

**Dept of Philosophy and Religion Studies  
University of North Texas**

**Strategic Plan  
2005-2010**

**May 26, 2006**

## Executive Summary

The Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies has entered a period of significant change and growth, with the acquiring of a PhD program (in conjunction with the University of Texas at Arlington) and the hiring of new faculty (including a new chair) over the last 18 months. These changes are occurring at the same time that the university as a whole is evolving in the face of novel challenges. This strategic plan places departmental goals within the larger framework of the university's rise to regional, national, and international prominence.

Over the next five years we seek to build on the capabilities inherent in the department's nationally preeminent program in environmental ethics/philosophy to become a recognized national leader in applied philosophy. To accomplish this, we propose to focus on *three interrelated themes: philosophy and policy, interdisciplinary research, and partnerships between academia, public, and private sectors*. These themes will be advanced within three areas: research, education, and outreach.

**Research and Scholarship:** Strengthen our work in environmental philosophy via greater attention to the policy dimension of environmental philosophy; serve as the university-wide center for research in the theory and practice of interdisciplinary research and education; place increased emphasis on attracting sponsored research; and develop collaborations with other universities nationally and internationally who share our focus on environmental philosophy and interdisciplinarity.

**Education:** Establish our new PhD as the nation's leading program in environmental philosophy; gain national recognition as a leading program in applied philosophy; provide new research and internship opportunities for our graduate students; enhance the undergraduate philosophy major in both quantity and quality; move toward creating an undergraduate religion studies major.

**Outreach:** Create ongoing relationships with federal/state public science agencies, and establish new contacts with the private sector, especially in the Metroplex.

### Specific Outcomes and Requests

1. The department is acutely understaffed, given its service commitments across campus, its interdisciplinary ambitions, and new PhD program (which brings increased workloads, e.g., committee work, graduate seminars). We therefore seek two new FTEs over the next 5 years in addition to possible retirements, the first in applied ethics, the second in religion, nature, and society.
2. The department seeks to institutionalize the current part time, year-to-year development position into a full time Director of Educational Research and Development. This position will coordinate departmental research projects and lead efforts at obtaining external funding. Our goal: *within 5 years this position will generate funds two or more times in excess of its costs*.
3. The department seeks continuing university support of \$10,000 for the UNT field station at Cape Horn, Chile, to cover costs for CAS faculty and graduate student research to visit the region.

## I. Departmental Mission

In accordance with decisions of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 1969, 1985, 1992, and 2005, the purpose of the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies is to provide for the needs of students pursuing (1) the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, (2) the Interdisciplinary Minor in Religion Studies, (3) the Master of Arts in Philosophy, and (4) the Doctor of Philosophy. This mission emphasizes scholarly publication and public service to the state, nation, and international community primarily in support of the undergraduate and graduate programs. In addition, the department is committed to supporting the service needs of other departments, and in serving as a central location for interdisciplinary research and curriculum throughout the University at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

## II. Department Vision Statement

A distinctive opportunity lies before the department, one that can be seized by forward thinking, hard work, and university support. By 2012—i.e., at the end of the five year period described within—we seek to address a neglected need across academia and society: *training philosophers and humanists who can work effectively both within and outside of academia, within and outside traditional disciplinary boundaries, in concert with scientists, engineers, and policy makers*. In particular, we intend to a) be established as the nation's best doctoral program in environmental philosophy, b) win recognition as a national leader in applied philosophy, and c) become a leader across the campus and throughout the nation in the theory and practice of interdisciplinary research and education.

These goals constitute a natural consolidation and expansion of the department's current concentration on environmental philosophy and religion. The department has an international reputation for its work in environmental philosophy, and for the foreseeable future this area will remain the department's central focus. This strategic plan places this focus within a larger, interdisciplinary context that seeks to make philosophy and religion studies more applicable to and engaged with public life.

This plan is ambitious. It asks a great deal of the individual faculty within the department, in terms of commitment to and following through on a common plan of action. It also requests significant resources from the college and university, particularly in terms of new tenure-track lines. These requests are justified by the size of the opportunity lying before us, and by the potential for raising the profile of the university, both nationally and internationally.

## III. Introduction to Strategic Plan

### A. Brief Departmental History

In the 1960s the department focused on the development of a bachelor of arts in philosophy. The B.A. was approved in 1969. In the 1970s and 1980s religion studies became a more important part of the undergraduate curriculum. In 1985 the scope of the department was enlarged to include religion studies. As a department of philosophy and religion studies, the department developed an undergraduate minor in religion studies with English, History and Anthropology. In the late 1980s the University became interested in developing an environmental science program within biology. Philosophy offered to participate in this program and to develop a graduate program at the M.A. level in environmental philosophy. Pursuant to this end, the department hired Eugene C. Hargrove as chair, founding editor of the journal *Environmental Ethics*, in 1990. Graduate students then began studying environmental ethics through the

interdisciplinary master's program. The M.A. in philosophy with a concentration in environmental ethics was approved in 1992.

Since then the department has concentrated mostly on enhancing its interdisciplinary relationships with biology, and environmental sciences. New hires have been selected to strengthen the graduate program, including efforts to hire biologists directly into the philosophy department (e.g., Professor Rozzi, in 2004). The department had not, however, forgotten its religion studies direction. In the early 1990s strategic plans called for hiring a faculty member with a joint appointment in foreign languages to teach Greek and Hebrew in support of the minor in religion studies. This effort was unsuccessful.

Effort was expended in the late 1990s to add expertise within the department in the area of biomedical ethics and medical ethics in support of biology, other programs on campus, and the UNT Health Sciences Center. The department was responding to a request by the biology department to support a specific master's program (since abandoned), and the requirement that the department support a master's program in public health in Fort Worth. Efforts to obtain a specialist serving both campuses have failed because of a lack of support by the administration of the UNT Health Sciences Center. This plan calls for renewed efforts in related areas.

Within the context of the environmental philosophy M.A. (now a standard MA in Philosophy), the department has sought to develop stronger relationships with Central and South America. To develop these relationships, a specialist from Chile (Rozzi) has been brought into the department. Through NSF-sponsored research the department has also developed relationships (via collaboration with Miguel Acevedo in Geography) with Venezuela. Moreover, we are currently working to establish collaborations with the Millennium Initiative in Chile, the Latin American Network of Protected Areas, and with other institutions and networks. These partnerships will help us develop interdisciplinary research and educational experiences for UNT graduate and undergraduate students.

In 2003 the department succeeded through the efforts of Professor Klaver to acquire outside funding from a private foundation, the Dixon Water Foundation, to establish a Philosophy of Water Project, the first of its kind in the world. The initial three year \$300,000 grant will be continued with a second installment of \$500,000 for 2006-2009. This project is currently funding one Research Assistantship and will be funding three graduate RAs in the fall of 2006.

Most recently, the department has focused on developing a Ph.D. in philosophy with the Department of Philosophy and Humanities at the University of Texas, Arlington. Work on this program began in the mid-1990s. Final approval for offering the Ph.D. was obtained in April 2005.

#### B. State of the Department in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

The department currently consists of 9 full-time, tenure or tenure-track members. In the spring of 2000 Irene Klaver joined the department, adding to its diversity, and was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2006; in the fall of 2004 two new faculty members were brought in: Robert Frodeman (also tenured in 2006) as chair and Associate Professor, and Ricardo Rozzi as Assistant Professor. A member of long-standing, Pete A.Y. Gunter, went on to modified service as of May 2005. The department has hired a replacement for Gunter: Professor David Kaplan from Brooklyn Polytechnic. In addition, a post-doc/research assistant professor, Dr. Britt Holbrook, joined the department in January of 2005 on a two-year contract. This position is half funded by Frodeman's grant money and half by the College of Arts and Sciences.

### C. The Planning Process

The current plan has gone through an extended series of discussions between the members of the department. The first formal meeting to develop the plan was in November of 2004, with successive meetings and email exchanges between then and May 1, 2005. Additional revisions were made in the spring of 2006.

Two outside readers, Professor Bron Taylor of the University of Florida, and Ann Kirschner, President of Comma International, an educational consulting company, vetted versions of the plan. Professor Taylor came to campus for two days to discuss the strategic plan and has written a report summarizing his own COWS analysis of the department (available upon request). Dr. Kirschner came to campus for two days in the spring of 2006, meeting with the department's faculty. In addition, Neal Lane (former Presidential Science Advisor, and NSF Director) will visit the department and read the strategic plan in November of 2006.

## IV. Relation to UNT Academic Plan

The UNT Academic Plan calls for strategic initiatives in five areas: graduate education, undergraduate education, interdisciplinary research and education, programs that build on the resources of Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, and globalization. Our departmental strategic plan proposes significant efforts in all of these areas:

### C1. Graduate Education

Academic plan: develop “distinctive graduate education programs and experiences at the post-baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral levels that foster mastery of the discipline, advancement of scholarly inquiry and knowledge, leadership in the profession, and contributions to the global society.”

Departmental plan: significantly strengthens our environmental philosophy program (already acknowledged as the best in the nation), and expands into other areas of applied philosophy.

### C2. Undergraduate Education

Academic plan: calls for “a distinctive undergraduate experience built on excellent liberal arts (i.e. humanities, the natural sciences and the social sciences) and professional programs [and] unique opportunities to develop a strong base in liberal arts while preparing for a diverse array of professional careers.”

Departmental plan: has already strengthened the undergraduate core by the creation of a new, interdisciplinary course, ‘Ethics in Science’; seeks to create an undergraduate religion studies major that focuses on the interdisciplinary dimensions of religious thought, and strengthens our philosophy major through new course offerings.

### C3. Interdisciplinary Research and Education

Academic plan: calls for “... innovative interdisciplinary research and education... Emphasize programs that span from basic to applied research and programs with a high degree of societal relevance.”

Departmental plan: we have created the UNT field station at the southern tip of Chile for the study of issues that cross environmental science, philosophy, and policy. We now seek to increase the national prominence of the department's interdisciplinary research programs—New Directions: Science, Humanities, Policy, and the Philosophy of Water Project—as well as build on past NSF-sponsored biocomplexity-in-the-environment research in cooperation with colleagues in the departments of Biology, Geography, and Mathematics.

#### **C4. Building upon Metroplex Resources**

Academic Plan: “Create programs of research and education that utilize and contribute to characteristics of Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex region...”

Departmental plan: will continue and strengthen its relation to the Dixon Water Foundation (a Dallas-based foundation focused on water issues, which funds the Philosophy of Water Project), the Dallas offices of EPA; and other private-sector partners.

#### **C5. Globalization**

Academic plan: calls for “Researchers [who] are leaders on the global scene, collaborating with colleagues and placing students in top-tier international organizations... a broad representation of international students and scholars on campus.”

Departmental plan: extends current research in India, Europe, and South America; continues global leadership in environmental philosophy and ethics by continuing to publish *Environmental Ethics* and by editing the forthcoming (2008) two-volume Routledge Press *Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy*, of which Professor Callicott is editor-in-chief and Professor Frodeman is among three members of the editorial board. Moreover, the Philosophy of Water Project is starting a five year international project with UNESCO, called ‘River Cultures and Ecological Futures’ that traces the relation between cultural and ecological controversies of major international transboundary rivers such as the Nile and Danube.

### **V. Challenges, Opportunities, Weaknesses, Strengths**

The department has gone through significant developments in recent months. We believe, however, that these recent changes are but preamble to the opportunities and challenges that lie before us.

#### **A. A Global Perspective**

Society today finds itself confronting an unprecedented range of issues that are fundamentally philosophic in nature. Remarkably, it is the federal government, in the form of public science agencies, which is leading this turn toward philosophy. Since 1990, US public science agencies such as the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation have steadily increased their support of social science and humanities research. This fact is at a time when federal support for *direct* humanities research, through the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities, has declined. Indeed, in the mid 1990s these two agencies came close to being eliminated.

The walls that have separated the different spheres of modern society—politics, economics, religion, and science and technology—are breaking down. Questions concerning the environment, biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, information technology, and

national security are becoming cognates: thinking through one leads to the others, requiring a general (that is, *interdisciplinary*) account that relates these topics to one another. For instance, nano-sized, genetically engineered bacteria are being developed to monitor both environmental and human health, at the same time raising questions about either accidental or intentional misuse.

This convergence of disciplines and problems raise two types of questions. First, scientific and technological advances involve a variety of ethical and philosophical issues that must be addressed. Second, the inter-fingering of disciplines and topics raise questions of the nature and effectiveness of disciplinary research and teaching. While no one discipline can contain such questions, doesn't this also demand an impossible grasp of knowledge across too many different fields?

These points highlight the importance of the theory and practice of interdisciplinary research and education as well as research and graduate education in applied philosophy. The department's strategic plan has been developed to respond to these factors. Specifically, we highlight three issues:

1. The opportunity for a PhD program in applied philosophy to quickly gain national prominence
2. The need to establish a center for the theory and practice of interdisciplinary research and education
3. The place of the department and the University of North Texas within higher education

#### 1. PhD Program Quickly Gaining Prominence

Concern with ethics and values has become ubiquitous in both the public and private sectors. US public science agencies increasingly face the demand that their research demonstrate its relevance to the needs of the nation (e.g., the Government Performance Results Act of 1993, known as GPRA). This has led to the creation of initiatives such as the ELSI (Ethical, Legal, and Societal Implications of science and technology) program at the Human Genome Project, funded at \$140 million, and the establishment of the second peer review criterion of 'broader impact' within the National Science Foundation, now required to be part of *every* proposal submitted to NSF, are part of a general trend of bringing humanists into interdisciplinary research teams crossing the boundaries of science, engineering, and society. (Note: the second review criterion was instituted during the directorship of Neal Lane, who will be visiting the department in November of 2006).

*Remarkably, philosophy and humanities departments nationwide have not viewed these developments as an opportunity for a) new theoretical work and b) careers for their graduates. We do, and we want to make research and training in applied philosophy and the theory of interdisciplinarity the signature area of the department.* Our department has an opportunity to quickly rise to national prominence through the focus on applied philosophy and interdisciplinarity—a natural expansion of our work in environmental philosophy. Put differently: our focus on 'policy' (by which we mean, a turn outward toward engaging non-philosophical audiences) opens new opportunities for thinking, collaboration, and funding.

We have a proven track-record of performance in these areas. Professor Callicott has been part of a multidisciplinary, multi-institutional, multinational research team funded at \$600,000 over three years by NSF. Professor Klaver is working with artists, scientists, anthropologists and other humanities disciplines in the WaterWays biennial Water Conferences at UNT

(<http://www.water.unt.edu/waterways.htm>). Professor Frodeman was PI and Klaver co-PI of a interdisciplinary Katrina workshop in New Orleans, funded by NSF. And Professors Callicott and Klaver are co-PIs of a UNT interdisciplinary research team—of which Associate Dean, Michael Monticino is PI—currently submitting grant proposal of \$750,000 to NSF. We will expand these kinds of collaborations in the future.

## 2. Our Department as Central Node for UNT's Interdisciplinary Efforts

Higher education faces an unprecedented challenge to its role as society's central creator, repository, certifier, and disseminator of knowledge. The development of for-profit universities, the emerging status of the World Wide Web, the growth of think tanks as alternatives to higher education, and the rise of distance learning may be seen as early portents of a period of rapid and unsettling change for the knowledge industry. Scholars have suggested that the number of colleges and universities within the US (currently approximately 2500) is likely to drop by as much as 40% over the next two decades. Moreover, steadily increasing pressures on federal and state budgets suggest that traditional arguments for the importance of the humanities may no longer be sufficient to prevent the erosion of support for these programs.

Again, it is remarkable that most philosophy and humanities departments do not treat these societal developments as simultaneously a topic of theoretical research, a threat to their existence, and an opportunity for new programs and career paths. *We want to make research and training in the future of the production of knowledge a second signature topic of the department.*

Specifically, this means: becoming the center for university research into the theory and practice of interdisciplinary research and education. Thus the fourth academic goal below: creating an Institute for Interdisciplinary Research.

## 3. The Department and UNT within Higher Education

Of the 1,670 philosophy departments in the U.S., approximately 115 offer the PhD as their highest degree, 65 offer terminal Masters degrees, 650 offer Bachelors degrees, and the remaining 800 or so offer degree minors or only coursework. Thus, with the April 2005 approval of its collaborative PhD program with UTA, the department moves into the upper echelons of U.S. philosophy departments. Considerable murkiness surrounds the determination of any department's order of rank within the realm of PhD programs, however. For instance, although the department can make a strong case to be the nation's leading program in environmental philosophy, Brian Leiter's *Philosophical Gourmet Report*, the perennially controversial rankings of graduate programs in philosophy "in the English Speaking World," does not even include 'environmental philosophy' as one of the specialties to be ranked. 'Applied Ethics' is one of the ranked specialties; yet the highest ranking attained by a U.S. department in what Leiter calls 'Applied Ethics' that has any sort of graduate program in environmental philosophy (i.e., one notable faculty member specializing in environmental ethics) is #32: Texas A&M University. Bowling Green State University, which is not ranked by Leiter, but which is mentioned as a program "that ought to be considered" by those interested in 'Applied Ethics', is the only other department mentioned that has a significant program in environmental philosophy.

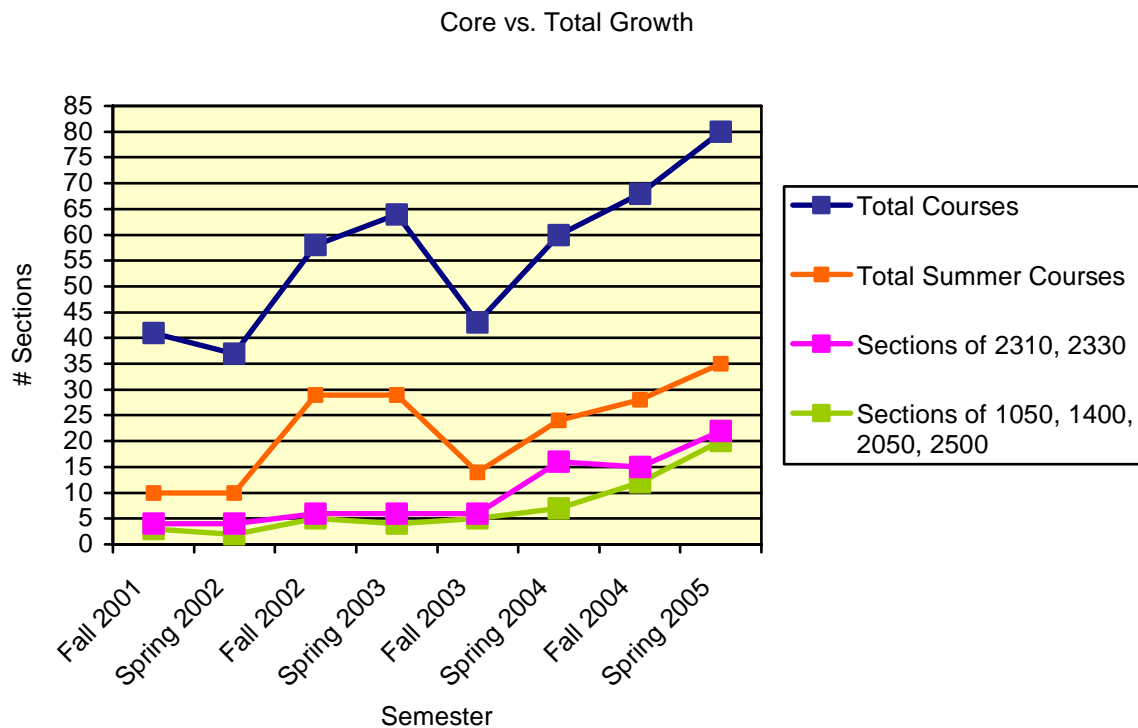
Our department thus finds itself with both an opportunity and a challenge. While we believe that the focus described here is distinctive (if not unique) within US philosophy departments, it is not nearly so distinctive when compared with UK and EU departments (for instance, see Lancaster University's reincarnation of its philosophy department in 2001 as the interdisciplinary Institute for Environmental Philosophy and Public Policy). We also believe that this opportunity is too obvious to be ignored by others for much longer. Indeed, a few other institutions are establishing

(or expanding) programs in applied ethics to have a significant focus on environmental philosophy and ethics (e.g., University of Washington, Notre Dame). Other institutions (e.g., the University of Colorado and Arizona State University) are starting to respond in programmatic ways to the fact that successful interdisciplinary research across the sciences and engineering requires the integration of ethics and values. Such integration requires a distinctive mix of theoretical training and hands-on ability at putting philosophic insights into forms that are useable for scientists, engineers, policy makers, and stakeholders—a theoretical and institutional challenge.

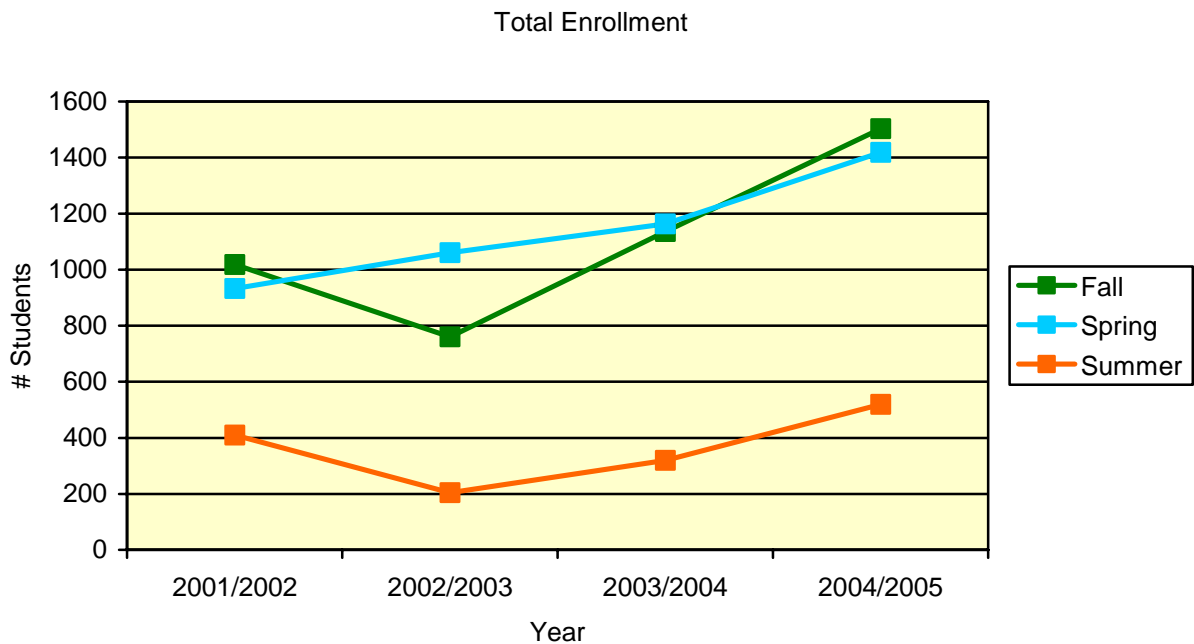
**In sum:** we believe that our department is in a meta-stable situation. If we move adroitly, we can preserve and enhance the department’s status, and at the same time bring national and international recognition to UNT. But without a clear plan, hard work, and institutional support, the department’s stature can quickly erode rather than augment as more established academic institutions identify and then occupy the intellectual and cultural space described here.

## B. Specific Context

The following graphs map the growth of both core courses and total courses offered by the department over the last five years, and the total enrollment in departmental courses. Together they give a snapshot of the increasing demand for departmental offerings. Besides the generally upward trend, note especially the spike in spring of 2005, when we were able to offer additional courses—pointing to the additional unsatisfied demand for departmental offerings. Moreover, note that total enrollment tracks additional courses—pointing to continued high demand.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> We believe that the dip in the fall of 2003 represents an error in data. We are investigating.



## VI. Specific Goals

From the above analysis flow the following four central goals, which we seek to implement over the next five years.

**Academic Goal 1:** Two new faculty positions, in applied ethics and in religion, nature, and society

*The department needs two new faculty lines a) to make the PhD program viable, b) develop a critical mass of researchers in applied philosophy for national prominence, and c) support our growing commitments to other departments as the interdisciplinary node at UNT.*

1. As our department strengthens its expertise in environmental philosophy and expands its horizons from a focus on environmental ethics to other domains of applied ethics and philosophy, we need a faculty member who is a specialist in applied ethics, with a background in the philosophy of science and experience and interest in the burgeoning fields such as bioethics and/or nanotechnology. Such a position will allow us to increase interdisciplinary collaborations both across campus as well as nationally and internationally.

On campus, Art Goven, Chair of the Biology department, has expressed his department's interest in having their 1100 majors take a course in science and ethics. Goven has stated that his departmental advisors would place their students in such a course, providing it fulfills core requirements. 'Ethics in Science' will be taught for the first time in the fall of 2006 by the department chair. The course would cover issues such as:

- the changing responsibilities of science and technology today
- making sense of NSF's second criteria of the broader impact" of scientific research
- the nature of peer review

- science and policy (e.g., the federal science budget process)
- professional ethics/scientific responsibility
- the values inherent in both pure and applied science
- the ethical implications of new scientific and technological frontiers

The chair of biology estimates 70 biology students/semester would take such a course. This does not count those drawn from other departments and disciplines (including ours). While the department chair will teach the inaugural offering; the burden of this course and its associated collaborative and research initiatives require adding a full-time specialist in bioethics. The other two courses per year this hire would teach, one would consist of a grad level course in e.g., the philosophy of biology for biology grad students as well as philosophy students. Finally, this new hire, while housed in philosophy for promotion and tenure, would collaborate on grants with biologists, helping to address the societal impacts of the research being proposed. Issues such as screening and pretreatment of diseases, retardation of age, replacement of organs, breakdown of the animal/human divide, and the cloning of humans present ethical and philosophical challenges that have both medical and environmental aspects.

2. To the surprise of philosophers and sociologists, who have long believed that secularization inevitably accompanies modernization, religion is a growing force in both national and international relations. Understanding the interplay of religious belief with science, technology, economics, and politics is essential today within both political and economic contexts. We therefore propose to add a tenure track line in the field of Religion, Nature, and Society. The justification for this line is that it would (1) strengthen our already strong environmental ethics/philosophy program; (2) allow the department to offer a new course in the core curriculum tentatively titled “Religion, Nature, and Society” of relevance to majors across campus; (3) strengthen the university’s stated goals of a) interdisciplinary research and teaching and b) internationalization; and (4) help the department move toward its goal of creating an undergraduate major in Religion Studies. It would also (5) provide more options for graduate students at the masters and doctoral level and strengthen the department in an area in which Religious Studies and Environmental Ethics overlap.

The specific academic background of the person who will fill this position should be determined by the opportunities available in the candidates that apply, but we seek a person with particular expertise in Islam, Buddhism, and/or other Asian religions. Such a person would be able to teach undergraduate courses in the Religions of the World; Religion, Nature, and Society; and the Philosophy of Terrorism; as well as East Asian Philosophy/Religion. We would also seek a person with competence in the historical and contemporary relationship between religion and environment and the tacit or explicit relationship of religion to public policy especially as it pertains to the environment.

### **Academic Goal 2: Departmental Director of Educational Research and Development**

To serve its current and to support its future research portfolio, the department seeks to institutionalize the current year-to-year development position into a regular position of Departmental Director of Educational Research and Development. The Director will coordinate departmental research projects and lead efforts at obtaining external funding. *We believe that within 5 years this position will be self-sustaining, in the sense that it will attract as much or more in funding as the position costs.*

This position, to be filled by an individual with a PhD, will: (1) coordinate activities for the UNT field station in Chile, as well as the department's Philosophy of Water and New Directions projects; (2) take the lead in departmental fund raising and grant writing; (3) and supervise our planned graduate internship program.

Acting in consultation with departmental faculty, the position will be responsible for physical and financial arrangements for programs, projects, publications, conferences, and special seminars. Duties will include grant writing, fund raising, preparing program materials, research, development of various reports, analyses, and publications, as well as, functioning as a liaison with on- and off-campus programs, agencies, and organizations. Considerable knowledge of local, regional, federal, and global policy issues, developments, programs, policies, and laws, as well as some scientific and philosophic background, will be preferred for the position. Experience of professional management, administration of programs, funds, conferences, and water-related field research will also be desired.

**Academic Goal 3:** Make the UNT field station at Cape Horn, Chile, into an international site for interdisciplinary research and education

In collaboration with the Omora Foundation (founded by department member Professor Ricardo Rozzi in 1999), the department has created a field station at Cape Horn, at the southern tip of South America (<http://www.phil.unt.edu/chile/index.htm>). Currently named CESPP, the Center for Environmental Science, Philosophy, and Policy, we hope that the field station will serve as UNT's research and education center for a variety of undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate research, across campus, nationally, and internationally.

Agreements with German, British, and Chilean institutions are being developed for this purpose. Supported by UNT commitments, sponsored research, and private grants, students and researchers from UNT and from partner universities will visit the field station for periods between 2 weeks and 6 months. Given its location in the southern hemisphere, CESPP is ideally situated for a minimester session between the two long semesters of the northern hemisphere academic year, and should thus have special appeal to national and international students from more northerly climates. See [http://www.phil.unt.edu/chile/Tracing\\_Darwins\\_Path.pdf](http://www.phil.unt.edu/chile/Tracing_Darwins_Path.pdf) for an account of our first minimester, being offered in January of 2007.

In addition to its on-site resources, the field station will contain video-conferencing capacities (funded by a \$50,000 grant the department received in March, 2006, through the efforts of Ed Pauley), facilitating a program of distance learning that uses the latest technology to connect people in real time around the world. CESPP will draw from a wide variety of UNT departments across campus, from biology and environmental science to economics and anthropology. **This field station is the first of its kind**, in its focus upon integrating environmental philosophy in the field with environmental science and policy, and **will markedly enhance UNT's international reputation** by drawing in an international set of collaborators for research at a unique location, the Antarctic Province of Chile (see academic goal 2, below).

The UNT field station has already received support of \$50,000 from UNESCO. We request supplemental UNT funding on the order of \$10,000 per year toward the support of this field station. The majority of this money will be used for travel for CAS faculty and undergraduate and graduate students to engage in research at Cape Horn.

Research and education topics include:

- Exposing philosophy students and researchers with real international challenges involving environmental ethics, science, and policy making.
- Using the extreme isolation of Cape Horn as a unique natural laboratory for the study of evolutionary processes and genetic differentiation.

Note: There is also the possibility of linking the workings of the Chile field station to a second, urban field station in the Metroplex. The Dixon Foundation is currently engaging architects and ecologists to create an ecologically sustainable demonstration housing development, ranch operation and conference/nature center on the Dixon Ranch property near Fort Worth. The Bear Creek project will be the first conservation development in Texas. The Philosophy of Water Project will fund a Research Assistant position to monitor this project and link it to existing initiatives in the EESAT building, such as the Elm Fork Education Center.

**Academic Goal 4:** Create a inter-university Institute for Interdisciplinary Research

While in the early stages of development, we wish to conclude with notice of our interest in contributing to the creation of a university-wide Institute for Interdisciplinary Research. This institute will draw together CAS faculty in order to further the Provost's stated goal of interdisciplinary research and education.