

October 15, 2006

To: Barry Allen
Director, ACS Curriculum and Faculty Development Alliance

From: Stan Galicki
Millsaps College, Dept. of Geology

Subject: 2006 Curriculum Development Grant Proposal

**2006 ACS Course Development Grant:
Permaculture at The Helen Moyers Reserve, Yucatán, Mexico**

Introduction

This proposal requests \$2962.00 to visit the Crystal Waters Permaculture Village near Brisbane, Australia in January 2007 to attend a course in Permaculture. The primary objective for this visit is to experience permaculture first-hand to aid in the development of my own permaculture course in the Yucatán, which will build upon the existing Millsaps-ACS inter-institutional course, Living in Yucatán. I anticipate that the knowledge gained from the experience will be very beneficial to my efforts in the logistical development of the facilities and fulfillment of my vision for the research facility and the Moyers Bioculturalreserve.

The existing course is very diverse and integrates all aspects of life in the Yucatán from a historical and contemporary perspective. I would like to create a course in Permaculture utilizing the infrastructure of the Moyers Reserve as a venue. With the addition of the research facility at the reserve as a venue, we have an opportunity to carry the development of the global citizen much farther than participating in an international experience.

My future permaculture course would be open to all college students without prerequisites. The course would fulfill the Millsaps field requirement for the Environmental Concentration as well as a College general science requirement (Core 9, science without a lab). Course priorities will stress the integration of 21st century technology and historical Mayan practices in the promotion of sustainable development. Environmental policy and practice and environmental ethics will also be incorporated into the course.

History

Millsaps College began its Living in Yucatán program in 1998; I have been associated with the course since 2001. Since its inception, over 80 students from eight colleges have participated in the Living in Yucatán course which offers insight into the Yucatán's archaeology, cultural anthropology, biology, geology, and ecology. The College's

commitment to developing the global citizen has grown tremendously over the past few years with the development of the 1400 hectare Helen Moyers Biocultural Reserve in the state of Yucatán. Management of the Reserve and its facilities is conducted by Kaxil Kiuic, a non-profit organization based in Merida, Mexico. The majority of the Kaxil Kiuic Board of Directors is composed of Millsaps College Administrators and Trustees. In 2002, I made a proposal to Kaxil Kiuic's board of directors outlining my vision for the construction of an environmentally sustainable research facility at the Reserve. The first phase of the research center has been constructed and includes a Kitchen/Galley, Classroom, Laboratory, two dorms, and six cabanas capable of housing up to 30 faculty and students. Millsaps College and the Kaxil Kiuic Board of Directors is committed to fulfilling that vision of creating a Center for Research and Sustainable Living at the Reserve and have asked me to lead efforts towards improving the operation and infrastructure of the complex.

Project Description

Elizabeth McNabb, Associated Colleges of the South (ACS) Director of Environmental Programs, will be traveling with students to Crystal Waters for the permaculture class in January 2007. I would be attending the class with Elizabeth and her students. I have worked on campus environmental and sustainable initiatives for over six years since I received my first appointment as Environmental Fellow to the ACS Environmental Initiative. My focus on development at the Reserve is a direct outcome of my association with the ACS Environmental Program. I have a practical understanding of what permaculture is but have never experienced it. I feel that the opportunity to study at this United Nations World Heritage Site is exactly what I need to facilitate course development and to provide me with first-hand knowledge in the daily operations of a successful sustainable living venture.

Time Table

January 2-16/2007, Crystal Waters Permaculture Course
 February-May, syllabus development
 May-September, infrastructure development, Moyers Reserve
 September 2007, course announcement and enrollment
 May 2008 First permaculture class offering in the Yucatán

Budget

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost (USD)</u>
Airfare Jackson, MS to Brisbane, Australia	2,173.00
Airport transfer Brisbane to Crystal Waters (2@ 50.00)	100.00
Food and Lodging Crystal Waters (13 days @ \$53.00/day)	<u>689.00</u>
Total	2962.00

Evaluation and Dissemination

The success of the trip and use of grant money will be evident in the changes in the operation of the Moyers Reserve, contribution to local life, and the education of our students. The course development grant will provide much more than an opportunity to

develop a new course; it will serve as a catalyst that sets the tone for future development at the Reserve. The course I develop will be a tremendous opportunity for students to take advantage of the rich cultural, historical, and ecological riches available in the Puuc Region of the Yucatán offered in the context of environmental sustainability. Dissemination will be possible not only through Millsaps College but the entire ACS consortium. The new course and the Reserve will be well publicized throughout the sixteen ACS member schools, with ACS students being given registration priority. There are currently five schools outside the ACS consortium that have brought students to the Reserve and are actively conducting research.

My association with the ACS Environmental Program stimulated me enough to promote my original proposal for the construction of the Center for Research and Sustainable Living. Although the facility is not fully sustainable, most of my suggestions were adopted, and the Board of Directors has asked me to complete my vision. The potential of the Reserve and Research center are tremendous. The utilization of ACS grant money to hold class in a sustainable facility while developing environmentally contentious, global citizens is precisely why the ACS program was started. I hope the committee sees the value in this proposal and considers it for full funding.