

**Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative
Curriculum Development Grant Proposal 2007**

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Introduction

We propose to upgrade the website for our interdisciplinary course, “Field Biogeography and Species Conservation: Science and Literature.” We developed this 7-credit field course last year with help from the ACS Environmental Initiative Curriculum Development Grant. In the first iteration, the course was offered to eight University Scholars. This year, we are teaching nine students, most of whom are Biology majors. We followed the model of last year, though the readings in the English 294 component, “Topics in Environmental Literature,” differ somewhat from last year. This year we will be visited for two weeks by Barry Lopez, and we will be reading stories and essays from his collection *Vintage Lopez*. The work of the course remains a combination of field botany and environmental literature. The students create an herbarium, take several objective tests on identification of local plants, complete a project on biogeographical distribution of species, keep a field/reading journal, and write two critical papers on works read in class.

Grant Budget

We request \$1500 to pay a professional computer person to upgrade our website and train both of us in how to maintain and improve the distribution of contents within the website.

Evaluation and Dissemination

We expect to have the website completed by the middle of the summer at the very latest. That will be the best way to evaluate the project itself and to disseminate it. We will post the course materials, photographs, student projects, and the final report for all to see.

John S. Knox

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