



*“We have our foot at the accelerator
driving towards the Abyss.”*

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

GEO-AESTHETICS IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

May 24-26, 2010

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY
Salisbury, Maryland

Geo-Aesthetics in the Anthropocene

Conference Theme:

What do the ecological humanities have to say in time of species extinction unprecedented in human history? How might the ecological arts address living in the emergence of a geological era to be defined primarily by the human impact upon the living world? These questions are the axis around which the various papers and artworks being presented at the conference revolve. The conference seeks to go beyond a scholarly discussion of these important questions to stances of public engagement. What exactly do the ecological humanities and arts have to offer our fellow humans and more-than-human fellow creatures living in a time of planetary ecological devastation? How do we find the proper or improper terms by which to bring a crisis of such magnitude into perspective? The conference theme is in part inspired by the inauguration of the Kangaloon Group, a gathering of predominantly Australian artists and scholars in the eco-humanities who are working to address the long term issues raised by the emergence of the Anthropocene. The conference theme is also, in part, inspired by a symposium in Geo-Aesthetics held last April at Towson University and directed by John Murungi and Gary Backhaus, co-directors of the International Association for the Study of Environment, Space and Place.

International Association for Environmental Philosophy. IAEP, established in 1996, offers philosophers in the continental tradition opportunities to share their thinking on a wide range of environmental questions. In addition to its annual fall meeting in conjunction with Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy, IAEP currently sponsors a conference each June in collaboration with the International Society for Environmental Ethics, as well as holding sessions at the annual eastern regional meeting of the American Philosophical Association. IAEP is also associated with the *Journal for Environmental Philosophy*.

“Geo-aesthetics in the Anthropocene” is the second in a new series of biennial summer conferences initiated by the IAEP, the first of which took place at the University of Oregon in summer 2008. These conferences are to be open to a wide range of scholars in the humanities, arts and sciences, as well as making use of the particular location in which they are held to offer field trips or other learning opportunities focusing on environmental themes. At the 2010 conference, we are offering a special talk by Joan Maloof at the Nassawango Field Station in order to introduce the conference participants to unique ecosystems found on the Eastern Shore.

Campus Academic Sponsors:

The Charles R. and Martha N. Fulton School of Liberal Arts, the Department of Philosophy and the Environmental Studies Program.

Peer Review Committee: Michael Lewis (History), Joan Maloof (Biology), James Hill (Art), Derek Bowden (Music), James Hatley (Philosophy).

Conference Co-Directors: Derek Bowden, Department of Music; James Hatley, Department of Philosophy, Faculty Affiliate in Environmental Studies and member of the Kangaloon Group

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Irene J. Klaever

Dr. Irene J. Klaver is founder and director of the Philosophy of Water Project, as well as an associate professor of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at the University of North Texas. Klaver is also a member of the UNESCO-IHP Expert Advisory Group on Water and Cultural Diversity.

The Philosophy of Water Project sponsors biennial conferences gathering together scientists, politicians, philosophers, artists, managers and specialists from both the public and private sector so that water issues can be explored across disciplinary, as well as political, social and geographic boundaries. Klaver also works with the Center for Water Law & Policy of the School of Law of Texas Tech University to organize symposia about ethics and water in order to foster compromise, cooperation and sustainable management of fresh water resources.

With Dr. Natarajan Ishwaran, Klaver is currently developing an initiative titled “River Cultures – Ecological Futures” to address the social-cultural dimensions of integrated water resource management along river basins. This initiative has in turn inspired the “Global Rivers Project,” a series of documentary films examining the environmental, political and cultural impacts on five major world rivers—the Amazon, Danube, Ganges, Rio Grande and Mississippi. These films were given their world premier in Beijing, China in 2008.

Plenary Speakers:

Dr. John Murungi—Cofounder of the International Association for the Study of the Environment, Space and Place.

Dr. Joan Maloof—Author of the internationally recognized natural history *Teaching the Trees: Lessons from the Forest*.

Thomas Horton—Nationally recognized environmental journalist and author of *Bay Country* and *Island out of Time*.

Other Noted Participants

Dr. Edmunds Bunkšé: Bunkšé is a noted geographer from the University of Delaware who is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Latvia and author most recently of *Feeling Is Believing: Landscape as a Way of Being in the World* (Sweden, 2007) and *Geography and the Art of Life* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004).

Dr. Edward Mooney: A philosopher who has written three books on Kierkegaard, including *Dialogue, Polemics, Lost Intimacy and Time* (2007), Mooney is also known for his work on revivifying the transcendentalist strand of the American philosophical tradition. In this regard he has published *Lost Intimacy in American Thought: Recovering Personal Philosophy from Thoreau to Cavell*, as well as having been the editor of Henry Bugbee's philosophical journal *Inward Morning* and a collection of essays on Bugbee's *The Heart of Wilderness*.

Dr. David Rothenberg: Rothenberg is an environmental philosopher and musician who is the author of *Why Birds Sing*, a philosophy of interspecies musicology that has been translated into 12 languages.

Dr. Kumi Kato: A scholar in the field of environmental studies holding faculty positions at both the University of Queensland and Wakayama University, Kato is currently collaborating with Dr. James Hatley to offer a wintermester course through Salisbury University on Environmental Spirituality in the context of the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage Route. Kato has an impressive resume of publications—both written and audiographic—with titles such as “Prayers for the Whales: Spirituality and Ethics of a Former Whaling Community - Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainability,” “Addressing Global Responsibility for Conservation Through Cross-cultural Collaboration: Kodama Forest, a Forest of Tree Spirits” and “Nature as Cultural Heritage: A View from Tasmania.”

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

MONDAY, MAY 24

Session Topic: Conceptualizing Extinction

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *Positive Aesthetics in the Anthropocene*
Jonathan Parker—University of North Texas
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *The Trunk and Not the Branch: Non-regenerative Extinction*
Jeremy Bendik-Keymer—LeMoyne College
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Geo-Aesthetics in Theory

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *The Fatal Conceit: Thoughts on the Ecological Calculus*
Zachary Piso—Allegheny College
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *The New Aesthetics of Nature and the Absence of the Sublime*
Roger Paden—George Mason University
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Geo-Art in Sight

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *Ontological Art; Glass as a Lens on Nature and Being*
Alison Chism—Salisbury University
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *Do Animals Need to Make Art?*
David Rothenberg—New Jersey Institute of Technology
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

10:20 – 10:40 **Break**

Opening Address

Location TBD

- 10:45-Noon *Callinectes Sapidus and the Art of the Chesapeake Bay*
Tom Horton—Salisbury University

Noon-1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
Location: Commons

Session Topic: Aesthetic Engagement and Critical Discourse

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 1:30-1:50 p.m. *Does Geo-Aesthetics, There Before We Arrive, Help in the Present?*
Edward Mooney—Syracuse University
- 1:55-2:15 p.m. *On the Margins of Perception and Discourse: The Ineffable, Evanescent and Ethereal in Landscapes*
Edmunds Bunkšé—University of Delaware
- 2:15-2:45 p.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Filming the Anthropocene

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 1:30-1:50 p.m. *Apocalypse, Film and the Anthropocene*
Adam Konopka—Fordham University
- 1:55-2:15 p.m. *“Planet Earth” and Eco-Sensitivity*
Craig Condella—Salve Regina University
- 2:15-2:45 p.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Geo-Practice

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 1:30-1:50 p.m. *The Seed Carrier's Embrace: The Gardener's Calling*
Carole Collins—Catholic University of America
- 1:55-2:15 p.m. *Geo-Aesthetics and Mobility: Walking the Ambient Earth*
David Macauley—Penn State University at Brandywine
- 2:15-2:45 p.m. Discussion
- 2:50-3:10 p.m. Break**

Special Session: International Perspectives

Session Location: ??

- 3:15-3:50 p.m. *New Perceptions – Sacred Trees*
Louise Fowler Smith—University of New South Wales
- *Waiting for the Tide: The Sea Whistle of Ama Divers*
Kumi Kato—Wakayama University and the University of Queensland

Special Session: Film Screenings

Location TBD

- 4:15-5:30 p.m. *Tangitan*
David Rothenberg—New Jersey Institute of Technology
Jaanika Peerna—Estonian Visual Artist
- *Walk/Rock*
Beth Dynowski
Sinead Young

TUESDAY, MAY 25

Session Topic: Geo-Aesthetics in Time and Place

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *The Aesthetics of Taiga and Tundra: Past and Present*
William Horne—Salisbury University
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *Seasons as Sensible Ideas: A Phenomenology After Goethe and Merleau-Ponty*
Luke Fischer—Independent Scholar
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Geo-Poetics

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *Poetry in the Anthropocene*
Nancy Mitchell—Salisbury University
- 9:25-9:45 p.m. *The Waters of Metaphysics*
Timothy Stock—Salisbury University
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Music, Tragedy and the Earth

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *Artistic Suicide Notes and the Anthropocene*
Steven Sandbank—Independent Scholar
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *Nietzsche on the Birth and Death of Tragedy*
Christos Evangelou—Towson University
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion
- 10:20-10:40 a.m. Break**

Plenary Address

Location TBD

10:45 a.m.-Noon *Traveling on the Way of Trees in Africa*
John Murungi

Noon-1:15 p.m. **Lunch**
Location: Commons

Session Topic: Writing the Anthropocene

Session Location: TETC Room ---

1:30-1:50 p.m. *To Have No Connection with the Earth: "To Build a Fire," Aesthetics and Anthropogeography*
Adam Wood—Salisbury University

1:55-2:15 p.m. *Treading Lightly: Italo Calvino's "Invisible Cities" Read in the Anthropocene Era*
Anne Ashbaugh—Towson University

2:15-2:45 p.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Architecture Beyond the Anthropocene

Session Location: TETC Room ---

1:30-1:50 p.m. *New Directions in Phenomenological Architecture: Balancing Environment, Society and Economics*
Shane Epting—University of North Texas at El Paso

1:55-2:15 p.m. *Geoesthetics and Geoarchitecture*
Richard Wilson—University of Maryland, Baltimore County

2:15-2:45 p.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Human Well-Being

Session Location: TETC Room ---

1:30-1:50 p.m. *Imagining Intergenerational Ethics*
Janet Fiskio—Oberlin College

2:15-2:45 p.m. Discussion

2:50-3:10 p.m. **Break**

Special Session: Theatre Performance

Session Location: Black Box Theatre, Fulton Hall

3:15-3:50 p.m. *Orchid Flotilla*
Caroline Reck—Artist in Residence, Austin, Texas
Shannon McPhee—Towson University

Plenary Address

Location TBD

4-5:15 p.m. *Water on the Edge: Thinking (with) Rivers*
Irene Klaver—University of North Texas
Director of The Philosophy of Water Project

5:30-6:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
Location: Fulton Hall Lobby

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26

**Session Topic: Sublime, Transience, Apocalypse:
Aesthetics in the Era of Climate Change**

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *Climate Change and the Danger of Kant's Sublime*
Iliana Zamorska—Oberlin College
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *Ephemeral Artists: Conversation and Collaboration with Nature*
Abby Halperin—Oberlin College
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Human Well-Being, cont.

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *Appalachian Aesthetics: Moonscapes and the Destruction of Social Capital
in Communities Dominated by Old King Coal*
Clint Jones—University of Kentucky
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *Geo-Aesthetics in the Classroom: Promoting Children's Ethical Awareness through Environmental Awareness*
Ellen Miller—Rowan University
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion

Session Topic: Hearing the Earth

Session Location: TETC Room ---

- 9-9:20 a.m. *The Guin in the Anthropocene*
Robert Nichols—Salisbury University
- 9:25-9:45 a.m. *Poetry Cycle*
Dennis Skocz—Independent Scholar
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. Discussion
- 10:20-10:40 a.m. **Break**

Special Session: Poetry & Music

Session Location: Fulton Hall

10a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Fire Escape

Linda Ardito—Dowling College

Gathering Dust: Sediment / Sentiment

Jolie Kaytes & Samantha DiRosa

EcoLogos

Elizabeth Meacham—Ursuline College

- 12:30-1:45 p.m. **Lunch**
Location: Commons

- 2 p.m. Nassawango Field Station

Location: Meet outside the Commons (lunch location) to board the SU bus.

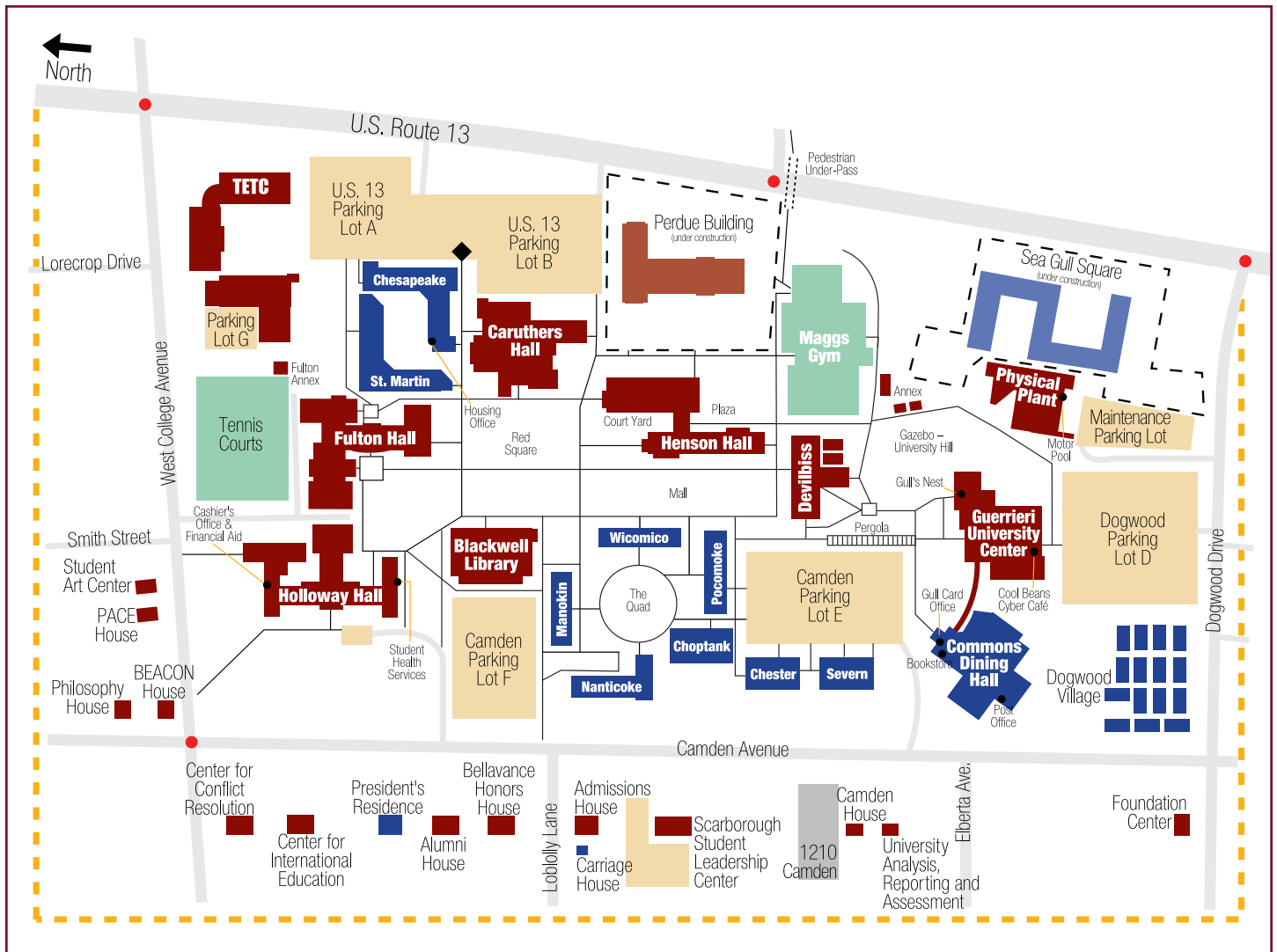
Measuring the Beauty of the Forest: Are You Serious?

Joan Maloof—Salisbury University

Philosophy Panel

Brad Warfield—Salisbury University

William Pomeroy—Salisbury University



Hotel Information

Holiday Inn, Salisbury
 410-546-4400
 300 South Salisbury Blvd.
 Salisbury, MD 21801
 Special GeoAesthetics Rate: \$60/night; request
 room for "Geo-Aesthetics at SU"

SU Shuttle

Shuttle service will be provided from the Holiday Inn
 to the SU campus during the conference.
 Shuttle schedule:
 Monday, 7:45-9:45 a.m. and 5-7 p.m.
 Tuesday, 7:45-9:45 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.
 Wednesday, 7:45-9:45 a.m. and 2-4 p.m.