Letter from the Director

A year and a half ago, as we began seriously to reckon with the need to relocate and renovate Kellogg House, I concluded in my Field Notes letter, “Historians believe that virtually nothing is inevitable except change.” Little could I or anyone else at CES know how prescient those words would be for the upcoming year and in ways that reached beyond the future changes to the physical structure of the Center.

The biggest change has come with the departure of Kai Lee, who, on June 1st, began his new job at the Packard Foundation as program officer with the Conservation and Science program (see accompanying article). Kai will be working on the role of science in conservation, with an emphasis on ecosystem-based management (EBM) in coastal-marine systems, a subject on which he has done considerable research in the past. As the Rosenberg Professor of Environmental Studies since 2000, a member of the program since 1991, and chair of the program from 1991-1998, Kai’s hand has touched nearly every aspect of the Center and of the Environmental Studies concentration. In particular, the strength of our offerings in international environmental issues stems in no small measure from Kai’s tremendous enthusiasm for the subject and the trajectory of his own research interests on global urbanization and the environment. He brought great intellectual breadth and rigor to the program, and we will miss his presence in Kellogg House and on campus more generally.

As for other changes: shortly before the end of the fall semester, I was offered the position of the Dean of the College, beginning July 1st. After two weeks of much reflection and discussion with family and close friends, I accepted the offer and have thus cut short my time as director of CES. It was a difficult decision to make, but one of the clear appeals of moving into the administration at this point was the college’s public commitment to sustainability. Indeed, in their January meeting, the college trustees voted to make sustainability a guiding institutional principle and, as a signal of that commitment, set an aggressive target for reducing the college’s carbon footprint: to reduce carbon emissions to 10% of 1991 levels by 2020.
While being Dean of the College at Williams or anywhere else involves many, many other issues besides how to think about and promote sustainability, that piece of the job – to be part of a team of people for whom this is deeply important work – is extraordinarily exciting. That the college has reached this point of making sustainability a central feature of its operational and educational mission indicates, on the one hand, a tidal shift in the way that the public and world leaders talk about environmental issues: historians in the future will have to look back at these early years of the new millennium to decide if indeed Al Gore’s “Inconvenient Truth” helped to transform people’s awareness of climate change, or whether it was simply the sheer weight of evidence about the effect of climate change that finally caught people’s attention. Whatever the cause, the discourse about the environment has a marked sense of urgency compared with even a couple years ago.

On the other hand, the college’s formal commitment to sustainability principles is the direct result of many people’s hard work at Williams and in Williamstown. Associate Director Sarah Gardner, for instance, has been a tireless advocate for aggressively addressing Williams’s carbon footprint, and her energy has supported many activities on campus and in the town. I’d also like to highlight the dedication of our students over the last several years in mobilizing their peers to work for change and in thinking creatively about how the college can become a more sustainable place. While eager to debate in class the often ambiguous meanings of the very term “sustainability,” they, nonetheless, have been fired outside the classroom to develop clear and effective strategies for addressing environmental problems, especially with regard to the climate crisis.

On the eve of moving my office from Kellogg House to Hopkins Hall, I see that that purposefulness, which inflects so much emanating from CES, will be the stuff that will sustain the Center and the Program as it enters a transitional period in the next couple years. We are fortunate to have several people step up to the plate to help us in this next stage. Economics professor Doug Gollin has agreed to serve as Director of CES, and he brings to the program research and teaching interests in development and agriculture that have a ready audience in our students. Hank Art has graciously agreed to teach the senior capstone course in the spring next year, which Kai had taught for a number of years, and Hank has thrown himself into making plans for that course. And many of you readers – those who are our alumni of a certain generation – will be surprised to hear that former CES director Tom Jorling, now residing in Williamstown, will again be at the helm of ENVI’s introductory course, which he has titled “Humans in the Biosphere.” We are grateful to Tom for his willingness to take on this course and are all looking forward to having him on campus.

While I will miss being in Kellogg House and miss my regular interactions with Sandy Zepka, Sarah, and Drew Jones, I’m looking forward to bringing the spirit of CES into my work as dean. And though the next couple years will involve a new mix of faces and classes and will literally see Kellogg House picked up and moved and given as much of a “green” renovation as possible, I’m confident that, with our combined sense of urgency and hope – and the talents of so many people – CES will continue to make its presence felt strongly on campus.
The **Tom Hardie ’78 Memorial Prize** for work that best demonstrates excellence in Environmental Studies was awarded to Andrew Stevenson ’07, for his senior thesis, *Elites, Regimes, and Growth Machines: The Politics of Park Development in Chicago and London*. Andy won a Fulbright grant to research urban planning and sustainable development in Hong Kong at the University of Hong Kong’s Center of Urban Planning and Environmental Management.

The **Robert F. Rosenburg Prize** was awarded to Justin Bates ’07 in recognition of outstanding scholarship, environmental leadership, and his potential for solving local, national, or international environmental problems.

A four-student team from the Environmental Planning class, Alison Davies ’07, Alison Koppe ’07, Paula Santos ’07 and Kim Taylor ’08, won the **Environmental Studies Committee Award**, for their *Plan for the Relocation and Renovation of Kellogg House*.

The **Scheffey Prize for Environmental Leadership**, in the name of Andrew J.W. Scheffey, the first director of the Center for Environmental Studies, was awarded to Alison Davies ’07 for her outstanding environmental leadership on campus.

Julia Sendor ’08, won a **Morris K. Udall Foundation Fellowship**, an award of $5,000 for her commitment to environmental research and public policy. She was one of 80 students nationwide to win the award. Julia is an environmental studies concentrator, a member of the Campus Environmental Advocacy Committee, Greensense, a Forest Gardener, a Log Lunch cook, and the secretary of the Outing Club and sings in the gospel choir. In the summer of 2005 she was funded by the Center for Environmental Studies to work at the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation, and in the summer of 2006 CES awarded her a fellowship to study local food systems in her home community of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, by investigating and working with a local organic farm, a grocery cooperative, and a farmers’ market. This summer Julia is researching coal mining in Appalachia and on Navajo and Hopi land in Arizona. Julia intends to pursue a career in environmental studies after Williams, hoping to combine her interest in sustainable agriculture, land rights, and writing on a local and global level.
Roger Bolton, Professor Emeritus and Environmental Studies Research Associate, Wins Regional Science Award

Roger Bolton, the William Brough Professor of Economics, Emeritus, Coordinator of the Self Study for Accreditation, Research Associate in Environmental Studies, and Kellogg House resident, received the David Boyce Award for “service to the field of regional science.” The David Boyce Award is given by the Council of the North American Regional Science Association (NARSC) to acknowledge the activity of a prominent figure in regional science and reward outstanding service contributions made to a regional science organization. The award recognizes Bolton’s work as a book review editor of the *Journal of Regional Science*. Through his editorship, he promoted the multidisciplinary field of research by economists, geographers, historians, planners, and transportation analysts. Bolton is known for having turned part of the *Journal of Regional Science* into “the most stimulating review section in all the urban and regional journals world.” He transformed review writing into an art, “reflecting his own intellectual curiosity, his broad knowledge, and his love for places and all matters urban and regional.” The journal now publishes 60 or more reviews a year.

Charlie Benjamin, Visiting Professor of Environmental Studies

Earlier this summer, shortly after finishing two wonderful years as the Class of 1946 Visiting Professor of International Environmental Studies, I traveled to Senegal to help develop a project to reduce poverty through sustainable natural resource management. I can’t imagine two places more different than Williamstown and Tambacounda, Senegal, and the visit was an excellent opportunity to reflect on my time at Williams and how much I had learned from my students.

My own interest in environmental issues grew through twenty years of work with grassroots rural development programs in Morocco and Mali and then with the International Resources Group (IRG) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) across Africa. For the past several years, IRG and USAID have been working with a conceptual framework called Nature, Wealth and Power (NWP). NWP is rooted in the fact that natural resources are a primary source of livelihoods and a central governance issue for many of rural poor. As one village elder in Senegal put it, “People need the power to manage their resources to generate wealth.” Sustainable natural resource management is an important vehicle not only for reducing environmental degradation, but also for promoting rural economic development and good governance. My colleagues and I used NWP to help increase incomes, amplify rural voices, and improve environmental conditions in diverse circumstances across Africa – strengthening natural resource-based enterprises, improving community participation in protected areas management, initiating policy dialogue across sectors, and developing frameworks for investment and policy reform.
At Williams, I taught a course entitled, Nature, Wealth and Power, but these themes infused my other classes (environmental policy and global sustainability) as well. My students shared two concerns with other members of the CES student community – the state of the environment and social justice. One of them, a devoted environmentalist, proclaimed during our initial introductions, “I care about the environment but I care about people more.” As a practitioner with 20 years of field experience, I found my own beliefs and understandings challenged in the classroom. Our seminars took a critical look at environment and development, and students questioned many fundamental premises – skeptical of “received wisdom” yet hopeful that our efforts could have an impact. One most rewarding aspects of my time at Williams has been seeing my students going out into the world and applying their own understanding of Nature, Wealth and Power through Peace Corps, internships, fellowships, study abroad, and volunteer activities. Their commitment and idealism inspires renewed optimism for me, and I look forward to having some of them as colleagues one day. This fall I will be returning to IRG, an international consulting firm, where I will be working on natural resource governance and poverty issues in Africa and beyond.

Farewell to Kai Lee, Rosenburg Professor of Environmental Studies

In June I left Williams and the Center for Environmental Studies to begin a new job at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in California. Dana and I have returned to the landscape where she grew up, where we began our life together. Though a generation of the best and worst of Silicon Valley has altered much, we are excited to be finding a new life in a place that still has familiar corners and vistas. This wonderful opportunity came as a surprise last autumn, and it brought to a close an academic career that began 34 years ago, whose highlight has been the past 16 years in Williamstown. I am deeply grateful to students, faculty and staff colleagues, and our alumni — generous with their spirits and their resources — for making my time at Williams an extraordinary and fortunate one. My parents arrived in America in the late 1930s, swept to this land by the fury of war. They never left, and they always knew they were far from home. It occurred to me not long ago that my interest in environment has an immigrant twist to it, or rather, the twist of an immigrant’s child. The headlong rush of modernity has brought nearly all humans to new, unfamiliar shores. In the rich nations there is unprecedented material abundance, together with health care, an effective government, clean water, and a metropolitan environment generally much cleaner and safer than it was only two generations ago. For many in “developing” countries such as China and Brazil, there is plausible hope of becoming rich in the way that Europe is now. For more than half of our fellow humans, there is poverty that is different from, though perhaps not easier, than the struggle for subsistence that has characterized most people in all of the past. Everywhere, however, traditional societies are
changed or transformed, many beyond recogni-
tion. Going with them are the livelihoods of farm-
ing, fishing, forestry, and crafts that shaped all
earlier societies. The traditional economy is be-
ing, or has been, supplanted by the institutions of a global market: manufacturing, production of mineral wealth including oil, and the information-intensive services — from health care to in-
surance to gourmet restaurants — from which almost all Williams families earn their living now. We are all immigrants to the modern world. All of us wonder how to square quaint-sounding notions of propriety, justice, love, and ambition with what seem to be the necessities and opportuni-
ties of the strange landscape of the contemporary world. Rumors of climate change, like the distant thundering of terrorist attack or the inscrutable fluctuations of stock market or election returns, hint at inconvenient truths. Perhaps we do not deserve to be so rich. Perhaps the denizens of coral reefs should not be exterminated by rising temperatures and changing seawater chemistry. Perhaps the strivings of so many people, both the desperate and the hopeful, can find a better return than the material prosperity we take for granted.

My students at Williams have taught me that im-
migrants do well to stick together, even as we assimilate and learn how to flourish: that we can together learn the strange ways of the world without edges in which we find ourselves. Everyone wants a sustainable world ...someday. Bit by bit, people are moving toward sustainable ways of liv-
ing, working, and governing. When we do so, we strengthen our claim to citizenship. When we come to the defense of landscapes and ways of life under pressure from globalization, we assert loyalty to an adopted country, and we make it our own. In my new work I’ll be supporting ambitious con-
ervation projects and funding science and action aimed at getting humans to take ecosystems seriously as we go about our business. Humanity cannot decolonize nature, any more than we have been successful in overcoming the burdens of colonial domination in human societies. The task is rather to move beyond colonialism to a durable, fruitful re-

relationship, one that is sustainable because it works. This is a kind of exploration that will be shaped in important ways by what students and colleagues have shared with me at Williams. Thank you.

A Year of Log Lunches
by Elissa Brown ’09 and Marjorie Boivin ’09

September 22, 2006

Environmental Policy-Making in Massachu-
setts, Denis Guyer, Massachusetts Represen-
tative of the Second Berkshire District

Rep Guyer spoke about the environment and his constituents’ concerns. A Pittsfield native, Guyer

was on the Housatonic River Restoration govern-
ing council, and currently serves on three joint com-
mittees in legislature: Municipalities and Regional Government, Natural Resources Environment and Agriculture, and Tourism Arts and Cultural Devel-

opment. According to Guyer, creating legislation is like “making sausage”: many people enjoy the end result, but they don’t always like to see the process. The key to the process, Guyer said, is to compromise, because there are two sides to every issue. Ultimately, the goal is to find the best com-
promised that protects the environment in a practical way. Rep. Guyer stressed the importance of student involvement, especially in the current political climate. It may be easy to wonder how one college student can make a difference, but the truth is, “there are a lot of people who care about what you think.” Petitions can be effective, and Guyer advised not to underestimate the power of many emails letting the government know the importance of an issue. Global warming and overall environmental decline are becoming “our generation’s Vietnam,” and we need to do what was done in the 60s: take action!

September 29, 2006

Wind Power in the Berkshires, Eleanor Tillinghast, Green Berkshires, Inc.

Eleanor Tillinghast, co-founder of Green Berkshires and active opponent of wind power in western Massachusetts, spoke against current plans for installing wind turbines in the Berkshires. In her talk entitled, Twelve Myths of Wind Power in the Berkshires, Tillinghast outlined the major disadvantages of wind as a source of renewable energy. She began by explaining that the average wind speeds of coastal Massachusetts greatly exceed those of western Massachusetts, making the Berkshires an illogical choice for wind projects.

According to her, the turbines would degrade scenic hillsides, interfere with recreation, and significantly reduce tourism. Not only would turbines damage the local economy, but the benefits of the power generated would flow primarily to large corporations in other locations rather than to the communities of western Massachusetts. Tillinghast continued by citing instances of failed wind power projects around the world, arguing that Americans should not have to support such ineffective methods of energy production with their tax dollars. Finally, she described the environmental harm caused by wind turbines through bird and bat mortality, road construction on previously forested hilltops, and noise pollution. As a solution to the wind power debate, Tillinghast suggested increased efficiency of energy production. Rather than switching to renewable energy sources in an effort to reduce their impact on the environment, she advised residents to simply use less electricity. If every household had fluorescent light bulbs, she argued, Massachusetts would not have to degrade its valuable scenery with turbines that she called a “symbol of failure.” Tillinghast’s talk was followed by over an hour of heated questioning and debate.

October 13, 2006

The Turtles of Hawksbill Field Research in Antigua, Jane Allen ’07

Jane Allen treated log lunch attendees to a fascinating description of her work with the Jumby Bay Turtle Project. One of the longest continuing sea turtle research centers, Jumby Bay works to understand the life histories of hawksbill sea turtles in order to better conserve the few remaining populations of this endangered species. Allen’s work with the Project took place on the balmy coast of Antigua, where Allen and two other students spent their nighttime work shifts patrolling the shoreline for hawksbill turtles. As female turtles crawled up from the water to lay eggs, Allen and her co-workers identified the turtles, took basic measurements, and recorded the number of eggs each turtle laid. Since female turtles require approximately ninety minutes to complete the egg-laying process, the students theoretically recorded every turtle that laid eggs during their hourly patrols of the shoreline.

Though Allen and her co-workers developed an interest in the turtles themselves during their stay in Antigua, their work also provides a gateway into larger questions of conservation and the effects of human activity on non-human species. Allen described “anthropogenic threats” to the turtle population such as alteration of beach habitats, pollution, and fishing practices. Since the turtles return to the same beach every year and are sensitive to environmental factors such as sand temperature, Allen explained, habitat changes easily disrupt their life cycles. Allen’s work with the Jumby Bay Turtle Project connected biological research with
conservation efforts in the fight to protect endangered species such as the hawksbill sea turtle.

October 20, 2006
Stories of People, Food and Land, Julia Sendor ’08
Julia Sendor spent the summer pursuing a creative CES-sponsored project, building off the premise that food powerfully connects people to the land and to each other. In her home town of Chapel Hill in North Carolina, Julia divided her time between a farm, farmers’ market, grocery co-op, and kids’ cooking camp. The goal, she said, was to “develop a sense of place in my own home, and of my place in the larger food system and agricultural system.”

On the farm, Julia learned about agricultural activism and land ethics. Through the vendor-run farmers’ market, she observed board meetings, decorated signs, and conducted consumer surveys (suggested improvements for the market ranged from “live goats” to “chocolate fountain for strawberry tasting.”). She spent time at the grocery store—which featured locally-grown produce, farm tours, and special farm/local dinners—and helped introduce summer campers to the food-to-kitchen process. Everyone Julia encountered—the farmers’ market founder, head chefs, and ordinary customers—had stories to share, and Julia captured them all in her summer exploration of sustainability.

October 27, 2006
Farm to School to Farm
Lauren Moscoe ’07 & Bill Stinson, Peace Valley Farm
Lauren Moscoe wants you to get excited about your food. On Peace Valley Farm, with a CES grant this summer, Lauren worked to facilitate relationships between the farm and Williams College students and Dining Services. She aimed to make the farm more accessible for students, both through CES-funding, self-designed independent study, or alumni-sponsored internships. Long-time farmer and Williamstown native Bill Stinson is creating a list of “cool” project ideas, ranging from producing a video documentary of the farm to researching and implementing a hydraulic pump for transporting water uphill. This summer, Lauren implemented a composting system to receive leaves and garbage from the College that was formerly brought to the dump. Lauren improved communication between College Dining Services and the farm through a standardized price list, making it easier to order local food. In fact, half of the farm’s produce goes directly to the College. Lauren created a calendar showing growing seasons of various crops to be posted in dining halls along with Fun Facts sheets.

(Did you know cherry tomatoes and peppers are really berries?) The Log Lunch menu this day was entirely locally grown, featuring lettuce, potatoes, leeks, and herbs from Peace Valley Farm.

November 3, 2006
Housatonic River Walk, Rachel Fletcher, Founder and Director
Rachel Fletcher, of the Housatonic River Walk in Great Barrington, told the story of a river restoration project that transformed a section of Great Barrington. Thousands of volunteers joined with residents to clean a section of the riverbank, renewing their connections to the rich history of Great Barrington and the Housatonic River. Abused by years of pollution and dumping, Great Barrington’s section of the Housatonic River was, in Fletcher’s words, “choked with rubble.” She and 2,000 volunteers responded to the river’s condition with an impressive display of willpower and endurance. As they moved 400 tons of rubble by hand, pulled out invasive plants, and restored the riverbank’s native flora, Fletcher and her volunteers watched glimpses of the Housatonic’s original beauty emerge from decades of pollution and neglect. Their work caught the attention of nearby residents, some of whom began cleaning their own sections of riverbank after watching the volunteers at work. In addition to sparking cooperation and fostering an appreciation for the river’s natural beauty, Fletcher’s restoration project allowed residents of Great Barrington to explore the town’s history. As a result of the restoration project, the upper Housatonic River gained a National Heritage designation, and the
nearby DuBois River Garden became the first public space in Great Barrington to bear DuBois’ name. Through their work with the restoration of the Housatonic River, Fletcher and her volunteers demonstrated the power of vision and cooperation to reconnect a town to its ecological heritage.

November 10, 2006

**Wind Power: The Long View, Sally Wright ‘86, Renewable Energy Research Lab., University of Massachusetts**

Sally Wright collaborates with towns in New England to install wind turbines as sources of renewable energy. She highlighted the advantages of wind power as an appropriate source of energy in Massachusetts, explaining that winds are strong enough to support turbines both offshore and in the Berkshires. As the source of available energy with the lowest external cost, Wright said, wind can benefit residents of Massachusetts without threatening the integrity of their natural surroundings. While she recognizes the advantages of wind power, Wright also addressed the opposition. Contrary to the beliefs of some who resist wind projects, she said that the turbines do not reduce property values, cause noise pollution, or kill more birds than other forms of energy use. Wright has found that when communities have a sense of ownership over a wind turbine, they take pride in the project rather than criticizing its appearance. Finally, Wright connected wind projects with the idea of environmental justice. When choosing an energy source, she explained, people must ask: “Who is affected by this project and how much?” Unlike externalities such as air pollution that may harm communities that have no control over the existence of the polluting industry, the effects of wind turbines are almost exclusively local. As New England’s residents increasingly seek sources of clean energy, wind turbines can serve as symbols of environmental justice and sustainability.

November 17, 2006

**Environmental Battles Lead to a Radio Show on NPR, Ward Stone, host of In Our Backyard, WAMC Public Radio, Albany, NY and Senior Pathologist, NY State Dept of Conservation**

Ward Stone’s early love for animals propelled him toward a major in zoology. Driven by the realization that “we’re really messing up our world,” and inspired by Louis Pasteur and Rachel Carson, Stone pursued a doctorate in animal pathology and began working for the New York State Department of Conservation. Stone is the host of “In Our Backyard,” an environmental radio show on WAMC Public Radio of Albany. Stone does not try to hide his concern about humanity’s effect on the land and on its creatures. Specifically, he notes the dilemma of how beautiful aspects of nature can grow too common, and end up being frowned upon. Dandelions, for instance, are pretty, edible and nutritious (high in vitamin C), but exceedingly common, and thus labeled as “enemy” weeds. As Stone says, “every year, people dig the heck out of the earth, trying to kill something that shouldn’t be killed.” Stone explains that it was a natural progression for him to start a radio show. However, despite environmental destruction he might foresee, he is always careful to retain a touch of the positive. “If I say only the bad things, people won’t want to listen anymore.”

December 1, 2006

**Sustainable Agriculture at Caretaker Farm, Don Zasada, Farmer**

With 35 acres of farm, over 40 varieties of vegetables, and more than 250 individuals or families sharing a connection to the land, Don Zasada gives Old MacDonald a run for his money. Zasada
is the head farmer at Caretaker Farm, which has been community-supported for the past 16 years, meaning that members pay a given amount at the beginning of the season to buying a “share” of the farm. For as long as the produce lasts, they come once a week to pick up food—Zasada and the interns harvest most, but there’s a “Pick Your Own” policy for some items such as cherry tomatoes, peas, cilantro, and basil. Zasada wants people to get involved in the farming process, so members are required to put in two hours of work. “We want people in contact with the soil,” Zasada explained. From weeding in the summer to harvesting in the fall, what could be a chore is transformed to a community event on “Working Wednesdays”.

A successful, long-term farm must balance sustainability on three levels: financial, environmental, and social. Caretaker Farm is highly attuned to all. Financial stability guarantees that the farm will make enough money to stay in business. Environmental stability revolves around the question, “how will our grandchildren judge our farming?” Caretaker Farm plants a diversity of crops, and allows land to lie fallow to maintain soil fertility. Lastly, social stability is a question of whether the members are satisfied, whether the apprentices are being trained, and whether Zasada and his family are happy. The answer, for now, is a resounding yes.

December 8, 2006
Return to Slavery: Will You Be Eating China’s Dust for Breakfast? Billie Best, Regional Farm and Food Project
Will we eat China’s dust? Billie Best’s talk, “Return to Slavery: Will you be eating China’s dust for breakfast?” investigated this question. As executive director of the Regional Farm and Food Project, a small-scale farmer and a strong supporter of sustainable agriculture, Billy Best brought a breadth of knowledge to the Log Lunch audience. According to Best, slavery is “economic powerlessness” and a lack of self-sufficiency. Every time a farmer loses her land to the construction of a shopping mall, Best says, America is “shopping itself into slavery” by reducing its capacity for local food production and increasing its dependence on imported goods. China, the primary source of these imported goods, has left us addicted to the “cleverly packaged dust” it sends to us. As a solution to the problem of our economic slavery, Best suggests that we “stop promoting globalization at the cost of community economic development.” By reducing our dependence on imported goods and investing in local food production, we can create a network of small markets that is more resilient and adaptable than the big business approach we currently support. “Buy local foods”, says Best, “or you may find yourself eating China’s dust.”

January 5, 2007
Mothers’ Experiences: Stories of HIV/AIDS in South Africa, Jeff Wessler ’07
Jeff Wessler applied his interest in public health to a summer project—funded by a CES grant—of interviewing HIV-positive mothers in Cape Town, South Africa. Wessler designed the project to “uncover the virus’ personality,” to better understand it on all levels: scientific, human, personal, popular, media-driven. The perception of AIDS in American culture can be revealed by a quick Google Images search: the photos are predominantly black, African, sick, poor, and depressed. Statistics show that each month, there are more babies born with HIV in one clinic in Africa than in the United States, Canada and England combined in a year. In Africa, Wessler’s interviews revealed a more complicated situation. For instance, some women take lifesaving HIV drugs, only to be denounced by family and friends. Many members of poor, religious communities assume that if you have faith in God, then God will heal you if you are meant to be healed. Wessler spent time with Mothers-to-Mothers, an organization that provides treatment and support to HIV-positive pregnant and new mothers, helping them look to the future. Mothers-to-Mothers creates a sense of hope and community, a community of strong women who refuse to believe it is their time to die.
January 12, 2007  
*Naturaleza Encounters Neoliberalism*,  
Zoe Fonseca ’08

Zoe Fonseca was first introduced to Nicaragua during last year’s Winter Study trip, but this summer she returned with a CES grant to research development, sustainability, land struggles, and the connection between Nicaragua and the United States. Nicaragua abounds in natural resources, but extreme poverty pervades, leading to resource exploitation. During a home-stay, Fonseca witnessed the struggles of Nicaraguan farmers, especially in coping with droughts. Although the farmers had no concept of the science of climate change, they had directly observed its presence. Fonseca conducted independent research on the U.S. influence in Nicaragua, such as exploitation of labor in sweatshops. The influence extends to the election polls, where many Nicaraguans feel pressured to vote for the candidate the U.S. embassy promotes. Fonseca helped organize the community to take action on important issues. She coordinated a march to the nearest city, Matagalpa, to protest their land struggles. Many Nicaraguans believed that one of their biggest problems was the garbage in the street; it created a sense of shame while demonstrating the absence of proper health and aesthetics.

January 19, 2007  
*What Was So Shocking about America’s First ‘Oil Shock’?* Karen Merrill, Associate Professor of History and CES Director

Karen Merrill used her background as an environmental historian to explain the nature of the America’s first “oil shock” in 1973-4, the first time we had to confront our energy usage. It was the era of the rising oil industry in the United States and around the world. According to Merrill, during the first shock previously weak international actors suddenly had enormous power over our economy. Our government appeared powerless in response to dramatic oil price increases, and along with the Vietnam withdrawal and the growing Watergate scandal, citizens wondered whether it might be the end of the “American Century.” The shock provided a preview of a future of scarcity, followed by the realization of our unsustainable oil consumption. As Merrill explained, dependence on foreign oil was not just bad politics; it was also bad for long-term environmental health. What made the first oil shock so unique was the simultaneous emergence of the environmental movement of the 1960s, and the thriving public discourse that accompanied controversial issues. In the current age, we must rekindle that public discourse, confront our energy usage, and act with our future in mind.

February 23, 2007  
*From Hardpan to Frying Pan*, Sarah Gardner, Associate Director, Center for Environmental Studies and the Permaculture Winter Study Students

Sarah Gardner and her students told about their January experience on Eleuthera Island, where they studied permaculture design and learned the principles first-hand through gardening and aquaculture. Permaculture, defined as permanent,
sustainable agriculture, is a new term for what are largely ancient methods of place-based food production that feeds local populations while enhancing the soil and the environment rather than despoiling the ecology and exhausting soil and water supplies. Prof. Gardner told of the Island’s tumultuous social history and exploitative economic history, from the days of pirates and shipwrecking, colonization, slave trading, rum-running, sponge fishing, pineapple farming, conch fishing, drug trafficking, and elite tourism, all of which have come and gone, leaving the island’s economy in shambles, natural resources in ruins, and native population largely on public assistance. They discussed some new initiatives such as permaculture, sustainable aquaculture, green tourist resorts, and renewable energy production, as hopeful methods of renewing the island economy and improving the quality of life.

February 9, 2007

An Urbanizing World—and its Environmental Challenges, Kai Lee, Rosenburg Prof. of Environmental Studies.

Cities are becoming the dominant human habitat, and Professor Kai Lee has taken note. Lee noted that urbanization is unevenly distributed, occurring most rapidly in areas where the population is growing the fastest: developing nations. Currently, over one billion people live in slums, lacking adequate housing and sanitation. Lee reported on demographic research that expects this number to more than triple by 2030. According to Lee, a city is a physical and social mechanism for delivering essential natural services to a concentrated human population. When the source of nature is so far removed from daily life, it often becomes invisible until vast damage has been done. Put simply, the wealthy cities cause environmental problems and the developing ones feel the effects.

In the present wave of urbanization, Lee suggested that cities must move toward sustainability by improving public health and well-being, increasing recycled materials, and using energy efficiently. However, no city can be entirely self-sustaining; nature remains crucial to our survival as biological creatures. As we grapple with today’s global challenges—like climate change—we are forced to re-discover the nature we’d forgotten, and to face the inequality in our midst.

March 9, 2007

Some Better Reasons For...and Against... Action Now on Global Climate Change, Roger Bolton, William Brough Prof. of Economics, Emeritus

What to do about global warming? It’s a “heated” controversy and Roger Bolton, Economics Professor Emeritus, framed the issues in a new way to let us decide. There are both bad and good arguments for immediate action. One bad argument cites the “conclusive” science as proof that warming has occurred and humans are absolutely responsible.

On the other hand, a good argument includes a consideration of the risk of inaction, which, in the case of global warming, is unacceptable. A bad argument for not taking action now is that there are completely natural forces and cycles; thus, there is no moral imperative to act now, since humans may not even be responsible. Another bad argument is that some parts of the world will benefit from warming, so we should not interfere. As Bolton describes, losses tend to concentrate in poor regions because of their lack of adaptability. However, one good reason for not acting now is that other needs (especially in developing countries) are more pressing: disease, education, ethnic conflict. Whether you favor action now or later, global warming is a topic that cannot be ignored.

April 13, 2007

Williams Mystic Research

Diana Davis ’07 and Chris Sherman ’07, discussed the research projects they did during their semester at Mystic Seaport. Davis modeled the growth of a micro-marsh next to the Charles W. Morgan, the last whale ship in existence. She obtained photos from the Mystic archives, used GPS to plot the micro-marsh area and talked to locals to investigate its development. Would it relate to the current or sediment deposition or some other factor? Chris Sherman described several different research projects conducted in a range of subjects. For a historical angle, he tracked the use of yachts versus workboats over time. He explained that “the sea demands the same thing from every mariner, so you tailor the boat to your specific needs.” In addition, he examined the effectiveness of European Beachgrass in holding sediment in place.
April 20, 2007

Hope from the Front Lines: Protecting Water, Health, Life, Tina Clarke, Clean Water Action

Tina Clarke, Toxics Campaign Director for Clean Water Action in Amherst, Massachusetts, explained that global warming is altering the water cycle and creating both floods and droughts. With millions of people dying every year because of lack of clean water, we are at a crisis point. Clarke emphasized that access to clean water is a basic human right. Water connects all of us, and the protection of our health is inextricably connected to the health of our water supply. In fact, our bodies are made of water—about 70%, the same proportion as the earth’s surface. Major threats to water quality include the introduction of industrial manufactured plastics, solvents, heavy metals, pesticides and fertilizers. Since WWII, there are 85,000 synthetic chemicals, and the average person has more than 13 pesticides in his or her body. One challenge is to frame the issues of water quality in a way that influences the public, such as by drawing attention to the rising health problems that ensue. Global warming leads to numerous air and health hazards, and there’s nothing like reproductive disorders, birth defects, asthma and cancer to make people take notice.

April 27, 2007

Using Information Feedback to Decrease Resource Consumption, Michael Murray, Lucid Design Group

Michael Murray, a LEED Accredited Professional and President of the Oakland-based Lucid Design Group, introduced the Log Lunch audience to his innovative approach to resource conservation. Murray installs real-time feedback systems in buildings to alert occupants of their energy consumption, encouraging people to reduce their ecological footprint through simple behavioral adjustments. In a competition Murray organized at Oberlin College, dorms vied for the largest reduction in energy consumption over a designated period of time. They used Murray’s real-time feedback to track their electricity and water use during the contest, receiving information about each building’s energy production and consumption through touch-screen monitors located in the doorways of dorms and academic buildings. After the competition, students indicated that the feedback system motivated them to significantly reduce their energy consumption. Murray calls his work “the final frontier of green building,” as the energy consumption of an already well-designed building depends ultimately on the behavior of its inhabitants. By increasing people’s awareness of the energy consumption associated with their daily activities, Murray encourages a sense of individual responsibility for resource use.

CES Summer Grants and Internships

Jane Allen ’07, Hawksbill Turtle Project, Jumby Bay, Antigua

I worked with the Jumby Bay Hawksbill Project on Long Island, Antigua. Jumby Bay is one of the longest running research projects in the sea turtle field. Since it was founded in 1986, it has produced significant results in the recovery of the hawksbill nesting population on Pasture Beach, Long Island, and has collected data on every female turtle to nest on the beach. By monitoring the beach for nesting sea turtles all night, every night, and tagging them with unique tag sequences, we have learned much about the nesting habits
and the life cycle of hawksbill turtles. My internship involved patrolling the beach all night with two other researchers, tagging and measuring nesting female turtles, and educating visitors who were able to watch the nesting with us. The second half of my internship involved traveling from Long Island to the mainland of Antigua where I gave presentations to various summer camps so that local kids would be informed and involved in the protection of this critically endangered species. Thanks so much to CES for providing me with the funding for such an amazing experience!

Cary Bearn ’08, World Wildlife Fund, Namibia
I interned with World Wildlife Fund’s LIFE-Plus Program in Namibia. The program is part of a group of organizations working together to promote Community Based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) through the formation of conservancies. A conservancy is formed by the rural people of Namibia in order to collectively gain through the sustainable use of wildlife and natural resources. The conservancies are recognized by the Namibian government and are required to act under a constitution, however, many of the conservancies are ignoring their constitutions which are often outdated. I worked with Beauty Jiji, the Institutional Development Specialist for LIFE-Plus and other local NGOs in order to revise the constitution of Doro !Nawas Conservancy through a participatory process focusing efforts on gaining input from general members. It was an incredible experience to meet with the local people from the rural areas of Namibia; and an absolute treat to see the extreme beauty of the country.

Jennifer Bees ’08, Community Archeology Program, Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, Alaska
I spent four weeks interning with the Community Archeology Program at the Alutiiq Museum in Kodiak, Alaska. I had always wanted to go to Alaska,
**Ansel Bubel ’08, Botany Research, New Jersey**

I researched trends in the growth of Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) in Middletown, New Jersey. My goal was trying to determine if Tree of Heaven could invade a Monmouth County forest and if there was any difference in invasive species intrusion between a second growth forest and a mature forest. I found that Tree of Heaven could not mature in a mature forest and in most cases, it could not mature in a second growth forest either. I also discovered that cutting down Tree of Heaven that is growing in a field causes subsequent saplings to be thicker and wider. In addition, I measured light intensity in an effort to correlate the behavior of Tree of Heaven in various habitats to the light intensity. Varying Light intensity seemed to explain differences in height and diameter observed between sites.

**Sara Buckley ’07, New England Aquarium, Boston, Massachusetts**

During my summer internship at the New England Aquarium I got to work with a vast range of animals and have some unforgettable experiences. Throughout the summer I had a range of experiences, including helping out on a dolphin stranding on Cape Cod, during which time we were able to satellite tag two of the adults in order to track their migratory patterns. I also had the opportunity to get up close and personal with animals that resided within the aquarium such as sand tiger sharks and sea turtles during their routine check ups. Finally, I observed surgery on a variety of fish, including an Atlantic guitar fish, who incurred a bite wound from our resident nurse shark. Overall, my summer internship was an amazing experience during which I learned more than I could have ever dreamed.

**Henry Burton ’08, Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, Oregon**

I spent the summer engaged in ecology fieldwork with the Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center. The Heritage Center works primarily on two types of projects: locating and determining the population size of rare species, and surveying selected habitat areas to determine the ecological health of the habitat. I spent the majority of my time searching for eight species of rare plants in the Oregon Coast Range. The Heritage Center has developed a computer model to predict the areas of suitable habitat for these species. Our job as field workers was to visit areas selected by the model, search the area for the species in question, and take notes on the actual physical and ecological characteristics of the area. Since all these species are rare or endangered, we found only a few populations. In a week of searching for the Coast Range Fawn Lily (Erythronium elegans), we found two populations of about 400 plants each, and in two weeks of searching for the Queen of the Forest (Filipendula occidentalis), we found one plant. Other species we did not find at all. I also helped out with two other Heritage Center projects: I spent a week surveying oak-dominated habitats in the Willamette Valley and a week surveying sagebrush-juniper habitats in Central Oregon.

**Zoe Fonseca ’08, Kairon Association for Formation, Nicaragua**

The John H. Ohly ’33 Memorial Fund offered me the opportunity to return to Nicaragua and the Kairros Association for Formation (AKF) after having been introduced to both the country and the organization through a winter study travel course. My main role as a volunteer was to serve as a translator for members of delegations from churches in the United States that were visiting their brother-sister Christian based communities in rural Nicaragua. Accompanying the delegations also entailed helping them adjust to life in low-income farming communities and helping them access information about the social, economic, environmental and political realities of Nicaragua and the farmers. I engaged in the land dispute case of a small organic farmer, Vicente Padilla, who is defending his land from a large landowner employed by a United States coffee company named State St. Coffee. My involvement in the case was comprised of visits to Nicaraguan politicians, physical and emotional accompaniment of the farming family and the organization of a human rights march for an indigenous farming community with which Vicente Padilla is associated. AKF supported my independent research on various environmental issues in Nicaragua, specifically the condition of natural resource management in an impoverished country with an ineffective and corrupt government that faces constant demands from the U.S. and international institutions. I interviewed environmental civil society groups, members of low-income urban areas, and farmers living in arid regions of the country. On my last day in Nicaragua, I led a community clean-up and environmental education
session in the neighborhood of my host family that involved more than sixty youth. May we all live in solidarity and hope with each other and the rest of the natural world!

Liz Gleason ’08, CitySprouts and Community Farm, Newton, Massachusetts
I interned at a two-acre organic community farm in Newton, Massachusetts, that was a formed in March 2006 by a non-profit school garden organization in Cambridge. At the farm I worked on creating a plan for the future farm-related educational programming and I helped in the fields and at the town farmers’ market, where I learned the ins and outs of the first year of operation in the uncertain business of farming. At CitySprouts I did office work and helped maintain the gardens and run community events that were held in each of their school gardens throughout the summer.

Henry Kernan ’09, Galapagos Islands
Working and traveling in the Galapagos, Las Islas Encantadas, last summer has been the best experience of my life, so far. The work was challenging and interesting: I interviewed fishermen, designed and conducted surveys, and studied the market for a new tourist product. I also managed to squeeze in just about every activity in-between work, including scuba diving, camping, island hopping, volcano hiking, biking (no brakes down a volcano), lava-tunnel exploring, orange stealing, and my personal favorite, turtle riding. I also met fascinating people. It takes brains and dedication to manage foreign tourists with language and cultural barriers. I will not be as bold as to say I made a huge impact on conservation. After all, there is so much sweat, blood, and tears going into conserving the Galapagos that I barely got my bearings before I had to leave. But helping at all, and having a good time while I was at it, was as rewarding a summer as I could ask. I would go back again anytime.

Ana Koski-Karell ’08, Womens’ Action to Gain Economic Empowerment (WAGES), Oakland, California
Through this summer internship I experienced the workings of a non-profit organization and a cooperative business, and the relationship between the two. During the summer at WAGES and NHC, I amassed a substantial body of knowledge concerning these organizations, which affected my view of social and environmental advocacy. These models helped me discern the important economic and social elements and networks fundamental to the financial success of a cooperative and the longevity of a nonprofit. Working at WAGES and NHC was exceedingly important on the personal level as well: as a female and a Latina, this internship helped me learn about and interact closely with women from the same demographic. The opportunity to be in association with WAGES and NHC and, thus, a part of the radical changes that occur because of the combined efforts of these organizations has become a source of inspiration and direction for a future career path in the world of socially-conscious business. The experience has fueled my interest in the power of cooperatives and grassroots advocacy for a range of pertinent issues, from environmentally-friendly housecleaning service to developing sustainable worker-owned and operated business practices, all from the people themselves.

Sarah Martin ’07, Hawthorne Valley Farm, Columbia County, New York
I interned with Conrad Vispo and Claudia Knab-Vispo in their Farmscape Ecology Program at Hawthorne Valley Farm. They conduct research and education on the state of natural and human communities in the landscape of the county, with a special focus on the relationship of farms with natural ecosystems. Conrad and Claudia have found that the land occupied by the county’s many small farms often harbors species and ecosystems that cannot inhabit areas under other forms of human use, such as lawns or parking lots. I participated in one of their major studies of the summer, an ecological survey of ninety ponds and wet meadows on farms across the county. Some of the program’s previous studies have focused on the conservation value of natural spaces on farms, such as hedgerows and fallow fields. Conrad and
both cases the large-scale construction projects of the Games, while lacking direct environmental impacts, allowed these cities to successfully regenerate depressed areas. Now that the IOC has made environmental initiatives a major requirement for host cities, it has helped instill the values of sustainable development in future projects. Thanks to CES for giving me this opportunity as it opened my eyes to many different parts of the world and to how cities address the complex problem of urban regeneration.

Jeffrey Wessler ’07, HIV Research, m2m, South Africa
For three months last summer I conducted background research for a nontraditional thesis in the chemistry department, which explores the discrepancies between the medical and social aspects of HIV through a qualitative study of 20 HIV positive women in South Africa. Working with the support of m2m in conjunction with the generous grant provided to me through the CES, I developed and began a project to interview and record the experiences of women living with HIV in South Africa. In a three-part process that took approximately 6 hours per woman, I met with, got to know, and interview 20 Xhosa women who were living with, not dying from, HIV. The project affected me powerfully and permanently.

Lauren Moscoe ’07, Peace Valley Farm and Williams College, Williamstown
I worked to develop a long-term relationship between Peace Valley Farm and Williams College Dining Services. With the help of many people both within and apart from the College, the farm and the College are on track for a strong future of local food production and consumption. Some of my projects included facilitating communication between Dining Services and the farm, creating displays for the dining halls, and exploring opportunities for more students to contribute to this relationship. I learned a lot by participating in this project, which has evolved from a farm-to-school to a farm-to-school-to-farm program.

Andy Stevenson ’07, Olympic Park Research, London, Torina, Barcelona
Thanks to a research grant from CES, I was able to spend almost eight weeks last summer in London and Europe researching the environmental and regeneration impacts of a city hosting the Olympics. I devoted the majority of my time to studying the plan for the 2012 Games in London, spending about 6 weeks in one of the most vibrant cities in the world. The bulk of my research consisted of sitting in on meetings at City Hall, where government leaders discussed the most pressing problems facing the capital and talking to local NGO and community leaders about their perspective on the process. I also conducted site studies of the locations where specific venues and housing would be placed. In addition to my time in the UK, I traveled to Torino, Italy and Barcelona, Spain, respective hosts of the 2006 Winter Olympics and the 1992 Summer Olympics. I discovered that in

Lauren Moscoe ’07 in Peace Valley Farm

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Claudia use their findings to advise the manager of Hawthorne Valley Farm and other Columbia County farmers, helping them to integrate agriculture with natural ecosystems. They have continuously shared these findings with the public. They publish their research through articles in a local paper which they have made available on their website (www.hawthornevalleyfarm.com/fep/fep.htm), and educate the public by giving talks, leading informational excursions through the farm, and inviting the public to participate in their research. This internship allowed me to participate in a community of farmers, scientists and activists who are devoted to encouraging land use choices that maintain natural ecosystems and healthy human communities.

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CES thanks the donors of the following funds for providing students the opportunity to pursue summer internships and research projects: W. Conant Brewer ’18 Fund; Miranda Heller ’78 and Jerry Tone ’77 Environmental Studies Fund for Student Research; Donald B. Miller Fund; A.W. Mellon CES Fund; John H. Ohly ’33 Memorial Fund; Tom C. Black 1980 Fund; Bernard M. Schuyler Memorial Internship Fund; George H. Dorion ’51 Family Fund; and the Luce Foundation.
Leading Edge Buildings: A View from the Trenches in New England, Marc Rosenbaum, P.E.

Over 100 people convened for the Building Green conference on November 10-11, which featured a keynote address by Marc Rosenbaum, P.E., of Energysmith, as well as a panel on green design with panelists Joan Kelsch ’85, an Environmental Planner for Arlington, Virginia, Bruce Harley, Technical Director for Conservation Services Group, and Todd Holland, Energy Manager for Smith, Amherst and Mount Holyoke Colleges. One of the highlights of the conference was tour of Bill and Margot Moomaw’s Zero-Carbon house. Rosenbaum, a self-proclaimed “energy geek,” licensed engineer, and LEED-certified professional, has worked for institutions such as Yale, Dartmouth, and MIT. He shared his knowledge and sense of humor with the Williams community while discussing environmental design in his talk, “Leading Edge Buildings: A View from the Trenches in New England.” During his career as a green designer, Rosenbaum has worked to reduce the energy consumption of commercial buildings through innovations such as drain water heat recovery and occupancy-controlled ventilation systems. One of his projects, a Dartmouth residence hall, showcases the energy-related benefits of enthalpy-recovery systems, radiant heating, and an impressively airtight roof. Not only does Rosenbaum design new buildings; he also improves the quality of old buildings. Describing his work as “open heart surgery,” Rosenbaum has transformed buildings at Harvard and the Vermont Law School from energy-guzzling to energy-efficient. He concluded the discussion with a reminder that cooperation plays a key role in the implementation of green design. He described the journey toward a “combined vision” as the most difficult part of the transition toward green technology, explaining that the limiting factor in the area of green design is not technological, but mental. “We have massive changes to make,” said Rosenbaum, “and what we need is a tremendous value shift.”
April 24, 2007

**Lynne Cox, Extreme Swimmer, Swimming to Antarctica**

by Elissa Brown ’09

Lynne Cox is the world’s most extraordinary long-distance open-water swimmer and she has explored the far territories of human endurance in the coldest and most treacherous waterways of the world. After shattering the men’s and women’s English Channel swimming record at the age of 15, Cox proceeded to break expectations and norms. In 1987, she swam across the Bering Strait, opening the U.S.-Soviet border for the first time in 48 years. In 2002, she swam over a mile in the 32 degree icy waters of Antarctica, and we audience members shivered as Cox told us how she wore only a swimsuit and bathing cap. Cox explained how she treats each swim as a way to connect with people from different countries and to make political and environmental statements. In 1994, Cox swam through the Gulf of Aqaba from Egypt to Israel and from Israel to Jordan, tracing the progress of peace between the three countries. Last year, she swam across the Ohio River to raise awareness of water pollution and a need for effective legislation.

Before her keynote speech, Lynne Cox presented a joint lecture with Biology Professor Steven Swoap on the physiology of swimming to Antarctica. Although most people would become hypothermic in minutes, the more time Cox spends in frigid water, the more heat her body produces. Cox joined the Williams Polar Bears and a crowd of eager Williamstown Elementary School children and parents for a late afternoon Community Plunge in the Green River. A bit warmer than Antarctica, perhaps, but, hey, we all have to start somewhere!

**Earthweek 2007: EcoChallenge**

by Sarah Martin ’07 and Alison Koppe ’07

How many gallons of water are used to produce a hamburger, from pasture to patty? If you know the answer to this question, you would have done well in the first annual Greensense Earth Day Challenge (Aqua Edition: The Running of the Taps), held Saturday, April 21st. Spectacularly costumed teams competed in a scavenger hunt across campus that tested speed and (water-related) smarts. Team Cool Blue (Sara Jablonski and Daniel Sussman) came in first, beating the second place Team Charlie Benjamin (Lauren Moscoe, Martin Williams, and Dan Aiello) by a slim two-second margin. Throughout the course of the race, teams filled buckets with water from the Green River and taps across campus that, combined, amounted to the volume of water the average citizen of India uses (and often must carry) in one day. After the contest, the Paresky Center steps were covered with buckets equal to sixty gallons of water, the amount used by each member of the Williams College community per day. Of course, this doesn’t include the water used to produce our food off campus (including hamburgers, which, for the record, each require 1,300 gallons of water).
What a difference a year makes! It may sound cliché, but it couldn’t have been truer for anyone plying the trails of Hopkins Forest in late spring 2007. At this time a year ago—you may recall from a dispatch in Field Notes—we were awash in forest tent caterpillars. Graduates were sliding on their greasy mats that lined the sidewalks of campus, while visiting alumni were swatting at caterpillars dangling by threads from the defoliated trees above. And the painters, who so ably clad the 100 year old Rosenburg Center with a fresh coat of powder yellow and white, were flailing at the slug-gish black and gray flesh flies that follow our lepi-dopteran invaders.

But not long after that, doom was in the air for the caterpillars. By July, the carnage was noticeable as caterpillar corpses by the hundreds were seen hanging from the apple and maple trees near the Rosenburg Center. Nature had indeed responded to the invasion and controlled, albeit in a delayed manner, this runaway population that had defoliated 70 percent of the local trees. It seems that the caterpillars had eaten themselves out of house and home: competition for depleted food resources—coupled with a fungus fueled by an abnormally rainy spring—had taken its toll on the critters. Add to that the swarms of friendly flies (Sarcophagid) that were parasitizing the pupating caterpillars and the end of the invasion was at hand. By mid-July, few adults were seen flying around; this resulted in a severe decline in reproduction and a subsequent population crash. This scenario was a classic demonstration of nature regulating an irruptive population right in our backyard.

Though few people may miss these messy worms this year, and the Forest, on the surface, seems to be doing fine, one does wonder about the legacy of the invasion of 2006. Has the Forest simply rebounded as if nothing happened or will there be lasting effects from the outbreak? And if the Forest changed, in what ways and how much?

Shortly after setting out on a recent jog on the lower loop trail, I was reminded of the caterpillars in spite of their absence from the trees and path. Looking west across the expanded weather station field, I could see the hulking skeletons of as yet defoliated poplar trees looming over the lower trees in the foreground. These dead 90-foot hulks—planted by the Forest Service fifty-five years ago—were evidently unequipped to withstand the defoliation and the loss of newly manufactured carbohydrates that it imposed. While younger, more robust trees were able to re-foliate and restart the process of photosynthesis later in the summer of 2006, that was not an option for these large older trees, whose energy balances were razor thin in the first place. A look toward the woods beyond the Moon Barn and behind the Rosenburg Center also reveals a generation of hybrid poplar trees finally brought to their deaths by the outbreak. Aside from the old plantation trees, there appears to have been little arboreal damage exacted by the outbreak of 2007: most of the maples, oaks and ashes appear green and

Hopkins Forest Sugarbush

by Drew Jones, HMF Manager
healthy. But perhaps the pain was felt in other ways. A look at this spring’s Hopkins Forest maple syrup production suggests that all is not back to normal in the sugar-bush. We collected 37 percent less sap and boiled down 29 percent less syrup than the average of the previous seven seasons (the sap harvest was an eight year low and the syrup the second lowest in that period). How much of this reduction might have been caused by caterpillar defoliation as opposed to the record warm early winter weather or other factors in unclear. But we do know one thing: for whatever reason, there will be less HMF produced syrup at breakfast tables this year.

As for other forest dwellers, it is still uncertain to what degree they are still feeling the impacts of the 2006 caterpillar outbreak. We noticed an increased number of songbirds on breeding bird point counts last spring. However, this might have been more a result of sound (songs) carrying further due to defoliation than an actual increase in singing male birds. It may be that the ultimate ripple effects on songbirds will have been much more specific. Indeed, nesting failures among tree nesters might have been high as defoliation increased exposure of nests to predators and weather extremes. By contrast, ground nesters might have actually benefited from the increase in light reaching the ground level and the resulting flush of low growing vegetation to conceal their clutches. We may know more about the fate of the birds in the coming weeks--once the spring 2007 point counts have been tallied. And that brings us back to the friendly flies, which have been buzzing around the forest again this spring. They may be able to find new hosts for their eggs to replace the forest tent caterpillar, but they will likely experience some leaner years and reduced populations until the caterpillars make their inevitable return.

Report from the World Social Forum

*Dunia nyingine inaweze kana.* Another world is possible. The 100,000 people, including the two of us, who attended 7th World Social Forum in Nairobi this January are trying to prove this statement true. Since 2001, this conference has been the left-leaning counter to the World Economic Forum, the neoliberal, annual meeting of the business and governmental elite. The participants think that people, not money, should be at the center of all of our choices, and spend the week networking, sharing ideas, and debating the ways to make it so. The forum proclaims to be “an open meeting place where groups and movements of civil society opposed to neo-liberalism and a world dominated by capital or by any form of imperialism, but engaged in building a planetary society centered on the human person, come together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action.” This year’s Forum’s theme was “People’s Struggles, People’s Alternatives.” There were 1,150 participant presentations, 13 panels organized by the coordinating committee, films, cultural events, marches, and 12 summation strategy sessions. Although the topics varied widely and sessions on almost any political or social issue seemed to be offered, the topics that seemed to receive the most attention this year included food sovereignty, water rights/privatization, land rights, Palestine, climate change and action, deforestation, education, women’s issues, and alternative economies.

Adriann attended several of the sessions on climate change and the Kyoto Protocol. One of the most interesting was about carbon trading in Europe. Carbon trading is supposed to make reductions economically valuable by giving pollutants a monetary value. However, this plan has gone wrong in a lot of ways. One problem is that instead of being sold, the carbon rights are given away according to the amount of carbon emissions the companies are already producing-- the more you pollute, the more you get. Big business’s lobby was so powerful that some governments have awarded enough pollution rights to more than cover status quo, causing the price of carbon credits to plunge. Another item of the protocol allows a company to “earn” more credits by preventing emissions in a developing nation. The goal of this was to provide an incentive to transfer green technology to places that might not otherwise be able to afford it. However, companies often go for the cheapest projects over the most beneficial. One such approach is to plant a tree farm, which often replaces natural grasslands and dominates the local water supply, pushing traditional cattle herders off the land.
Lizzy attended a session focused on technology and democracy. Vandana Shiva explained how today’s discourse allows for a redefinition of progress centered solely around technology. Technology is the tool we use to connect the resources we have to the results we want. However, modern discourse often focuses on technology itself, ignoring the resources so that technology becomes the ultimate measure of human progress regardless of its economic or political implications. Under this paradigm the Green Revolution, a plan to “modernize” agriculture with agrochemical inputs and genetically modified seeds, became a celebrated proposition. The plan, however, inevitably leads to consolidated control over the food supply through control over the seeds and petroleum based agrochemical inputs while displacing abundant labor (a resource that is not scarce in Africa) and fails to address the underlying problem of food distribution in a world that currently grows enough to feed everyone. Despite its controversial results in Asia, a plan to bring the Green Revolution to Africa was announced earlier this year by the Gates Foundation. This sort of “revolution” leads to Shiva’s assessment that “technology is inseparable from democracy.” Whoever controls the technology controls the power in our society.

Next year the week will be marked instead by an International Day of Action. Local and regional Forums will also continue. The first United States Social Forum will be held this year from June 27th to July 1st in Atlanta. We would like to thank the departments that funded our trip and provided us with this opportunity. Special thanks to the Center for Environmental Studies, Students for Social Justice, the Gaudino Fund, the Dean’s Office, Dean McKeon, the Chaplin’s Office, the Political Economy Department and the Political Science Department.

Latin American Studies Symposium Review
by Lauren Moscoe ’07 and Sara Jablonski ’07

In March we attended the Latin American Studies Symposium at Birmingham-Southern College in Birmingham, Alabama. We presented our projects from our study abroad semester in Ecuador through the School for International Training and heard about research by other students. Sara’s paper was about ethnobotany and ecotourism while Lauren’s was about the wax palm, a plant used for Palm Sunday. The topics of the other presentations ranged from art and literature to politics to biology. This conference served as a good follow-up to our study abroad experience and was a valuable exploration of our academic and life interests. Since we are both interested in the intersection of anthropology and ecology, we attended sessions on this topic. One presentation we attended was about the preservation of diverse potato varieties grown by indigenous communities on a small island in Chile. Another presentation was about the mahogany industry in Nicaragua. The student discussed the conflict between the preservation of the tree and the people’s livelihoods. We also enjoyed branching out from our academic focus by attending a one-act performance excerpted from La Noche de los Asesinos along with the tango performance and discussion. Beyond these organized sessions, the conference was an exciting opportunity to meet other students and professors with similar interests. It provided an environment for discussing topics that continue to challenge and inspire us. Next year, we are both considering serving in the Peace Corps in Latin America. Talking about issues of development and conservation with people coming from a range of experiences and perspectives contributed to our better understanding ourselves and our potential roles as graduates of Williams. We are grateful to have had this worthwhile opportunity to explore Latin American through many disciplines. Thanks to the Center for Environmental Studies for the generosity in making this trip possible.
Bob Gordon '72

After a short sabbatical from politics, I was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 2003, where I represent the 38th District, an area encompassing 13 towns in Bergen County (just west of New York City) and a population of about 215,000. I have pursued my life-long interest in environmental policy as a member of the Assembly Committee on the Environment, and currently serve as the Committee’s Vice Chairman. I will be running for my third term in 2007.

Harry Kangis '72

I am Board Vice-Chair of the Ohio Nature Conservancy and Chair of TNC’s national marketing advisory board. I am also working with the worldwide conservation teams on their strategic plans for TNC’s new 2015 goal, which is to effectively conserve 10% all habitat types on earth.

Roger Wilson '77

I am still working at the company I founded over 10 years ago, The Conference Department, Inc., which develops and manages educational events, primarily at this point, management training for state and local officials. I’m also an advisor to Northern Woodlands Magazine. I also serve as treasurer for a small foundation devoted to preserving open space in Vermont and I serve as a volunteer official in my home town of Winchester, MA, with appointments to the finance and capital committees as well as being elected as a precinct representative to town meeting.

Holly Brough '88

I was in Williamstown in November for the wedding of fellow CES alum, Cathy Richardson, and on a walk in Hopkins Forest on Sunday, there was the sign for the Forest that I’d painted back in the summer of 1988 -- still with some legs! But really, it looks like it’s on its LAST legs. I think it’s time for a new one. My current work actually hasn’t strayed too far from my sign-painting days. As publications coordinator at Shelburne Farms, in Shelburne, Vermont, I do a great deal of graphic design, as well as writing and editing for this 1,400-acre working farm, environmental education center, and National Historic Landmark. Shelburne Farms has a great apprenticeship program for students interested in agriculture, agriculture education, or environmental education. Check out www.shelburnefarms.org for more information.

Dawn Biehler ‘97

This summer I am completing my PhD at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. My dissertation is an environmental history of pests and pesticides in U. S. cities, focusing on housing, public health, and environmental justice issues. In the fall I will move to Vancouver for a post-doctoral fellowship in Geography at the University of British Columbia. I will be teaching two courses: Civil and Sustainable Societies, and Urban Geography. My spouse, Nathan Day ‘97, and our cats will join me.

Chris Little ‘98

I’ve finished my third year of a Ph.D. program in physical oceanography at Princeton University, studying ocean circulation on the continental shelves around Antarctica. In February and March, I got a chance to remove my gaze from the computer screen and participate in a 51-day research cruise around Antarctica to observe the ocean and various kinds of ice firsthand. Details and pictures are on my website, www.princeton.edu/~cmlittle. My wife (and fellow ex-forest caretaker), Liz Mills ('98) has finished her residency in veterinary clinical pathology at the University of Pennsylvania. She is finishing up a lectureship at the university and taking a position in a private diagnostic lab in
August. We hope the shorter commute will allow her more time for outdoor activities! We’re enjoying life with our dog and two cats in between Princeton and Philadelphia, and looking forward to our vegetable harvest this summer.

Rebecca Silver ‘00
I got married in September 2006 to Jacob Sackin. We currently live in Eugene, OR, and I’d love to hear from any other alums in the area! I graduated from the University of Oregon in June 2007 with a Master’s in Environmental Studies and graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management. I researched coffee-drinker perspectives on fair trade coffee for my thesis.

Christine (Fletcher) Patrick ‘02
This spring I finished my master’s in Marine Affairs at the University of Rhode Island, and just got news that I received two fellowships that will take me back to DC. Starting this summer, I will begin in NOAA’s Habitat Protection Division through the Coastal Society/NOAA fellowship, and once that fellowship ends in January, I will begin the Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship for a year. With the Knauss Fellowship, I may be placed with a Congressperson on a marine-related committee, or I might be working for one of the many federal agencies with its hands in the (marine) water, so to speak. Wes, my husband of one year and also a NOAA employee, is looking forward to heading back to the more energetic city life as much as I am. Sadly, despite Rhode Island being “The Ocean State,” our seriously long commutes up here meant we two ocean lovers saw a lot more of the roads than the islands. We’re hoping TerraPass can deliver us from our carbon sins. With our apartment a block from NOAA in DC, we’ll definitely be back on the greener path.

Kimmie Beal ‘03
I am writing from Tennessee, where I am doing a dendrochronological field week (measuring tree rings to date trees and study growth, climate, etc. I am in my first year of a PhD program at UVM studying the effect that changing climate has had on the treeline trees of New England. I’ll be using dendrochronology and repeat historical photography to look for change. I have field sites planned for Mt. Washington, Mt Mansfield and Mt. Katahdin, so it should be a really fun summer! It’s great to be back in New England after a few years out west with Ski Patrol and NOLS. I still miss the tea in the kitchen at CES though!

CES Reunion Picnic, June 9, 2007

Jon Weiner ’02 and Zach Lamb ’02

Brad Paul ’72, Buzz Constable ’72, Bob Gordon’72
In Memoriam: Katherine Craig ‘08

The Center for Environmental Studies mourns the passing of Katie Craig ‘08, who took her own life in April while home on medical leave from Williams. Katie was a beloved member of the CES community who was an Environmental Studies Contract major, a Hopkins Forest caretaker, an environmental activist through Greensense and the Thursday Night Group, and a member of the Nordic ski team. She was also a wonderful student and a talented painter. Katie’s effervescent spirit infected all of us with good cheer, and her passing has left a profound absence in our close community. One of her landscape paintings hangs in the CES office. Katie will be fondly remembered by the CES community.

Katie Craig serving pancakes at Maplefest in March 2007
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
FIELD NOTES, Summer 2007
A PUBLICATION OF THE CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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 activity, and values.

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