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### EESI Newsletter, no. 3, Oct. 2007

Energy & Environmental Security Initiative (University of Colorado Boulder)

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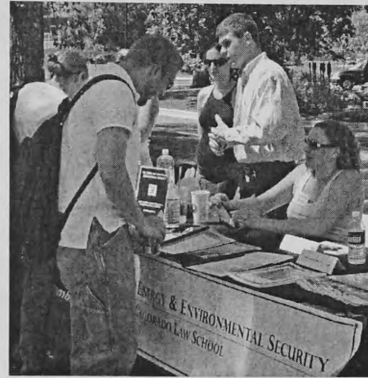
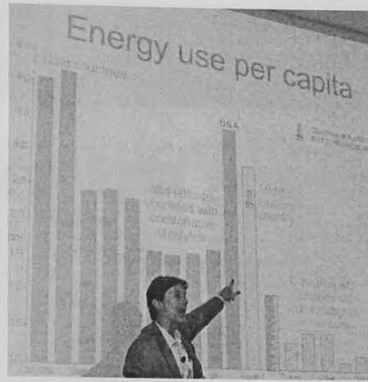
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EESI: THE ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY INITIATIVE  
[NEWSLETTER], no. 3, Oct. 2007 (Energy & Envtl.  
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# EESI

the  
energy &  
environmental  
security  
initiative



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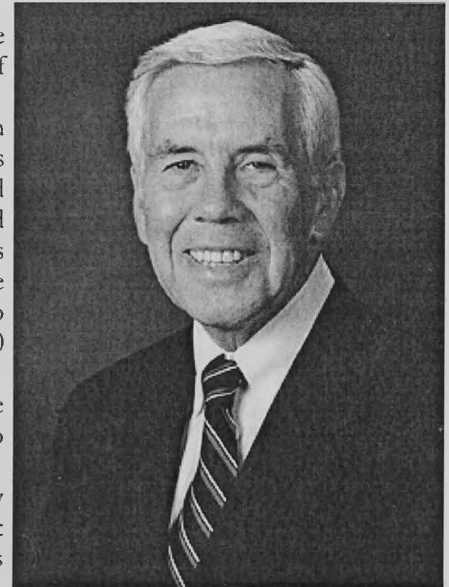
## Special Feature: A Message From U.S. Senator Richard G. Lugar A New Front in Middle East Policy

For too long the United States has ignored the consequences of its excessive dependence on imported oil. But the worsening economic and strategic impact of that dependence means we can no longer put off making significant policy changes.

Global competition for oil continues to grow as demand soars and oil-rich states tighten their control over supplies. Already, we have witnessed Russia cut its exports to selected countries for political gain, and the governments of Iran and Venezuela have both threatened to do the same. Each year, Americans spend hundreds of billions of dollars to import oil. Some of that money enriches authoritarian governments that suppress their own people and work against the United States. Meanwhile, terrorists are targeting oil infrastructure. The threat is so severe that Saudi Arabia has announced that it will organize a security force of 35,000 members to protect its oil infrastructure. In today's tight oil market even a small disruption in oil supplies could cause shortages and send prices much higher. In the future, we might face a situation in which there simply is not enough oil available to meet our needs.

A credible, well-publicized campaign in the United States to definitively change the oil import equation would reverberate throughout the Middle East. It would be the equivalent of opening a new front in Middle Eastern policy that does not depend on more military expenditures or the good will of any other country.

**See Senator Lugar, Page 8** Senator Richard G. Lugar (R-IN)  
Ranking Member, Senate  
Foreign Relations Committee



**EESI Profile: Victoria Ravenscroft; Principal Analyst, Law & Policy Group**  
Kevin Doran

It is late in the afternoon during the fall semester of 2005. I am chatting with Professor Guruswamy in his office, drinking a cup of tea—which he insists is an inferior blend made worse by the fact that I let it steep for too long. There is a knock at the door, and a few seconds later I am being introduced to Victoria Ravenscroft.

**See Ravenscroft, Page 9**

Heading Photos: Top - CU INSTAAR Ice Core Scientist Dr. Jim White at EESI's "Creating the Permanent Energy Revolution"  
Bottom - EESI Volunteer Coordinator Paris Lumb gives information about volunteering for EESI to first year law students at orientation

## First-Year Law Students Join EESI

Paris Lumb

Tuesday, August 22 was a beautiful, sunny day. Incoming first-year law students – or as those of us in the legal community call them, “1Ls” – were just getting to know Wolf Law. I set up a table in the courtyard to generate interest and offer information about volunteering for EESI. Mariah Zebrowski met me there, and we waited for the 1Ls to arrive, having no idea what to expect.

To our great and pleasant surprise, we were swarmed with enthusiastic 1Ls who were truly interested in getting involved with EESI. For over an hour, Mariah and I worked our way through a long line of eager students, answering their questions and giving them more information about how they could get involved. Over 40 students signed up to learn more about EESI, including students who indicated that the presence of EESI on the CU Law campus was a deciding factor in where to attend law school. Many of these students had already spent time exploring the EESI website. Needless to say, we were thrilled.

Following the orientation recruitment, EESI held an informational meeting on Thursday, August 30 for students interested in applying to volunteer. Our project managers gave impressive presentations about their respective projects so that the 1Ls could learn more about what we do and determine where their preferences lay. Within a matter of hours, applications began rolling in.

By the deadline on Monday night, we had a hefty stack of applications to read (electronically, of course, to save paper!). Rather than being an onerous task, however, reading this abundance of material proved to be an enlivening pursuit. The students outlined in these resumes, letters of interest, and writing samples were outstanding candidates with great backgrounds and enthusiasm for issues relevant to EESI.

See 1Ls, Page 5



**EESI Volunteer Coordinator Paris Lumb distributes information about EESI to interested first-year law students.**



## Student Comment: Victoria Ravenscroft

EESI Principal Analyst,  
Law & Policy Group  
Third-Year Law Student

## Bush's New Climate Change Plan: A Mere Symbolic Step

On May 31, 2007, at the United States Global Leadership Council, President Bush unveiled his plan to secure an energy-efficient, green future for the United States. The President's proposal marks a change in the Bush Administration's stance on climate change. In the past, the President has doubted the validity of climate change data and gone so far as to deny climate change altogether. In recent months, the President has reversed his opinion. In his May speech, he fully embraced the science and reality of climate change and outlined his solution. The President's plan sketches a skeletal solution to climate change, one devoid of substance and filled with mere words. The President's plan plays it safe, in fact, too safe. The plan's reliance on voluntary state cooperation lacks the teeth and mechanisms necessary to make it a truly effective solution.

The President's proposal optimistically calls upon the international community to set a long-term global goal for reducing GHGs. To address the issue of disparate state goals and values, the President suggests state-tailored energy plans that allow states to reach the global goal in a manner suitable to their circumstances and political priorities. To measure progress toward the global goal, the President's plan calls for mid-term goals and a transparent measuring system. These proposals are a step in the right direction but they are vague and represent an extremely passive attempt at addressing the issue.

It is well understood that long-term goals for climate change reduction must be formulated, and much international discussion on this topic has taken place. The President's plan simply reiterates this need and fails to further any of the talk that has occurred over the past decades. The plan to allow each state to develop its own strategy is another reiteration of existing norms and takes us nowhere in terms of GHG reduction. States have traditionally managed their own energy policy. Some have chosen to change their energy policies, other have not. The President's plan will not alter this.

The transparent measuring system envisioned by the President is the only means of enforcement offered in the plan. A measuring system relies on the fact that states are actually taking actions to meet the goal.

See Student Comment, Page 6

## Creating the Permanent Energy Revolution

Keynote Address by Dr. Martin Hoffert; Commentary by Dr. Morgan Bazilian and Dr. James White



Dr. Martin Hoffert, speaking at EESI's "Creating the Permanent Energy Revolution"

*Katherine Peters*

On August 1, Dr. Martin Hoffert's message was eye opening: catastrophe looms ahead. We are producing too much CO<sub>2</sub> and we don't currently have the technology necessary to curb our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions while providing enough energy to fuel our ever-expanding world. Although some people don't believe that we have enough evidence to prove that such a problem even exists, others believe that the problem is already so large that we can't begin to fix it. "I believe that there is an alternative course," said Hoffert, "but it requires a sense of urgency... similar to what we had in World War II."

Dr. Hoffert declared to a packed audience that we can prevent a serious climate crisis, but only if we treat it as a crisis and spur our government to action. "Only if we begin to create massive programs, Apollo-like programs and Manhattan-like programs, to research, develop, demonstrate, diffuse, and deploy alternative energy systems in the United States...do we actually have a chance of preventing the catastrophe that is looming."

Hoffert, Professor Emeritus of Physics and former Chair of the Department of Applied Science at New York University (NYU), began his talk with a video clip featuring the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Hoffert's response to their recent report. In contrast to the IPCC's view, Hoffert sees the climate change problem as "an engineering problem on a global scale." He believes that we have the technology to start to solve the problem, but not enough to actually solve it. He thinks we need to consider more radical solutions.

Unfortunately, people are resistant to drastic change. Hoffert believes that this resistance is due in part to our instincts, which tell us that our ability to survive and thrive is of central importance. We know that as our climate changes we can adapt. But we worry that doing something drastic to seriously limit our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would limit our economic growth, thus threatening our way of life.

When Hoffert and his colleagues began studying global warming in the 1970s they thought about it as a scientific problem. However, "the way the problem evolved in the United States is that it became a political problem. It became a political litmus test." The U.S. electorate equates belief in global

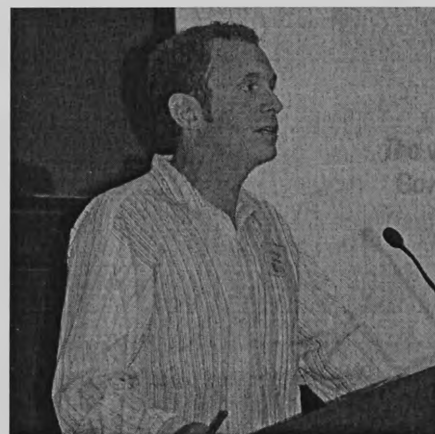
warming with a desire for strong centralized government control. Hoffert jokingly concludes, "but what [our political beliefs] have to do with how molecules and carbon dioxide absorb inferred radiation is beyond me."

Many people in the U.S. believe that the technology necessary to avert serious climate disaster will develop naturally out of the pricing system of the market, not from our government. Hoffert disagrees, asserting, "it is a myth that is deeply embedded in our government." He believes the myth originated "when Ronald Reagan took over the White House from Jimmy Carter... The first thing he did was to rip the solar panels off the roof of the White House and subsequently disassembled Carter's alternate energy research and development program." Reagan believed that the government was not supposed to be in the business of technology, but that the market would develop technology better, faster, and more reliably than the government.

Hoffert dispelled this myth by citing examples of major technology that came out of government research and development: gas turbines, jet airplanes, satellite telecommunications, large scale integrated circuits, nuclear power, computers, and the internet. He contends that we need such a revolution in engineering to solve the global warming problem. In the past, such revolutions have only come from government projects, and only when there was a sense of urgency. In World War II, when we needed the ultimate weapon, the government's Manhattan project developed the atom bomb. Hoffert left the audience with the following message: To develop the necessary technology, we need to feel a sense of urgency to stimulate our government to act.

Next to speak was Dr. Morgan Bazilian, who agreed with Hoffert, saying, "I don't think we're lacking the ability to meet the challenges, but we are lacking the inertia and will." Dr. Bazilian is the Chairman of the Program Board for the Renewable

Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), an international secretariat based in Vienna, Austria. He is also the Department Head of Renewable Energy Services for Sustainable Energy Ireland.



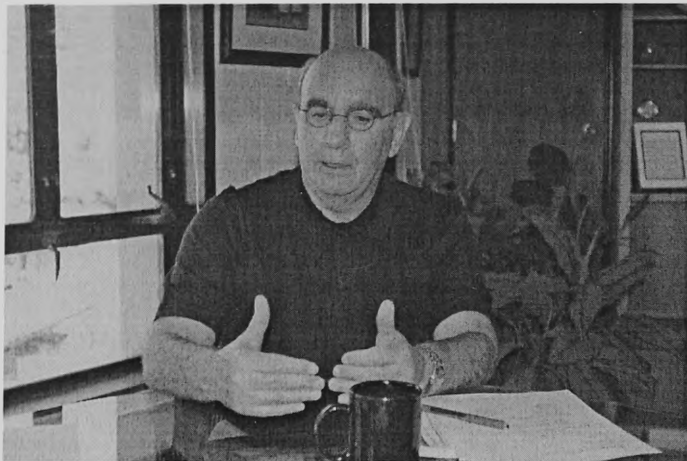
Dr. Morgan Bazilian gives his commentary.

See Energy Revolution, Page 8



## The Global Future of CU Boulder

### An Interview with CU Provost Phil DiStefano



Provost DiStefano speaks about interdisciplinary education, global warming, and the development of EESI.

Kevin Doran

On a sunny day this fall, I sat down with Dr. Phil DiStefano, CU Boulder Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor—also a key supporter of EESI—for a conversation about his views on interdisciplinary education, global warming, and the development of EESI.

Growing up in the steel town of Steubenville, Ohio, DiStefano was the first in his family to go to college—and the first to go to graduate school. “When I graduated from high school,” he recalls, “I would say that 70 percent of the males that graduated went to work in the steel mill...Very few went to college.” Today, DiStefano is the chief academic officer of a premier public university encompassing 9 colleges and graduate schools that offer 85 bachelor degrees, 70 masters degrees, and 50 doctoral degrees to some 28,000 students via 3,400 courses in over 150 areas of study. It is an improbable but inspiring career path.

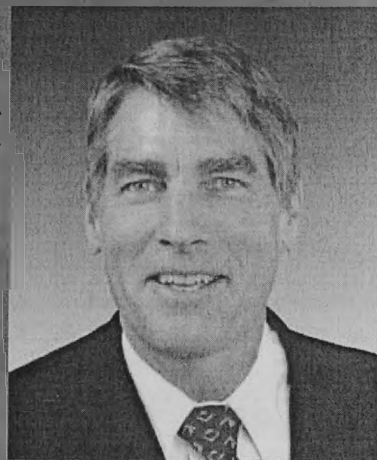
There were, of course, a few other stops along the way. DiStefano arrived at CU Boulder as an assistant professor in 1974 after earning a Doctorate in Humanities Education at Ohio State University. He has since served at the University Colorado as an Associate Professor with tenure, Full Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, Associate Dean and Director of Graduate Studies, Dean and Vice Chancellor, Interim Chancellor, and now as Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor.

Asked about the future of CU Boulder, DiStefano sees a need to ensure the University and its students are equipped to play a meaningful role on the global stage. “CU Boulder has to be multiple things in the future,” he says. “We have to be a state institution with global ties. Instead of taking one foreign language our students probably need two foreign languages, and one of them should be in Hebrew or Arabic or Chinese rather than Spanish and French and German.

See DiStefano, Page 7

## An Interview with U.S. Congressman Mark Udall

Alex Nelson



Congressman Mark Udall (D-CO)

The earth does not take a summer vacation, and neither do its guardians. This summer, on July 2, EESI held an event called “Envisioning Energy” in the Wittermyer Courtroom of CU’s Wolf Law Building. Among the panel of distinguished speakers was Colorado’s own U.S.

Congressman Mark Udall, now serving his fifth term representing the Second Congressional District in Washington, D.C. He graciously took some time to chat with EESI after the event.

Congressman Udall praises the citizens of Colorado for our commitment to responsible energy consumption and environmental conservation. Noting our closeness to the land on which we live, work, and play, Udall proudly observes, “Respect for the environment comes easily to those of us living in the Rocky Mountain West.”

Indeed, when Colorado voters passed Amendment 37 in 2004 – an amendment to the Colorado revised statutes concerning renewable energy standards – we signaled to the nation and the world that Colorado is serious about protecting the land and reducing our reliance on foreign energy and oil. Congressman Udall campaigned widely for the Amendment and describes its adoption as “a pivotal moment where our state took an important step in the right direction toward renewable energy.”

“There is a national trend taking place, and Colorado is certainly at the forefront,” Udall says. “We are home to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, our institutions of higher education are active in the clean energy field, our elected officials are eager to help move us down a sustainable path, our business community is encouraging new investments, and the general public is engaged in what is taking place.” Showing his colors, Udall declares, “Coloradans have never taken a back seat to anything, and that is certainly true when it comes to addressing our national energy challenges.”

The Congressman believes that Governor Bill Ritter’s election in 2006 was a further victory for sustainable energy.

See Udall, Page 7

1Ls: (continued...)

There was a chemist who had worked with the EPA on clean water issues, a LEED Green Building Accredited student who had worked with the Florida legislature on green building initiatives, a journalist who had written about environmental issues, several computer programmers who wanted to donate their skills to EESI databases, and applicants with humanities backgrounds who simply wanted to further our cause. Despite the variation in backgrounds, there was a common thread running through the applications: they were all passionate about EESI's mission to promote a sustainable energy future through a commitment to the environment.

After reading all of the application materials, and undertaking the difficult task of narrowing down the list of applicants we would accept, we produced a final list of 15 new EESI volunteers. These first-year law students are all outstanding individuals, and we are delighted to have them on our team.

Already, the volunteers have contributed great things to EESI. They have helped with our myriad database issues, given input on the interdisciplinary law curriculum, and assisted at events. Our project managers are getting some much-needed relief from talented volunteers, who are generously donating their time to EESI. We can't wait to make use of all this tremendous help this semester! **EE**

**Thank you to our new volunteers!**

Chris Achatz  
Kelly Crandall  
Vanessa Finch  
Bob Gregory  
Michelle Crozier-Haynes  
Susanne Heckler  
Mike Kopp  
James Lamb  
Ethan Moorar  
Marie Nakagawa  
Gabiella Stockmayer  
Alex Nelson  
Adam Smith  
Michelle Stoll  
Jenny Van  
Bill Wombacher

## An Interview with Colorado House Majority Leader Alice Madden

*Mariah Zebrowski*

With her amiable personality and winning smile, Colorado House Majority Leader Alice Madden is a pleasure to meet. "I'm the kind of person that has to find the humor in every situation," she says, "otherwise it can be hard to get out of bed in the morning." Though she admits to having occasionally laughed during congressional hearings, Representative Madden treats energy and environmental issues with all seriousness.

Now poised in a position to create real changes for Colorado, Madden started out as a law student at CU Law School. After receiving her law degree, she spent several years teaching legal writing and working as the Director of Alumni Relations at CU Law. Prior to taking office, Madden also practiced law at Fairfield & Woods, one of Denver's finest law firms.

Currently serving her third term in the Colorado State Legislature, Madden believes that Colorado's current democratic government, headed by Governor Bill Ritter, will continue to pursue aggressive energy and environmental legislation. "This will be our most aggressive agenda," Madden said. "It's something we frankly have to do—it's not a matter of when or if we can afford it—it has to happen."

At EESI's "Envisioning Energy" event on July 2, Representative Madden gave an entertaining and enlightening speech about her vision for Colorado's energy future. Companies and governments alike, she said, are promoting renewable energy. Xcel Energy is now the number-one wind producer in the country, and their stock has also increased. "Clearly you can make the green while you're being green," Madden says. "I think they've proven that."

She also enthusiastically lists the bills that have been passed in Colorado to help promote renewable energy, from removing sales tax on renewable energy equipment to investments in carbon cutting technologies. "I think my favorite has been putting wind turbines on schools," Madden continues. "Not only can schools cut down their utility costs, but they can really teach their students about renewable energy at the same time."

Organizations like EESI, in Madden's view, can be highly influential in advancing Colorado's energy future. Madden applauds EESI, in particular, for its ability to bring people together from many different areas—federal, state, administrative, legislative, academic, etc.—to address the public and get feedback. "Educating the public is one of the most important things a government can do," Madden stresses. "You can't make any changes unless the public embraces what you want to do."

Madden herself has played an important role in making some of these changes. She has brought wide scale attention to Colorado's transportation dilemma by sponsoring a creative approach to funding transportation in order to provide efficient travel choices. She has been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Sierra Club's Rocky Mountain Chapter, which honored her with its 2001 Freshman Legislator of the Year Award. Boulder County's Project Self-Sufficiency also awarded her its 2003 Local Hero Award. According to EESI Director, Dr. Lakshman Guruswamy, Madden is a "visionary leader and a great organizer—one whom I always love to have on my side." **EE**



**Colorado House Majority Leader Alice Madden**

## The International Project on Energy Commitments and Compliance



*Katherine Peters*

We live in a representative democracy. Our ideas are represented by elected officials. They make policy and commitments on our behalf. They listen to our demands. But how are we supposed to know

what to tell them if we don't understand the commitments they make and the results they produce? How are we supposed to hold our representatives accountable for their actions if we don't really understand their actions and all of the implications? Some information about our politicians' commitments is available. But it is scattered and incomplete. It is also difficult to discern what information is biased hype and what's true.

The International Project on Energy Commitments and Compliance (IPECC) aims to fix this problem. IPECC will be an online database containing information about treaties, soft law, partnerships, contracts, and unilateral pledges made by governments and corporations to make a positive impact on global energy and environmental security. To start, IPECC will focus on 10 such commitments. It will provide detailed information about these commitments, the degree to which they are being implemented, and the impact they are having, as well as the full text of each commitment. In the future we hope to expand the database to include all commitments in effect that are related to energy and the environment.

Given that there are literally thousands of such commitments, including them all in our database is too large a task for the student-based staff at EESI. We are therefore designing IPECC to be a semi-open "wiki" system. It will be similar to Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia, in the sense that it will incorporate information gathered by people around the world. However, to ensure the quality and accuracy of the information, it will be semi-open, allowing only identified experts to write articles. But, because commentary from the public is also essential to maintaining a balanced perspective, IPECC will have a designated public comment space.

Maintaining the accuracy of our information is important to EESI. We are not affiliated with any political party or persuasion. Our only political agenda is to provide citizens and governments with access to information so that they can make better decisions. Our expert contributors will come from a variety of backgrounds and will represent a broad range of views.

By making this information freely available to the public, IPECC will help to establish an environment of transparency and accountability with respect to these commitments. Interested citizens will have access to the information needed to understand what their governments and corporations are doing. It will enable governments, corporations, and decision-makers of all stripes to see what is and is not working, and to glean lessons from past failures and successes that can be used to strategically improve other sustainable energy-related efforts. **EE**

**Student Comment:** (continued...)

If states fail to meet mid-term goals or show progress on the measuring system the plan offers no suggestions as to what should be done. This points to the central flaw in the President's plan: it is completely voluntary and it lacks a viable incentive plan. Deviations from a global effort come with no repercussions. Instead, the President's plan relies on the good will of nations.

The President's plan is blind to one of the largest looming issues associated with climate change: the development of India and China. Using figures from the U.S. Department of Energy, the President points out that economic growth can occur alongside a reduction in GHG emissions. What the President fails to point out is that the opposite can be, and often is, true. The President makes no mention of the issues associated with the growth of India and China, where the improvement in their economy and social well-being will be linked with the single largest coal plant building project the world has ever seen.

The plan does take a step in the right direction concerning renewable and sustainable energy. President Bush calls for increased research and development funding into renewables. This indicates the President's understanding that renewable and sustainable energy development is not only a wise policy, but also one necessary to addressing the climate change issue. Where the President's plan falls short is in the details. He references a similar objective in the 2005 Energy Policy. Like that plan, the President's current plan offers only vague goals. The \$12 billion invested by the U.S. government into renewable research was invested with little guidance as to where or how it should be spent. Much of it has yet to be appropriated and that which has been allocated was disbursed in a scattershot pattern, with little rhyme or reason. Without some kind of structured research and development scheme the money invested in research and development is too often wasted. If we are to make major strides in renewable energy technology, the kind that are necessary to deal with this issue, we must have structured energy research. In addition, we need a plan for moving the technology from the drawing board to the streets; the President's plan lacks such a strategy.

The President's energy plan takes a more symbolic than material step in the right direction. The plan does indicate a change in the Bush Administration's view of climate change. However, without concrete goals or structured strategy, and with a reliance on voluntary efforts, the plan is most likely to end up among the stacks of ineffectual presidential initiatives. **EE**



**Udall:** (continued...)

Governor Ritter, like many activists and policy-makers in Colorado, is committed to developing a state economy that makes full use of our state's abundant sustainable energy resources, such as wind, water, and solar power.

Udall stresses the importance of comprehensive, multilateral action to remedy our reliance on foreign energy and oil. He speaks of the need for scientists, engineers, business leaders, educators, and policy-makers to cooperate with one another, and work together to strengthen our energy policy and resources by diversifying in ways that empower states to supply some of their own energy. In these ways we can build a society less beholden to foreign energy and less susceptible to the whims of world oil politics.

Udall sees education as a fundamental element in the process of state empowerment. "Public awareness is critical, and expectations must be realistic," he says. "Organizations such as EESI have the ability to expand the public's knowledge base, as well as help determine what options are most realistic and promising."

Congressman Udall sees the future with reasoned optimism. When asked about EESI project IPECC, an effort that will compile energy law and policy data from around the nation and the world, Congressman Udall responds, "It could be a great educational and policy awareness tool, and I can imagine political leaders taking full advantage of the information."

Reliable, responsible, sustainable energy is no pipe dream. It is a palpable force in Colorado. It is good, and it is growing, thanks to dedicated individuals like Congressman Mark Udall. **EE**

**DiStefano:** (continued...)

"Also," DiStefano continues, "right now about 25 percent [of our students] have study abroad experience. I think in the next 25 years all of our students need to have study abroad experience, and, not in the traditional countries of England, Spain, or Italy. They need to be in Korea and China. So I really do think that the university of the future is a global university compared with where we are today."

In congruence with his goals for the University, DiStefano was instrumental in starting EESI—providing the vision and seed funding that enabled EESI to traverse the gap between idea and reality. Talking about his decision to support EESI's development, DiStefano says, "One of the challenges of this job is having to say 'no' to good ideas because you don't have the resources to do everything," he says. "Two years ago, when Lakshman"—EESI's Director and Nicholas Doman Professor of International Law—"talked to me about sustainable energy, that was an issue that we put on the table with everything else, and it rose to the top." DiStefano also considers the likelihood that initial seed funding will translate into additional external support as an essential variable in choosing which good ideas to support. "The money that we put into this initiative as seed money has really worked, it has leveraged."

For DiStefano, EESI and other university efforts are a way to ensure that CU Boulder is making a tangible and positive difference in the world. "I look at our public mission as a University as: how do we create a better life, a better quality of life, not only for citizens of Colorado, but also citizens across the country and citizens around the world. As a public university, we need to give back to the state; we need to find ways to give the citizens of Colorado this opportunity to have a better quality of life. And so this initiative, in my mind, certainly does that."

With support from DiStefano and under the leadership of Professor Lakshman Guruswamy and Dean David Getches, EESI has developed a portfolio of over a dozen funded research projects. I asked the Provost whether or not EESI was meeting his expectations. His response was unequivocal: "Absolutely. There's no doubt about it. You measure 'how good you're doing' by a number of factors. One is the engagement of faculty from around the campus. EESI has certainly done extremely well in that area. The second is on external funding. And the third, that's related to the funding, is that you want to look at multiple sources of revenue. You don't want to rely on one source of revenue because you don't know how long that source is going to be available to you." DiStefano continues, "Certainly to the campus it's a worthwhile project because you have faculty buying into it, you have external constituents buying into it, you have state legislators and the Governor's Office buying into it... It's a very successful initiative."

With DiStefano's continued support, EESI is working to develop an innovative interdisciplinary graduate course on climate change and energy. I asked the Provost why this course would be important to the University. "Again, it goes back to our mission as a public institution," he responded. "The problems today are much more complex than the problems in the past. And so when you're dealing with complex problems you have to deal with complex solutions." He continues: "This is where this interdisciplinary graduate course comes in. It's going to look at complex solutions by bringing in faculty from various disciplines. That's only going to enhance and improve the education that we provide for our students."

Making a difference in the face of the extraordinary challenge of climate change is also important to DiStefano—and is one of the reasons he is such a strong supporter of EESI. "I think that one of the things that the initiative is doing is bringing in policy-makers," he says. "Without the policy-makers sitting at the table, the scientists can talk about solutions and debate those solutions...but until you get policy-makers, including economists that can take a look at how feasible this is from an economic standpoint, and how feasible this is from a political standpoint—until you get those individuals and others at the table then we're kind of stuck."

With continued support from DiStefano, hopefully EESI and CU Boulder will be able to make a difference for citizens in this state, across the country, and around the world. **EE**

## the energy & environmental security initiative


### Energy Revolution: (continued...)

Bazilian began his commentary by discussing the inherent complexity of the climate change issue. "It's rather difficult to get a grasp on what we're talking about when we're talking about issues of climate change, because, as Professor Hoffert said, they range from ocean temperatures to carbon fluxes, from salinity to how we use energy to light our homes. And that makes it rather difficult from a policy perspective to consider how optimally to spend public money in the area." He concluded by discussing some of Europe's policies.



Dr. James White gives his commentary.

The final speaker was Dr. James White, a Professor of Geological Studies at the University of Colorado. He is also a fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR) and the director of the University of Colorado Environmental Studies Program. "I think you need to hear the truth," he said. "And I think the truth is pretty darn shocking. I think it's pretty grim... Think of the alcoholic. The alcoholic doesn't deal with the problem until he hits bottom and recognizes that he has a problem. We haven't hit the bottom. We haven't figured out that we have a problem yet... When we figure out that we really do have a problem we will have that Manhattan-like approach to this problem. We will deal with it with all the enthusiasm and the intelligence and the resources that we can bring to bear. But first we have to recognize that we have a problem." Dr. White went on to elucidate the extent of our problem, citing scientific details.

The climate change issue is a problem, and each of the speakers agreed it is a problem that we need to take seriously. Only if we understand its gravity can this problem be solved. 

### Senator Lugar: (continued...)

Our dependence on the military to protect oil flows from the Persian Gulf at great expense is analogous to the patient who retains an expensive physician to perform risky and invasive treatments, but refuses to undertake a regimen of diet and exercise that would mitigate the detriments to his health.

A national policy that moved us away from oil dependence would be a powerful statement that U.S. interests were unrelated to any conspiracy theories asserting American intent to dominate oil resources in the Middle East. It would improve our ability to function as an honest broker in regional disputes. It would allow us to assign more policy weight to promoting democratic values and advancing core national security interests, such as non-proliferation.

In the near future, we will face increasing risk that the world's supply of oil may not be abundant and accessible enough to support continued economic growth in both the industrialized West and in large, rapidly growing economies. As we approach the point where the world's oil-hungry economies are competing for insufficient supplies of energy, oil will become an even stronger magnet for conflict and threats of military action. A successful effort to reduce U.S. consumption of oil and introduce alternatives into our transportation infrastructure would help reduce pressure on the global supply of oil. It would also serve as a model for other nations of what could be achieved.

There is no shortage of urgent energy and environmental projects that should be undertaken by our government and our nation. But in my judgment, our experience in Iraq and our national security difficulties in the Middle East place a national program to reduce oil consumption at the very top of this list.

Many options exist for rapid progress in reducing our Persian Gulf oil interests, but I would emphasize two. First, President Bush or his successor could establish the national goal of making competitively priced biofuels available to every motorist in America. Such an accomplishment would require multiple elements, including ensuring that virtually every new car sold in America is a flexible fuel vehicle capable of running on an 85 percent ethanol fuel known as E-85; that at least a quarter of American filling stations have E-85 pumps; and that America move rapidly to biofuels produced from a variety of biomass sources in addition to today's corn-based fuel.

Second, the President could commit to a radical increase in the miles per gallon of America's auto fleet. The Federal government has numerous tools to make this happen, from direct federal support for research, to government fleet purchasing, to market regulations and incentives.

Biofuels and gas mileage improvements will not make America completely independent of energy imports, but they can strengthen our leverage over oil-rich regimes hostile to the United States, give greater freedom to our policy options in the Middle East, and help protect our economy.

*This article draws from a speech delivered to the 2020 Vision Education Fund National Summit on Energy Security held July 12, 2007 in Washington, D.C.*

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**EESI would like to specially thank Senator Lugar  
for his contribution to our newsletter.**

## the energy & environmental security initiative

### Ravenscroft: (continued...)

She is here, Professor Guruswamy tells me, because she wants us to critique her writing so that she can improve her writing skills. It took me a few seconds to process this announcement. Victoria was, as Professor Guruswamy explained, a 1L (i.e. first year law student)—a student firmly in the midst of all the intellectual frustrations and emotional anxieties that plague that most bewildering of years. Yet despite all that, and despite the fact that she was already taking a course in legal writing, she wanted to voluntarily invest her time into writing a piece that we would review and criticize, strictly for the purpose of becoming a better researcher and writer.

I was a little dubious. However, one month and several meetings later, I sat reading a 40 page report by Victoria providing a comprehensive and systematic account of every interdisciplinary center located at one of the top 50 law schools, along with thoughtful analysis of the extent to which these centers contribute to—in a variety of ways—the well-being of their parent organizations. This is how I came to meet Victoria. It was also the first of many times that she would amaze me with her enthusiasm, dedication, and intellectual acumen.

A native of Colorado, Victoria was born in Colorado Springs where her father served as an officer in the Air Force working at Peterson Air Force Base. In 2002 she graduated from Colorado State University with a B.A. in Performing Arts and an emphasis in Wildlife Biology. Following graduation from CSU, Victoria worked as a professional stage manager at the National Theatre Conservatory and at the Denver Center Theatre Company. "I loved the work because it was a constantly changing job, a new adventure every day. And I was good at organizing people and details and as acting as the hub for it all. But there was something missing," she recalls. "It was not intellectually stimulating, so I chose to go into law and policy—to do something I couldn't do as a wildlife biologist, which is *change* public policy."

Following a brief stint working in a bankruptcy and collections law firm, Victoria returned to CSU for a year to do graduate work in political science, where she studied international environmental law and policy, international relations and economics, and Colorado politics. At the end of that year, she chose to attend Colorado Law. "I chose to become a lawyer, and not to get an M.A. or a Ph.D.," she explains, "because I wanted the chance to work on changing policy directly. I wanted to get my hands dirty."

Victoria has the singular distinction of being the very first 1L to be asked to join the EESI research team (following our receipt of her report on interdisciplinary centers at law schools, it was an easy choice to make). "What I like about EESI," Victoria says, "is that the work is visionary. This is not a run-of-the-mill center doing run-of-the-mill things. I like the big ideas, making important things happen."

"At a more tangible level," she continues, "I like the people at EESI. We sit around a table and discuss everything from beer to nuclear fission. And even though we are not a student organization, we are also a student-based organization. Opinions are valued here, and there are not a lot of limitations." Victoria is currently leading an EESI effort to develop curricular offerings in the area of energy law and policy, with a specific focus on climate change and sustainable development. "I think law should adapt to the needs of the community," she reflects, "and these issues are crucially important right now—law should reflect that importance."

Asked what she likes best about working with Professor Lakshman Guruswamy, Director of EESI, she quickly responds, "Lots of laughter. And it's fun because in terms of ideas, it's no-holds-barred. It's also tough because EESI has higher standards than any other in the known universe, but that's a good thing."

I asked Victoria what she would say to incoming students as to why they might consider participating in EESI. Her response was typically rapid and unequivocal. "First," she says, "I'd get the basic perks out of the way: you get better research skills, and have the opportunity to research things that no one else gets to research in the law school. You have the opportunity to publish and improve your writing. And then," she continues, "I'd get to the real reason. At EESI we learn to be adept at viewing problems from all different sides, to open the box and really figure out a problem, to be creative, with integrity, and to truly understand the role of law from an interdisciplinary perspective. That skill is severely lacking in traditional legal education. And it's a skill that you can see in people that come out of EESI."

At EESI, we are honored to share the company of incredible minds and personalities—many of whom are students. Victoria is an exemplar of this truth, and we are continually delighted with her contributions to the research and activities of EESI. And, of course, her writing has improved. **EE**

### In the next issue...

CU/CSU Collaboration  
EESI/EcoArts Events Review  
EESI/RMI Event Review  
Interview with David Skaggs  
Interview with Tom Plant

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