

PIELC Begins This Week

Wang Canfa's visit to Eugene with the Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW) coincides with the Public Interest Environmental Law Conference (PIELC) that begins on the UO campus Thursday, March 1, and runs through Sunday afternoon. Many of those attending the E-LAW conference are also attending the PIELC and speaking as keynoters or panelists.

Nearly all the seats for the opening night talks by Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and Vandana Shiva in the EMU Ballroom have been reserved by those who registered early, but closed-circuit TVs will be set up outside the room for those turned away at the door. A full schedule for the conference is available online at www.pielc.org or at the registration tables at the law school on Agate Street.

This year marks the 25th year for the PIELC, and the 2007 theme is "Cultivating Corridors for the People." Organizers say they hope to "inspire a renewed commitment to collaboration and outreach" among conference attendees and help "create a unified movement for justice with a booming voice and unprecedented political power."

Eco-sabotage has made headlines in Eugene and across the nation in recent years, and has been a hot topic in previous conferences, but conference organizers say they are organizing a separate conference on the topic to be held in the fall. Sam Gaugash, one of the four coordinators of the PIELC, says he hopes to see a confer-



CRAIG WILLIAMS



JEROME RINGO



ANNE KAJIR



LONNIE DUPRE & ERIC LARSEN

ence that will bring together environmental activists with judges and U.S. attorneys. The PIELC will, however, have a Saturday morning panel discussion titled "Direct Action Is Fun" and a Saturday afternoon panel on "Challenging the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act."

About 1,500 attorneys, students and activists are registered, and many more are expected to show up for the keynote talks, more than 100 panels and workshops and a variety of special events including parties with live music and an interactive multi-media art installation at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art (see Saturday Calendar). Tables on environmental and political topics will be set up in the law school lobby all during the conference.

Workshops and panels will cover dams, the federal judiciary, wildlife and energy development, forest biomass, creating momentum for environmental solutions, global warming, conservation easements, transboundary pollution, omnibus public lands legislation, expert witnesses in environmental cases, aquatic habitat protection, roadless areas, oil and gas leasing, Public Trust Doctrine, farmworkers and toxics, wolf conservation, genetic engineering, field burning, rails to trails, ATV recreation, Endangered Species Act, offshore drilling, SLAPP suits, wild horses, the precautionary principle, fish vs. hydro power, biotechnology, sacred sites, election fraud and many other topics.

Keynote speakers in addition to Kennedy and Shiva include **Dinah Bear**, general counsel for the Council on Environmental Quality. She has also served as chair of the Standing Committee on Environmental Law of the American Bar Association. **Marta Benavides** is a minister and



MARTA BENAVIDES



MARY C. WOOD



SHEILA WATT-CLOUTIER



WINONA LADUKE

peace worker from El Salvador who serves as president of Women International League for Peace and Freedom; and teaches peace, ecology and sustainability in El Salvador. **Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larsen** are polar explorers who who lecture worldwide on global heating and its effect on the Arctic.

Anne Kajir is an attorney who uncovered widespread corruption and complicity in the Papua New Guinea government, which allowed illegal logging and environmental destruction. **Winona LaDuke** is a two-time vice presidential candidate on the Green Party ticket with Ralph Nader. She is currently working on environmental and energy policy and Native American land issues.

Zyg Plater is a professor at Boston College Law School and an expert on environmental, property and land use law, both in the U.S. and around the world. **Jerome Ringo** chairs the board of the National Wildlife Federation and has been cited as "the most interesting environmental leader in the U.S. right now" by *The Nation* magazine. He is also president of the Apollo Alliance working on energy policy.

Sheila Watt-Cloutier has been an active spokesperson for the Inuit for more than a decade. She is the former chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, representing the 155,000 Inuit of Canada, Greenland, Alaska and Russia. **Mary C. Wood** is a resident scholar at the UO law school and founding director of the school's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program. **Craig Williams** is a Vietnam War veteran who has been campaigning to stop the unsafe incineration of weapons stockpiles around the country. — *Ted Taylor*

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