**Thomas Berry writes, It’s all a question of story. We are in trouble just now because we do not have a good story. We are inbetween stories** (123).

The American college may be considered a continuation, at the human level, of the self-education processes of the earth itself…education which identifies with the emergent universe in its variety of manifestations…. earth…is the primary college….(89-90). The entire college project can be seen as that of enabling the student to understand the immense story of the universe and the role of the student in creating the next phrase of the story…. (98).

**He then proposes a set of core courses as the practical fulfillment of these suggestions: A first course**…would present the … formation of the galactic systems and the shaping of the elements…the formation of the earth…the emergence of life…the rise of consciousness… the student could feel a personal importance in the scheme of things…could begin to appreciate…our human responsibility for…the universe process (99).
**A second course**...could be…on the various phases of human cultural development
….Students could see the continuity of their own personal development in the prior development of the universe, of the earth, and of all human history (101).

**A third course** might deal with the period of the great classical cultures….these traditions…still account for…the main principles of civilized order….are still the most formidable barriers to chaos that the human community possesses(101-102).
**A fourth course**…is the study of the scientific-technological phase of human development… (103).
**A fifth course** could deal with the emerging ecological age, the age of the growing intercommunion among all the living and nonliving systems of the…universe entire….reestablishing the human within its natural context…dealing with the integral functioning of the biosphere (104).
**A sixth course** could be a course on the origin and identification of values…which we will find…in the self-emerge….self-governing processes of the universe…:

Differentiation…subjectivity…communion (105).

***I. How does Barry’s prescribed program resemble/diverge from the one you are now pursuing?

II. What would be your response, if the bi-co trustees announced that our entire program of study would henceforth be “grounded in the dynamics of the earth as a self-emerging, self-sustaining, self-educating, self-governing, self-healing, and self-fulfilling community of all the living and nonliving beings of the planet” (Barry 107)? On what grounds would you protest? Stay begrudgingly? Enthusiastically sign on?

III. Are there any answers here to Aliza’s conundrum about the impossibility of being “in the moment and also critical of it”?***