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ANN ARBOR---The first "teach-in" on the environment---which drew national attention to pollution perils---was held in March 1970 at The University of Michigan, preceding the declaration of national "Earth Day" on April 22 that same year.

These observances mark their 10th anniversary this year, following a decade in which conservation and environmental pressures have become even more intense, in the eyes of many observers. President Carter has proclaimed April 22, 1980, as "Earth Day 2."

At the U-M School of Natural Resources, whose students played a leadership role in the first environmental "teach-in," enrollment swelled from 400 to about 900 students---including some 600 undergraduates---in 1970. This relatively high enrollment level has remained fairly steady over the past 10 years, indicating continuing student interest in environmental issues, according to William J. Johnson, dean of the school.

But the focus of instruction has changed considerably at the school, following an overhaul of the school's academic program that was begun in 1970.

"Today we are training students who will be equipped to become professional problem solvers in the environmental field," said Johnson, who has been dean since 1975. "This means they will be able to integrate theoretical knowledge with a problem-solving approach that involves trade-offs, negotiation and compromises.

"At the same time," stressed Johnson, "the traditional scientific and professional strengths of the school have been retained or improved, providing a sound basis for integrative problem solving."

The 1970 reorganization of natural resources academic programs, said Johnson, was an attempt to "model the school after the anatomy of a problem." Rather than having separate departments, the school was organized as a single unit around 14 professional programs. This move was designed to maximize faculty collaboration and consolidate a variety of professional viewpoints in seeking environmental solutions, according to Johnson.

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Probably the best example of the interdisciplinary approach at the School of Natural Resources is a new "Integrative Studies" arrangement for undergraduates, designed to enhance the "case study" approach to learning. The program recently received a \$510,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's CAUSE program (Comprehensive Assistance to Undergraduate Science Education).

Over a three-year period, the school is developing a series of case-study materials on local, national and international environmental concerns that will be used for classes featuring a blend of social and natural sciences. As part of the program, three new undergraduate courses, a data library, and student study center are being developed at the school.

In marking the past decade of environmental progress, the School of Natural Resources is planning a series of special events from March 29 through April 11 this year, culminating with a lecture by environmentalist Russell Train at the school's honors convocation at 2 p.m. April 11 in the Rackham Amphitheater. Train, now president of the World Wildlife Fund, was the first director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The school will sponsor an Environmental Film Festival from March 29 through April 4, to be held each evening at 7 p.m. at locations around campus. The series will include showings of a wide range of environmental films---including major TV network documentaries---from the library of the Michigan Resources Center, dealing with such subjects as toxic waste disposal, farmland development, alternative energy sources, and the Great Lakes. All showings are open to the public.

On the evenings of April 7, 8, 9 and 10 the School of Natural Resources will present forum discussions in the Pendleton Room of the Michigan Union, on the theme "New Ground: A Coming of Age for Natural Resources." The sequence of public sessions will deal with local, Great Lakes, national or international environmental questions. A preliminary list of participants includes U.S. legislative leaders, agency representatives, and a number of noted academicians in the environmental field.

Concurrently, an exhibition showing the academic program offerings of the School of Natural Resources will be featured in the Pendleton Room.

Dean Johnson noted that the curriculum changes occurring at the school over the past 10 years have demanded considerable flexibility on the part of faculty, most of whom had been used to more traditional approaches.

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The school's 14 program offerings often involve overlapping of such areas as natural sciences, social sciences, politics and economics, and planning and design, according to the dean. The individual programs offered by the school include: forestry, wildlife, resource ecology, fisheries, outdoor recreation, environmental communications, environmental instruction, environmental advocacy, resource economics, resource management, resource policy, remote sensing, landscape architecture, and regional planning.

Among other recent changes is the establishment of the first formal continuing education program at the School of Natural Resources, under the direction of Paul Nowak. The program is aimed at such groups as citizens environmental organizations, members of decision-making boards, and mid-career professionals in environmental and related fields.

The Office of Student Services and Minority Affairs, headed by Linda Sorbo, is a new unit at the School of Natural Resources involved with student recruitment, student counseling and job placement. The office works closely with faculty members who serve as student counselors.

A School of Natural Resources Alumni Society has also been initiated recently.

The attempt over the past 10 years to base natural resources teaching programs on current environmental priorities follows the tradition of teaching innovation at the school, according to Johnson.

For example, U-M natural resources Dean Samuel Trask Dana was the person who coined the phrase "School of Natural Resources" when the school assumed that title in 1950, having previously been a school of "forestry." In the mid-1960's the school also broke new ground in establishing programs dealing with resource management at the regional and national policy levels, noted Johnson.

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(NatRes;Johnson) (R1-3;Ecol;NR1a,b;Ed1-5)

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