



Global Scholars Tackle Environmental Investing

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Editor in Chief

The 2011–2012 class of JEI Scholarship applicants demonstrated the global interest in environmental investing. We had 33 applications from over 23 countries. The Selection Committee members had their work cut out for them in evaluating the applications. In the end, the Committee, chaired again by Dr. Alex Rau, selected a paper by Zhan Zhou, a Chinese national completing a Master of Environmental Studies degree, which is offered through the College of General Studies in cooperation with the Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. However, this year’s applicant pool was so commendable that the Committee and the Editorial Board of the JEI decided to publish papers from several graduate students. Their academic work covers topics as diverse as a dynamic comparison of green and non-green portfolios and an analysis of building ecological entrepreneurship at local levels, demonstrating the genuine interdisciplinary and global nature of discourse surrounding environmental investing. Zhan Zhou, or Luke as we have come to know him, demonstrated exceptional insight and rigor in an analysis of drinking water issues and policies in rural China. In his paper, “Challenges and Opportunities from the Rural Drinking Water Supply in China,” Luke examines investment opportunities and programs sponsored by private companies in cooperation with governments and NGOs, and considers their applicability to the over 600 million Chinese rural residents, many of whom need higher quality drinking water.

I know I speak for both the Editorial and Advisory Boards when I say we are proud to support this scholarship. The paralysis and myopia of our political leaders—many of whom are in the grip of special interests—demonstrates that we continue to burden the next generation with the challenges associated with climate change. In many ways, these young scholars represent our best hope.

In addition to the manuscripts from the scholarship applicants, you’ll find three insightful book reviews in this issue. Of particular interest to many readers will be the review of “Lenses and Clocks,” a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment

Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), and The Blended Capital Group (TBCG). I would encourage everyone to read the primary source <http://www.iisd.org/publications/pub.aspx?pno=1623>, for it challenges the consensus thinking on the relevance of sustainable finance and investment.

I would also like to thank my old friend, Dr. Ron Nahser, for weaving a leitmotif into his multi-text review. In 2003, Ron, as Provost at the Presidio Graduate School, pioneered the field of sustainable management education. He remains a beacon of critical thinking in this area.

In closing, I also want to express our gratitude to BE Bioenergy Group AG for its continued support of the *JEI*. The Group's commitment allows us to maintain the *JEI*'s status as an open-access publication and resource for significant scholarly discourse on environmental investing.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Calvello', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Angelo Calvello