

Out here, hygiene is not a priority. It's kind of frowned upon, actually. You've got your sleeping pack, a space blanket, a couple pairs of clean underwear, a couple pairs of clean socks and maybe a toothbrush if you want it. That's pretty much what you get for

see *FIRE*, p.6

Close Call for Another '06 Grad

A routine day of work turned life-threatening for Megan Miner (B.S. '06) last summer. She is employed by a contractor for NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service. She was aboard a scallop boat 40 miles off the Nantucket coast when the boat began to sink.

Miner was equipped with a Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracker (SARSAT). She activated the beacon before boarding a lifeboat with the five crew. Megan told

NOAA, "It was getting dark, and it was raining, but we began seeing lights from other boats and we fired off flares. Within 45 minutes one of the boats was along side us."

Following her rescue, Miner spoke at a program in Washington, D.C., celebrating SARSAT's 25th year of use. "My life was saved through the SARSAT program," Miner says. "I'm back to work now, and I still love my job!" ■

Environmental Leadership Noted

The Office of Student Activities and Leadership solicits nominees each year for several leadership awards. PitE's **Andrew Munn** was recognized with an Honorable Mention for Outstanding Student Leader. Munn is a student director of the Michigan Student Sustainability Coalition, which coordinates the actions of environmental groups across the state's campuses. He was also an organizer of the Michigan contingent at Power Shift 2007. Power Shift was a national youth summit to address the global climate crisis.



12 Steps into the Marsh
Andrew Sell, PitE Minor '08

"Warehaus" Exhibits Students' Art Theses

Seniors **Michael Liang** and **Andrew Sell** are exhibiting their thesis projects from the School of Art and Design in *Warehaus*, a show they have co-organized. Both students are PitE minors.

Liang's thesis work is a series of drawings "influenced by the diversity of animal reproductive strategies." For example, *Hemipenes* shows a chameleon making use of two urinals simultaneously. In *Mate Cannibalism*, a praying mantis looks less than repentant in a confessional.

For Sell's thesis, he explored the "Chair as Meditative Space." Sell says, "Inspired by poems, found objects and natural materials, these chairs turned sculpture exist to seed new stories and ways of viewing our surrounding space."

Liang will be working this summer for the North Coast and Cascades Research Learning Network. He says he will be "making their research more accessible and relevant to the public through a variety of creative mediums" as an Interpretive Media Specialist. In the fall he will begin a certificate program in Natural Science Illustration at the University of Washington.

For the duration of the summer, Sell will continue to curate an exhibit, "Nature's Armature," at the UM Matthaei Botanical Gardens. He then plans to intern with a sustainable design firm in Detroit.

North Campus: The "It" Place

Congratulations to the PitE student and faculty associates involved in the "C'ing Energy" design concept. It was co-winner of the WorkPlay competition, sponsored by UM's College of Engineering and the College of Art and Design's "Arts on Earth" initiative.

WorkPlay solicited designs to turn north campus into a "destination location." The C'ing Energy team envisioned north campus as an energy- and carbon- ("C") conscious space. It would include wind turbines and solar panels, as well as an amphitheater and kinetic kiosks (pictured, right).

The C'ing Energy team included PitE student **Andrew Sell**, and faculty **Joe Trumpey**, **Larissa Larsen**, **Jeremy Semrau** and **Mark Hunter**. Images of the winning entries are available at www.artsonearth.org/workplay.

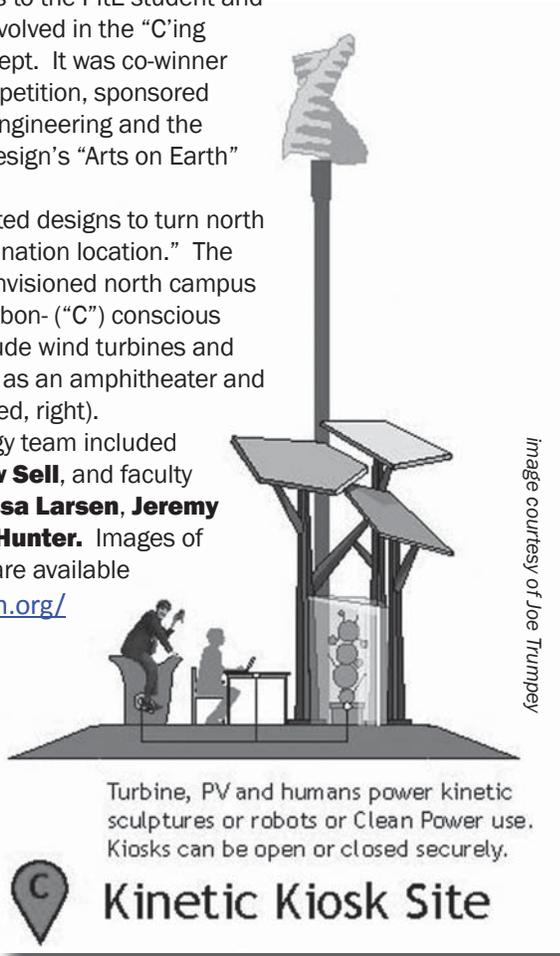


Image courtesy of Joe Trumpey

Turbine, PV and humans power kinetic sculptures or robots or Clean Power use. Kiosks can be open or closed securely.



Kinetic Kiosk Site

Enlargement from C'ing Energy concept board.

3 PitE students nominated for Udall Scholarship

PitE is pleased to have three of its students representing the university in the Morris K. Udall Scholarship competition. A faculty committee advanced juniors **Rachel Enoch** and **Megan Rourk**, and sophomore **John Monaghan** to the national selection process.

The scholarship is sponsored by the Udall Foundation, which Congress created in 1992 to honor the work of Senator Udall. Each year it identifies 80 U.S. college students as scholarship winners. They are chosen based on their promise as leaders in either the environmental field or the area of Native American health care. Winners receive a \$5,000 award and an all-expenses-paid, 5-day trip to Tucson, Arizona.

PitE alumna Brittany Fox (B.A. '07), was the last UM Udall Scholarship winner in 2005.



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**Carly Jankens (B.S. '07) and
Becca Turner (B.A. '06)**

River Bend Nature Center, Faribault, MN

Carly writes, "In September I began a nine month internship at River Bend Nature Center as a naturalist educator. The stipend was small but a house is provided for the three other interns and me to live in at no cost. The biggest surprise upon moving out here took place on the first day of moving in when Becca Turner, a fellow PitE alumna who graduated with me, pulled in the driveway to move in too! We had even had three classes together without really knowing each other and now we are great friends!"

Alumni Pairs

ALUMNI PAIRS

**Troy Showerman (B.S. '05) and
Brad Gregorka (B.S. '05)**

Tallgrass Restoration, Schaumburg, IL

Troy writes, "Hopefully we can get some more Wolverines into a company that is laden with Illini."



**Veronica Kennedy (B.A. '07) and
Lauren Smith (B.A. '07)**

ICF International, Washington, DC

Veronica writes, "Lauren and I see each other a lot, though we do not work together very often. ICF has over 1,000 employees just in the DC area, so I would not be surprised if there were more Wolverines amongst us than I know of."

FIRE, from p.3

the two weeks to two months you're gone.

You're working, sometimes, 40 hours at a time, sleeping on the ground when you can.

There aren't too many comforts of home that I miss. Food, water and a good night's sleep: That's all you really need. It's kind of refreshing, I think. I miss ice cream, sometimes.

Even when I had the chain saw accident last summer, I felt really comfortable. We had four emergency medical technicians on scene.

What happened was: I lost my footing on a hill and fell forward onto my saw, which was running. After my face hit the saw, I just spit my two front teeth out and went back to work. I was in shock. I didn't really realize

what had happened.

One of my crew members said, "Turn off the saw. You cut your face pretty bad." I was like, "Oh, all right."

Then an EMT ran up, and her face went white. She was hyperventilating. Someone got on a radio to say that we'd had a severe laceration to the face and needed a helicopter med flight out.

They took really good care of me. I was back on the line within six days. I have a big old scar on my face, but my plastic surgeon says it will fade over time.

But generally, this is a lot of fun, fighting wildfires. You get to travel. You get to play in the woods. You get to play with chain saws. There are a lot of perks. •



By Angela Tapley, Concentration Advisor

I would like to give special attention to the specialization requirement in the Environment concentration. The specialization's individual focus allows you to choose three related upper division courses in one particular area with a common environmental theme. There is no wrong combination of courses for this requirement. To give some examples of interesting specializations, I am going to highlight one in each newsletter.

**Kate Marcos:
Environmental Education and
Behavior Change**

Kate Marcos, a senior Environment concentrator and Geology minor, chose a very simple, yet profound concept for her specialization: Environmental Education and how it leads to behavior change. She hails from West Bloomfield, MI and plans to graduate after the Winter 2008 semester.

Kate was initially interested in studying English and Psychology when she first came to the University of Michigan and had considered doing a teaching certificate. She prefers Social Science courses over Natural Science courses, so this helped lead her to her ultimate focus. She was attracted to Environ 382-Environmental Education for Sustainable Development. In order to choose the other two courses for her specialization, she consulted with

Environ 382 Professor Michaela Zint for recommendations on similar or related courses. Zint recommended Environ 360-Behavior and Environment and Environ 361-The Psychology of Environmental Stewardship, which she found she was already registered for in the upcoming semester. The courses seemed to form a natural path and she found that they fit together well for her interests.

Kate told me she has a perfect job as an Environmental Educator at the Ecology center. Some of her responsibilities include visiting local schools (K-5) and teaching them about recycling paper or how to recycle in Ann Arbor, and composting. She'd worked there since January 2007 and it's been a great way to practically apply these concepts she's been learning about in her specialization courses.

The Environmental Psychology courses have sparked Kate's interest and she may study this in graduate school. These were the best classes she took. She likes the social and educational aspects and definitely wants to do something related to this focus in the future.

If you're having trouble finding courses to complete your specialization combination, Kate recommends two additional things:

1. Talk to other students with similar interests and ask them for interesting course recommendations. A recent PitE graduate, Lauren LaRocca had a very similar interest to Kate's and consequently, had a similar specialization.
2. Choose your favorite classes and build upon them. ▪



Marcos, an unreformed tree-hugger



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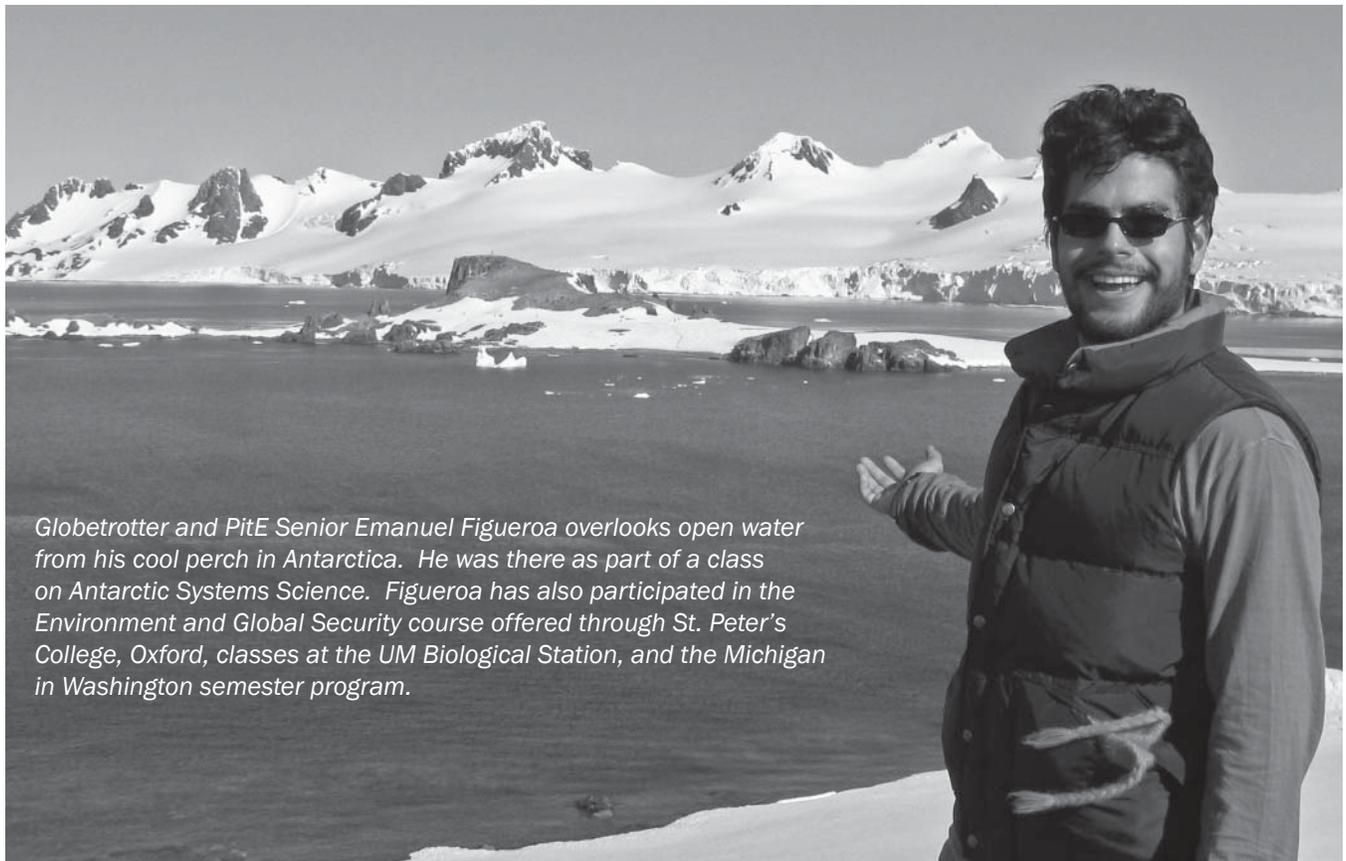
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Globetrotter and PitE Senior Emanuel Figueroa overlooks open water from his cool perch in Antarctica. He was there as part of a class on Antarctic Systems Science. Figueroa has also participated in the Environment and Global Security course offered through St. Peter's College, Oxford, classes at the UM Biological Station, and the Michigan in Washington semester program.