

Williams College  
Center for Environmental Studies



N O T E S



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Summer 2003

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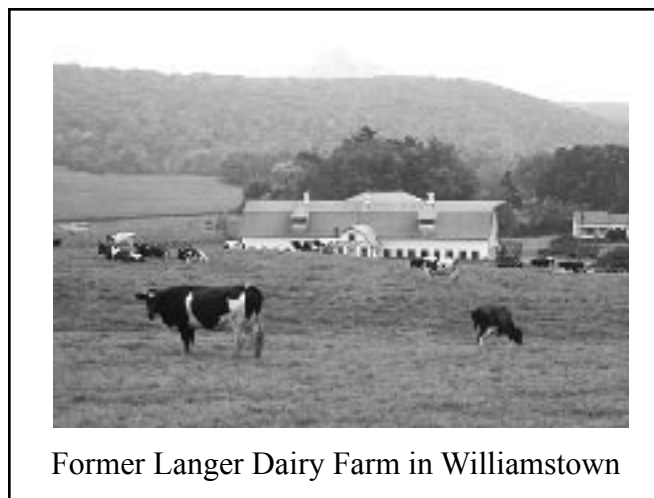
## Letter from the Director

The forests and fields around Williamstown have finally turned to their mid-spring green after a winter only rivaled by that of 1970-1971. Some folks said that I could not truly appreciate how intense the winter was because I escaped town on a Williams alumni trip to Antarctica, where it was summer, during the last two weeks of January.

It has been an exciting year at the Center starting in the autumn when we compiled a self-study in anticipation of a mid-winter visit by an external review committee, it having been a decade since we last benefited from such an experience. The self-study allowed us to take stock of how the Environmental Studies curriculum and the Center's programs and structures have evolved over the past 10 years. Ned Sullivan '76 chaired the committee that included Anne Spirn from MIT, Daniel Peck from Vassar, and Karl Korfmacher from Rochester Institute of Technology. Their reports on our curriculum, programs, and structure helped to stimulate the CES Committee to start to explore ways in which we can bring new energy and creativity into what we do, while preserving the strengths we have developed over the past 36 years. Some of these ideas were launched during a day-long retreat we held at Mt. Hope Farm in May. Others will be brought to fruition this fall and subsequent academic years. We'll provide more on specifics at a later date.

For those of you who might be interested, in November, 2002 the population of dairy farms in Williamstown decreased by 50% when Chenail's Mt. Williams Dairy stopped milking cows. They are continuing to farm by producing replacement calves.

Hank Art, CES Director



Former Langer Dairy Farm in Williamstown

## CES Year In Review

It has been another full and exciting year at CES! The students hit the ground running, organizing the September 21 conference “Meeting the Environmental Challenge: Should Williams College Be a Leader or a Follower” (see article p. 4). A full house of students, faculty, community members, and a roster of nationally known speakers gathered for this extremely successful event.

In early October, CES co-sponsored a talk on “Resisting the FTAA and Corporate Globalization: Ecuador’s Struggle for Human Rights and Environmental Justice” by Ecuadorian agrarian and indigenous rights activist William Trujillo. This was followed in late October by an informative and entertaining slide show and lecture presented by Dr. Lynn Rogers, wildlife biologist and nature photographer. Dr. Rogers’ presentation, “The Hidden World of Black Bears”, drew an overflow crowd of students and local families.

The Class of 1960 Scholars Program in Environmental Studies got off to a start on October 25 with a lecture on “Population, Climate Change, and Biodiversity” presented by Dr. Fred Meyerson, AAAS/NSF Science and Technology Policy Fellow.

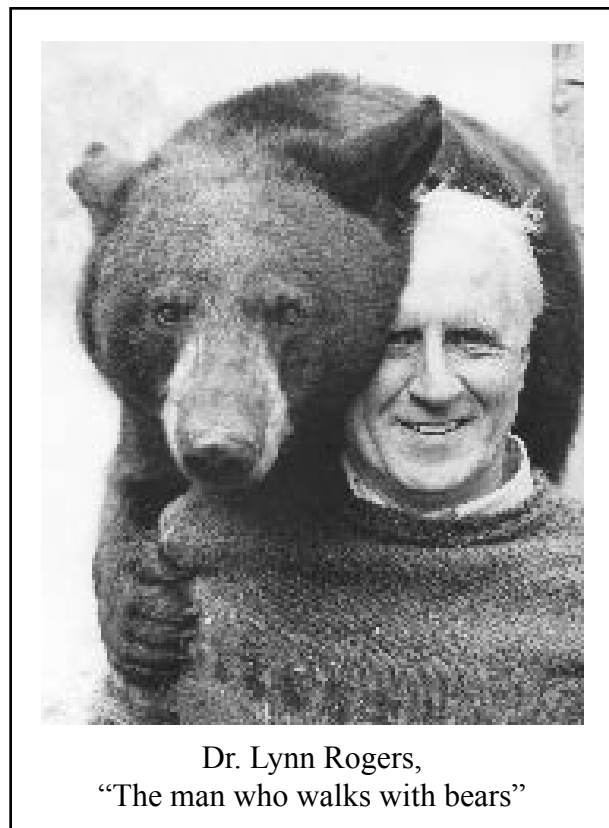
At the end of October Hilary French, Director of the Global Governance Project at the Worldwatch Institute, gave a talk “From Rio to Johannesburg and Beyond: Assessing a Crucial Decade for Environmental Diplomacy”. Ms. French spent the fall semester at Williams as the Class of 1946 Visiting Professor in International Environmental Studies, teaching a course on Globalization and the Environment.

Events for the fall semester wrapped up on November 18 with a Class of 1960 Scholars lecture presented by Dr. John Todd, School of Natural Resources at the University of Vermont, and inventor of the Living Machine. Dr. Todd’s lecture on “The Promise of Ecological Design” was inspiring to all those in attendance.

Spring semester events began on March 2 with “Putting Your Idealism to Work”, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Non-Profit Career Fair jointly sponsored by CES, the Office of Career Counseling, the Multicultural Center, and the Chaplain’s Office. Juniors and

seniors were invited to take part in a workshop in the morning, with students of all classes invited to meet with representatives of more than forty non-profit organizations in the afternoon.

The Class of 1960 Scholars Program in Environmental Studies continued on March 3, with a presentation on “Personal Decisions and Their Impact on Energy Use and Environment” by Dr. Andrew Friedland from Dartmouth College. Dr. Friedland also took time to meet with CES faculty to discuss the role of the Environmental Science Advanced Placement exam in the ENVI curriculum.



On March 13, the College community was treated to a performance of “What’s Funny About Climate Change: A Lighthearted Hour and a Half on Global Warming and the Death of the Natural World”. The northern-California based theater company Human Nature also met with students for a lunchtime discussion on “Theater as a Political Tool”.

As usual, the semester ended with a bang. We completed another successful year of the Class of 1960 Scholars program on April 24 with “Toward a

More Thoughtful Land Preservation Strategy for the Berkshires” presented by Jay Healy ’68. Mr. Healy is a farmer and former Massachusetts Commissioner of Agriculture.

On April 30, Marvin Soroos spoke on “Perspectives on the Emerging Global Order: From the End of History to the End of Nature. Dr. Soroos, from North Carolina State University, served as the Class of 1946 Visiting Professor in International Environmental Studies for the spring semester, teaching a course on “Managing the Global Commons”. Dr. Soroos also invited Dr. Elena Nikitina from the Institute of Economy and International Relations of the Russian Academy of Sciences to visit Williams. Dr. Nikitina spoke on “Environmental Problems and Policies in the Russian Federation” on May 9.

Finally, the year’s events ended with a panel discussion on May 12. “Beyond Bombs: The Environmental Impact of War” brought together four members of the Williams faculty to speak on different aspects of the topic: Charles Dew, from the History Department, on the South after the Civil War; David Edwards, from the Anthropology and Sociology Department, on the wars in Afghanistan; Marsha Altschuler, from the Biology Department, on public health concerns and bioterrorism; and Kai Lee, from CES, on the legacy of the cold war.

We are already planning events for next year, and hope it will be as full and successful as this year!

Julie Sze was a Gaius Charles Bolin Fellow in Environmental and American Studies in 2002-2003. Sze comes from the American Studies Program in New York University, and has spent the last ten years working on urban environmental justice issues in the Bay Area, Boston and New York City. She spent the year completing her dissertation, “Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice,” which she will defend in the Summer 2003. In the Fall, Sze taught a course entitled “Race, Gender and Nature in Environmental and Science Studies,” and in the Spring, she gave a Log Lunch talk “Race and Urban Environmental Justice: New York City Asthma Activism”.



## Class of 2003 Awards

**William J. Sacks '03** was the winner of the Robert F. Rosenberg Prize, which is awarded to a member of the graduating class for outstanding scholarship. potential for solving local, national or international environmental problems, and strong prospects for leadership in the environmental community.

**Malin L. Pinsky '03** won the Scheffey Award. In the name of Lewis and Andrew J. W. Scheffey (the first director of the CES), this award is given in recognition of outstanding environmental leadership.

The Thomas G. Hardie, III, Class of 1978, Memorial Prize is given each year to the student who has done the best work in environmental studies. This year the award went to **Judy B. Harvey'03** for her thesis, “Subsistence in Alaska: Balancing Competing Visions of the Land in Fish and Game management.”

**Nina M. Trautmann '03** won the Environmental Studies Committee Award, which is given to the student who has made an outstanding contribution to the Environmental Studies community at Williams.

## Experts Speak on Green Buildings, Green Campus

Two of higher education's most respected environmentalists spoke at Lawrence Hall on Saturday, discussing the ways in which college campuses can reduce their energy consumption and their output of harmful gases into the atmosphere. Professor David Orr, chair of the Environmental Studies Program at Oberlin College, delivered the keynote address. Sarah Hammond Creighton, project manager of the Tufts University Climate Initiative, produced a short response immediately thereafter. Following the two lectures, audience members participated in their choice of three discussion groups that focused specifically on what steps the College might take to reduce its ecological footprint.

Orr opened the conference by discussing the general environmental problems currently facing our generation. Contending that "the era of fossil fuels is almost over," he estimated that within 20 to 30 years the world's oil production will reach its peak and begin to decline. He cited rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide as additional problems. Turning his attention to what colleges and universities can do to be more environmentally-friendly, Orr explained that 40 percent of the world's raw materials are used in the construction of new buildings. Appropriately, he spent much of his lecture discussing the Environmental Studies building at Oberlin, which was built to cause as little ecological damage as possible.

Oberlin took a number of steps to "green" the facility, Orr explained. The \$7.1 million project, built with certified wood, was designed to promote natural ventilation. Many classrooms have sunlight from four directions, so artificial light is not always necessary. Motion detectors ensure that lights are not used when rooms are empty, and most of what electricity is required is generated by photovoltaic cells on the roof. An added benefit of using natural light, Orr said, is that students tend to perform better in it than they do under fluorescent light. Outside of the building, Oberlin "designed the entire landscape to reflect past and present native ecosystems." The wetland that they have created attracts considerable wildlife, including frogs, songbirds and dragonflies. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the building is the "Living Machine," a purification system that uses plants to filter human waste. Entirely self-contained, the system reuses the water generated by the plants to power its toilets. After establishing that it is possible to create environmentally friendly buildings, Orr turned his attention to why there is not more construction similar to Oberlin's Environmental Studies building. "It's not a matter of technology," he said. "It's a matter of politics and it's a matter of leadership."

Following Orr's remarks, Creighton discussed her work at Tufts University, where their president has pledged to meet or exceed the requirements of the Kyoto Accords. Demonstrating that even existing buildings can be improved, she discussed several of the projects that she has overseen. Creighton focused first on the Tufts Wildlife Clinic, a building which was using far more energy than it actually needed. Although some rooms in the building require 15 air changes per hour, the existing design of the building had every room – bathrooms and laundry rooms included – having its air changed that frequently. By identifying the rooms that require such frequent air changes, Tufts was able to dramatically reduce the building's energy use. Tufts has also invested \$600,000 in campus-wide motion detectors to ensure that lights are not used when they are not needed. Although the financial investment is significant, Creighton explained that within three to five years, "the sensors will have paid for themselves." And while the Tufts Climate Initiative is still in its infancy, Creighton said that it had already reduced the campus's output of carbon into the atmosphere by 1,000 tons per year.

Several discussion groups followed Creighton's address. "Planning, Design, and Construction," which was moderated by Kai Lee, Rosenberg Professor of Environmental Studies, and Eric Beattie, Director of Facilities, Planning and Construction, discussed strategies that the College could pursue to discourage car use on

campus. Suggestions included better van service, more bicycle racks, and a tuition credit for not bringing a car. Also discussed was the possibility of renovating Baxter Hall to make it as environmentally conscious as the Environmental Studies building at Oberlin. In "Educational Mission," moderated by Visiting Associate Professor of Biology Lois Banta and Orr, participants discussed ways in which the College could produce more environmentally aware graduates. While adding a requirement to study the environment was criticized as not likely to gain faculty approval, Orr expressed hope that increased focus on interdisciplinary programs could make students more aware of environmental issues. "Campus Ecology," which was moderated by Dining Services Nutritionist Virginia Skorupski, discussed ways in which the College could reduce waste. Participants wondered whether it would be possible for the Campus to reduce paper use and if the energy demands of heating and lighting are greater than they need to be.

Although it is difficult to abandon patterns of environmentally destructive behavior, Orr's conclusion was that it cannot wait. "This is the work in the world that needs to be done," he said. "If we do it right, people will look back and say that this was our finest hour."

by Steven Myers, Staff Writer, Williams Record, September 24, 2002  
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## Goings On In Hopkins Memorial Forest

This past year saw continued growth, not only of the trees, but also of acreage, programming and research in the Hopkins Forest. A research project on ant/leaf-hopper interdependence was launched by Assistant Biology Professor Manuel Morales and Angus Beal '03. Beal's thesis--which assessed the effects of fertilization and association with ants on leaf hopper populations in a goldenrod field--will serve as the foundation of a larger study on this complex insect community.

An early spring walk in the woods along Northwest Hill Road, might turn up forest geneticist Tom Baribault drawing sap from maple trees. Dr. Baribault--of the University of Vermont Proctor Research Center--is studying the genetic and environmental factors influencing sugar concentration in one hundred sugar maples planted by the USFS in 1960. The HMF site is one of three regionally disparate plantations of similar parental stock being studied by Baribault; the others are in central Ohio and Northern Vermont. Dr. Baribault has been impressed by the superior growth of the trees in the HMF plantation, as well as the condition of Northwest Hill Road in March.

Another important study in HMF is the investigation of the growth dynamics of the invasive garlic mustard plant by Biology Professor Joan Edwards. Dr. Edwards is looking at the effects of this invasive species on neighboring forest floor herbs, such as jack-in-the pulpit, on three sites in HMF, as well as the reproductive strategies employed by this aggressive biennial. Future publication of this work is highly anticipated in the conservation community; it is hoped that Dr. Edwards' work will reveal some clues into if and how this invasive plant can be controlled.

On a more avian path, Hopkins Forest hosted, for a second season, a fall banding station for migrating northern saw-whet owls. These diminutive owls have been the subject of a region-wide study for the last decade. Multiple recaptures of individual owls have helped scientists from Ontario to Virginia learn more about the demographics, migration patterns and conservation status of this previously little understood species. During the fall 2002 season, 159 saw-whets were captured at the HMF station; these included three that had been previously banded--two in Maryland and one in Pennsylvania.



Michelle Ruby '02 holding Saw Whet Owl

The fall of 2002 also saw the publication of thesis research by William Ouimet, class of '02. The paper by Ouimet and David Dethier, "Modeling Sediment Flux From Birch Brook, an Undisturbed Catchment in North-Western Massachusetts", appeared in Northeastern Geology and Environmental Sciences (v. 24, no. 3, 2002).

As the 2003 field season arrives, we anticipate the initiation of new research activities as well as continuation of established ones in HMF. This summer we will add a monitoring well to fill a long standing gap in the hydrological monitoring program in the forest. This new well will enable Geosciences Professor

David Dethier to model the dynamics of water in the aquifer as well as runoff and precipitation in HMF watersheds. In addition, the field around the weather station will be increased in size to comply with USGS standards. The enlarged field may also have potential for hosting small field experiments; fields have become a rather scarce commodity in the forest as succession has relentlessly filled them with trees over the past 75 years.

This summer will feature the installation of twelve all-weather interpretive signs to highlight various features along the Lower Loop Trail. These signs were designed during summer '03 by Alicia Arevalos with funding from a CES grant. We intend to have the signs and a new HMF map/brochure ready for hikers by the July fourth holiday weekend.

## Wind Energy Initiative

Williams College is studying the potential for wind energy on College owned ridgetop property along the Taconic Range near Petersburg Pass. Preliminary estimates indicate that that the site would produce enough electricity to supply more than 140% of the College's annual electrical power requirements. The project would also serve as a valuable educational tool for faculty and students and would establish the College as a leader in environmental responsibility.

The idea of a wind project on Berlin Pass was first proposed by Reed Zars in 1977. In subsequent years, a number of students conducted further research on the wind project. Thomas Black wrote a thesis on the site, which was completed in 1981. This thesis included wind measurements at the Pass that have served an important role as the basis for current estimates of how much electricity the site might produce. One of the College's current goals is to conduct a modern wind regime study to reduce the uncertainty in these wind speed projections; this summer the College will begin the process of requesting special permits to install wind monitoring equipment on the Pass.

A wind farm at the Berlin site might consist of seven GE 1.5 megawatt (MW) turbines, extending along the ridgeline south of Mt. Raimier. The total cost for site development would be approximately \$10.3 million. Preliminary financial projects indicate that the project would have a payback period of between 6 and 8 years. More importantly, power from the facility would displace electricity from fossil fuel burning plants, preventing the emission of hundreds of tons of sulfur and nitrous oxides, as well as tens of thousands of tons of carbon dioxide emissions, each year.

The College is already deriving substantial educational benefits from the site. The project's investigation provides the College with a uniquely accessible case study, which could serve as a platform for interdisciplinary studies and curricular development. The potential wind farm has already inspired student petitions and number of student projects. Additionally, the site was the focus of a semester long project for the Environmental Planning class in the fall of 2002. An academic program, directed by Geosciences Professor David Dethier, has been formed around the Berlin site, This program is charged with the further

investigation of the site, and the development of the associated educational benefits. Sam Arons ('04) will be interning for the project over the summer, conducting further feasibility analysis.

Over the next year, the project plans to do a full wind regime analysis at the site. It also plans to expand the dialogue with local communities to ensure that local residents play a significant role in the planning process. The project will also continue to investigate the cost and difficulty of road access and interconnection to the power grid; the feasibility of obtaining a power purchasing agreement with the College; the price of electricity for power produced by the project; and legal issues associated with the New York state land adjacent to the site. Further information about the site can be found at [www.berlinwind.org](http://www.berlinwind.org).

by Nick Hiza '02

## Green Sense

It has been a busy year for Greensense. We started the fall helping the Campus Environmental Advisory Committee host an environmental conference on campus, which produced many great ideas. Coming off the conference we dispersed to reach the administration, calling for more environmentally sustainable practices. From encouraging green building design at meetings with the Baxter architects, starting a Sustainability Task Force in conjunction with Dining Services to reduce waste in the dining process, and raising student awareness and support of the proposed wind-mill site, we tackled many components of the Williams' experience.

We hit the ground running in the second semester to get ready for Earth Week in April. As the plans slowly came together, different members traveled through the east coast attending various environmental conferences of other institutions, always returning enthusiastic about what they had learned. For Earth Week 2003, we focused largely on corporate and individuals' responsibility. The week kicked off on Monday with Tadesse Meskela, of an Ethiopian Fair-Trade Coffee Cooperative, discussing the fair-trade coffee industry. The lecture was followed by a coffee-tasting session in the Schow atrium, always a success! On Tuesday (Earth Day), we convinced all of the dining halls to serve completely organic meals for dinner. We also organized an Earth Day Benefit Concert in Goodrich with over thirteen different performance groups. There was everything from the typical a capella to Irish step dancing to juggling. We raised money for World Neighbors ([www.wn.org](http://www.wn.org)) an American program working in 18 different countries with communities for the long-term to promote sustainable agriculture, by selling old CUPPS Cups, always a hit, and this year's Earth Day t-shirt. We coordinated a t-shirt designing contest at Pine Cobble. The winner was Ianna Recco, age 8, with "Recycle your car oil". Both the t-shirts and the concert were a big success and we look forward to making the Earth Day Benefit Concert an annual tradition. The Vice President of Environmental Affairs at Staples gave a lecture concerning what Staples is doing to incorporate the environment into the corporation and how the company dealt with the large campaign waged against them last year. On the weekend, an environmental theater group, Arm-of-the-Sea Productions, came to campus to perform "At the Turning of the Tide," an hour illustration of the biological and anthropological history of the Hudson River Valley geared towards all ages. This event was hosted in conjunction with CES, Pine Cobble, Williamstown Elementary, and HooRWA. The festivities closed with a lecture by Anthony Eames from Calvert, Inc., which manages the Williams' Social Choice Fund, discussing what exactly socially responsible investing is and how people can get involved.

As the year comes to a close it is exciting to think of all that we have accomplished over the past nine months and of the progress still to come. The attitude of the administration is turning towards a greener outlook, especially as we continue to convince Morty that it will make us a "leader" in the liberal arts world.

by Kristin Hunter Thomson '03

# Forest Garden

For two years now, Jonathan has worked in the Forest Garden and has always wondered why there are two mattocks in the tool shed when it never seemed like more than a shovel was needed for any work. One Saturday, his wonder was answered: preparing a pit for the 50-year old azalea bush recently purchased, the hardy lad discovers that nothing is more invigorating, more empowering than wielding that furious instrument, smiting the clay soil with abandon. When a rock is unfortunate enough to obstruct his arc, sparks fly. Ken Brown comments that it is not necessary to swing so hard. “Ah, but it is so much fun,” Farmer Jonathan answers, as he strives vainly to extricate the mattock that has gotten stuck in the clay after an imprudently forceful blow. Meanwhile, Vivian pleads with Jonathan to suppress his mattock mania, at least long enough to get some serious work done.

Spring is an energetic and busy time in the Forest Garden. It is the season when students try to sow in the earth the sketchy plans dreamt over the winter, so that they may become reality over the summer. This season the garden has especially been hit with a decreased membership, as initially promising numbers dwindled substantially over the winter. As a result, work parties go somewhat longer to get more done in these precious few weeks before summer.

Thanks to a great turnout in the fall and a constant eye towards low-maintenance techniques, the garden actually looks a lot better than it has at some times in the past. New rock borders, mulch paths, and a hand-laid stone path that runs to the grape arbor serve both to beautify the bed and create spaces that will never have to weed again (we hope). Beds long allowed to grow weeds have been completely turned over and resown, though many “no man’s lands” remain to be tackled. Finally, the garden’s long emphasis on vegetables, which require high care and weeding, has given way to a stronger presence of flowers, which have been selected for hardiness and a blooming season that will hopefully extend into the fall. With a little help from nature and perhaps from garden friends who are staying on campus in the summer (hint hint), the Forest Garden will greet returning students with a bounty luscious to both the tongue and the eye.

If all goes well, expect a garden with the same breadth of diversity as previous year’s, but with more order in the beds closer to CES. The wildflower beds will still stay completely wild and the berry bushes will still grow into iron cages, so you’ll still have the fun of shredding yourself to get to that delectable bunch of blackberries dangling within its spiny fortress. For next fall, expect less mint, a strapping crop of asparagus, the usual herbs, a ton of onion and garlic, some self-resuscitating carrots, and echinacea. Look forward also to new crops of black eggplant, cucumbers galore (Jonathan’s favorite), cherry and slicing tomatoes (oh please oh please!), green beans, and flowers that campus has never seen before. But with certainty, should all else fail, the raspberry crop always comes through. We look forward to returning to campus and seeing student and professors wading through the raspberry patch, eating the ripe fruit straight off the shoots, which is, incidentally, how the two of us first met.

by Jonathan Landsman ‘05 and Vivian Schoung ‘04



Forest Gardeners



## Log Lunch: Food, Friends, and Fun

“Where else would you be able to turn a great debacle of failed fortune-cookies into a runaway success story like ‘Fortune Burritos?’” mused Pete Holland ‘05, Log Lunch cook this spring. I think we actually ended up calling the unbendable wafers “fortune tacos,” but I agree whole-heartedly with Pete’s sentiment. The ingenuity and humor of the team of students who help to prepare the Center for Environmental Studies’ Log Lunches each week are what keep me ticking each Friday morning as the bread starts to rise before the sun does. Coordinating the cooking process for the past two years has been a rewarding experience, partially because of the overall success of the Log Lunch program.

CES is the only department on campus that can boast a turnout of 80-120 enthusiastic students, faculty, staff, alums, and community members for its weekly speaker series. Through nurturing a sense of community and offering good wholesome sustenance, CES has managed to create what has become arguably the best foundation for student-faculty-community interactions on campus.

My freshman year, I started coming regularly to Log Lunch for the homemade food and great company. While chatting with folks along the long wooden table, I met upperclassman who shared my interests in music and the outdoors. Environmental Studies concentrator and Log Lunch shopper Kristin Hunter-Thomson ’03 acknowledges that it’s “the one time of the week that most of us are able to count on week after week that we will see each other. It forces us in a way to take a breath and just enjoy being together.” Some students who have never taken an ENVI class come to Log Lunch to keep up with environmental issues in an informal manner.

Leslie Reed-Evans from the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, who uses Log Lunch as an example of a successful program in her workshop presentations for land trusts and other community groups, comments that “Log Lunch is a wonderful opportunity to meet with members of Williams and the community who share concerns about our environment.” She also hopes that the presence of local citizens will help to enrich students’ experience. Local writer Lauren Stevens adds, “For me, not related to Williams, it is a way of keeping in touch with environmental issues on campus. Speakers on subjects removed from Williamstown keep me up-to-date on a broader range of issues.” Log Lunches are also a prime location for students to announce activities, for the department to publicize upcoming events, and even for local nonprofits to recruit summer interns.



Community involvement happens even before the veggies make it to the table. This fall, Log Lunch helped to support local agriculture by getting many of its fresh vegetables from Bill Stinson’s Peace Valley Farm in Williamstown. At one pick-up, Bill mentioned that he had saved us the best tomatoes because he knew we’d really appreciate their freshness and flavor. Since Williams has reverted to holding Mountain Day on a spontaneous Friday in October, Bill worked with us so we wouldn’t have to buy fresh vegetables for 100 people in advance on Thursdays. On the non-Mountain Day Friday, we sent a few Log Lunch workers out to the farm, and Bill helped us pick fresh veggies that we served in the salad just a few hours later. Binney McCague ’03 speaks for many students when she writes, “It’s so nice to get away from the whole dining hall situation... the food is fresher and better at Log Lunch.” Sharron Macklin from OIT reveals that, “In these

busy times it is nice to know that you can count on one really healthy meal each week!” And Lauren Stevens sums up the Log Lunch experience quite nicely: “The food is terrific, the company excellent, and the talks stimulating.” Thanks, CES!

by Nina Trautmann ‘03

**Fun facts about Log Lunch:**

- 20+ students plan, shop, cook, and clean for Log Lunch each week.
- Six students fought over the 6:00 am bread shift this spring.
- CES weekly lunches started in 1971 as a Friday bag lunch series.
- Wild Oats was a food co-op in the Kellogg House basement in the early 1980s.
- To learn more about the Log Lunch program at Williams, visit [www.williams.edu/ces/resources/eatlocalintro](http://www.williams.edu/ces/resources/eatlocalintro)

## Summer Intern Reports

**Alicia L. Arevalos ‘05**

This summer I received a creative grant from **the Miranda Heller 1978 and Jerry Tone 1977 Environmental Studies Student Research Fund** to develop an interpretive trail for the Hopkins Memorial Forest to educate visitors on the unique history and present uses of the forest. I spent the summer researching history, writing text, visiting other interpretive trails in the area, compiling student and faculty research, collecting photographs and creating over forty drawings for the signs. The subjects focus on those aspects that are unique to the forest and include student and faculty research, and will be presented at 13 sites along the Lower Loop trail that best demonstrate the topic at hand. Topics include: an historical overview of Buxton Farm, and the Hopkins and Rosenberg families, including a timeline of major events in the forest; the Moon barn and lot; the sugarbush; the weather station; eastern deciduous forests; the canopy walkway; geology; water and aquatic life; the permanent plot system; succession; hay-scented fern research and stone walls; U.S. Forest Service plantations; and invasive species. The project is continuing into the fall and we hope to install the signs as soon as the snow melts this spring. The following is a sample of text and an accompanying drawing from the Moon barn and lot sign:



Farming implements of yesteryear

The Moon Barn and the Moon Lot Today

In 1971, Williams College acquired the Moon Lot, finally adding it to the acreage of H.M.F. In 1975, the old Moon barn was dismantled, moved and reconstructed in its present location by Peter B. McChesney '75 for use as a museum, displaying old farming implements. The sculpture near the barn, 'Echos of an Era' by Kim Verzyl '78, is also made up of various cast-off's. What do you think each piece might have been used for?

## **Bob Quay '04**

For nine weeks during Summer 2002, I worked as an intern at Partners for Livable Communities in Washington, D.C. My internship was funded by the **Thomas C. Black '80 Fund** of the Center for Environmental Studies.

Partners for Livable Communities is a nonprofit organization that works with local governments and other organizations throughout the country on a variety of social and environmental issues tied to economic and community development. One of the primary ways that Partners helps local communities address these issues is by training local officials. At Partners, I assisted in the preparation of materials that were going to be used to train local leaders in harnessing the power of arts for economic, community, and youth development. The president of Partners conducted a training on this subject in San Francisco in early August. My primary responsibility was to find innovative programs throughout the country and to profile them in case studies that were included in the manual for the course. I also arranged a field trip for the course participants to one of the organizations that I profiled.

My internship with Partners allowed me to explore some of the nation's most effective programs that use the arts to address issues of economic, community, and youth development. Many of these programs creatively addressed multiple problems facing their communities. For example, the organization at which I arranged the field trip was a theater that had improved the physical environment that surrounds it by refurbishing a vacant and decrepit building while also providing marketable construction and electrical job skills to neighborhood youth through a technical theater training program.

Though this internship was unquestionably a worthwhile experience for me because of the programs that it exposed me to, I struggled throughout the summer with the question of whether or not Partners is necessary as an organization. After all, Partners does not actually implement any programs or initiatives. I think that there is a strong argument to be made that the individuals working to address these issues within local governments or in other small organizations do not necessarily have the time or the funding to conduct research into programs in other parts of the country in order to determine what they might learn from their peers. On the other hand, I think that though some of the insights from programs in other places may be useful, the best economic and community development policy must be developed locally so that it can embrace regional advantages.

This internship not only gave me greater insight into the fields of economic and community development, but also forced me to think hard about the type of organization that I want to work for and the level at which I want to be working. I would like to thank the Thomas C. Black '80 Fund and CES for their generosity in providing the financial support that enabled me to spend my summer interning at Partners.

## **Carolyn Dekker '05**

Thanks to a grant from the **Kershaw Fund**, administered by the Center for Environmental Studies, I was able to intern this summer with The Nature Conservancy in New Jersey. I worked at the Chapter Office in the elegantly rural town of Pottersville, one of those gemlike patches of natural land that redeem all the stereotypes about my state. The office, a good-sized home bequeathed by area philanthropist Elizabeth D. Kay, administers the three landscape program offices of the conservancy in New Jersey and deals most directly in partnerships with the state, with other conservation organizations, and with publicity, publications and fundraising. It was adjacent to miles of hiking and running trails, and also featured nine bathrooms and a dozen other rooms turned offices and stocked with two dozen of the coolest people I have ever met. The staff of the conservancy, especially the members of the Central Conservation Commission, with whom I worked most closely, impressed me with their range of talents and dedication to the preservation of ecologically significant lands in the state, and, in a more recent development, to conservation on a global scale.

I had no idea when I walked into this internship that I would have the amazing opportunity to witness this organization as it completed adjusting to the leadership of its new president, Steve McCormick. It was a current of (dare I say it?) wariness that buzzed through the statewide staff meeting in late July, with the arrival of new strategies and careful evaluation of past actions in light of these new plans and goals. Unexpectedly, my understanding of the organization was further broadened by the time I spent digging through the files in

Miss Kay's living room as I assembled packages of documents for the New Jersey Green Acres matching grant reimbursement program. I watched as newspaper clippings, hot tips and notes jotted on napkins and business cards were transformed into a landowner contact program and file system in the early eighties that found conservancy employees making house calls to every landowner in each target site. The reports on these trips were often amusing and adventurous: southern New Jersey was, and still is, a different world from the north-central region in which I grew up. It is an area where local residents have a tendency to use "No Hunting" signs for target practice and find fenced preserves offensive enough to merit running down the fences with their pickup trucks (repeatedly). On my few trips to our offices and preserves in the pinelands and bayshores, I was able to see first-hand the emphasis that the conservancy places on education in these areas.

Though I spent most of my summer inside Miss Kay's pink cinderblock house, toiling away at indices and PowerPoint presentations, performing emergency photocopying, diving into file drawers up to my elbows, and holding careful and procedural phone conversations with landowners that paled in comparison to the heady days of landowner contact in the eighties, my internship was an exciting and valuable experience. And sometimes, they would let me outside. I know where all the Small Whirled Pogonias (*Isotria medeoloides*) in New Jersey live. Do you?

### **Dan Austin '05**

My summer was spent chasing the slow but interesting turtles of central Pennsylvania thanks to a generous grant from the **A.W. Mellon Fund**. The research project I was working on involved radio tracking two different species of turtle, the Wood Turtle and the Box Turtle, throughout the duration of the project. The goal of the project was to compare the habitats preferences and summertime activities of these two similar species. The study site was a working dairy farm that provided its fair share of smells, large cows, chores, and most importantly, healthy turtle populations. To learn about the activities and habitats of the turtles, the individuals were regularly located using a radio receiver, and their activity and location was cataloged. Most of the time, the turtles were found simply sitting on the forest floor looking off into the distance, but occasionally more interesting things were observed like: breakfast hanging off of the turtles mouths that needed to be identified, two Box Turtles fighting, or most interesting was the observation of an unusual feeding technique officially known as the "Wood Turtle Stomp." "The Wood Turtle Stomp" actually appeared to be more of a dance, but after watching a turtle gorge itself on worms after tapping the ground, it became apparent what the activity really was used for. By following the turtles throughout the summer I was able to see movement patterns, food preferences, home range sizes, and most importantly habitat preferences. To help analyze my data, I learned to use the computer mapping program, ARC Map, which proved to be a frustrating but fruitful endeavor. In the end, it was found that Wood Turtles preferred the moist lowlands because they regularly visit the stream when it becomes dry. On the other hand, the Box Turtles were found to occupy a much greater variety of habitats since they simply burrowed into the ground when it got too hot, rather than depending on a water source. Overall, the project was a great opportunity to learn some very interesting herpetology, as well as gain a much better awareness for the forest as a whole. Turtles were not the only things sighted in the woods as I saw many other species of reptiles, amphibians, birds, and even a pair of fawns that were laying only six feet away. This summer taught me a lot not only because I spent many hours in the library, but also more importantly because I was able to get some excellent hands-on experience in the woods learning up close exactly how several different species survived on a daily basis.

### **Elaine Denny '04**

I realized early this year that although I had lived in Wisconsin for ten years, I still understood relatively little about one of the state's most important industries: dairy. I had heard about significant changes and hardships in farming that had evolved over the past decade, and I wanted to learn more. Therefore, with support from the **Thomas C. Black '80 Fund**, I spent the summer attempting to discover what political and economic forces are driving the globalization of the dairy industry and what social and environmental changes have resulted from bigger farms in Wisconsin.

Little research has been done on this evolving topic, and consequently a substantial portion of my

project involved speaking with the people of central Wisconsin and listening to their stories. I spoke with farmers, both old and young, working on farms of all sizes. I also interviewed cheese plant managers, owners of family-run dairy stores, DNR employees, environmental lawyers, and agricultural educators. Their words helped me formulate a picture of dairy's current situation, and where the industry might go in the future.

The issue is extremely complex, but trends indicate that within 10-20 years most of the traditional small family farms will disappear. This will happen as families expand their operations in response to competitive pressures from Western dairies and international corporations. Large farms cut the cost of milk production, but they also create more environmental costs for the community. Noise, water, and air pollution, in addition to decreased property values and a weakened local economy are some of the unintended consequences of keeping pace with a globalized dairy market.

An appealing alternative to factory farming is grazing. In central Wisconsin, 30% of new farmers employ grazing techniques to some extent. Grazing is much more cost-efficient and significantly more environmentally friendly than traditional farming methods. Unfortunately, however, too few farmers are choosing grazing and instead are opting for larger operations, driven by the mentality that bigger is better.

The dairy situation in central Wisconsin is a prime example of how globalization can affect a small community in vast and unforeseen ways. I wanted to inform the student body about the social, environmental, and economic consequences of globalization, using the dairy industry as a pertinent case study. Therefore, I have created a photo documentary relating to this issue, which will be presented as an exhibit in the Wilder Gallery in February. Those interested in learning more about how a small part of the country has been affected by globalization in a large way are encouraged to visit the exhibit.

#### **John Arendshorst '04**

This summer, I worked as an unpaid intern for MASSPIRG, a nonprofit environmental and consumer advocacy organization based in Boston, MA. I was able to support myself through the generosity of CES and the **John C. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund**. MASSPIRG (the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group) is the Massachusetts branch of USPIRG, a nationwide network of state PIRGs based in Washington, DC. I am concerned about our diminishing resources and wanted to help preserve them by working for an environmental campaign over the summer. MASSPIRG provided me an opportunity to do just that, as well as learning a lot about politics and campaign work.

From researching environmental issues and writing reports about them, to holding press conferences to announce our findings, to meeting with Massachusetts senators, representatives, and gubernatorial candidates, it was a busy summer. It was also a great learning experience. I had never worked on any kind of political campaign before; now I was learning on the fly the protocol for scheduling meetings, working with the media, and talking persuasively about the issues at hand.

One of our greatest accomplishments this summer was a lobby day, which we held on July 17. This was a day on which we scheduled meetings with as many state representatives as possible in order to persuade them to pass the Open Spaces Preservation Bill, a bill that would ensure strict protocol for the sale and development of public open spaces. We ended up meeting with 66 representatives and got 25 more to sign on to the bill, bringing the total supporters of the bill to 89 (out of 160).

Overall, this was probably the best summer (definitely the most interesting!) of my life. I learned a ton about environmental politics: how to find data on topics of interest, how to present these findings in a clear, concise way, how to work with elected officials and campaign, and how to get media coverage and use it to the advantage of the campaign. In addition, I felt a deep sense of accomplishment doing all this for such a good cause. It was easy to donate my time for something I care so much about, especially in such a learning experience, and I had a great time.

#### **Eric Kerns '03, Freedon Oeur '03, and Williams Hahn '04**

Archaeology is the process of physically uncovering, interpreting, and preserving the past. We decided to spend the summer relating archaeology to the environment in an attempt to understand some of the problems facing the rainforest environment today. These investigations were made possible through generous donations

provided by the **John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund, the W. Conant Brewer '18 Fund, and the Miranda Heller 1978 and Jerry Tone 1977 Environmental Studies Student Research Fund.**

In the lush, tropical Peten region of Guatemala, a densely populated Mayan civilization once thrived. Now, the modern descendents of this civilization are creating ecological havoc with only a fraction of the population that their ancestors had. The virgin forest is almost gone and the people are now trying to make a living in a denuded environment. The paradox is that the modern descendents are creating ecological havoc where their ancestors once thrived with a much denser population. We spent the summer looking for clues in the past as to how the ancient Maya related to their environment in order to gain insight into this apparent paradox.

In Guatemala the environment has remained largely unchanged since early-Maya times, allowing Maya archaeologists to study Maya towns and cities in essentially the same environment that existed when those towns and cities thrived. This summer, we tried to gain insight into the interplay between archaeology and the environment as members of the Motul de San Jose Archaeological Project. Anthropology professor Antonia Foias has directed the project in past years, although due to her pregnancy, she did not direct the project this summer. Instead, the project was directed by Matthew Moriarty, a graduate student from Tulane University. This field season we spent the majority of our time at a smaller site located fifteen kilometers to the northwest of Motul (the site for which the project is named) proper- a place called Akte (turtle-tree in the local Itza Maya dialect) named after a nearby river. This site appeared to be a secondary elite settlement, meaning a place where the ruling class lived.

Archaeology aside, the environment is a crucial link between modern-day Guatemalans and their Mayan ancestors. With the same soil and environment available to them, the ancient Maya employed many of the intensive agricultural techniques adopted by modern-day farmers. In our research this summer, we made extensive use of local informants, who provided insight into agricultural conditions that were favorable. The modern Maya utilize an agricultural system, called swidden agriculture (“slash-and-burn”) that is known to be similar to the one the ancient Maya used. What was concluded from the investigations is that this system, when used effectively in conjunction with population control, can be a long-term ecologically sound strategy. Both the archaeological data and the ethnological interviews show that the Itza Maya, who have co-existed with the fragile ecosystem for generations, know how to farm effectively. The problem is that immigrants from the coast, pushed out of the overpopulated highlands, employ entirely different techniques that are much more productive, but exhaust the land at a much faster rate. The local people, in conjunction with international aid organizations, are attempting to preserve their environment and cultural heritage through a project called the Bio-Itza reserve, but their efforts suffer due to chronic lack of funding.

### **Marsha Lynch '03**

Lead, inorganic or organic, is poisonous to our bodies. Lead enters the body via skin contact or through inhalation or ingestion and affects virtually all human biochemical processes and organ systems.

Because of the widespread use of this naturally occurring element by civilizations throughout time, all humans today have some lead in their bodies due to environmental exposure. Lead is persistent and so once it gets into the air, soil or water, it can easily be transferred between these media and to us if we ever come into contact with them. For this reason the focus has been largely on controlling or eliminating the sources of lead in our environment since the time for its disintegration is infinitely long.

Today, in the U.S, environmental exposures to lead have dramatically declined from that of twenty-five years ago largely due to active screening for lead poisoning cases and the removal of lead from gasoline and other consumer products. However, this does not necessarily mean that lead toxicity is no longer a problem. Poisoning is not only caused by major acute exposures. Unfortunately, lead is also persistent in parts of the human body and it accumulates over time. Therefore, small exposures over time can lead to lead poisoning as well.

In adults, about 5% of recently absorbed lead stays in the blood and/or goes to the soft tissue while ~95% is deposited in the bone. Lead stored in the bone is located in different ‘compartments’, which differ with respect to how easily the lead is resorbed (redissolved) and let back into the blood stream. The lead in the labile portion of the bone is in equilibrium with the blood lead while the lead in the non-labile part of the bone

has a half-life typically of more than 25 years. This means that non-labile lead stores can keep accumulating over time before there is any chance of turnover. It is this lead in non-labile stores that is a particular threat to the individual. Because it is not readily in contact with the blood, this lead has little chance of being excreted over time. However, during times of increased bone metabolism and/or stress, this stored lead can become an endogenous source. Women who are pregnant, lactating or experiencing menopause as well as individuals with nutrition deficiencies (e.g. calcium) are particularly at risk of becoming poisoned by their own lead stores that may have accumulated over time by continuous low levels of exposure, or by a few isolated incidents of acute exposure.

Research and practice in Environmental Health and Epidemiology with respect to lead and other heavy metal toxicity has now taken a turn from primary prevention to treatment and secondary prevention. Preliminary research suggests that dietary interventions, such as calcium supplementation, can reduce the risk of resorption (redissolving) of bone and thus endogenous lead poisoning

Marsha Lynch interned at the Harvard School of Public Health with support from the **Thomas C. Black '80 Fund**.

### **Melody Scheefer '03**

The High Desert Museum, just south of Bend, Oregon, is a private natural history museum dedicated to teaching the public about the people, wildlife, and history of the high desert plateau regions of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The museum is quite large, with around 50 paid employees and hundreds of volunteers who lead interpretive programs. So while the outside grounds include a mountain meadow, otter, porcupine and birds of prey exhibits, a settlers cabin and saw mill, riparian zone and trout pond, the inside is just as exciting with more history exhibits and smaller wildlife.

It has been interesting to observe the people on the grounds here. It is a well-known and popular place and I watch to see what the visitors say and how they approach me if I am wearing my nametag. The kids are the most curious and honest while the adults are often reluctant to ask questions or express amazement at something. But then I see that the children are becoming their parents over time. We are part of a nation with intense suffering evidenced by obesity, consumerism and an increasing distance from natural states of being. This museum records this trend: the way the land was before people came, the way different groups lived with or against the land, and the depressing direction we're now headed in. Call me a pessimist, but I don't see too much care and attention directed toward preserving this depleted land. What can be done to help people take better care of each other and this earth? I've been wondering this and I believe there are a few ways I can help.

First, I can show people that I care about them. The children I work with in the day camp want attention, and some show it more than others. I ask the kids, "What are you making or doing?" and "How do you feel about this?" and then I do my best not to tell them my judgment; I just keep asking questions. I really pay attention to what they're telling me in words as well as in the subtler language of action, putting aside my personal thoughts when I can. In my opinion, these children and adults feel a little neglected of love and affection. And when they trust me, they listen to what I have to say and they want to know more. We did some mentally scary things like eating "wild" plants and taking a hike in cougar country and they soon forgot their fear and wanted to know more and more. So I think that when they become more aware of themselves by others showing genuine interest in them, they will then move away from selfish needs and begin to reach out more, putting positive energy into this world.

Maybe this has been more a summer of reflection than action. I have learned more about social interactions and the reasons for why people would feel fine doing so much harm to the land and wildlife in this high and dry region of the country. The challenge has been not to tell these people how they should feel, but rather to let them make direct observations and then draw their own conclusions, and to hope that actions would come from a place of deep compassion.

I would like to thank CES as well as the **George H. Dorion '51 Family Fund** for my internship. I feel grateful to be part of an institution with so much generosity and shared resources.

## **Saerom Park '04**

This summer, I was able to explore two very different aspects of a non-profit environmental law firm, thanks to the **Thomas C. Black '80 Fund** and CES. I split my time evenly between Earthjustice's Development Department and International Program, both located at headquarters in Oakland, California.

Earthjustice, which has nine regional offices that legally represent public interest clients like the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council free of charge, depends upon a large donor base – kept well-informed and satisfied by the Development Department – to raise the funds necessary to continue their work. I spent the first half of the internship in Development shadowing the Donor Associate, which meant updating the donor database, responding to donors' complaints and comments, coordinating mass mailings, and sitting in on meetings and conference calls that dealt with the logistics of making the database more efficient and maintaining the extensive Earthjustice website. Once I was familiar with the Donor Associate responsibilities and its role in the larger scheme of things, I spent the rest of the summer creating an Earthjustice Donor Relations Intern Manual, drawing upon all the resources of Communications, Information Technology, and the Earthjustice website.

In the International Program – full staff consisting of two attorneys, a staff scientist, and a research associate – I worked with the research associate on a variety of projects, ranging from the most mundane of office jobs to fascinating research on cases the International Program was working on. At the end of the summer, the office had an updated and efficient filing system and library, and I came away with a little bit of law jargon, some frequently used legal strategies, information and background on environmental cases being researched and fought now, and a whole lot of perspective on the nature of environmental cases, not only in the States but internationally. One of the highlights of the summer was sitting in on a meeting with members of a Japanese organization that came to seek advice on how to go about protecting the coral reef habitat of the dugong (related to the manatee), which is chiefly threatened by the proposed construction of a floating US military base right on top of the coral reef.

Working in both Development and International allowed me to gain a fuller and more realistic understanding of one way that a large, environmental non-profit can successfully accomplish amazing goals. As I read some of the more outspoken notes and comments sent in by donors, I began to recognize that despite these donors' support for the work that Earthjustice does, that's where the commonality amongst these supporters begins and ends. From overpopulation and immigration issues to Bush and Nader, the environmentally-related issues and opinions ran the gamut. It seemed near impossible to keep such a diverse group of environmental supporters satisfied. I came to appreciate how Earthjustice does manage to pull that off, by specifying limited objectives instead of trying to tackle every environmental problem out there. Also, researching cases in the International Program showed me just how slippery environmental law can be, especially when facing the likes of corporations protected by international trade laws and corruption in some governments of developing countries. I've only begun to see just how important but thorny environmental law is, and I've decided it's something I would definitely want to pursue further.

Most of all, I am grateful to have had this opportunity to worked with people whose awareness, commitment, and passion really transcended their 9-5 job and could only be naturally described as an admirable lifestyle.

## **Susanna Theroux '05**

Aside from the abundance of organic hemp clothing, there were quite a few things that distinguished the environmental non-profit research organization's office, located on Wall Street, from its surroundings. The air-filter kept out much of the city smoke, the office plantings provided a little foliage, and there was a recycling bin every six feet. I was hired as a Sustainable Transportation Intern at INFORM, Inc., but I soon learned that an employee at organization of no more than 20 staff members is often required to wear a few hats.

I began my work tracking the large volume of national and international press coverage INFORM was receiving on their latest publication, "Waste in the Wireless World", a report detailing the impending problems caused by discarded cell-phones accumulating in landfills. After a few weeks spent getting acquainted with INFORM's work and previous publications of the past 25 years, I transitioned to working in the Waste



Prevention department to develop a New York Community Coordinators Program. Throughout the five boroughs, the program was to fund ten projects, each working to eliminate or re-direct specific materials clogging the waste stream such as plastic bags, furniture, or more recently, as developed over the summer as a result of Mayor Bloomberg's termination of the city recycling program, bottles and cans as well. But after a few weeks working on this project, my efforts were need elsewhere.

To my delight, I was called upon by the primary author and researcher of the latest alternative fuel publications-in-progress. Due out in the fall, there was a Greening Garbage Trucks (GGT) report, and a Buses Futures (BF) report, both focusing on the shift to natural gas for heavy-duty diesel-fueled vehicles. My primary job as a junior researcher was to update existing information in the reports, reviewing the latest trends in greenhouse gas emissions by country, by sector, i.e. transportation, commercial, residential, etc., and by fuel. For this period of time, I felt quite utilized, sometimes a bit overwhelmed with my mounting piles of EPA releases to read and highlight, but this was the time I enjoyed the most. INFORM's research focuses primarily on a transition to natural gas powered vehicles, which would enable the technology to be developed and the infrastructure to be constructed for a later transition to hydrogen fueled vehicles.

My final, most specific and independent assignment was to author a grant proposal for an alternative fueled commuter fleet in the New York metro area. I was to research pre-existing, environment-friendly commuter programs, and determine which of these programs was the most effective and practical for implementation in the NY metro area. After twelve weeks on the job, and four weeks on this project, I realized that New York City is at an advantage with its generous supply of tax incentives, established commuter choice programs, and a large commuter base from which to draw participants. If programs exist allowing people to save time and money, and these programs are encouraged and supported by employers, it is only a matter of time before employees grasp these opportunities.

Working with my third boss in the sustainable transportation department, and seeing the work done by my first boss, taught me quite a bit about the world of non-profits. These two women both worked extremely hard, and had publications read by the EPA and had testimonies before the Supreme Court to show for it. The other most educational moments for me came when I was in the staff meetings. Everyone sat around a table and gave updates on their current progress. This is when I was able to see that the people at this organization were working harder than I could imagine, pulling all-nighters strictly with the hope that their report would succeed and make a change in policy, consumer habits, etc. This summer's experience gave me the opportunity to learn more than I ever expected about alternative fueled vehicles, hydrogen fuel cells, carpooling, and mercury in cellphones. Most importantly, however, it clarified the picture of what I see myself doing in an environmental research field, or more accurately, the picture of what I don't see myself doing, a.k.a., sitting behind a desk as opposed to out in the field. I thank the Environmental Studies Department and the **Thomas C. Black '80 Fund** for making my summer internship, a ten-week crash course in the ways of an environmental non-profit, a possibility.

### **Tim Patterson '04**

For many of us, whales embody the majesty of nature in its purest form. An image of a whale sounding evokes feelings of awe, admiration and an urge to protect and preserve the wild natural environment. However, not so many years ago, that same image of a whale would have evoked very different feelings for many Americans. The whale was seen as a symbol of the bounty of the natural world ripe for human exploitation; nature's ultimate challenge to human ingenuity and perseverance. As a participant in the Williams-Mystic program in the Spring of 2002, I began to explore the ways in which Americans view whales and the natural marine world as a whole. Thanks to a grant from the **Miranda Heller '78 and Jerry Tone '77 Environmental Studies Student Research Fund**, I was able to embark upon a summer of research exploring how attitudes towards whales and whaling have evolved over time, and how the shift in such attitudes is indicative of a broader shift in the way we have come to view our role in nature.

The classic image of whaling is the one romanticized in Melville's *Moby Dick*. Men in sailing ships traveled to the uncharted ends of the earth in search of whales, pursuing and killing them from small boats. The contest between man and animal was a relatively even one. Many whalers were lost at sea, and history is

littered with sensational accounts of whales sinking whaleboats, and in some cases, sinking the actual ship itself. The perils of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century whaling exemplified the struggle against nature that humanity, and Americans in particular, were so eager to wage. Additionally, the benefits of whaling were tangible in both a cultural and monetary sense. Whale oil enriched entire communities, such as the island of Nantucket, and whale products were found in many aspects of everyday American life.

By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Americans began to realize that they had ‘won’ the battle with nature. Having asserted the ability to conquer the natural world, society had to determine how to interact with nature in the future. Sadly, the process of exploitation continued unabated for decades, until environments were devastated and species were driven to the brink of extinction. Nowhere was this trend more clear than in regard to whales and whaling. Whale populations were decimated at the turn of the century, but aided by technological advances that made whaling a safe and industrialized activity, whalers began to hunt at increased rates.

By the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Americans no longer relied on whale products, and by the 1960s, a popular outcry against whaling spread throughout the nation. Many early environmentalist organizations, such as Greenpeace, derived their initial support from the anti-whaling cause. Whaling was condemned as immoral and unnecessary exploitation. However, countries such as Japan, which continued to utilize whale products, sought to continue their whaling tradition, and came into conflict with the wave of popular protest in America and other Western nations. The question facing modern societies today is whether to preserve nature in its purest form in certain areas, or whether to continue to exploit nature everywhere through sustainable means. Like it or not, we have assumed the role of nature’s steward, and conflicting and evolving attitudes towards whales symbolize our societal transition.

## Williams In Alaska

The Alaska Conservation Foundation is pleased to announce an annual internship position that has been created for a student attending Williams College through a donation from a Williams alumnus. The Conservation Internship Program of the Alaska Conservation Foundation annually places 15-20 college or post graduate students from around the United States into internship positions with environmental organizations working in Alaska. Internships usually include round trip travel to Alaska and a modest salary.

Through the generosity of Ken Leghorn, class of 1978, one of these positions will be awarded annually to a qualifying Williams student. Ken was a biology major and a student of William DeWitt and Hank Art while at Williams, and after graduation moved to Alaska where he became a wilderness guide. He eventually became majority owner of Alaska Discovery, the largest wilderness guiding company in Alaska, and has been active in the environmental movement in Alaska. He is on the board of trustees of the Alaska Conservation Foundation, and endowed this intern position with a \$100,000 gift to the foundation. Ken hopes that every year a Williams College student with interest in conservation and wilderness protection will become exposed to the magnificent lands and wildlife of Alaska, and will participate in their preservation. Designed to nurture conservation-minded professionals for the next generation, internships cover a broad range of disciplines with a wide variety of non-profit and government organizations across Alaska. Ranging from ten weeks to six months in length, these paid internships are a terrific opportunity to learn first-hand about Alaska’s magnificent natural environment and diverse cultures.

For information about becoming an intern, please contact Julie Jessen at the Alaska Conservation Foundation, 907-276-1917, or [acinfo@akcf.org](mailto:acinfo@akcf.org), or on the web visit [www.akcf.org](http://www.akcf.org). Ken Leghorn may be contacted at [kenleghorn@msn.com](mailto:kenleghorn@msn.com).

# Student Conference Reports

During the 2002-2003 academic year CES provided funding for several students to attend environmentally related conferences.

## **The Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES)**

“Global warming has been on the agenda of environmental activists for years. But it is also becoming a green issue of another kind—discussed not only in terms of melting ice caps and endangered species, but as a problem that can cost corporations and their investors billions of dollars”. This quote from *The New York Times* points to the theme of the CERES 2003 Conference: Advancing Sustainable Governance. The main premise was that “the key to the long-term health and prosperity of corporations and the planet will depend on the integration of sustainability issues into the core strategy of a company.” Thanks to a grant from CES, I was able to take part in this conference in New York City on April 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Attending the CERES 2003 Conference was a unique opportunity to learn more about how fiduciary responsibility is being redefined to include accountability on environmental consequences. In the past 15 years CERES has grown to represent more than \$300 billion in invested assets with over 50 corporate endorsers and membership by 70 investment firms, foundations, environmental, and public interest organizations. Over 400 participants attended the gathering in New York City. Speakers and attendees represented major corporations, state and city governments, labor unions, socially responsible investment firms, colleges and universities, environmental organizations, and charitable foundations.

Plenary speakers represented the World Wildlife Fund, United Steelworkers of America, Comptroller of New York, Treasurer of Connecticut, State of California and National Wildlife Federation. Workshops focused on some vital questions including the obligations of institutional investors in assessing climate risk and other sustainability issues, the role played by banks and reinsurers in understanding risk associated with global climate change, and incentives and barriers for architects, builders and owners to improve environmental performance of buildings.

Overall, the CERES 2003 Conference was a showcase for environmental responsibility and demonstrated how it was possible to put environmental guidelines into practice. Conference organizers followed CERES’ own Green Hotel Initiative—an innovative program “to stimulate the demand for, and supply of, environmentally responsible hotel services.” This workshop was especially helpful for my work as Chair of the Campus Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) in relation to major building projects at Williams.

by Mark Orlowski, ‘04

## **National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment**

On January 30-31, 2003 we had the great pleasure of traveling down to Washington DC in the company of Rachel Louis, CES, to attend the third annual National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment. The conference was entitled “Education for a Sustainable and Secure Future”. Starting with a keynote address, the conference progressed through a number of different panel discussions, lectures, and break-out sessions with the aim of bringing to the table a new way of thinking about education and education’s role in providing for a sustainable and secure world.

A wide range of organizations, from federal to non-profit, were represented among the participants of the conference. Prominent speakers came from diverse backgrounds and included Dr. David Orr, Professor and Chair of Environmental Studies at Oberlin; Jan Pronk, Special Envoy of the Secretary General of the United

Nations on Sustainable Development; and Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget for the US Dept of the Interior. The conference was sponsored by the EPA, NOAA, and USGS, but patrons also included Walt Disney World, and Dow Chemical - two companies we were rather surprised to see listed. While perusing the conference Exhibition after lunch on the first day, we also happened to stumble across tables distributing pamphlets championing the wonders of biotechnology. Although we were a bit skeptical at first, after listening to Ray Anderson, CEO of Interface Carpets give his lecture entitled, "A Call for Systemic Change," we became a bit more gracious towards these companies and others. We realized that when you bring together such different people and try and tackle such a huge topic as "the environment," it doesn't do any good to ostracize or condemn. If the goal is progress or change on a global scale, you need to have everyone involved in the discussion, not just the most likeminded of the crowd.

Jonathan Lash, President of the World Resources Institute, delivered an impressive keynote address which emphasized the point that environmental security is intimately connected to global security. He stressed that eco-justice is the key to establishing a harmonious global community. For the remainder of the conference, participants proceeded to question the role of education and how we could promote greater consciousness within our educational institutions and in the public at large. According to David Orr, we have to start "connecting the dots" and take a look at the broader picture of sustainability—not only of physical practices, but also of intellectual and moral practices. He noted how much of the time higher education is about unlearning so that we can relearn again; and this time, what we need to relearn is how our actions affect the world around us.

These two days were important for generating new ideas, reinforcing old ones, and fostering communication. As newcomers to the world of conference-going, we found the experience to be a valuable peek into a whole new side of the environmental movement because these were not the stereotypical, tree-hugging, compost-your-napkins kind of people. They came from respectable institutions: schools, large corporations, the federal government, and yet what was overwhelmingly apparent was that they all shared a common belief in working towards something better.

by Erin Blanchard '06 and Emily Russell-Roy '06

## Alumni Notes

### **Steve Carter-Lovejoy, 1974**

I'm in Virginia, a transplanted Mainer now in my 20th year in Richmond, not yet a southerner but with two teenagers who clearly are. For the past ten years I've been Information Manager for the Virginia Natural Heritage Program, a division of Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation. I got to describe my work for the e-zine Grist this winter, as a diarist for their "Dear Me" feature. You can check it out at <http://www.gristmagazine.com/dearme/carter-lovejoy120202.asp>

### **Hal Sprague, 1979**

I have been very busy for the last 9 1/2 years as an environmental and health and safety lawyer at Abbott Laboratories, in northern Illinois. The household staff includes Patty (the mom), Eliza (the 7th grader), Sam (the 4th grader) and myself. I say "staff" because we

have two cats, and as you know, dogs have owners, cats have staff. Between school, church, sports, music lessons, and other activities, we are a happy and busy family. Aside from the job activities, I have been busy working with a regional Sierra Club Committee organizing events and fundraising. This school year, I have been a visiting lecturer in environmental studies in various graduate and undergraduate classes around the Chicagoland area, including Lake Forest College, Loyola Business School, and Northwestern University. This has been tremendous fun and I look forward to more before this year is out and in the years to come. Credit for my start in this goes to Ann Maine ('79), a Biology Professor at Lake Forest College.

### **Connie Leach Bisson, 1980**

Since 2001, I've been working at Middlebury College in the Office of Environmental Affairs as the Campus

Sustainability Coordinator. This is a great position with lots of diverse responsibilities ranging from carbon reduction to supporting environmental grant recipients to staffing the environmental council to assisting with green building initiatives. I'm the mom of two elementary age boys, enabling a lot of time cheering and coaching from sidelines. We recently added a puppy to our family who loves to hike so I'm thrilled to have such an energetic trail companion. Prior to Middlebury, we lived in Montpelier for fourteen years where my focus was on waste reduction.

**Charlie Kubert, 1981**

I have at last left the corporate world and am working as an "environmental business specialist" (can't totally shake off the MBA) at the Environmental Law and Policy Center, the largest clean energy and environmental advocacy group in the Midwest. I am also on the board of Friends of the Chicago River, a river planning and advocacy group of which Laurene von Klan (Williams '81) is Executive Director.

**Paul Gallay, 1981**

Paul is Executive Director at Westchester Land Trust, in the New York City metropolitan area. The Land Trust has expanded its activities, lately, to include support for planning reform, smart growth, and public investment in land preservation (in addition to its core function: obtaining conservation easements on private lands). He hopes you'll check out the land trust's website: [www.westchesterlandtrust.org](http://www.westchesterlandtrust.org), and send along some feedback.

**Ted Wolf, 1981**

My family and I returned to the Pacific Northwest last summer after spending a year in a small French town on the Massif Central, in a lovely farming region called the Lozere very reminiscent of the Berkshires. I am working on a book, "How Marvejols Found Us," about living abroad with children in the year after 9/11. I continue to work on a variety of writing projects with Ecotrust, the nonprofit where I spent several years as communications director, and we have just released an updated edition of "Salmon Nation: People, Fish, and Our Common Home," a great primer on the culture, history, and economics of regional salmon issues. For more about the book, see [www.salmonnation.com](http://www.salmonnation.com). I welcome contact from other CES alums living here or passing through!

**Karen Lombard, 1987**

About four years ago I moved back to Massachusetts to take my dream job doing science and stewardship with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Boston. Since then I have been really enjoying my work doing preserve management, site planning, and implementing restoration projects (mostly fire and invasive species) in Massachusetts. Prior to that I spent some time in Hawaii (working as a zoologist with the Hawaii Heritage Program and studying monk seals with National Marine Fisheries Service), traveling in the Pacific doing volunteer conservation work, attending graduate school at the University of Michigan, and working my way up in TNC in New York and Maine. Personally I still do all those outdoor activities CES grads love to do - but also enjoy living in Boston and being close to my family.

**Ted Lange, 1988**

Moved to Bozeman MT a couple years ago with my wife Christine Phillips, a Lanesboro MA native who works for Sierra Club. Our son Ian was born the day before Thanksgiving a couple months later. I recently took a great new job at the Gallatin Valley Land Trust. The job includes promoting and negotiating conservation easements to protect important agricultural lands and riparian corridors, and completing a conservation plan to guide GVLTL's longterm land protection strategy. Ted can be reached at [ted@gvlt.org](mailto:ted@gvlt.org).

**Beth Stein, 1988**

I am working in Eugene, OR, as the Program Director for a small-but exciting- non-profit organization called Nearby Nature. I train volunteers, write a newsletter, take kids on nature walks, and dress up in costumes, among other things! I love the Pacific Northwest, but miss the friendly mountains of Massachusetts!

**Kin M. Ma, 1989**

In August 2003, I will begin a tenure-track position in the Department of Geography and Planning at Grand Valley State University. Grand Valley is located in Western Michigan, and has campuses in Allendale, Grand Rapids, and Holland, Michigan. I will be teaching courses in Physical Geography, World Regional Geography and the Geography of Asia. Special thanks to Profs. Kai Lee, Donald Beaver, Roger Bolton, and Bill Moomaw for their encouragement and support and being wonderful

professorial examples. Our family, wife, Hyunsook and daughter, ShiShi (4.5 yrs) are building a house in Wyoming, Michigan (Grand Rapids' suburb) and hope to complete it by Oct. 2003.

**Bernie Kluger, 1994**

I'm working as Associate Director for Student Information Systems at Columbia University, where I am also working on my degree in Urban Planning.

**Dave Markus, 1994**

After clerking for the New York Court of Appeals (and hearing some great environmental law cases!), I was named Associate Counsel to the New York State Chief Administrative Judge. My prime areas of responsibility include State and local intergovernmental relations, constitutional reform of the New York Judiciary, assessing and regulating the practice of law, and advocating emergency preparedness legislation (a sad but necessary fact of life in New York after September 11). In addition to my State work, I'm doing pro bono work in matters of environmental law and the domestic violence community. I can be reached at [dmarkus@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:dmarkus@courts.state.ny.us).

**Jardayna Werlin, 1997**

Hi! I'll be returning to the Northeast (I'm currently in Colorado) this summer to start a position as a veterinarian in Andover, Mass. Hope to see some of you at Boston alumni functions.

**Nat Gillespie, 1997**

I entered the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources in the fall of 2002 under their Resource Policy and Behavior Plan. My focus is on water policy, and I'm currently researching for my thesis on the evaluation of flood management policy in the Catskills of New York State. Ann Arbor is totally different scene than Williamstown, but generally too flat.

Before coming back to grad school, I spent three years working with Trout Unlimited as their Catskills Coordinator in the New York State. I was involved in numerous stream restoration assessment and restoration projects, flood hazard mitigation education, and negotiating improved water releases from New York City's massive drinking water reservoir system into the Delaware River Basin. Before that, I spent about a year and a half working with an environmental consulting firm in

Danbury, Connecticut assessing soil and groundwater contamination.

**Michel (Woodard) Ohly, 1997**

I am currently working as an Associate for Industrial Economics, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Cambridge, MA, where I work on projects relating to environmental policy analysis and natural resource damage assessment. I was married last August to Derek Ohly (Williams '97), and we are busily fixing-up our new (to us) old home in Somerville, MA. Best wishes to the C.E.S. community!

**Deborah Brown, 1998**

Hi, Big changes are coming up. After going to Reunion, I will drive out to Seattle for graduate school. I am starting a master's program in Forestry (specifically urban forestry) in the fall. It should be a good balance to the last two and a half years of working for the New York City Parks Department, where I have often done the physical work of urban forestry, like climbing and pruning trees. I am really looking forward to life in Seattle!

**Catherine Bolten, 1998**

Hi Everyone! I'm in my second year as an anthropology PhD student at the University of Michigan. I spent last summer taking an ethnobotany field course in northern michigan (with Michael Brown's mentor, just getting a bit more field experience that i could have used prior to my williams thesis!), and right now i'm in the thick of teaching a two-term course on global change. it starts from the big bang and moves right on through sustainable futures, so i really have my hands full. next summer i'm off to sierra leone to do pre-dissertation work on recovery from environmental conflict. i hope to be back in williamstown soon!

**Leigh Greenwood, 2000**

Having landed in Boise ID for the second time in two years, it is looking as though I might stay here for a while. I've been working on a raptor breeding biology project run by the USGS, mostly by hiking around the sagebrush and rappelling down the walls of the vast Snake River Canyon. In the past year I also have trapped and satellite tracked migrating raptors outside Albuquerque NM, caught and chased after woodpeckers in the gorgeous forests on the South rim of the Grand Canyon, and led groups of teenagers on community service projects in the breathtaking

Sawtooth Mountains of central Idaho. My current plans are to stay in Boise for a while to find (and hopefully be accepted into) a wildlife management graduate program. If anyone reading this note is interested in working with bird research, or in general field research, please feel free to email me at lgreenwo@wso.williams.edu address. Best of Luck! Hello to everyone!

**Lisa Crooks 2000**

I am working at Resources for the Future, a non-partisan environmental economics think tank in Washington DC. Terror alerts and rainy weather notwithstanding, life in DC is great, and I even run into CES alums from time to time. My work at RFF is fairly diverse and currently includes projects on designing marine protected areas in the Bahamas, evaluating a brownfields redevelopment program in Wisconsin, and analyzing land use patterns of shade-grown coffee in Mexico. My personal summer project is to decide which grad schools I want to apply to next fall. I'm thinking about an environmental planning/GIS program, but haven't got a clue where to start so suggestions are welcome! And if any of you are passing through DC and/or are interested in hearing more about RFF, don't hesitate to drop me a line at lcrooks@wso.williams.edu.

*Keep in touch with CES alums through the Alumni Notes: send us updates for the next issue through the CES website at <http://www.williams.edu/ces/resources/alumninotes.htm>*

*If you'd like to stay in touch with CES and with each other, consider subscribing to one of the CES listservers. Go to <http://www.williams.edu/ces/resources/alumni.htm> for more information.*



Congratulations to the Environmental Studies Concentrators of the Class of 2003!

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Drew Jones, Hopkins Forest Manager

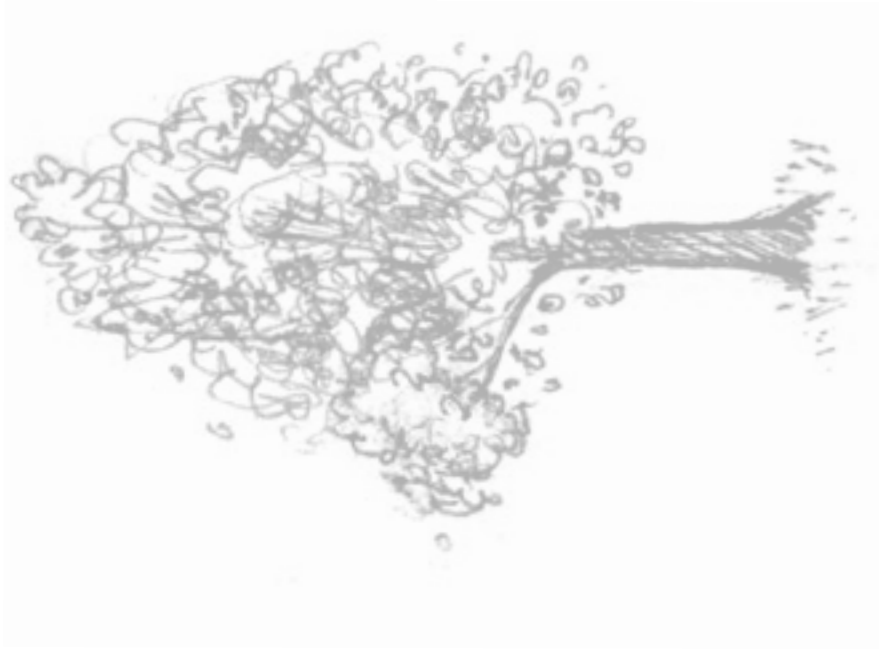
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