

# Sustainability Council Project Proposal

**1. Project Title:**

IMAGINING GEOGRAPHIES: Spring 2014 Programs

**2. Brief Description of Project (2 – 5 sentences)**

Imagining Geographies [IG] initiates, organizes, supports SIU faculty, staff, students, & Southern Illinois [SI] residents advance knowledge production-sharing, discussion, media-arts productions in regard to space, place, culture, and identity. IG’s Spring 2014 program includes focus on sustainability & water (collaborating with university-wide theme) via 7 lectures & panels, 2 eco-trips, 2 cutting-edge visual installations, 20 page publication, 3 oral research projects, & partnering with 2 community colleges.

**3. Contacts:**

Primary Contact

Peter Lemish	██████████	██████████	Faculty, Journalism,	IG Facilitator
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Other:

Sharon Wittke	██████████	██████████	MCMA grad student	IG, CCC Mgmt Team
Angela Anima	██████████	---	MCMA grad student	IG, CCC Mgmt. Team
Scott Ishman	██████████	██████████	Assoc Dean, COS, Geology	IG Mgmt Team
Justin Schoof	██████████	██████████	Chair, faculty Geography	IG Mgmt Team

**4. Full Description of Project (not to exceed 500 words)**

Spring 2014 Program: Land/Water, Lives, and Arts of Southern Illinois  
 IG continues multi-year theme [above], begun in Spring 2013, with sustainability and water among major vectors, in collaboration with 101 courses.

PUBLICATION. 16 or 20 page newspaper-type insert, with IG program, articles, poems, photos (no ads); authors from SIU & region; distributed by DE: Land/Water, Lives, & Arts of Southern Illinois No. II (February). See attached pdf - Spring 2013 version. Chancellor funding to support broader distribution.

VISUAL INSTALLATIONS, Morris Library Rotunda:

Feb 3 – March 28: Drop, Trickle, Flow (Karla Berry, Dept. Radio, TV, Digital Media) and Don Barth (CTE) project panoramic views Southern Illinois’ waterways-watershed via 8 monitors; viewer interaction via smart devices. Films reflect human desire to control water and nature in fractured, fragmented ways.  
 April 7 – May 31: Living with Rivers: Alexander County Experience (Dan Overturf, Cinema & Photo-

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graphy) and Gary Marx (cultural historian, Kansas City). Installation uses Berry-Barth equipment to project photographs and narratives of life in Alexander County.

SUSTAINABILITY and ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, POLICY, & COMMUNICATION Series.

Spring Semester program includes 2 yet-to-be-schedule seminars on Environmental Communication.

Feb 4: Cache River System: Film – On Heron Pond, discussion Cade Bursell, filmmaker, with Walter Metz, film critic (both of Cinema & Photography). Panel: CONFLUENCE: How We View - Live with Water in Ecological Systems. Opening reception in honor of Berry-Barth installation.

March 5: Cairo – Life at Confluence Mega-Forces. Film – Between Two Rivers. Panel: Cairo- Barometer Southern Illinois & Delta Region Vibrancy. Discussion: Jane Adams, Cairo Youth Build rep, Walter Metz.

March 24-27: Residency - Environmental Justice scholar –David Feldman (UC Irvine). Author of 101 text - Water. 2 public lectures (SIU, Shawnee College); seminar – Environmental Policy & Communication, & eco-tour with graduate students.

April 7: Crab Orchard. Film: Around Crab Orchard. Panel: From Multidisciplinary to Confluence.

ECO-FIELD STUDY INITIATIVE will continue to develop-apply IG field study model. Aim: to enable participants to experience & learn about environs through multiple lenses and experiences. Two field trips planned to Cache River and Crab Orchard.

VOICES of SOUTHERN ILLINOIS: Rural Oral History Project - Workshops & fieldwork for SIU students and community members interested in participating in four digital narrative ethnography projects:

- Rural Civil Rights Project (Angela Aguayo, Cinema & Photography);
- Subjects Speak: Document residents Alexander Co discussing Overturf-Marx installation;
- America, Illinois: Create 3-4 short films to accompany performance Stace England & Salt Kings (Civic Communication Collective student project);
- Music of Union County – Documentation gathering Union County musicians discussing role SI environs and life in their music. (Alex Kirk, MCMA grad student).

## REALIZING IMAGINING

- Greening Sustainable Carbondale Environs - Portal Project: Continues IG 2013 initiative, creating-maintaining portal for 30 community & SIU organizations (hyperlinks to their websites), joint calendar, resources, public policy discussion boards.

## 5. Project Goals:

We are especially interested in projects that address the triple bottom line: Environment Health, Economic Balance, and Social Wellbeing. We encourage applicants to consider their project idea in light of this integral understanding of sustainability. Such consideration encourages interdisciplinary dialogue and innovative connections that can benefit the SIU community and beyond.

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We will not consider projects that exploit living systems or groups or have similar ethical hindrances or deal with upgrading infrastructure SIU does not own.

Please address each of the following areas. If your project is unrelated to any of these, please indicate Not Applicable (N/A).

a. Outreach and Education:

What opportunities does this project provide for members of the campus community to learn about sustainability?

Outreach & education are two of IG's primary aims. Thus, we will (1) publish a content-driven, 16/20 page publication with the IG program plus articles, poems, photos contributed by SIU & regional authors; to be distributed on-campus, regionally; (2) work closely with University College/101 courses to advance study of university-wide theme - sustainability and water (publication, Feldman residency, Confluence films-panels, eco-field trips); (3) collaborate with Carbondale Sustainable-Green coalition (community-SIU portal) & Nonviolent Carbondale (peace map, publication); (4) partner with Logan & Shawnee Community Colleges, SI African-American Museum, Shawnee High School; (5) continue to develop website and blog as resources.

b. Student Engagement and Leadership:

What role do students play in this project? Preference is given to project that feature strong student leadership and/or participation.

If IG thrives, it will be due in large part to leadership, creative efforts, and hard work by previous-current SIU students in (1) Civic Communication Collective, responsible for IG program management, all media & publicity (website, social media, publications, posters, publicity via local media); (2) partnering with students in IGERT, ER & P, and Zoology Graduate Student Assn - primarily in - Sustainability and Environmental Science, Policy and Communication Series. Note: 40% of articles in Fall's Waters of Southern Illinois & CDL's Emerging Culture of Peace publications were authored by graduate students.

c. Collaboration and Connection:

To what extent does this project work across campus units to promote an integral understanding of sustainability at SIU? If this impact is dependent on the cooperation of other campus units or personnel, please

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indicate below the extent to which you have established communication / cooperation with those people or departments.

In continuing to advance engaged-transdisciplinary (problem-centered) research–scholarship–artistic projects by members of SIU community, we will employ the following major innovations in 2013-2014 program related to collaboration-cooperation: (1) Close collaboration with University College & Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Research; (2) partnering with 18 SIU units – colleges, departments, centers, RSOs, GPSC; (3) reorganized management structure via Advisory Boards for four problem-centered series with broad representation of faculty & students; (4) partnering with community colleges, Shawnee High School, well-know rock band.

d. Environmental Benefit:

Please detail the ways this project will positively impact our local environment and/or the natural world in general. What do you anticipate to be the duration of this benefit? How can this benefit be tracked during the project and beyond?

Shifting from one-off events to multi-year, problem-centered event series contributes to SC & SIU's efforts to focus public attention-discussion of environmental-sustainability problems, rural development, and to advance green, culture of peace, arts - research and other action initiatives. Life- span of IG publications extends beyond program dates due to content- issue relevancy (ex Cache restoration, Crab Orchard as superfund site). Thus, via SC/GF support, IG is becoming recognized as important contributor to SIU's environmental-sustainability and civic engagement efforts (ex. highlighted in SC report to Chancellor, Carnegie Civic Engagement application).

e. Social Benefit:

To what extent does this project positively impact the SIU campus community and beyond?

IG is among the efforts at SIU seeking to engage significant, complex social, economic, environmental problems. IG and others perceive us to be one of campus leaders in advancing such efforts through interdisciplinary research, discussion, and actions necessary to engage these problems. To the degree that we – together with the Sustainability Council – succeed in continuing such efforts, we can be considered to be significant contributors to SIU realizing its Mission and Strategic Plan to share knowledge and service to benefit the well-being and education of regional residents as well as members of the SIU community.

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f. Economic Benefit:

How does this project benefit the economic health of SIU? How can this benefit be tracked during the project and beyond?

(1) Writ large, we believe IG should be highlighted in SIU recruitment efforts, university publicity, applications for recognition economic, civic engagement – all of which contribute in direct and indirect ways to SIU's economic health. (2) Support for video documenting our events means we extend longevity via website access. (3) At individual level, we assist faculty/ students enrich CVs / employability with products and exemplars of civic engagement (n.b.: Carnegie initiative changing faculty assessment university 'service'; assist grad students receive academic appointments).

g. Duration of Benefits:

How long will this project benefit the campus and the SIU community? Whether it is short term or long term, what positive changes do you anticipate this project generating, and how can they be tracked?

(1) University-wide support for continuation & expansion IG efforts, on-off-campus, is essential to insuring durability; (2) similarly, support needed for IG's interdisciplinary SIU engagement regional issues; (3) collaborations between on- and off-campus units is win-win for all concerned, creates new opportunities; (4) action initiatives produce ways sustainability, greening, civil rights, and art groups can generate projects, with enduring impacts; (5) IG is a civic education-communication initiative with enduring benefits to students, directly involved in IG, as well as for participants in events - from 101 students through regional residents whose sole involvement may be reading our publications.

h. Other:

Please discuss here any aspects of your project that have not been covered in the previous sections.

Major Innovations in 2013-14 Program - See appendix 5 for details:  
1. IG reorganization 2. Multi-year planning 3. Sustainability & Water collaboratio University College, 101 courses 4. Realizing Imagining projects on- and off-campus collaborations 5. Traveling art installations and regional collaborations 6. Civic Communication Collective.

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## 6. Budget and Funding Request

\$ Amount	Item	Description/Explanation
\$4,600.00	IG Spring publication	Lay-out & printing 14,000 copies –SIU & CDL
\$2,400.00	IG publicity	Posters, advertising, graphics, social media
\$5,800.00	Visual exhibits, Morris	Monitors, IT equipment, materials, labor
\$6,200.00	6 guest speakers	Honoraria, travel, accommodations, per diem
\$800.00	2 Eco-trips	Transport expenses SIU community members
\$2,500.00	Research workshops	Voices of SI Oral Research Projects
\$2,000.00	Video documentation	Recording, editing lectures, panels, field events
\$800.00	Room fees, receptions	
\$0.00		
\$0.00		
\$0.00		
\$0.00		
TOTAL Budget Request \$25,100.00		

### Funding from Other Sources

\$ Amount	Source/Description	
\$4,000.00	University College	Received
\$12,000.00	Office of the Chancellor	Requested
\$2,000.00	Graduate & Professional Students Council	To be requested
\$1,000.00	Centers: Ecoology, IGERT, ER & P, Simon	To be requested
\$0.00	Inkind: MCMA – IG facilitator, Gas, CCC; SIU presenters	
TOTAL Other Funds \$19,000.00		

TOTAL REQUEST FROM SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL \$6,100.00
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## 7. Miscellaneous Questions

Does this project involve responsibilities (financial or otherwise) beyond the initiation of the project? **If yes, check**  and please explain how these ongoing commitments will be met.

N/A

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Has this project has been submitted previously? **If yes, check**  in [Semester/Year] and summarize changes made to proposal:

No

Is this a project that involves funding a G.A. position? **If yes, check** .

The Council only funds GA positions for up to one year at a time. Project applications for a second year of funding must be awarded through a separate Green Fund proposal once funding term has expired. The Council cannot guarantee continued funding for any graduate assistantship. If this is for the first year of GA funding, please acknowledge this with your initials in this box:  [Initials]

If this is for continuation of GA funding from previous awards, please provide justification for our continued support.

[If second year of GA funding, explain justification here]

## 8. Attachments/Appendices

Approvals and Commitments (if applicable). We require approval from the relevant department or office if modifications are being made to facilities and for large purchases of equipment. List here; attach and label supporting documentation as appendices.

Appendix #1	Karla Berry	Artist, CTE Director

Additionally, please attach and label with your submission any relevant appendices, including charts, diagrams, letters of support, bibliography of relevant scholarship, etc. that would help the committee in its decision. List them here.

Appendix #2	Letter of Support, MCMA Dean D. Lemish

TO: Peter Lemish  
College of Mass Communication and Media Arts

FROM: Karla Berry  
Director, Center for Teaching Excellence

RE: Equipment purchase for installation

I write to you as artist and fiscal officer. As one of the artists collaborating on DROP TRICKLE FLOW, an interactive media installation to be installed in Morris Library Rotunda, I request the purchase of eight (8) video monitors and an Apple Mini computer. Interactive panoramas will run on and around the eight monitors. The SIU campus currently has no access to media equipment to be used in creative installations such as this. The exhibit will remain available in Morris Library Rotunda for four - six weeks. The artists are in communication with Morris Library administration and staff, and are mindful of concerns regarding safety, power, and sound.

As the Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), I take responsibility for the monitors after the installation is taken down. The monitors and computer will be stored in CTE. This equipment may be requested by artists creating future media installations, or by CTE staff who wish to exhibit examples of innovative teaching and learning design anywhere on the SIU campus.



October 22, 2013

Grants Committee  
c/o Eric Wilber, Chair, Sustainability Committee  
SIU Sustainability Council

Dear Grant Committee members:

I am writing this letter to state our commitment to and strong support of the proposal submitted to the Sustainability Council by the Imagining Geographies Initiative [IG].


As stated in the original *Antarctica* proposal, the MCMA Management Council accepted the plan proposed by former Dean Gary Kolb (Cinema & Photography), Jay Needham (Radio & Television) and Peter Lemish (Journalism), initiators of the Antarctica – Imagined Geographies Project in 2011-12, that MCMA adopt IGI and its aim to lead the university and region-wide in this multi-year, transdisciplinary effort – with the proviso that all funding be obtained outside the college for the foreseeable future. We are happy to adopt IGI because we recognize both the opportunities and successes achieved by this initiative to date, for our own and the university's faculty, staff, and students.

This year's program suggests that IG is laying the groundwork to become an established, annual component of the SIU community and Southern Illinois landscape. First, IG is now organized through five series, each guided by an Advisory Board charged to develop initiatives, events, and resources within a multi-year plan. Second, 14 SIU units are involved, along with outreach throughout the region including collaboration with both JA Logan and Shawnee Community Colleges, and numerous community organizations/coalitions. Third, IG seeks to build on these foundations to facilitate a region-wide conference, as part of the *Bright Shining Future* initiative. All of these efforts envision the Sustainability Council as a key partner, as it has been to date.

In this regard, we also want to state the importance of the Communicating Change Collective to *Imagining Geographies'* efforts, as they are willing to assume responsibility for advancing the publicity that has proven to be so crucial and successful in previous year's efforts – especially the iconic brochure and IG's initial, content-driven newspaper insert.

In conclusion, I encourage the Sustainability Council to support the IGI proposal, and look forward to working with the faculty, staff, and students from our college who will be working to build on last year's successes and provide us with appears to be a very stimulating and exciting set of program opportunities.

Respectfully,

  
Dafna Lemish  
Professor and Interim Dean