**Note from Tim Knight, Director - Environment, Technology and Economy Program of College Park Scholars:**

**Welcome to the ETE Program!** For your summer reading, I have chosen 5 readings (just under 80 pages) to get you started with some background material. These pieces were selected to give you a small taste of a few of the topics we will be exploring together in the next two years. They are also specifically selected to provide provocative points of view that should lead to lively discussions and creative thinking. Finally, my goal is to provide something of interest to a wide variety of students – I do not expect that all of you will like all of the readings, but my hope is that you will learn from each and find at least something stimulating on a personal level.

**Please take notes on these readings** and make sure you label your notes as to which reading they came from. There will be discussions in class and online during the semester and you will want to refer to your notes for reference. In addition, your notes will be part of your class participation grade. Do not worry about nit-picky details, this is a discussion based class, I want you to think broadly about themes, meanings and applications, not necessarily about how many terawatts of energy we use or what species of tree exists where. What were key lessons you took from the selections? Hint: In your assignments this semester, you may earn more points if you are able to reference some of these readings appropriately.

**Summer Reading Checklist:**

Here is a Checklist of the readings – there are a few notes after the checklist about the first 3 readings.

* Easter’s End by Jared Diamond - from Discover Magazine (7 pages)
* No Such Place as Away by Gary Hirshberg – A chapter from his book *Stirring it Up* (28 pages)
* The Sacred and the Superfund by Robin Wall Kimmerer – a chapter from her book *Braiding Sweetgrass* (32 pages
* Inventing the Eco-Industrial Age by Janine Benyus – Wired (6 pages)
* The History of Environmental Justice in Five Minutes - NRDC (4 pages)

Note on *Easter’s End*: In his Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Guns, Germs and Steel,* Diamond, argues that environmental differences which, amplified by various circumstances, result in the success of certain societies and in the gaps in power and technology between human societies. In his next book, *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*, Diamond uses Easter Island as the best historical example of a societal collapse in isolation. He attributes the collapse of this society entirely to the environmental degradation caused by the inhabitants and their failure to recognize the long-term effects of their actions. (It is not uncommon to hear the analogy of the Earth as “our” Easter Island.) There are a number of people who have pushed back on Diamond’s focus on environmental factors, especially in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, ignoring how deliberate cruelty affected the results of contact between societies. I encourage you to seek out and read some of these counternarratives.

Note on *No Such Place as Away:* The author is the co-founder and former “CE-YO and president” of Stonyfield Farm Yogurt is one of the largest and most successful organic dairy companies in the world. It was started in 1983 and is now a subsidiary of the Danone group. As of 2008, the company was pulling in over $300 million annually and has continued to do well being the top selling organic yogurt brand and #3 in overall yogurt sales in the US (behind YoPlait and Dannon). Hirshberg attributes his success, at least in part, to his and his business partner’s (Samuel Kaymen) dedication to a socially and environmentally responsible business model.

*Note on The Sacred and the Superfund*: Dr. Kimmerer is a scientist and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. In this chapter from her best-selling book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, she explores the issues surrounding Lake Onondaga, in upstate New York, from the perspective of a scientist as well as through the lens of a Native worldview. She writes lyrically, which is different from what a lot of us in STEM are used to reading.