

October 16, 2008

Dear AGLSP members and friends,

Welcome to Vancouver and the 2008 Annual Conference of the Association of Graduate Liberal Studies Programs. The Board and I are very pleased to welcome you to an exciting few days in Canada.

Our friends at Simon Fraser University Vancouver have already begun investigating questions of the environment and human culture, and with this conference, they invite us to join in the discussion. And what a dramatic setting Vancouver is for a conference about natural environment and human effect: "Culture, Consciousness and Nature – A Context for Climate Change." In the spirit of the conference's theme, we are trying to be as paperless as possible. We appreciate your help and your patience as we all try to rethink our need for written information, and the earth's need for our careful husbandry.

Our four featured speakers bring great and varied expertise in environmental citizenship, environmental ethics, and sustainability. We are extremely fortunate to welcome as our speakers Professor Roderick Nash from UC Santa Barbara, Professor Andrew Dobson from Keele University, Professor Carolyn Merchant from UC Berkeley, and Nola-Kate Seymoar from the International Centre for Sustainable Studies in Vancouver. Their expertise and experience will enrich and inform our discussions. A fine group of panel members, too, is gathering this week to share with us the results of their research and their experience.

And many thanks to Steve Duguid from the Simon Fraser, who has almost singlehandedly put this conference together. If you are enjoying this conference, he is the one to thank.

Welcome to each of you. I look forward to our many conversations.

Best regards,



Linda Paulson  
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Associate Dean and Director, Master of Liberal Arts Program  
Stanford University