As I sit down to write my first piece for Field Notes, I am also looking ahead to the last month of my year’s sabbatical, which I have spent engaged in several projects having to do with the history of oil. Unlike many social scientists (and historians often see themselves, as I do, straddling the social sciences and the humanities), historians sometimes suffer crises of feeling irrelevant to contemporary society; no matter how much we convince ourselves and even others that history is critical for understanding the present, nonetheless, we also labor on subjects or in time periods that often feel very distant from the issues of today.

This year, I had the good fortune of feeling that I was immersed in very relevant work, even if that relevance came out of what most people saw as deeply unfortunate events – namely, the shockingly rapid increase in the price of oil and, therefore, of gasoline. As it turns out, one of my projects was to produce an undergraduate reader of sources related to the oil crisis of 1973-74, a time that saw oil prices quadruple between October 1973 and January 1974 after OPEC issued a series of price hikes, and the Arab countries within OPEC instituted an embargo against the United States and the Netherlands.

In many ways, the ghosts of that time returned with oil’s rising price this year, and none so striking to me as the notion that the United States should work for energy “independence.” It’s a malleable term, one that has actually haunted U.S. oil policy for many decades, and one that could be easily embraced by both political parties in the 2004 Presidential election, although those embraces led to very different energy proposals.

The irony, of course, is that few resources in the world require such interdependence as that needed for extracting oil and producing it into the multitudinous products that we mostly take for granted. All nations are connected to the oil economy in some way, and the international politics of oil shape our world, as they will for the foreseeable future. One could easily argue that only by recognizing such interdependence can we hope to find a peaceful way out of the petroleum age.
Understanding interdependence, as it operates both within the natural world and among humans in their collective dependence on the resources of the natural world – this is one of the central missions of Environmental Studies. And as current students and alumni know, being an Environmental Studies concentrator involves a continual quest to make connections, not only between nature and society or culture, but across the very disciplines that typically divide up a liberal arts education.

That quest is what excites me most about becoming director of CES, particularly at this moment in William’s institutional life. The distinguished work of Hank Art and past directors has given the program great strengths, whether one considers our curricular offerings; the dedication of our students, faculty, and staff; or our tremendous resources, such as the Hopkins Forest. These strengths will doubtless help us chart some new directions in the future. Many of our students, for instance, have profound interests in global environmental issues. With the launching of the International Studies Program at Williams, we now have a wonderful opportunity not only to make connections with its curricular and extra-curricular activities, but also to expand (and surely complicate) our understandings of environmental problems. Likewise, increased faculty and student interest in urban environmental issues affords us the chance to think about how we can increase our course offerings on the subject and attract an even wider range of students into our courses than we already do.

I very much look forward to the work that lies ahead and to getting acquainted with the large and vibrant community of people who connect CES to the wider world.

A Letter from Hank Art

Just a short note as I clean out the Kellogg Office and consolidate across Main Street. It has been a short seven years that I have been CES Director and I have truly enjoyed the continued participation in the evolution of the Environmental Studies Program at Williams. No, I am not retiring from either Williams or my involvement with CES, just changing figurative and literal offices.

My new adventures include developing a new experiential environmental studies course The Natural History of the Berkshires that will be offered for the first time in Fall, 2005. I will also be participating in the development of course modules on sustainability for the tutorial that I teach on Human Dominated Ecosystems. The latter course will be facilitated by a grant for the curricular incorporation of renewable energy and sustainability issues that the Environmental Studies Program recently received from the Henry Luce Foundation and will be directed by David Dethier.

Cheers, Hank Art

Class of 2005 Awards

Margaret M. Demment ’05 received the Robert F. Rosenburg Prize in Environmental Studies for her outstanding scholarship, potential for solving environmental problems, and strong prospects for leadership in the environmental community.

The Tom Hardie ’78 Memorial Prize in Environmental Studies was awarded to Kathleen A. Carroll ’05 for her thesis entitled, “Lead in the Soils of Pittsfield, Massachusetts: Chemical Analyses and Community Questions.” The Hardie prize is awarded to the student who has done the best work in environmental studies.
Laura P. Cavin ’05 was honored with the Environmental Studies Committee Award for her contribution to the Center for Environmental Studies, which included her thesis on Kellogg House. (See page 19)

The Andrew Scheffey Award, in the name of the first director of the Center for Environmental Studies, was awarded to Jocelyn F. Gardner ’05, in recognition of her outstanding environmental leadership during her years at Williams, which included serving as Greensense president and chief Log Lunch cook.

Renewable Energy Grant, by David Dethier

In late March, the Henry Luce Foundation awarded the College a five-year grant of $420,000 to help support our curricular initiative for Renewable Energy and Resource Sustainability. The initiative will be managed by the Center and will use the campus and nearby area as laboratories to explore the practical complexities of capturing renewable energy and the compromises involved in managing energy use, architecture, and sustainability. By helping to develop new classes and topical areas for existing classes and supporting student and faculty research, we hope to develop empirical learning, critical thinking and understanding related to renewable energy and resource sustainability. Two graduating seniors, Laura Cavin and Jocelyn Gardner, have already provided us with fine examples of the sort of student research the initiative wants to encourage. The strong push by Williams
students to learn about and implement LEED certification standards for new campus construction also shows that we are headed in the right direction. And the projects produced by first-year students in ENVI 102 bodes well for future examples of empirical learning. Now we need to work on getting the results of this research and learning incorporated in our classes while at the same time encouraging more hands-on studies in the local area!

We’ll encourage research by providing summer fellowships for students and stipends to faculty members to encourage class development. We’ll also inaugurate a lecture series beginning this fall that focuses on sustainable energy and architecture, and next spring we’ll sponsor a shared research seminar for faculty interested in sustainable energy. And the grant will support hiring a full-time technical assistant to help us keep track of energy flows and monitoring, to support Web-based communication and to help faculty and students with class and research projects involving use of energy databases and GIS. In the meantime, we’ll work on producing a Web page that focuses on green energy and sustainable design on campus and in Williamstown and which provides monitoring data for the College’s photovoltaic panels, co-generation plant and wind measured at the Taconic Crest. Henry Art will chair the steering committee for the Luce initiative, helping to develop research seminars and lectures, and evaluating the initiative’s progress. I will be responsible for overall coordination of curricular initiatives and project administration. Please contact either of us with your ideas, requests and enthusiasm.

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**Log Lunch Environmental Speaker Series: Winter and Spring 2005**

Nancy Nylen, CET; Carolyn Reuman ’06; and Jane Allen, COOL Committee

January 7, 2005. “A Climate Change Action Plan for Williamstown: Local Actions against a Global Problem,” Carolyn Reuman ’06, CES Summer grant recipient, gave the first Log Lunch presentation of the year about her summer internship with the Williamstown COOL (CO2) Lowering Committee. The COOL Committee is part of the national Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, a program of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. The goal is to reduce Williamstown’s greenhouse gas emissions. Over the summer, Carolyn helped create a plan detailing existing and proposed actions to reduce emissions in all sectors of the community. The plan, currently available at mysite.verizon.net/vze74j6v/wtowncool/, gives descriptions, implementation strategies, and monitoring approaches for each action, as well as calculations of the possible reductions, based on an emissions inventory created by Carlos Silva ’04. The Committee has since continued with efforts to implement the actions proposed in the plan and achieve the goal of reducing Williamstown’s emissions by 10% from 2000 levels by 2010.
January 14, 2005. “Using 1000 Old Pictures of Vermont to Look Back at Two Centuries of Environmental Change,” Paul Bierman ’85, Professor of Geology at the University of Vermont, returned to his alma mater to give a fascinating Log Lunch talk on a project he has developed that uses historical photographs to understand the ecological changes Vermont has undergone over the past two centuries. The extensive collection of photographs, online at www.uvm.edu/perkins/landscape/, allows anyone to view historic and current pictorial records of how the Vermont landscape has evolved. The database is searchable and continuously growing, and the program aims to raise awareness and understanding of the process of landscape change, bringing people and communities closer to their natural environment.

February 4, 2005. “Farmscape Ecology: Exploring the Conservation of Nature & Farming in Columbia County,” Conrad Vispo and Claudia Knob-Vispo, coordinators of the Farmscape Ecology Program, Hawthorne Valley Farm, Columbia County, NY, presented the first Log Lunch of the spring semester. The Program conducts outreach to the county’s farmers to help them understand their role in the ecology of Hawthorne Valley and build a stronger connection between farming and nature. They also work to educate children through participatory research to foster a better understanding of farm ecology. Columbia County, along with much of the Northeast, was historically agriculturally important, but the shift in food production to the Midwest has been accompanied by rising population density and an increase in non-farm employment. The Program strives to connect farming with efforts to conserve the area’s natural richness and has had great success with its outreach, education, and research.

January 21, 2005. “Looking at the Region Through Watershed Goggles,” Eileen Fielding, the executive director of the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA) presented to a Winter Study crowd of students, professors, and local residents on an exceptionally cold January day. Her talk took listeners on a tour of the region with “watershed goggles” on - examining our familiar local geography with an unfamiliar focus on the river that runs through it. Fielding explained the process of assessing the health of a watershed and the human activities that can disrupt a river. People often attempt to contain or deflect the energy of a river by modifying its flow rate, which can have disastrous consequences in times of drought or heavy rain. The Hoosic, in particular, has been heavily canalized in Adams and North Adams, making it prone to flash floods and fast drainage and interrupting the natural situation. In Fielding’s opinion, the current situation is a window of opportunity for a proactive approach to be taken to protect the health of the river; the Hoosic is in better shape than in the past, but its continuing health depends on our good stewardship.
February 11, 2005. “Environmental Advocacy Efforts at Joppa Flats Education Center in Newburyport, Massachusetts,” Ganson “Jock” Purcell ’58, Mass Audubon. On an unseasonably warm February Friday, we were joined by Bill Gette, director of the Joppa Flats Wildlife Sanctuary and Williams alum Ganson “Jock” Purcell ’58, a volunteer at the Joppa Flats Education Center. The Flats are located north of Boston and are the property of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The Education Center follows the mission of the Audubon Society, which is to conserve and protect the nature of Massachusetts, educate people about the position of humanity in the natural world, and advocate for wilderness and natural diversity. The Audubon Society fights problems such as habitat destruction and fragmentation, interruption of natural processes and inappropriate human uses of land, with research efforts, educational programs, and outreach.

February 25, 2005. “Modern Mongolia: Sustainable Agriculture in Ulan Bataar, Byan Ulgi, Lake Hovsgol, and the Gobi,” Jed Williamson, professor, Sterling College. We were pleased to welcome Jed Williamson, President of Sterling College in Vermont, to hear about his travels and research in Mongolia. Modern Mongolia is in the process of recovering from the exit of the Russians after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and faces the additional challenge of growing food in a harsh, agriculturally inhospitable environment. In the arid landscape, small-scale agriculture is possible along rivers, but the environment is fragile and the grasslands are easily destroyed by roads that are created anew every time unpaved tracks become unusable. His travels through the regions included research at exceptional archaeological sites and insights into the rapidly expanding tourism industry that further threatens sustainable use of the country’s natural resources.

March 4, 2005. “The People’s Struggle Against Dams in Narmada Valley, India,” Michael Levien ’01. After his year in India, Mike Levien ’01 returned to Williams to speak to the Log Lunch crowd (as well as to students in Envi 204, “Economic Development of Poor Countries”), about his work with the Narmada Bachao Andolan (Save the Narmada Movement), a people’s organization fighting to save the Narmada Valley. After India gained independence, the government began to aggressively pursue a development model based on constructing large infrastructure projects, especially dams. The Sardar Sarovar Dam, under construction on the Narmada River is one of these enormous projects, and it has already had devastating impacts on the valley’s inhabitants, especially the historically marginalized tribal adivasi people. The World Bank was pressured to withdraw its financial support of the project after the staggering human and environmental costs were
revealed, but the Indian government has persisted, and the movement continuously struggled at many levels of the bureaucracy to win concessions and ensure that they are complied with. Using methods of non-violent resistance and non-cooperation, legal challenges, and enlistment of international activist support, the movement has had some victories, yet the outlook is frightening in terms of the human and environmental destruction that has already occurred and may be impossible to mitigate.

March 11, 2005. “The Living Dream: Remembering the Forest Garden, 1994 to Now,” Jonathan Landsman ‘05 gave a moving retrospective on the Forest Garden, which he has faithfully tended during his time at Williams, both with and without help from other students. With the aid of photographic documentation and the Forest Garden journal, he led the Log Lunch crowd on a walk through the Garden’s history, describing the various incarnations of the land that now stretches from the front door of Kellogg up to the circle by Stetson. The Garden will miss Jonathan’s care and attention, and it is hoped that future generations of students will keep the Garden blooming and growing, although the garden’s future is threatened by the Stetson-Sawyer construction project.

April 8, 2005. “The Last Wild Place,” a 15-minute documentary about saving Greylock Glen narrated by Christopher Reeve, produced and presented by Wayne Klug, professor, UMass and BCC, and film producer. His documentary on the various attempts to develop Greylock Glen that have occurred over the past 40 years. Mount Greylock, which has been called “the auditorium of the winds” and her “most excellent majesty,” has also seen proposals for the area around it to be developed with conference centers, hotels, golf courses, ski resorts, and parking lots. These efforts are intended to create economic stimulus for Adams, but there is a great need to balance such economic development with environmental protection. The recently released Master Plan for the Glen asserts that there is not any housing or golf courses, but it is feared that development will not be financially viable without housing. The 15-minute documentary should prove to be an effective tool in assisting efforts to conserve the character of the Glen.
April 15, 2005. “Advocating for the Massachusetts Environment,” Jim Gomes, executive director, Environmental League of Massachusetts. Jim Gomes, of the Environmental League of Massachusetts - one of the principle environmental advocacy groups on Beacon Hill - presented an insider’s take on environmental lobbying. As a lobbyist, he works on all environmental issues in Massachusetts including moving companies away from toxic chemicals to less toxic alternatives, promoting smart growth instead of urban sprawl, and advocating for a “Green Budget” to provide adequate funding to state agencies charged with protecting the environment. He also discussed the future of lobbying, which will be the organization of existing groups into more powerful networks that can channel their energies.

April 22, 2005. “Think Globally, Eat Locally: An Inside Look at the Williams Food Supply,” Jocelyn Gardner ‘05, CES Summer thesis research grant recipient. During her time at Williams, Jocelyn has been heavily involved in campus environmental affairs and she presented her senior thesis to a full house. In examining the College’s food supply and its sources, her focus was on meat and dairy, which together constitute one-half of food expenditures. Furthermore, these products can be produced locally, and she explained the logic and environmental sense behind switching to a more local food supply. She investigated the negative environmental impacts of agriculture, such as loss of topsoil, nutrient depletion, water contamination and depletion, and cataloged the environmental impacts of Williams’ food consumption. Finally, she presented suggestions to expand on recent promising developments such as the purchase of milk from nearby Highlawn Farms and the budget percentage dedicated to local and organic foods. Perhaps we will soon see a sustainable food committee at Williams, increased specialization and experimentation in the dining halls, increased funding for food from sustainable sources, and even a farm-to-college consortium.

April 29, 2005. “Invasive Plants in Williamstown: A closer look at Berberis thunbergii and Alliaria petiolaris,” Ken Brown ‘05, CES Summer grant recipient. Everyone’s favorite trail-keeper and forest caretaker spoke about his work last summer and during the year on an independent project concerning forest edges and invasive plants. Though Ken’s data did not reveal a clear relationship between the...
type and size of forest edges and the ability of invasive plants to populate a forest, he gathered some interesting information on the spread of invasive garlic mustard. Its population has rapidly expanded, but it is not clear that it has actually been detrimental to the jack-in-the-pulpit; and Ken stressed the difficulty of identifying the right causal relationships.

April 29, 2005. *Cars Vans and Prison Road Crews: Making the Highway Work*” by Scott Moskowitz ’05, CES Summer grant recipient. Last summer, Scott Moskowitz set out to document highway life, a segment of our culture that we do not normally stop to consider: after all, when we’re driving, we are usually focused on where we want to go. The danger of the road, the peculiar and unique nature of rest stops, and especially the truth of the prison work crews that maintain the roadsides figured prominently in his photographs. His investigative lens put an unusual and probing focus on a seldom-regarded aspect of our environment.

May 6, 2005. **Senior Log Lunch.** At the final Log Lunch for the year, Senior Environmental Studies Concentrators, Log Lunch cooks and Hopkins Forest caretakers were recognized and awarded with books from CES. We also said goodbye to our senior Environmental Studies concentrators. We’ll miss you, and best of luck next year.

**Home Again, by Jorge Marcone, Class of 1946 Visiting Professor of International Humanities and the Environment**

I came to Williams to teach courses about the relationship of the Humanities to environmental issues. More modestly put – but nonetheless dramatic in its implications – that goal meant finding a way back to a fresh take on reading and writing. For several years, I have been working on connecting my professional background in literary and cultural studies to my “expert amateur” knowledge of environmental studies. I borrow this phrase from Nobel Prize winner Gao Xingjian. In his *Soul Mountain*, the protagonist defines in this way his relationship to ecology, biology and anthropology as he ponders the idea of re-directing his wanderings through rural China to the “virgin wilderness” of Lingshan. Several years spent working on a book about the representation of the Amazon in Latin American fiction and teaching literature for the departments of Spanish and Portuguese and Comparative Literature at my home institution, Rutgers University, had brought me to the conclusion that a background in environmental studies would be extremely useful to students, and perhaps even faculty in the Humanities.

This position at Williams offered another interesting challenge: to explore “on the ground” the possibility and even the necessity of making a case for the Humanities as part of a specialization in environmental studies. In order to complicate the
project even more, I developed my courses and other activities around texts that, although interested in the connection with the non-human world, have not proven to inspire environmentalism or to be useful for a pragmatic environmental education. I must recognize too that in this position I was looking for a first hand experience of the impact of a radical change of environments: from suburban New Jersey to rural New England, from researching Latin American literature to teaching it in combination with the core of U.S. nature writing of the 19th century, from reading Latina(o) writing on the border in the heavily Caribbean and Mexican community of New Brunswick to touring through “world literature” in the relative isolation of Williamstown. And yet, would I be able to actually recognize the effects of this environmental change, or would I get caught in living the pastoral myth of the Berkshires, or unwittingly create my own Walden experience?

You might be wondering why environmental studies can be good for scholars devoted to the study of the production of culture in different media. Allow me, please, a couple of academic paragraphs to explain myself. The relevance of these two fields first has to do with cultural studies’ difficulty in speaking about questions of nature, environment, or the relationship with the non-human in general. Professionally speaking, it is hard for us to move beyond the repetition of the statement that nature is socially and culturally constructed. If read only within this assumption, the interconnection with the non-human in literature becomes predictable: a metaphor for something else, part of a rhetoric strategically aimed at something else, a series of social problems that find expression and repression through this indirect talk, and, above all, an event in which the participation of the non-human has been strictly limited to conventional representations. Environmental studies’ work on the interaction of society and nature, the body and the environment, and the ecological role of ideas of nature can help us to draw meaning from stories and poems that touch upon the connection with everything else.

Nevertheless, there are other urgent issues behind this need to converse with environmental studies. The field of cultural studies, for instance, takes pride, and rightly so, in having changed the study of literature by addressing contemporary political issues through the critical reading of texts. For some reason, however, it hardly engages with environmental crises, even when put in the context of class, gender, race, or colonialism. In addition, there are similar problems shared by these fields. Environmental studies deals with problems of “global,” or “planetary” dimensions while at the same time struggling with the fact that we are more distrustful than ever of these engulfing categories because of the relationships of power in which they are embedded. This very same conflict underlies, for instance, current debates about World History, or, closer to home, the identity of Comparative Literature in the U.S.

Over the course of the year I have dragged some of you into these concerns by means of a few talks, and three different courses. The first one was on ideas of nature in literatures of the Americas, a legitimate topic for a comparative approach to U.S., Latina(o), and Latin American literatures, although usually neglected. The second one was on the spread, in several fields of the Humanities, of “ecology,” “complex systems,” “holism,” and “interdependence” as they address the environmental crisis by performing a self-critique of their methodologies. The last course was on the interconnectedness with the non-human in literature by recent Nobel Prize winners, and in some “international” films.

I am thankful for the insights that have come out of these courses and talks, especially since at times I suspect we all were struggling with issues that were way above our heads. Despite the challenges of the material, everybody remained cool and polite. But between these experiences, and the lectures by guest speakers, colleagues, and students organized or sponsored by CES, I felt that I was approaching an unexpected answer regarding the place of the Humanities in environmental studies. Let me put it this way: it has been a long time since I have been surrounded by so much Humanism.
vironment, in Spanish, that I’ve known. Among
government officials, activists and scholars from
all over the Americas – including a few Cubans
displaying their independence in very subtle ways
– the underlying theme was de-humanization. I
spent a couple of afternoons, in the gardens of the
Hotel Nacional, trying to make sense of this unex-
pected connection between environmentalism and
humanism. Back in the Berkshires, it hit me again
a few weeks later: in December to be exact, when
the Kenyan activist Wangari Maathai, holder of an
honorary degree from this college, gave her lecture
of acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo.

Bear with me as I try to make sense of this before
I leave town. Environmental studies, on the one
hand, and literary and cultural studies, on the other,
share an odd relationship with humanism. Human-
ism has been charged with very serious responsi-
bilities. At least since the 17th century, and while
attempting to reform human nature and society by
rational categories, humanism has been complicit
with structures that dominate and oppress both na-
ture and the human. While arguing for freedom,
equality, tolerance, secularism, and cosmopolitan-
ism, in fact, humanism (and the Humanities, goes
the argument) has repressed difference, sustained
colonialism, and carried beliefs and values that af-
ter all have not managed to prevent or slow current
humanitarian and environmental crises. By some
accounts, humanism has actually have led us into
these crises. At the source of this contradictory be-
behavior is humanism’s understanding of the human as
a subject free of natural or historical determinations,
sovereign and untroubled, and always de

The Polish poet Wislawa Szymborska acknowledges
this paradox as she says: “On this third planet of the
sun/among the signs of bestiality/a clear conscience
is Number One.” On the other hand, as the human-
istic barrier between human and non-human col-
lapses, we are not necessarily erasing the otherness
of the non-human. “Talking with you–says Szymbo-
rzska about plants–is essential and impossible.” The
Irish poet Seamus Heaney develops his take on the
sense of place – particularly arduous in the context of
Irish nationalism or (let’s say) the Mexico-U.S. bor-
der – around the figure of Terminus, the Roman god
of boundaries. Terminus is the boundary that binds
us to our neighbors as well as it separates us from
them. This figure can be extended to the current state
of our re-working of the humanistic understanding
of “human.” In the Temple of Jupiter Terminus was
represented by a statue placed under an open roof:
“earthbound and present in the here and now and yet
open also to what Basho calls the everlasting self, the
boundlessness of inner as well as outer space.”

While struggling with the contradictions revealed
by humanism’s legacy, aren’t we at the same time
resorting to it when we place humanity between natural and transcendent orders without denying either one? The Humanities can play a role in unraveling these re-workings of humanism in contemporary culture, including environmentalism and environmental studies. Take, for instance, the debate on the biotechnological revolution. Our responsibility to the suffering ones, or the aspiration to perfect the human, or the right of a sovereign species to seize the power of genetic modification for its own advantage, aren’t they humanistic arguments coming from the very science that has revealed to us that, in biological terms, we are not that much different from the rest? On the other side, the argument based on our moral responsibility regarding biodiversity, or to the human as the ultimate “complex system”: isn’t it too in line with the humanistic pursuits of an ethical self-understanding of the species, and the acceptance of the contradictory capacities and cycles of the human condition?

Humanism is present but not acknowledged if, for instance, you believe that the need to “improve” or “move forward” is an evolutionary trait. In a sort of “humanistic evolutionism” these humanistic values are been understood as biologically rooted. Or if you accept Edward O. Wilson’s evolutionary explanation of his concept of “biophilia,” then you are grounding as well the Renaissance practice of healing melancholy with pastoral nature in the evolutionary history of humanity, in a sort of “evolutionary humanism.” What remains unclear to me is whether humanism is being repressed, or silently reconsidered in these instances. Humanism is present too in the discourse of limits, simplicity and sustainability if we remember that in Thoreau those are the most favorable conditions for a “serious reading” of the classics, itself a necessity of life if we are “to live deliberately” and not discover, when we came to die, that we have not lived. I have just written the lines above, and I can recognize now how close to Thoreau are my opening sentences of this article. What does this mean? Have I been unconsciously constructing my experience of Williams through Thoreau? Do the insights above owe anything at all to all my walking or biking between home and Kellog House? How much I am indebted to the culture of a college that believes in Mountain Day, Winter Festival, and picnics at Sawyer lawn? I yield to the wisdom of the Outing Club: my family owes a lot of our sense of community here to outdoor activities undertaken despite our coach-potato background. And what about the people that I have met, some of them really at home in these valleys, others feeling trapped within the Purple Mountains? Williamstown is an elusive place, a here and a there. For some, it is too far away from Manhattan; for others, it is too close to New York City. Maybe, after all, I have fallen for the American pastoral, and my own private Walden. Maybe, on the other hand, this concern of mine with authenticity is misdirected on this occasion. In fact, it may be leading me to the kind of situation illustrated by the famous “can’t see the forest for the trees.”

In 1894, the writer José Martí, who would become the Apostle of the struggle for Cuban independence, and still nowadays a national symbol even among conflicting parties, praised certain Tomás Estrada Palma for opening a school for Latin American children in Central Valley, New York. His choice of words was a translation of the famous lines by Thoreau known by every Williams student: “En verdad que no sería poca ventaja que todos los colegios estuvieran situados en la raíz de montaña: tanta ventaja sería como una cátedra dotada con holgura. Tanta educación se saca de vivir al pie de los montes como de vivir bajo más clásicas y pomposas alamedas.” Estrada Palma eventually became the first Cuban president after the Independence. Martí, on the other hand, died in combat against Spanish troops a year later, on the very same date in which I am writing these lines: May 19.
Paul Gallay, Director, Westchester Land Trust and Visiting Professor of Environmental Law, Center for Environmental Studies, March 1. “The Environment We Deserve? How Politics, People, Business, and Bureaucracy Shape Environmental Law in America.”

Though a snowstorm had blanketed Williamstown again, prolonging the heavy winter, students, professors, and town people braved the weather and trekked to Griffin Hall to hear Paul Gallay, visiting professor of environmental law and executive director of Westchester Land Trust, give a Class of 1960 lecture on the shaping of environmental law in the United States. Gallay began by discussing the provocative idea recently put forth in a controversial paper entitled “The Death of Environmentalism.” In the paper, Michael Shellenberger and Ted Nordhaus argue that environmentalism has become a narrowly defined special interest, with little hope for combating the grave environmental problems we confront today. The movement’s early successes made environmentalists complacent and unwilling to look for new tactics while maintaining the traditional focus on the search for technical solutions.

This outlook, said Gallay, cannot be dismissed as pessimism; a pressing need exists to seek innovation in how we work for environmental protection. The actions of environmentalists, businesspeople, politicians and citizens have provided the forces that have shaped the field of environmental law since its creation, and if we wish to pass on a healthy environment to our children, it is imperative that environmental protection be linked to economic growth, jobs, and human rights and freedoms, rather than restricting these necessities. According to Gallay, the increasingly narrow definition of environmentalism has worked against it, and it is high time to alter outmoded ways of thinking in order to confront threats such as global warming.

Richard Meserve, President, Carnegie Institution, April 12. Dr. Meserve visited the Center for Environmental Studies as a Class of 1960 distinguished speaker and led a seminar with the Class of 1960 Scholars on nuclear energy policy followed by a public lecture entitled “Nuclear Power in the Age of Terrorism.”

Richard Meserve along with some 1960 Scholars in Environmental Studies: Meg Demment ’05, Sarah Meserve ’05, Blake Goebel ’05 and Pat Krivoshia ’05
Dr. Meserve, the former chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and member of the Nuclear Energy Task Force, a committee of the U.S. Department of Energy, discussed a recent report released by the Task Force, “Moving Forward with Nuclear Power: Issues and Key Factors.” The report emphasizes the substantial role that nuclear energy plays in the US electricity market and warns that the 103 currently operating plants that provide 20 percent of the total electricity will have reached the end of their useful lives in the next decade. Since no nuclear plants have been built since 1973, despite a streamlining of the licensing process, the dilemma is: how will the increasing demand for electricity be met when these plants stop producing? The report concludes that it is in the national interest to ensure energy security through new nuclear power plants and recommends that the federal government offer financial incentives to overcome the uncertainties that are preventing the first new plants from being built. Meserve emphasized the environmental benefits of nuclear power, especially in comparison to fossil fuels and was not sanguine about the capacity of renewable energy to supply energy demand. Wind energy, according to Meserve, can never supply the baseload because the wind is not always blowing. Despite his enthusiasm for nuclear energy, Meserve noted that the problem of how to safely dispose of spent fuel remains unsolved and further, he said it’s quite possible that the Yucca Mountain facility proposed for Nevada may never be licensed. Despite this unresolved issue, Meserve believes we should forge ahead with more nuclear plants because he is confident that the federal government will eventually fulfill its promise to find a facility to dispose of spent fuel.

Frances Moore Lappe, author of 1970s bestseller, Diet for a Small Planet, was the keynote speaker for Earthweek on April 21. Lappe has since written several more books on food and food policy and recently founded with her daughter Anna, the Small Planet Institute, which promotes living democracy, “a practice that aims to create communities that work for all across the globe.” Lappe’s talk, “Sustainable Agriculture: Uprooting World Hunger” began on a personal note: “I had a hunch when I was 26,” she said, “that food could be the thread that I could pull that would unlock the mystery of the political and economic order.” And that was the beginning of her long and distinguished career as a food scholar and activist. Lappe continued on to construct an indictment of consumer culture and the global corporate food system. While our food system gives the appearance of providing limitless choices, in fact control over the system is concentrated in the ten biggest corporations that are responsible for half the food sales. One manifestation of this is the fact that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are ubiquitous in processed foods, but open public debate has been absent because chemical companies have so much sway over the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She blames the political system for hunger, noting that more people die of hunger each week than died in the Asian tsunami last year. “Hunger is not caused by a lack of food but a lack of democracy; wherever there is hunger, democracy’s true promise has been denied.” For more information about Frances Moore Lappe’s current work and the Small Planet Institute visit http://www.smallplanetinstitute.org.

Allen Hershkowitz, senior scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council and author of Bronx Ecology: Blueprint for a New Environmentalism, on April 25th gave the last Environ-
mental Studies lecture of the spring, “Barriers to Sustainable Industrial Development” Hershkowitz spoke on the promise of environmentally-conscious industrial development and the significant problems that confront it. Stories of projects that fail despite all the benefits they provide are always difficult to hear, but they are still important for their instructive value. Such is the case of the Bronx Paper Company, which Hershkowitz and the NRDC worked with for eight years in an attempt to build the first new factory in New York in decades at an abandoned industrial site.

Demonstrating an impressive depth of knowledge, Hershkowitz spoke passionately about the project, rattling off facts and figures with an ease that drew the audience in and brought the pressing importance of working for sustainable industrial development into full relief. The number one export of New York City is waste paper, and the proposed paper mill would have turned this underused resource into newsprint instead of allowing it to accumulate in landfills. Furthermore, it would have turned an old brownfield into a productive site; extensive testing and analysis of the site was completed before the permitting and intensive collaborative process could proceed. Unfortunately, corruption and inexperience prevented the project from ever coming to fruition, but Hershkowitz presented a convincing argument for the need for more projects like this to move forward. Instead of wreaking environmental havoc in pristine forests, old industrial sites should be redeveloped to minimize sprawl and land consumption, while creating jobs where people already live.

Though disappointing to hear of the great potential that was lost when the all the plans for the paper mill fell through, Hershkowitz’ vision of sustainable industrial development for the future was also inspiring. He encouraged everyone to take action and see the potential that exists for marrying environmental conservation and protection to industrial development and growth.

Hopkins Memorial Forest, Drew Jones

With the arrival the year’s first heat wave we are underway with some new projects to complement the summer work routine. A walk on the Lower Loop this June might turn up an unusual sight: a tractor cutting furrows in a large clearing along the trail. This activity completes the processes of establishing an open meadow around the existing weather station lot. Once this grass cover has been established, we will partition the enlarged field into about a dozen demonstration plots where the early stages of old-field succession will be monitored. Each year one or two of these front yard sized plots will be released to grow naturally. In time, this will create an array of plots of various ages and resultant plant and insect assemblages that will form the basis for biological investigations by faculty and students.

Speaking of fields, this spring an energetic team of students from the Environmental Planning course
began the process of planning the future of the newly acquired Wire Bridge Farm parcel. This group spared no effort in surveying a vast population of potential users and other relevant parties—ranging from professors, staff, students, administrators, neighbors and even legal advisors. The team then devised an ambitious plan that integrates recreational elements and teaching into a research program on field dynamics. The HMF Users Committee is currently reviewing the proposal and will decide on a final plan for the site in the coming year. To see the Wire Bridge Farm for yourself, take the scenic 35 minute stroll along the Ford Glen Brook and Hoosic River trails to a large clearing at the edge of the woods.

This spring’s annual flush of new leaves brought with it a rather unruly forest visitor: a hoard of forest tent caterpillars numbering in the millions. This larval form of a small woodland moth is in the second year of a periodic invasion of the northeast. As of June it was difficult to walk through the Forest without catching some of these black, white and blue caterpillars on your shirt or in your hair as they dangled from the trees above. These hairy, two inch long defoliators were munching virtually every tree in sight, although they showed a special preference for sugar maple, oak, aspen and birch. Their effects, a loss of vigor and growth in our resident trees, will be felt during the length of this infestation; there is also some concern in the region that maple sap quality and yields may be reduced in the coming years. If the pattern from past invasions (the last outbreak occurred during the Nixon Administration, hmm…) holds, we expect this eruption to be over within two or three years and most of the trees to survive, albeit in a somewhat depleted condition.

In other news, Drew Jones, HMF Manager, will be away on leave during the fall and winter study period. Most of the forest programs, however, will go on under the guidance of a temporary manager.

**Greensense: Spring 2005, Jocelyn Gardner**

Greensense has had a successful 2005. During Winter Study, we co-sponsored a Free University course with Students for Social Justice entitled “Topics in Social and Environmental Justice,” which included sessions on climate change, local and global water issues, progressive activism through hip-hop music, vegetarianism and veganism, responsible daily living, alternative feminine hygiene products, legacies of apartheid in South Africa, grassroots campaign planning, and more. Each class was led by one or two students who came up with a topic, researched it, and designed a presentation or discussion. This was a great way to educate ourselves and others, and we hope it will happen again next year!

Greensense got involved with the issue of wind power during the month of February. We sponsored a
talk by Linda Burtis of the NorthEast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) and tabled in dining halls to have students sign postcards in support of the proposed Cape Wind project on Cape Cod. We collected several hundred postcards and sent them to the Army Corps of Engineers during the public comment period for that project.

Next, we turned our focus to Earth Week 2005. This year’s theme was sustainable agriculture. We sponsored several events, with assistance from CES and several other organizations and departments. Earth Week started with a multi-faith service that was organized and led by Chaplain Rick Spalding and a group of students. The service was enriched by the presence of Peruvian weaver Edwin Sulca and his tapestries, which focus on themes of environment and social justice. Our next event was a local/organic dinner in Dodd that was prepared by our outstanding Dining Services staff under the direction of John Turenne, executive chef at Yale University’s Sustainable Food Project. The dinner was followed by a panel discussion titled “Incorporating Local Foods into the Institutional Food Supply,” which featured John Turenne with the university perspective, Danielle Mullen of Berkshire Grown with the nonprofit and restaurant perspectives, and Paul Gallo of SYSCO Foods with the wholesale perspective.

The keynote speaker of this year’s Earth Week was Frances Moore Lappe, who spoke on “Sustainable Agriculture: Uprooting World Hunger.” To conclude the week, Dining Services held its annual Earth Day Dinner in all dining halls, and Greensense held the annual Earth Week Benefit Concert to raise money for the Heifer Project. We also set up several service opportunities (working at Caretaker Farm, cleaning up our section of Route 43, and doing trail work with WOC) and a community fair, but cold and rainy weather put a damper on them. We held the annual t-shirt design contest; this year’s winner was Helen Overstreet, a 4th grader at Williamstown Elementary School, whose design was based on the slogan “If the earth was your friend, would you pollute it?”

In addition to these major events, Greensense continued working on a number of smaller projects. We worked with Dining Services and Buildings and Grounds as they purchased and installed three VendingMisers, devices that turn off vending machines during low-use periods; the trial has shown great results so far. We also continued collecting athletic shoes for the Reuse-A-Shoe project sponsored by the Center for Ecological Technology and Nike. Lastly, we organized this year’s CUPPS cup design contest; this year’s winner was Kate Rutledge ’05.

It’s been a great year, and I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who had a hand in our projects. It was a real team effort; everyone’s contributions made a huge difference. We had a wonderful group of committed folks working together this year, and I am confident that next year will be even better. Next year’s co-presidents are Alexis Saba and Elise Leduc, both ’06. If you have ideas or want to get involved, feel free to contact them (06aes@williams.edu or 06enl@williams.edu), join the listserver (email greensense-join@wso.williams.edu), or come to meetings on Tuesdays at 9:00pm in the Kellogg House living room.

Jocelyn Gardner ’05
Campus Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC): Spring 2005
Marcus Duyzend ’06

Spring 2005 was a productive semester for CEAC, with great progress on projects both substantive and administrative!

We created a subcommittee to work out the details of implementing an energy and water saving contest between dormitories. This subcommittee will continue its work during the summer, and we expect the contest to begin in September. The contest should not only meet the desired goal of decreasing students’ use of electricity and water, but also help to enhance house spirit.

CEAC has an ongoing project of ensuring that campus construction projects are completed in as sustainable a fashion as possible. In the past, this has been done on an ad hoc basis. Our goal this semester was to come up with a more permanent way of making sure that building committees and administrators keep the environment in mind in their work. We took two steps toward making this goal. First, we recommended that there be a CEAC-appointed member on all building committees. Second, we invited key members of building committees, the administration, and Buildings and Grounds to attend a couple of student presentations on green building to educate them to the concept. These should be good steps toward encouraging the college to engage in sustainable renovation and building projects while allowing CEAC to have the time to pursue other projects.

The college community is more ignorant about Williams’ environmental initiatives than it should be. In an effort to rectify this, CEAC published the first of what we hope will become an annual State of the Campus report. The report, which you can find at http://ceac.williams.edu/reports/State/0405.pdf, lists some of the most exciting things various college groups and departments have done during the past year towards a more environmentally friendly Williams. In addition, Williams will be a member of the National Wildlife Federation’s Campus Ecology Project next year, which will advertise our environmental policies and projects not only to members of our own community, but to a much wider audience nationwide.

Members of the college community are not as well-informed as they might be about the individual basis. This spring, CEAC developed a corpus of factoids and tips relating to the environment, which we plan to distribute weekly to the college community next year through the Record, the Daily Advisor, and Daily Messages.

On the administrative side, we reviewed and revised our charter early in the semester to make it more closely match what we actually do. Extremely low attendance at our February meeting highlighted the need to recruit new CEAC members. Not only did we fill our vacancies with enthusiastic students, faculty, and staff, but our publicity efforts also encouraged many interested non-members to attend our meetings and help out with our projects. You, too, are welcome to become one of these. We love to have as many interested people participate in CEAC as we can, regardless of whether or not they are official members.

We look forward to continuing our work in the fall, as we see the implementations of the projects that we worked on this semester and begin to work on new ones. We are especially excited about the potential of the generous Luce Grant that the college recently received. Ultimately, though, we are a committee to serve the college community. If you have any suggestion or feedback for us, please do not be afraid to email CEAC at ceac@williams.edu, or to attend one of our meetings. You can find the schedule at our web site http://ceac.williams.edu/
“When you build a thing you cannot merely build that thing in isolation, but must also repair the world about it, and within it . . . and the thing which you make takes its place in the web of nature.” - Christopher Alexander, Architect, 1977

The Williams campus is continually interspersed with large-scale building projects that influence the campus center, pedestrian flows, and other buildings throughout campus. The largest of these projects, the Sawyer/Stetson renovations, will commence in 2006 with the construction of two new faculty office buildings and a new library at the center of campus. These changes necessitate the relocation of Kellogg House and the Center for Environmental Studies, which it houses. This eventuality created a fitting capstone to my Contract Major in Environmental Design: Incorporating Humans in Natural Systems. I investigated the possibilities of integrating environmental design features into the relocation and renovations of Kellogg, and proposed ways to create a healthier and more functional building.

Environmental design can be defined as “any form of design that minimizes environmentally destructive impacts by integrating itself with living processes” (Ecological Design by Sim Van der Ryn). By examining the entirety of the building process, the integration of disparate parts will create a healthy and well functioning building. In order to understand how the new or renovated CES will fit and function within the larger context of the Williams College I explored the history of Kellogg and CES, the current interactions with campus, and projected future flows and building needs.

Conscientiously renovating existing buildings is the most sustainable construction possible because fewer new resources are necessary. I found that moving Kellogg House, to position the front door facing west along Sawyer Drive, and attaching it to the existing Matt Cole Memorial Library is the best use of the present materials and buildings. An addition, it is necessary to combine the two current buildings, which I designed in the same New England vernacular, and to incorporate as many “green features” as seem appropriate. These include a greenhouse to grow Forest Garden seedlings, local slate floors to store solar energy, natural insulation, and composting toilets.

Important aspects of the current Kellogg House that I stress should be maintained are the homey feel, the kitchen, the living room, the central location on campus, and the various functions of the building, which are necessary to draw people in during diverse hours of the day. The addition needs to have more natural light, which is integral to a healthy building and makes the spaces more comfortable and enjoyable; a more prominent and accessible entrance to foster the feeling that CES

― Laura Cavin ‘05 with Kellogg Design Plans

“Relocation, Renovation and Redesign of Kellogg House,” Laura Cavin ‘05

Senior Theses
is accessible and open for anyone to pass through; and in order to entice students into the building, there should be public social spaces and separate study spaces. By creating new spaces that facilitate the multi-use of the building, but does not deter from the house feeling, more people will want to use Kellogg as a place for work and social interaction. In order to create sustainability, the two disparate sectors of the built environment and the natural environment need to become bound together in intricate ways that create a mosaic of connections that rely on each other and create a unified whole. My research has been started so that Bohlin Cywinski Jackson Architecture firm, who are in managing the Sawyer/Stetson project, can continue the process of a holistic design approach in the relocation and redesign of Kellogg House.

(Although my thesis is done I will still be in contact with the architects on this project. Lee Clark, one of the members of BCJ, is enthusiastic about my suggestions and incorporating green features and appropriate spaces into the redesigned Kellogg House. My thesis may be viewed at: www.williams.edu/ces/mattcole/resources/theses.htm and I welcome any comments regarding my proposal. I can also forward comments on to the architects at Bohlin Cywinski Jackson who will be conducting their own investigation of Kellogg in the next year. Thanks for everyone’s support and enthusiasm along the way. 05LPC@williams.edu or Laura.P.Cavin@gmail.com

“Green New York: Examining the Vanguard of Green Development in New York City: Making Recommendations for the Future,” Jason Davis ’05

Americans spend over 90 percent of their time indoors. Unfortunately, they spend their time inside an environment that is making them and the Earth’s environment sick due to poor, over consumptive design. The optimistic view, however, is that we have the technical and physical means to make a much better built environment, and moreover, we can do so without giving anything up in terms of comfort, functionality, or profitability. Thus, green buildings are truly win-win-win scenarios.

Why hasn’t green design and construction caught on with the mainstream real estate development industry? Green development is still in its nascent stage, yet it is growing at nearly 75 percent per year. In my thesis I explored the vanguard of green development in New York City by examining the interface between current policy and practice. Notably, it focuses on three green residential apartment buildings that have been, or are in the process of being developed in Manhattan according to LEED Gold standards. Assessing the development process of these three buildings helps shed light on some of the challenges and opportunities for high performance building development.

Each developer approached the goal of LEED cer-
nancial and technical burden of development, as well as public incentives and regulations to facilitate green construction. Ultimately, I discovered that the technology and process is feasible and that the market for green residential space in New York City is strong; it is the apprehension of developers about using these new technologies and methodologies that is holding back a green building boom.

“Think Globally, Act Locally: An Analysis of Williams College’s Food Consumption.” Jocelyn Gardner ’05

I spent much of the past year working on my thesis, “Think Globally, Act Locally: An Analysis of Williams College’s Food Consumption.” I analyzed Dining Services’ purchasing records from the 2003-2004 fiscal year and calculated total expenditures and quantities of various types of products. I focused my work on meat and dairy products for four reasons: 1) together they make up 49% of Williams’ total food expenditures; 2) livestock production is a sector of the agricultural economy with vast environmental impacts; 3) these products are somewhat more traceable than other items such as frozen foods; and 4) these products can be produced locally, giving some opportunity for positive change. I attempted to trace these products’ origins and to estimate quantitatively the environmental impacts of their production.

According to my calculations, the following menagerie would be required to support Williams’ yearly consumption of animal products: 86 beef cows, 48 dairy cows, 187 hogs, 19,172 broiler chickens, 1,745 laying chickens, and 1,247 turkeys. The production of these animals requires approximately 1,132,000,000 kilocalories of energy, which is equivalent to the energy contained in 175 tons of coal, 115,000 cubic meters of natural gas, or 37,000 gallons of gasoline. In addition, the production of these animals consumes approximately 52,150,000 gallons of water; this is more than enough water to meet the drinking water needs of all of Berkshire County’s residents for over two years. Perhaps more important than the numbers I produced, though, is the fact that this information is so hard to locate. A year of work yielded only enough information to make crude estimates; most people simply do not have the information to make responsible decisions about consumption.

Based on the information I gathered, I concluded my thesis with an action plan toward food sustainability. I recommended that Dining Services continue the programs it has already started (local dairy products, some local meat, organic items) and expand these efforts. In addition, I suggested that Dining Services use its menu planning process and its decentralized structure to experiment with new local/organic items. I also recommended the establishment of a campus sustainable food committee and a regional farm-to-college consortium. The consortium is especially important, as it would provide opportunities for the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas as well as for the establishment of joint purchasing and processing efforts that could help create economies of scale.

I certainly learned a lot through the research and writing of my thesis; I hope that the document I produced will be of use as Williams continues its efforts toward institutional sustainability.

“The Dairy Farming Paradox: The Coexistence of the Image and Reality,” Katie Stevens ’05

I will tell you a story: a narrative of farmers and onlookers and all who become mesmerized by the power of the rural Northeast landscape and the farming culture that inhabits it. It is a story that emerges like the making of an impressionist painting: one I can now see, stepping back, because of the deliberate and varied brushstrokes that compose it. The strokes are the details I first observed from the scene and then re-told on the canvas; details whose meaning cannot be understood until integrated into the whole painting. This story is about both the substance of dairy farming in the Berkshires and the myths that surround it. My story unravels inconsistencies, ironies, and contradictions at the junction of the two.
Williamstown is a rural town with a rural character. Whether biking, hiking, driving, or otherwise observing the hills, we see mountain vistas. We notice open fields. We admire the red barns and silver silos that dot the hills of the Northern Berkshires. It is likely that those of you reading Field Notes know exactly what I am talking about. We love this scene. It is part of why we have spent time here in Williamstown. In many ways, however, these images we see and later conjure in our minds do not represent the agricultural life that made them. Though we might look at them copiously, they are not free. The dairy industry in this region is rapidly declining and with it the farms, the views, and a way of life, all of which are central to the character of this region. We must start to view our beloved scenes differently if we want to keep them.

Environmental Planning Projects: Spring 2005
Sarah Gardner

The Environmental Planning Workshop is a core upper-level course in the Environmental Studies curriculum. It’s an experiential class in which the students, working in small teams, immerse themselves in an actual planning project for a community client. This arrangement is mutually beneficial: not only do the local public and private organizations receive much-needed assistance with projects, but our students gain invaluable experience by tackling real problems and by working with experienced professionals in the field. There were six projects this spring semester. All the reports are posted on the CES/Matt Cole Library web site: http://www.williams.edu/ces/mattcole/resources/studentpapers.htm.

“A Cost of Community Services Study for Williamstown, Massachusetts,” Elise Leduc ’06, Melanie Hobart ’06, Katie Mygatt ’06 and Meg Demment ’05. This project was conducted for the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation and the student team worked under the guidance of WRLF Director, Leslie Reed Evans. A cost of community services (COCS) study determines the public costs incurred and the revenues generated by difference types of land use. The analysis involves analyzing budgets and land uses with assessor’s maps, tax data, and financial reports. By distributing revenues and expenditures according to land use, COCS studies provide ratios that show how much
the community spends on public services for every dollar raised by each type of land use. COCS studies are most useful in communities that rely heavily on property taxes for revenue, such as those in Massachusetts (and most New England states). Dozens of COCS studies have been conducted for towns all over the country, and they have demonstrated that the generally accepted wisdom about land-use and tax revenues—that residential development leads to a net increase in revenues—is erroneous. The students developed the following revenue/cost ratios for Williamstown: $1:$1.115 for residential land, $1:$0.424 for commercial/industrial land, and $1:$0.248 for open space. In other words, for every dollar paid in taxes on residential land, services to residential land cost the town $1.115. These findings, which are similar to those of other small Massachusetts towns, demonstrate that commercial/industrial land uses are the most profitable, followed by farmland/open space, while residential land is the most expensive type of land use.

The Future of Wire Bridge Farm,” Chris Eaton ’05, Jocelyn Gardner ’05, Sara Jablonski ’06, and Zinnia Wilson ’05. This project was close to home: the Wire Bridge Farm is a newly acquired 73 acre parcel of the Hopkins Memorial Forest. The student team worked with HMF Manager Drew Jones to develop a use plan for this unique property, which borders the Hoosic River and contains a thermal spring and large open field that is currently planted with silage corn. Working closely with the HMF Users Committee and interviewing many students, faculty and staff, the team explored and evaluated several potential uses, including recreational trails and camping, long-term planting research to study successional patterns, short-term planting research, agriculture and composting, and combination uses. Their final recommendations were expansive: to continue observation and monitoring of the thermal spring; to plan long-term and short-term successional plots that can be incorporated into a nature trail as well as useful for labs and classes; to construct a trench to study sediments, and to create a section of the field for student-initiated research. They also suggested building a trail to connect the parcel to Northwest Hill Road and the rest of the HMF, as well as wildlife viewing blinds and a canoe launch. Finally, they recommended a plan to invasive species management and suggested later mowing of the field to preserve bird habitat.
research, research on similar mills, interviewed local officials and business owners, and conducted detailed fiscal analysis for a multitude of potential reuse plans. Their final recommendation for a distribution and call center pleased the client because it’s well-suited to the building, the location, and would allow him to repair his building without relying on what appears to be a failing mushroom operation.

“Interpretive Trail Design: Greylock Glen,” Elissa Favero ’05, Sarah Meserve ’05, Rachel Segretto ’06. Greylock Glen is a much-contested natural area at the foot of Mount Greylock in Adams, Massachusetts. In need of revenue and jobs, the town of Adams has sought development of the Glen for several decades. However, the result has been decades of failed proposals ranging from a tramway in 1964, to a ski and golf resort in the 1970s, to a casino in the 1980s. Once the state acquired the property in 1985 it called for the land to be used for its recreational potential. Last year, the town of Adams developed its own proposal for the site: a recreation and environmental center with an interpretive trail. Working under the guidance of Donna Cesan, the Community Development Director of Adams, the student team designed, mapped, and interpreted natural and historical features for an accessible interpretive trail through the wetlands and beaver habitat at the Glen.

Greylock Glen Team: Elissa Favero, Sarah Meserve and Rachel Segretto
“Hoosic River Recreational Assessment,” Blake Goebel ’05, Ashlee Martinez ’06, Katie Stevens ’05, and Keith McWhorter ’06. The Hoosic River Watershed Association fills an important role in the northern Berkshires, however the organization is chronically strained by an abundance of responsibilities and a shortage of funding. The director, Eileen Fielding, served as a client to this project in which the student team investigated ways to improve awareness of the river through promoting and enhancing recreational opportunities. Focusing on the stretch between North Adams and Pownal, Vermont, they conducted a river survey, an improvement plan for parks along the river, and interviewed residents who make regular use of the river to gain insights into how to encourage more use.

“Mount Greylock Regional High School: Planning for Renovation or Relocation,” Amelia Bishop ’06, Jonathan Dowse ’06, Clara Hard ’06 and Sarah Johnson ’05. The Williamstown-Lanesboro regional high school, built in 1961, is in poor physical condition. The building has been blamed for illness among faculty, staff and students, many of the interior spaces are outdated, and the dilapidated condition of the school has a negative effect on those who inhabit it. The student planning team supported the newly-formed Building Committee in their task to determine whether to renovate the existing building or to build a new school. The students conducted a survey, interviewed students, faculty, staff, committee members, architects and engineers, attended building committee meetings, and researched other newly renovated or newly constructed schools in the commonwealth. After evaluating the results, the financials, and the options for green design, the team recommended a total reconstruction as well as a new location for the school on the existing grounds.
Alumni Notes

Jan Goldman-Carter ‘76
Jan continues her part-time public interest environmental law practice in Minneapolis, MN, focusing on wetlands law and policy. She is also teaching environmental law part-time at St. Thomas University Law School in Minneapolis. Jan is also serving as Board Chair of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. Jan and Mark Carter (Class of ‘76) have one son, Phil, who is attending Williams (Class of ‘08) and a second son, Nat, who is finishing high school.

Gina Campoli ‘77
To my fellow 1977 CES graduates and hanger ons - Happy 50th birthday! Ailing parents, teenage children, the time in our career when have matured to the point where we really do want to make a difference or just quit, damn it and, of course menopause make for some crazy moments.
I am still living on Craftsbury Common, VT and carpooling, biking and telecommuting to my job in Montpelier - environmental policy manager for... get this...the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Two years ago I came to the conclusion that if you can’t beat’em, join’em and work from the inside to make change. And we are making small strides - snow plows running on biodiesel, better than ever stormwater systems and erosion control, support for transit, and at least considering the community growth implications of limited access highway expansions. It’s sometimes daunting getting Vermonters to understand that despite our relatively clean air, the ever increasing use of the private automobile has a cumulative effect that threatens our health, and, now with global warming, the planet.
I see fellow Louisa Rand Moore, Sally Newton and Annie Waters Steele on the ski trails, and Gaye Symington in her suit at the State House. Gaye, one of the original log lunch ladies and stewards of Hopkins Forest, if you don’t know it is - the Speaker of the Vermont House. Go Girl Go!

Miranda Heller ‘78
Daughter, Haley Tone ‘07 is a CES student. I am President of the Board of the Clarence E. Heller Foundation which does a lot of grant-making in sustainable agriculture, environment and health issues. I have recently joined the Board of the League to Save Lake Tahoe.

Cabby Tennis ‘81
Twenty-five years after my hydro study of the Eclipse Dam in North Adams with CES I find myself a few blocks east of the world’s longest river serving as a member of Cairo American College’s

Tom Jorling, former CES director, and Bill Fox, geology professor emeritus, at the 2005 CES Alumni Picnic
“Green Team”. I teach fourth grade here at CAC, a K-12 international school in the shady suburb of Maadi, 8 miles upriver from downtown Cairo, Egypt. My wife serves as high school principal and our kids (grades 9, 7 and 4), walk through the school gate with us each morning.

I write to share that environmental education and the urgency and excitement about sustainability is thriving here. Our time at two other large, well respected international schools in Taipei and Dar Es Salaam, and experience at regional conferences suggests that awareness about global issues is a natural fit for international school curricula.

The “Green Team” is this school’s shepherd of the recycling program and promotes the review of every school policy through the lens of sustainability. To back enthusiasm with action, the trustees and PTO have recently contributed $13,000 to support “Green” initiatives. We are also excited at the possibility of cohering this with a strong Peace Education initiative launched at CAC this year.

One idea for 2005-6 is to sponsor a regional or world-wide international school conference on sustainability that, if successful, might become an annual event in Cairo. To that end, we are on the hunt for inspirational speakers, both in the short term (August and next April), and over the next 3 years. Our criteria for a presenter? Inspire the socks off an audience of teachers, parents and other professionals. If they are moved to immediate, concrete action in the home and work place then we have succeeded.

So, fellow CES grads, here is a heartfelt two part invitation: 1) Come visit Egypt. We have not found a more hospitable, fascinating place in all of our travels. 2) If you have personally been rocked to the soles of your Birkenstocks by a speaker, we would love to hear the name. All the best is all you are doing for the future. Yours in partnership, Cabby Tennis, Cairo American College cttennis@cacegpt.org

Mike Hill ‘80
I lead a boutique environmental law and insurance firm, Alba Environmental, with offices in Washington and Chicago. Through various risk management practices and fixed-price cleanup contracting, Alba helps federal, state, and local governments, brownfield developers, and others clean up Superfund and other large contaminated sites. My wife Kathy, founder of Green World Teaching, is developing the environmental curriculum for Montgomery County schools. We live in Chevy Chase, MD with our 5 children.

Mary Keller ‘87
I have returned to my hometown of Cody, Wyoming where I am a virtual professor for the University of Wyoming, teaching as an adjunct for Religious Studies and African American Studies. (A white girl who is developing a specialty in W. E. B. Du Bois and race issues, as well as an area of study in African Traditional Religions can be a good support colleague for the members of the African American Studies Department.) My kids are turning 4 and 6 this summer and keep me living a good life in the great outdoors. Our biggest challenges are camping in grizzly bear country (Can you imagine having your child clean enough after smores to put them in a tent in grizzly country?), choosing which fish will be fishy friends that go back in the water and which one we might keep for supper, and deciding on which area of the state to explore next. I feel incredibly lucky. Many pressing environmental issues out here could use a great CES intern for a winter study or summer (working with the Wyoming Outdoor
Council on Oil and Gas leasing in the throes of a boom, working with Greater Yellowstone Coalition to develop community development plans, studying Moose in the region with Fish and Game to try and figure out whether it is wolves that are reducing the Moose numbers drastically . . . ). My activism at this point is circumscribed, but I would house a CES student who wanted to be in the area and have some good connections still in the Forest Service, Fish and Game, WOC and GYC. I welcome any old friends or CES alums who would like some advice over a cup of tea if they are visiting Yellowstone via Cody. My best to all.

Lydia Vermilye Weiss ’96
A quick alum update, which I send mostly as an invitation to be a resource for Williams seniors who are looking to get into the enviro non-profit community down here in DC!

After three years in the Sustainable Enterprise Program at the World Resources Institute, this fall I moved to Defenders of Wildlife, where I lobby to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (a battle which is not over, contrary to public opinion! Our biggest fight is ahead of us - the budget reconciliation bill early this fall, which is the vote that would actually make oil drilling legal). As always, I’m eager to help graduating Ephs find their way in the environmental non-profit community in DC, having worked at three and closely with dozens more.

Jon Weiner ’02
In addition to coaching, I’ve been working as a reporter for the Mountain View Voice out in Silicon Valley. Among other things, I cover environmental issues, with a specific focus on the city’s eight Superfund sites. Community pressure to clean up the sites has been intense, leading to a uniquely aggressive search for TCE vapor (the kind featured in “A Civil Action”) left behind by semiconductor manufacturers, and forcing the Navy to spend more than than $120 million in the last decade to clean up a former base.

Nina Trautmann ‘03
Bill Sacks and I (both ‘03) plus a friend of Bill’s from out west took an adventurous train trip across China (from HK to Beijing and then out to Kashgar in the northwest) in June and will all start grad school at UW-Madison in Fall 2005.

Kristina Weyer ’03
After graduating in 2003, I moved to Atlanta to work for Southface Energy Institute (www.southface.org). It’s a small, regionally focused non-profit working to promote green building in the mainstream construction industry. They do work on both the commercial and residential sides - I worked on houses, both testing and inspecting houses for energy efficiency measures, talking to builders, home improvement contractors, and homeowners about measures they could take to improve a house. It’s not a field I ever envisioned myself in, but when you consider that a significant part of a consumer’s individual energy use is in the home, it’s a field that is much needed. Atlanta also has the fastest growing housing market in the country- there are swaths of new subdivisions going up in the sprawling suburbs. So while they’re not well-planned new urbanism communities by any means, Southface’s angle is working with this mainstream housing industry to make what it builds just a bit better, showing builders that the extra costs are worth the value it provides. I worked in particular with existing houses - retrofits to make older houses more efficient, which involved being an energy auditor - using the testing equipment we have to find air leaks, and crawling around attics and crawlspaces to look for insulation shortcomings. The job had a good mix of office work and trips out to houses.

As an organization, Southface was a great place to experience the non-profit environment. Interns
have a variety of things to do, and there’s a lot of freedom to take initiative and be given significant responsibilities early on. I started as an intern, then moved up to a one-year fellowship, where I had the chance to develop one of our new programs for existing homes with energy star. I am amazed at the expertise I have gained in building science and issues of energy use and indoor air quality in houses in just over a year of being there. I now can’t walk into a house without thinking about how it’s put together. I also feel incredibly tapped into the building science industry as a whole, since Southface has a great reputation. The details of the internship and fellowship change over time- so check out the website (www.southface.org) to get the current details. And feel free to email if you have any questions!

Sam Arons ’04
My year abroad teaching at the Casablanca American School is now coming to an end - I’ll be sad to leave this place but am very much looking forward to the future. This summer I’ll be traveling from Morocco to Greece, Turkey, and India before returning home to Berkeley where I’ll be starting at UC Berkeley’s Energy and Resources Group in the fall.

Elaine Denny ’04
I just wrapped up 6 months in Chiapas, Mexico as part of my Watson year. Three of those months were spent as an agroecology volunteer with an NGO that does all sorts of commendable sustainable development work with the indigenous communities of Southern Mexico. Now I’m in Argentina, hoping to put into practice my two months of tango classes I took in Mexico and hoping to discover some of the beauties and challenges of rural parts of this country as well. Take care, and keep in touch!
Keep in touch with CES alumni through the Alumni Notes: send us updates for the next issue through the CES website at www.williams.edu/ces/resources/alumni.htm

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The Williams program in environmental studies allows students to focus some of their elective courses in an integrated, interdisciplinary study of the environment—that is, the natural world, both in itself and as it has been modified by human activity. The program provides students with the tools and ideas needed to engage constructively with the environmental and social issues brought about by changes in population, economic