

# Haverford

## The Environmental Studies Initiative

The science of the environment and the social and political interactions of humans and the environment have emerged as perhaps the single most pressing problem of our era. Environmental Studies is a critical area that must be incorporated into our curriculum to prepare our students to contribute meaningfully to solving environmental crises.

Working with Bryn Mawr College, we have designed a compelling interdisciplinary program that incorporates expertise from the Humanities, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences. This process will be facilitated and augmented by complementary programming in each of our three Centers: the Center for Peace and Global Citizenship (CPGC), the John B. Hurford Humanities Center (HHC) and the Marian E. Koshland Integrated Natural Sciences Center (KINSC).

Our plan calls for the funding of three academic chairs – in Biology, Chemistry and Anthropology – that will utilize a research-driven approach to allow students to impart their original thinking (derived in the field and the lab) onto policy work in the classroom – and beyond. In keeping with our vision for Haverford academics generally, Environmental Studies will be a showcase for what we believe is truly a “next step” in liberal arts education as we take our students beyond the traditional dichotomy of ‘teaching-oriented’ colleges vs. ‘research-oriented’ universities. By providing research and scholarship opportunities, Haverford sees a third way: student/faculty partnership in the creation of knowledge which in turn becomes the basis for study, and the basis for change. It is nothing less than a life-changing intellectual apprenticeship informed by global vision and dedicated to the betterment of our world.

**What better application of that approach than the study of our environment?**

[DETAILS ►](#)



## Planned appointments include:

### Plant Biology Dept. of Biology

One would be hard-pressed to find an area of study better suited to both cross-disciplinary treatment and the collaborative faculty-student partnership. With this new hire, Biology will be able to continue to contribute to offerings for non-majors, the Biochemistry concentration, and the writing program, while still increasing the upper level Biology electives.

### Environmental Chemistry Dept. of Chemistry

The environmental chemist will bring new opportunities for us to work across divisions with members of Anthropology, Economics, and other departments as well as across campuses. Chemistry is central to the intellectual and technological advancement in many areas of science and our chemistry majors are the future investigators who will shape the world and solve the pressing scientific questions of their time.

### Environmental Justice Dept. of Anthropology

Among students and the general population, we are witnessing a sense of urgency about the impact of past and present human activity on the natural environment. Our new faculty member will be able to explore with students key environmental issues, such as environmental activism in Indonesia or the Amazon basin, where tribal groups, university students, and international NGOs have come together to rein in deforestation by multinational corporations; environmental toxicity and its effects on the urban and suburban poor, including how they, under the constraint of poverty and through the complicity of the state, normalize the destruction of their health and environment; and/or energy use and the forms of social and cultural life in which specific energy technologies and practices are embedded.

In recognition of both the value of the academic program and the benefits of endowed chairs, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has endorsed our plan with a generous grant that will significantly lower the cost of hiring the most capable and inspiring faculty. Specifically, Mellon will provide \$500,000 toward the \$2 million cost of each endowed chair for a total of \$1.5 million in Mellon funds which will be added to total donor contributions of \$4.5 million.

This presents a unique opportunity for a select few donors to provide named support, in perpetuity, for this most urgently needed and highly valued academic area. Each chair can be named in honor of an individual, a family or an organization, with Mellon funds liberated upon receipt of each \$1.5 million contribution. Given the nature of faculty search cycles, the sooner we receive donor funds the sooner the release of Mellon matches – and the sooner the realization of our vision.

