

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE February 21, 2012 Contact: Jason Warburg 831.647.3516 jwarburg@miis.edu

## Author and Pioneering Organic Grower Myra Goodman of Earthbound Farm to be Spring Commencement Speaker at MIIS

May 19 Ceremony to Feature Remarks from Sustainable Agriculture Advocate

*Monterey, CA*—Myra Goodman, co-founder with her husband Drew of Earthbound Farm, one of the world's leading organic growers, will be the featured speaker at the Monterey Institute of International Studies' May 2012 commencement ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m. on the front lawn of historic Colton Hall on Pacific Street in downtown Monterey, California.

Earthbound Farm was the first company to successfully package pre-washed salads for retail sale in 1986, and has been credited with popularizing spring mix salads nationwide. The company has grown from humble beginnings to become the largest grower of organic produce in North America, with 150 farmers cultivating 37,000 organic acres. Earthbound Farm organic salads, fruits, and vegetables are now available in 75% of supermarkets across the country, and their farming practices avoid the use of more than 11.5 million pounds of agricultural chemicals every year. Striving to help change how America farms and how America eats, Earthbound Farm's mission is to bring the benefits of organic food to as many people as possible and serve as a catalyst for positive change.

The Goodmans have been honored with several awards, including Global Green USA's Corporate Environmental Leadership Award and the Organic Trade Association's Organic Leadership Award for 2008. Under their guidance, Earthbound Farm has been honored as 2010's Outstanding Philanthropic Corporation of California's Central Coast, as well as earning the State of California's 2004 Integrated Pest Management Innovator Award, and the California Governor's 2005 Environmental and Economic Leadership Award.

Myra Goodman is the author of two popular cookbooks; *Food to Live By: The Earthbound Farm Organic Cookbook* (2006, Workman Publishing), and *The Earthbound Cook: 250 Recipes for Delicious Food and a Healthy Planet* (2010, Workman Publishing). She is currently working on a third cookbook that focuses exclusively on plant-based recipes, which is due out in early 2014. As a passionate advocate for organic food and farming, she has appeared on dozens of television shows, including *Oprah, Live with Regis and Kelly,* and *Good Morning America Health,* and has been featured in publications including *Bon Appetit, People,* and *The New York Times.*  Myra Goodman studied at the University of California at Berkeley, where she was Phi Beta Kappa and earned a degree in the Political Economy of Industrial Societies. In addition to her work with Earthbound Farm, she currently serves on the board of directors for the non-profit Organic Center. Her husband Drew Goodman studied at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he earned a degree in Environmental Studies. The Goodmans still live on their original farm in Carmel Valley.

Myra and Drew Goodman will both receive honorary degrees from the Monterey Institute at the May 19 commencement ceremony.

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The Monterey Institute of International Studies, a graduate school of Middlebury College, has been preparing graduate professionals for global careers in the private, public, nonprofit and educational sectors since 1955. Located in Monterey, California, the Institute offers advanced degrees in international business, international education management, international environmental policy, international policy studies, language teaching, localization management, nonproliferation and terrorism studies, public administration, and translation and interpretation, as well as a variety of specialized certificates and programs. The Institute, whose approximately 800 students come from more than 50 countries, is also home to the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies and the Center for the Blue Economy. In 2010 the Monterey Institute became a graduate school of Middlebury College, one of the nation's leading liberal arts colleges. Visit www.miis.edu for campus news or to find an expert.