

Williams College
Center for Environmental Studies



NOTES



Winter 2005

A Publication of the Center for Environmental Studies, Kellogg House, Williams College,
P.O. Box 632, Williamstown, MA 01267 <http://www.williams.edu/CES>

Letter from the Director

I have spent the past 35 years at Williams in one way or another investigating the patterns and processes of succession. When, in the 1990s, a group of students involved in reinventorying the Hopkins Forest permanent plots chuckled when I read the description of a plot written by a previous generation of Williams students in 1972, I felt like I was actually participating in the successional process as they explained the reason for the laughter, "We weren't even born yet in 1972." I have a bit of that feeling again as I reflect back and look forward (a January sort of thing to do, I suppose) to stepping down as the Director of the Center for Environmental Studies this coming summer. Seven years ago I succeeded Kai Lee as director, and soon it will be Karen Merrill's turn. Karen is a teacher of environmental history and brings an enormous amount of talent and energy into Kellogg House, along with an impressive diversity of experiences. An Oberlin undergraduate, she holds a master's degree in English and creative writing from Denver, and a Ph.D. in history from Michigan. This summer's transition will mark an historical succession in leadership in that Karen will be the first woman to be Director of the Center in its 38-year existence. She has been an important part of the Center and the Environmental Studies Program since coming to Williams five years ago. We all enthusiastically celebrate her willingness to move out of Stetson Hall and into Kellogg House

at the end of the academic year when she returns from her sabbatical.



Hank Art shows off the green power certificate commemorating the contract with Constellation Newenergy to purchase 30,000 kilowatt-hours of green power.

There are other changes in the landscape as well. Late this fall an anemometer was installed in the Hopkins Forest along the crest of the Taconics, and is collecting data that will be used to model the wind resources in the general location. It is our hope that soon the real-time data from the instruments will be available on campus and be used in a variety of our courses. It will probably take another 18 months to determine whether the wind resources there are of a magnitude sufficient for renewable energy development along the Taconics.

In a previous Field Notes I mentioned that the plans for a new library at Williams are likely to necessitate moving Kellogg House sometime in the intermediate future. This past week the expected footprint of the future new-and-improved Stetson Library was unveiled showing the eastern “big toe” extending just into the living room of Kellogg, the ball of the foot coming squarely down on the porch office wing. Both the architectural firm of Bohlin - Cywinski -Jackson from Wilkes-Barre, PA and Laura Cavin ‘05 have been studying was to move Kellogg House to the north and west and reconnect it to the Matt Cole Library wing. Laura is a contract major in Environmental Design and is undertaking a senior honors thesis on the renovation/relocation of Kellogg. Stay tuned for details. The succession in building sites for CES in general and Kellogg House in particular is likely to take place sometime in 2007.

Cheers,
Hank Art

CES Welcomes New Director



Professor Karen Merrill,
Incoming CES Director

Karen Merrill, Associate Professor of History, will begin her three-year appointment as CES Director on July 1, 2005. Professor Merrill teaches courses in environmental history, 20th-century American politics, history of the American west, and the history of U.S. foreign relations. Since arriving at Williams in 2001, she has been an active member of the Environmental Studies Program. Before that, Karen taught at Princeton University and the University of California, Irvine. She received her doctorate in history from the University of Michigan in 1994. Merrill is a participant in an ongoing Mellon-funded workshop of environmental historians from liberal arts colleges (such as Middlebury, Colby, Amherst, Smith, and Oberlin), where she’s been exploring the state of the field.

Professor Merrill recently won the Robert G. Athearn Award for her book, *Public Lands and Political Meaning: Ranches, the Government and the Property Between Them* (2002), from the Western History Association. Her other books include *The Modern Worlds Of Business And Industry: Cultures, Technology, Labor* (editor,

Professor Kai Lee Goes On Sabbatical

I am on leave in spring 2005 studying urban sustainability — the challenge of providing environmental services like clean water, flood control, and housing to the millions of people moving into urban areas, particularly in developing countries. Williams students in the class of 2007 will graduate into a world that has a majority of people in cities, for the first time. They are likely to return to

their 50th reunion in a world where we will need to have built roughly as much urban housing, streets, sewers, and other infrastructure, as now exists.

Building this new world of cities is a grand environmental challenge, one that complements the global efforts to salvage biodiversity and to limit the problems created by climate change. Cities endure for

centuries, locking in patterns of water and energy use and defining the costs of ecosystem services like air circulation, recreation, and access to food. The urbanization now in progress is thus both an opportunity and a threat: done wrong, the hopes for sustainable development are likely to be dashed. But done right, we could see a cost-effective, humane, and environmentally responsible template for generations to come.

I am a long way from understanding what would be needed to map out a reasonable and feasible approach to urbanization. This semester I am trying to plan field research to be done in 2006, and to see if I can make sense of the several literatures where this awesome subject has been discussed.

-Kai Lee

Log Lunch: Food, Friends, Fun

September 24: “At the Intersection of Land and Sea: Challenges and Opportunities in Coastal Watershed Planning” Cary Gaunt ’83

The first Log Lunch speaker of the fall semester was Cary Gaunt, a Senior Environment Planner and Policy Analyst for the SAIC. In her presentation Gaunt emphasized the human components of watersheds, and the importance of being mindful of the watershed in which each of us lives. “How we develop our land and how we live on our land makes a difference” in the condition of our water, said Gaunt. “The biggest opportunities and the biggest challenges relate to each of us sitting here.”

October 8: “Evaluating the Atmospheric Impact of CFC Replacements” Brian Saar ’05

Brian presented his scholarly talk with a surprisingly high degree of humour. Saar spoke of his work on modeling the vibrational overtone spectra of hydrofluorocarbons, harmful chemical byproducts that are found in our atmosphere in ever-increasing and possibly dangerous quantities. Vibrational overtones, which involve stretching chemical bonds, are thought of as precursors to bond breakage and atmospheric radical chemistry, which may be harmful to the ozone layer. Saar discussed his calculations of the probability that these overtone transitions will occur and how that information will be integrated into an overall study of the atmospheric impact of these molecules. Saar’s work was done over the summer with Dr. Henrik Kjaergaard at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand and with Prof. Jay Thoman in the Department of Chemistry

at Williams College and was supported by a grant from the Center for Environmental Studies.

October 15: “Lowland Maya Community Planning in El Peten, Guatemala” Benjamin Haldeman ’05

After a particularly bright and beautiful Mountain Day the previous Friday, Benjamin Haldeman ’05 joined us to speak about his internship experience this past summer in the Peten Lakes Region of Guatemala. In his talk “Lowland Maya Community Planning in El Peten, Guatemala,” Haldeman discussed his research, which consisted of locating and documenting the presense of smaller Mayan archaeological sites between the larger sites of Motul and Trinidad. “My research was primarily intended as an aid to determine the extent to which Motul maintained strict hegemony over the small settlements in the surrounding countryside,” Haldeman explains. After mapping and examining more than 60 sites during the five weeks he spent there, Haldeman’s discoveries provided a unique insight into the socio-polical environment and settlement habits of the ancient Mayans.

October 27: “Local Agriculture and Williams: Arranging Links to the Community” Allison Smith ’07 and Dining Services

Allison Smith ’07 and her associates from Highlawn Farms and Dining Services joined us on a crisp October day to discuss her summer internship. Smith worked over the summer to locate local food producers and to incorporate their products into the menus of Williams students. In her talk, she empha-

sized that the benefits of buying locally are immense: smaller farms are usually better at maintaining land quality, transportation costs are much lower, and it's a move in the right direction away from corporate food production. Furthermore, with over \$2.2 million spent annually on food by the College,



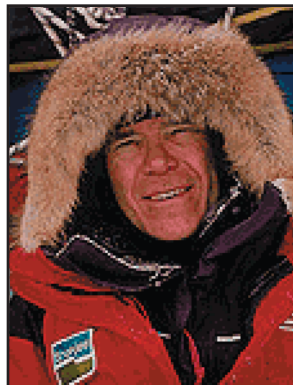
Allison Smith '07 presented on the value of consuming locally produced foods

Williams can certainly afford to ensure that some of that enters back into our community. Smith was joined by Ginny Skorupski, the campus nutritionist, and Bob Volpi of Dining Services, as well as by a representative from High Lawn Farms. High Lawn Farms is the last dairy farm in the Berkshires that processes and bottles its milk, and it is the sole supplier of milk to the dining halls on campus. Log Lunch attendees were afforded the opportunity to sample fresh milk and ice cream from the dairy.

October 29: “Learning from the Earth’s Arctic Barometer” by Will Steger and Eric Dayton

World-renowned Arctic explorer and expeditionist Will Steger was a welcome guest at the Log Lunch, along with his younger associate, Eric Dayton '03. They shared speaking time during their presentation that was augmented by stunning photos of their journeys. Dayton described their most recent trek, a 72-day dogsled expedition across the Nunavut region of Canada undertaken the previous winter. Dayton, Steger, and four others traveled more than 700 miles on three dogsleds, and braved arctic storms, temperatures reaching nearly -100° F (with wind chill), extreme sun exposure, and treacherous ice. This expedition had multiple goals, including groundtruthing for NASA, and visiting Native American communities to discuss their first-hand perceptions of climate change and document their oral history. Will Steger also spoke about the international dogsled expedition across Antarctica in 1990 in which he was a participant. Steger concluded

by stressing the fragility of the polar environments, pointing to the loss of the Larsen ice shelf as an example of the harmful and ongoing effects of climate change. “In northern areas warming is happening three times faster than it is here,” remarked Steger. “We need political will and the awareness of the younger generation to change this situation.”



Arctic explorer Will Steger



November 5: “Strategies for Active Citizenship” by Gwen Garcelon '83



November 12:
**“Edible Wild Plants and Mushrooms
of New England”
by Russ Cohen**



December 3:
**“The Lost Valley of Batuecas: Church,
Wilderness, and the New World in Baroque
Spain” by Jorge Marcone,
Class of 1946 Visiting Professor of Environ-
ment and the Humanities**

November 19:
**“Mercury in our Environment:
Problems and Solutions”
by Amy Johns ‘98,
Waste Management Specialist, Center
for Ecological Technology (CET)**



December 10:
**“Antarctica: The
Penguin in the
Miner’s Helmet”
by Professor Hank
Art, Director of CES**

The Center for Environmental Studies would like to thank all its Fall 2004 Log Lunch contributors. We invite everyone to join us this spring for more exciting speakers and great food; reservations can be made weekly or for the semester by calling Sandy Zepka at (413) 597-2346 or by emailing szepka@williams.edu. The cost of the delicious vegetarian lunch (soup, bread, salad, and dessert) is \$3.50.

Green Legislators in the Green Mountain State

Rays of hope! In the November elections John Malcolm '72 was elected to the Vermont State House of Representatives from Rutland Co., District 8, running on a platform of increasing the viability of agriculture and increasing the energy efficiency in the state. He joins Gaye Symington '77, a 5-term member of the Vermont House representing Jericho, who was elected Speaker of the House. Congratulations to John, Gaye, and our neighbors to the north. If it weren't for a surveying error by Richard Hazen in 1741, the Williams campus would be in their state.

CES Summer Grants and Internships

Research Grants

Ken Brown '05:

Thesis Research on Distribution of Invasives

A.W. Mellon CES Fund

I received a summer research grant to explore invasive plants in Williamstown. My interest was spurred by a Lauren Buckley's thesis (1998) on forest fragmentation and edge dynamics. She found that forest edges are more heavily invaded than forest interiors. I set out to pinpoint some of the factors driving edge depth for our local invaders. I spent the summer counting plants along transects starting at forest edges around town.



Garlic mustard, an invasive plant

I also worked with my advisor, Joan Edwards, and fellow students, Alejandro Acosta '06 and Don Mitchell '06, on the garlic mustard study that has been ongoing for several years. My work on forest edges raised some interesting new questions for me, but it didn't amount to many answers. The pattern of land use history seems to be the driving factor of invasive plant distribution, rather than factors of the forest edge. The garlic mustard study, with its extensive data set, seems more promising and will be the focus of my independent research over winter study and the spring semester.

Elizabeth (Ellie) Frazier '05:

Ecological Art: Christo's Gates in Central Park

Tom Hardie '78 Fund

For three weeks this summer, with the generosity of my CES grant, I researched the genre of environmental art, focusing specifically on Christo and Jeanne-Claude's upcoming project, *The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York City*, predicted

to be the most important piece of site-specific art in Central Park's history. My research was two-pronged. First, I attempted to define and better understand environmental art and its many movements and players. Then, I tried to situate Christo and Jeanne-Claude somewhere within the genre. I utilized different sources -- including books, films, and conversations with Christo himself -- and learned a lot about the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of modern art (and environmental studies). I hope to continue researching Christo and Jeanne-Claude this year and eagerly anticipate traveling to New York to witness the opening of *The Gates* on February 12, 2005. The project will remain in Central Park for only sixteen days, so be sure to get to New York to see it!

Jocelyn Gardner '05:

Thesis Research on Williams College and Food

A.W. Mellon Fund

I spent this summer on campus, working on research for my thesis. I studied the food supply for the dining halls to know where the food's coming from, how it's being produced, and what the environmental impacts of its production are. In addition, I looked at the local alternatives that are available and thought about what difference it would make if Williams were to switch over to more locally-produced foods. Because of the immensity of Williams' food consumption, I limited the scope of my research to meat and dairy products. I made this decision for a few reasons. One, these two categories together make up nearly half of the food expenditures at Williams (meat and poultry: 34%; dairy: 15%). Two, these are products whose production is quite environmentally intensive. And three, local sources of these products currently exist. In fact, just this past August the dining halls began serving milk from High Lawn Farm in Lee, MA; I'm using this switch as a case study of the type of changes I'll be recommending.

In the end, I developed a set of maps and other vi-

sual representations of the production of the food we're eating (in addition to my written thesis, of course). I also hope to create an action plan with detailed ways that Williams can move toward more environmentally-friendly sources of food for the dining halls. And lastly, I'm hoping that this experience will help me build a model of social change that I'll be able to use in the future (while I try to save the world...).

Emma Golden '06:

Agricultural Land Use at the Classic Maya Site of Motul de San Jose, Guatemala

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

This summer I researched agricultural land use at the Maya site of Motul de San Jose, located in the Peten region of Guatemala, with Professor Foias of the Williams Anthropology department. Specifically, we focused on one area near the monumental core of the site that was suspected of being an intensively cultivated infield garden owned by the elites. We took soil samples for phosphate, phytolith, cacao, and pollen testing that, once analyzed, will provide valuable information about the plant species present and the extent to which the area was exhausted and fertilized. In addition to soil samples we used Global Positioning Satellite technology to map the location of the samples to place on the growing map of the entire site.

The research done this summer contributes to the construction of political and economic systems in terms of political power and the control of natural resources at Motul. The results of the soil sample analysis will help determine the elites' involvement in basic agriculture versus specialized goods depending what species of plants are found in the elite-controlled area. Hopefully, we will also gain insight into the agricultural practices and techniques the Ancient Maya used, which would be valuable for modern day farmers in the region. This summer gave me an appreciation for the detailed and involved nature of environmental archaeology and was an invaluable experience for me both academically and personally.

Brian G. Saar '05:

Evaluating the Atmospheric Impact of CFC Replacements

A.W. Mellon Fund

I spent the summer of 2004 working in the laboratory of Dr. Henrik Kjaergaard at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. My project involved simulating the internal vibrations of a hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) called 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane, a molecule that is currently used on a large scale throughout industry as a refrigerant and propellant replacement for chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). CFCs are no longer used because they deplete the ozone layer by breaking into atomic chlorine radicals in the stratosphere, which then go on to attack ozone molecules. A key to ensuring that HFCs are atmospherically benign is to study how they break down in the atmosphere, and after working on the problem with Dr. Kjaergaard and his students, we now have a theoretical method that will be applicable to a wide range of hydrofluorocarbon molecules of atmospheric importance. I'm grateful to Dr. Kjaergaard for hosting me and to a grant from the A. W. Mellon fund for making this interesting summer experience possible.

Kate Scheider '07:

Three-Spined Sticklebacks on Vancouver Island, the Decline of Bonefish and Tarpon Fisheries in the Caribbean and Atlantic, and Fly Fishing Traffic on the Mary Creek Reef Complex

W. Conant Brewer '18 Fund

I spent my summer on two very diverse islands, Vancouver Island, British Columbia and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands, studying different aspects of three diverse fishes. The three-spined stickleback is a tiny, easily caught fish, while bonefish and tarpon are large, sly, and powerful fishes. On Vancouver Island I helped Dan Bolnick '96 catch, kill, and deep-freeze hundreds of sticklebacks for his research on natural selection, and then went to St. John where I interviewed fishermen who would never imagine killing a precious bonefish or tarpon. Recently there has been concern about the decline of bonefish and tarpon fisheries, which are both important resources for a huge recreational fishing industry in the Caribbean and Florida. Both bone-

fish and tarpon fisheries are unique because they have never been targeted commercially because of the fishes' unappetizing flesh, but lately have been under commercial pressure as other fish stocks are decimated and habitat destruction increases.

I also explored the possible harm caused to coral reefs by wading fishermen, particularly on the Mary Creek reef complex on St. John, which has shown a significant decrease in living coral cover over the past half-century. This decline is likely a result of both local (sediment runoff) and widespread (global warming and disease) factors. Since the reef is already quite stressed, the additional anthropogenic pressure of wading fly fishermen should be avoided. Luckily, there is a strong conservationist attitude in the salt water fly fishing community, which should encourage educational programs on habitat destruction and fisheries decline.

Internships

Evelyn Aguilar '07:

Is there Green in the Future of Puerto Lopez?

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

This summer I spent 13 incredible weeks in Puerto Lopez County, a small tropical fishing community off the pacific coast of Ecuador. I arrived in Puerto Lopez to work on a reforestation project, yet my short three month stay slowly transformed into a study of a place that is on the verge of either destroying its natural environment or protecting its rare land for future generations. I left this tropical community with something I did not expect: a greater understanding of environmental politics. Although Puerto Lopez County, with its 5 million hectares of federal preserved land (otherwise known as Machalilla National Park), may at first appear to be the ideal county of eco-tourism and sustainable, low-impact lifestyles, closely observing the area quickly makes you aware that the county lacks a basic infrastructure to promote proper urban sanitary conditions and long-term conservation of its

national park land. General lack of environmental awareness among residents, a struggling economy, and corrupt politics hinder environmental progress in this small coastal community.

I spent roughly 30% of my time learning the problems/benefits of cultivating the land and noticed how fertile the tropical soil is. Working with gardens and living much like the locals made me realize that the more interactions I had with the land, the more I appreciated it and became conscious of actions that I otherwise would ignore here in the U.S. While working with the county's environmental department, I became exposed to much of the corruption surrounding Puerto Lopez. One can hear political nominees touting eco-tourism over the radio and a clean and healthy county, but it's all talk and no action. Before departing from Puerto Lopez I was lucky enough to aid in organizing a reunion in which several already-established groups in the county hope to begin a coherent ecological plan. We were able to sketch out an action plan and now the next step, albeit the hardest one, is to realize this plan. Clearly living a sustainable life style and promoting responsible eco-tourism will not change overnight, in a month, or in a year. Progress is slow, difficult, and, as I witnessed, a tremendous struggle, but some progress is better than none and must continue before it is too late to reverse damages to



Evelyn Aguilar '07 in the Ecuadorian tropical forest

this rare ecological habitat. Ultimately, not only the environment will benefit but the local economy as well.

Amelia Bishop '06:

The Wilderness Society

Bernard M. Schuyler Memorial Internship

This past summer I interned with The Wilderness Society, a non-profit environmental organization that lobbies for America's last remaining wild places. I worked for the Director of Refuges and Wildlife, Jim Waltman, and his associate, Leslie Catherwood, for approximately two months. These individuals are the heads of the department that worked on protecting habitats in the National Wildlife Refuge System, composed of 544 refuges across the country. I was extraordinarily lucky to have been placed with Jim and Leslie, two devoted and passionate people who were intent on making my experience at TWS as exciting and engaging as possible.

My internship was far from traditional; I can only recall a few instances where I was asked to make photocopies. Rather, I was thrust into the activity of the Capitol and attended numerous lobby visits, Congressional hearings, and 'hill drops' (which consisted of scurrying from office to office dropping off material for Congressmen's legislative aides just before a vote). At the office, I updated the refuge information and fact sheets on the website, reviewed many thousands of pages of documents and typing up a 30-plus page report for Jim Waltman and a lawyer to review for a potential case against The Fish and Wildlife Service. My experiences transcended any basic knowledge of our political system I learned from sitting in a classroom. Jim taught me the intricacies of politics on Capitol Hill and what it takes to effectively lobby for a cause.

The experiences I had this summer solidified my path in life. It was extremely inspiring to be surrounded by such a powerful group of intelligent, devoted, determined staff members working towards something they care passionately about. I feel extraordinarily lucky for the opportunities I was given

this summer – it was truly a rewarding experience!

Erin Blanchard '06:

Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation

Donald B. Miller Fund

I spent my summer days at Sheep Hill, home of the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation and the former Sunnybrook Farm, just several miles off campus. Each day I biked or drove out to the Hill, beginning the day as caretaker, then moving onto my own independent work—a variety of projects ranging from illustrated property maps to dairy-themed wall drawings in our milk house. I spent time designing a garden, and within a week or two and who knows how many wheelbarrows full of a nice compost blend later, I laid out and planted our Veggie Garden—home to legumes, fruits, and over a dozen vegetables. I made interpretive guides to plants and spent a significant amount of time sketching Sheep Hill's flora and fauna, and in doing so, learned quite a bit about each organism. As the months passed, I gained a new respect for meadow grasses, barn swallows, and [shockingly] even the delicate elegance of a mosquito's anatomy. I tried to soak up as much as I could and share that with those who were interested.

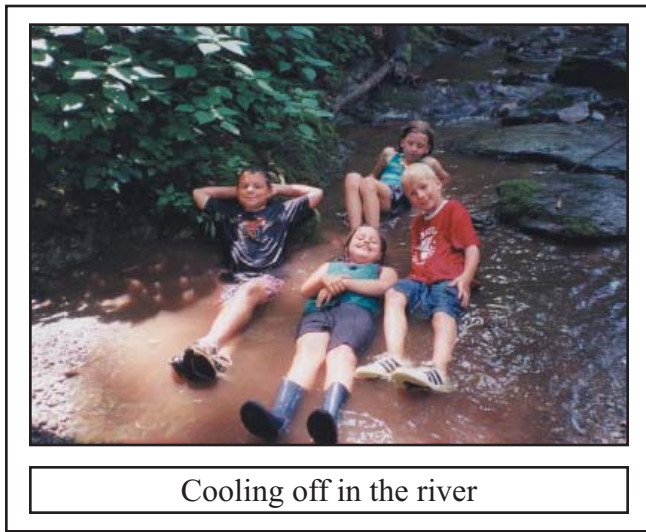
When I wasn't outside, I worked on revamping several of the buildings on the property. There were times when I felt like an archeologist, removing cobwebs, dust, dirt, and searched in an attic with a little light, deciphering old documents, records, receipts. I also helped plan a series of events open to the public, including firefly and full moon hikes, a meteor shower viewing party, and a very exciting summer open house. I had several opportunities to interact with Williamstown youth doing experiential environmental education. I was allowed a glimpse at the inner workings of a land trust. Discussions with local seniors were by far the best part of my job, our interactions were always enjoyable. Overall, the summer was very much a time of discovery and growth, and an experience that, while preparing for a future environmentally themed profession, connected me back to my own roots and my community here in the Northern Berkshires—something I sought all along.

Elana Boehm '06:

Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA)

Donald B. Miller Fund

Thanks to the generosity of the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies I spent the summer in Williamstown interning with the Hoosic River Watershed Association. I spent the first part of the summer educating myself about the workings of the Hoosic River and the issues surrounding its conservation and restoration. I explored the area by hiking, rafting, and bicycling throughout the watershed, and later working on trails in the area (in collaboration with the trails stewardess from the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation).



Cooling off in the river

As I became more familiar with the watershed, I developed interpretative signs and benches along some of these trails, I also led groups of Overland campers on river clean-ups along parts of the Hoosic and Green Rivers. I designed and led a series of programs for groups of 7-12 year olds that introduced them to the environment while strengthening their sensory awareness skills. I used these programs with groups of children from Oak Hill Youth Camp, Grafton Lakes State Park, Brayton Housing Kids Camp, and the Williamstown Youth Center, and afterwards I compiled a binder of these programs, in the hope that future interns and programming directors will be able to use them to plan children's programs. In addition to educating local children about the watershed, I spent time in the river collecting samples that I later tested for conductivity, turbidity, and nitrogen-nitrates. Un-

der the guidance of Richard Schlessinger I helped find trends among these factors, as well as monitor the overall health of sections of river within the watershed. We also ran short term studies of temperature, dissolved oxygen, and river flow during the summer. I am glad I had the chance to learn about the Hoosic River watershed, improve local trails, and teach local children about the environment.

Amy Dieckmann '05:

Gobabeb Training and Research Centre

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

To the south there are the ever-changing sand dunes, to the north are the Martian gravel plains, and dividing the two is the linear oasis of the ephemeral Kuiseb River. This was my home at the Gobabeb Training and Research Centre in the Namib-Naukluft National Park, Namibia. This summer was an intense experience of the landscape in the hyper-arid Namib Desert. As an intern, I had the opportunity to learn about the unique environment through the training of schools groups, conducting long-term research, and assisting visiting researchers. Two of the projects I assisted were an examination of the regeneration of the Ana Tree and the Camelthorn in ephemeral rivers and a study using radar to "look" inside a sand dune to determine its movement combined with luminescence sand dating to determine rates of change.

Sara Jablonski '07:

N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

Heller-Tone Environmental Student Research Fund

My summer internship was in the Division of Environmental Permits in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 9, in the City of Buffalo. This division is responsible for issuing permits for most land development projects in the Western New York area. My main task was to complete environmental assessment checklists, which the environmental analysts use to review projects for permitting. I used a GIS and a variety of paper maps to complete the sheets. I often attended meetings and occasionally went on field visits to see permitted sites and discuss projects.

I was able to learn a lot about state environmental

laws and their role in protecting the environment. I also saw how the DEC interacts with developers, politicians, and community members to come up with projects that balance the needs of both the people and the environment. It was a lesson on society just as much as one on the environment, and an experience I will take with me into my future endeavors.

Kate Majzoub '06:

La Hesperia Biological Reserve

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

This summer I was funded by CES to intern at the La Hesperia Biological Reserve in the cloud forest of northwestern Ecuador. The reserve is one of ten private reserves overseen by the Jatun Sacha Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in 1989 that aims to support private landowners protect land in Ecuador. La Hesperia just became a member of Jatun Sacha a year ago, providing me with the unique experience of witnessing the creation of a conservation reserve. Because La Hesperia's conservation approach focuses on developing economically sustainable alternatives to local practices that are harming the environment, I spent much of my time working with volunteers and staff to create a model of how farming can best co-exist with the cloud forest. My personal project was to determine the most effective organic insect deterrent to be used instead of chemical sprays. In the future, the directors of the reserve hope to use their model farm to educate local farmers in more environmentally friendly farming methods, as well as to stress the importance of preserving the cloud forest.

I am grateful to CES and my sponsors for all that I learned about cloud forests and conservation, as well for the opportunity to help La Hesperia in its efforts. Thank you! More information about La Hesperia can be found at www.la-hesperia.com.

Melanie Malone '05:

Lead Safe Department in Springfield, Ohio

Heller-Tone Environmental Student Research Fund

Working for the Lead Department in my hometown's city hall was the most rewarding environ-



A site in need of emergency permitting
(photo courtesy of Sara Jablonski '07)

mental work experience I have had thus far. Need for this program is especially strong in Springfield, as 91% of the housing and structures were built prior to 1978 (when lead paint was outlawed), and over 50% of the city's residents are low-income families living in such units. The Lead Department has performed numerous outreach efforts throughout the city in an effort to stop lead blood poisoning, especially in young children who are significantly affected by lead exposure. These effects include, but are not limited to, adverse health effects, developmental problems, and a reduction in IQ.

Part of my time was spent with the program health coordinator going out to children's centers, such as day-care centers, bible schools, etc. and educating children on ways to protect themselves from lead poisoning. I also spent time working with the program manager editing and adding information to the department's renewal grant application for funding. The majority of my time, however, was spent shadowing the lead safe inspector and the family health coordinator. I really enjoyed this part of my job, because I had the opportunity to see many dilapidated houses from the 1800's rehabilitated to become beautiful structures again with the added bonus of a family in need eventually inhabiting the home.

Overall, I enjoyed my summer work experience. Moreover, I found working in the lead safe program

to be particularly rewarding because it enabled many people in the city to have access to safe housing who could otherwise not afford it. Furthermore, children are being protected from the hazardous environmental issues surrounding them that could affect them for the rest of their lives. Every dollar counts in this program, and I was happy to work without expense to the program and contribute to the overwhelming need for safe housing in the city.

Sarah Meserve '05:

Birding and Ecotourism at the Sumaco Biological Reserve

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

Located in central Ecuador, the physically prominent feature of the Sumaco Biosphere is Volcan Sumaco, a dormant volcano that lies isolated from the eastern corridor of the Ecuadorian Andes and marks the western edge of the Amazon basin. It is here that scientific institutions such as DINAF report bird diversity peaking at 831 species within a one-degree quadrant, more species than in all of North America! It is also here where the residents of Pacto Sumaco live, 1850m up on the 3732m high slopes of Volcan Sumaco. And it is here in this village where I worked with my CES summer grant. Pacto Sumaco is a village composed of Quechua indigenous people that were relocated by the Ecuadorian government after a devastating 1989 earthquake decimated their homes. In an unfamiliar

ecosystem, the people turned to subsistence farming, clearing primary growth to plant naranjilla, a fruit best described as a fuzzy green orange. Enter the German-funded foundation, Proyecto Gran Sumaco, which had the idea of working with the community to help develop an ecotourism industry in order to eliminate the need to clear more forest. Through Proyecto Gran Sumaco and Charlie Vogt, an ornithologist also connected with the budding enterprise, I traveled to Pacto Sumaco to help further this ecotourism company and inform the community about the natural treasure they live in. First, I went on an 8-day expedition on Volcan Sumaco to research the relatively unstudied avian diversity there, recording 34 new species for the area and the second world-known song recording of the Greater Scythebill Hummingbird. After that, I returned to live in the village, hosting classes that taught the local guides about the more common and ostentatious avifauna and basic environmental stewardship principles. I also taught English classes that consisted of basic grammar and the words and phrases I thought would be useful in an ecotourism enterprise. Finally, I got involved with the children, taking a bottom-up approach to environmental education. The changes I left behind in Pacto Sumaco were small, but hopefully it was the start to a respect for the primary forest and the diversity it contains so that they will treasure and guard it against unsustainable development.



Carolyn Reuman '06:

Williamstown COOL (CO₂ Lowering) Committee and the Center for Ecological Technology

Donald B. Miller Fund

For 10 weeks last summer, I worked for the Williamstown COOL (CO₂ Lowering) Committee and the Center for Ecological Technology, thanks to a generous grant from the Center for Environmental Studies. Our committee name might seem a bit silly, but it explains our purpose--we're fighting global warming! The COOL Committee is a task force of Williamstown residents, local government workers, business owners, and College representatives that is spearheading the town effort as part of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign. Williamstown joined the CCP Campaign in 2001, when the Board

of Selectmen passed a resolution to become one of over 100 cities across the United States, large and small, that have committed to reducing their emissions of the greenhouse gases (especially carbon dioxide, CO₂) that are causing global warming. The campaign was started in 1993 by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), and now has over 550 participating cities and counties all over the world.

In 2002, Carlos Silva '04 helped the town reach the first milestone laid out by the campaign by completing an inventory of Williamstown's greenhouse gas emissions for the year 2000. To reach the second milestone, the committee tentatively set a goal of reducing these emissions by 10 percent of 2000 levels by 2010, and my summer was largely spent preparing an action plan for the achievement of that goal. I worked independently, reading the plans written by other towns and researching potential actions for all sectors of the community. The final plan will be kept in a looseleaf binder to allow it to evolve to suit the needs of the town and so that supplemental materials may be added. The plan describes each proposed action in detail, lists resources and potential partners with an implementation strategy, and also gives (where possible), the anticipated emissions reduction and financial savings from each measure. I gave a Log Lunch talk on January 7th, 2005 to present the Climate Change Action Plan to the town and the community, and on January 24th we presented to the Town Board of Selectmen and received their support for the Plan.

I am so glad to have had this opportunity to work with some wonderful people and see climate protection working at a grassroots level, and I believe that our plan will provide a very solid jumping-off point for all sectors of the community to become engaged in the campaign.

Alexis Saba '06:

MassPIRG

Heller-Tone Environmental Student Research Fund

This summer I moved out to Boston to work in the energy department of MASSPIRG, the Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. I had a great

opportunity to be a part of the organization's major summer campaign: passing the Energy Efficiency Standards Bill in the state legislature. The energy department, which focuses on renewable energy and global warming, worked constantly to push through the bill – meeting with legislators, sending out press releases and letters to the editors, and delivering petitions from members to representatives. Ultimately, I even was able to help lobby in the State House during the close of the session!

I spent most of my time leading the Massachusetts Climate Coalition (MCC), which is a group of over fifty organizations across the state that works on global warming issues. The Coalition's major effort is to ensure that Governor Romney and the state agencies follow up on their responsibilities outlined in the new Climate Protection Plan. As a part of that, MCC's summer goal was to urge the state to toughen regulations on power plant carbon dioxide emissions. Interning at MASSPIRG was an amazing opportunity to work at the crossroads of public and government. It was a challenging internship that required me to constantly hone my communication skills and become proficient in the newest environmental issues. These high expectations paired with the close mentoring of my boss helped me learn so much and accomplish more than I thought I ever could.

Pablita Santos '07:

Urban Research with Prof. Kai Lee

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

This summer I had the opportunity to do research for Kai Lee. He first approached me about the project because of my interest in environmental issues in urban areas. The interaction between people and nature and its services is my greatest interest in the field of environmental studies. At the start of the summer, we mostly discussed what direction we'd like to take in order to have a greater understanding of the development of cities and ecosystem services within those cities. We were interested in learning various aspects of urbanization, from sewage treatment methods to environmental diseases that could be affecting a developing city. Also, the interaction between a city and its hinterlands was important in

our research. We worked with three cities as prototypes, to get an idea of what kind of information exists, since there is not one single place to look for such information. Singapore, Tijuana, and Santiago de Chile are the cities we pursued this summer. Most of my time was spent reading books in the Sawyer collection or doing journal research. Towards the end of the summer, when I had a good grasp on what I was looking for, I was able to branch out and contact professors from other universities. I continued to work with Kai Lee last fall.

Allison Smith '07:

Local Agriculture and Williams College

Heller-Tone Environmental Student Research Fund

This summer, I worked with Dining Services and the CES to gather data about local farmers who might be interested in selling to the College. I used both the Berkshire Grown directory and visits to farmers' markets in 6 counties in New York, Vermont, and Massachusetts to get the names of possible vendors. I then interviewed these farmers via telephone to gather basic information about their growing habits, pesticide use, acreage of production, yield, and problems that they faced. Out of the 141 producers I spoke to, 59 were tentatively willing to sell some type of food to Williams College.

Dining Services has already shown its dedication to supporting local agriculture. In our dining halls, students enjoy high-quality, hormone- and antibiotic-free milk from High Lawn Farm of Lee, MA; eat large amounts of mesclun greens, tomatoes, cucumbers, bell peppers, and squash from Bill Stinson's Peace Valley Farm here in Williamstown; and can also be treated to range-fed, hormone-free beef from rare-breed cattle at Dodd certain nights of the week. The opportunity exists to expand our purchasing into everything from blueberries and corn to ravioli and artisanal cheese. I hope that the work I have done will encourage the College to continue on the path toward supporting ecologically sound ventures and small vendors, and that the food in our dining halls will benefit from having fresher and more nutritious local products available.

Mary Stranghoener '05:

Maria Mitchell Association

W. Conant Brewer '18 Fund

This summer I worked as a natural science intern for the Maria Mitchell Association, a non-profit organization on Nantucket Island. Maria Mitchell was the first female astronomer in America, who also discovered a comet, and subsequently taught science and the importance of conserving the environment. Maria Mitchell taught with a hands-on learning style, and provided equal education for male and female students. At the Association, twenty-one interns work in the Maria Mitchell Observatory, Natural Science Museum, Original 1818 Mitchell House, and the Aquarium, all aspiring to provide interactive ways of learning, while keeping conservation efforts as a foundation of every program. I was one of five interns that ran the Maria Mitchell Aquarium and educational marine ecology field trips throughout the entire summer. This aquarium is not like other aquariums in big cities where people can walk through on self-guided tours. At the Maria Mitchell Aquarium, people are given personal tours of the tanks by the natural science interns. My responsibilities included working at the front desk, the visitor touch tank, giving informational tours, cleaning filters, performing water changes, and collecting marine animals for the tanks. I also became involved with the Association's scallop research project in the Nantucket Harbor because of my scuba diving experience from a previous semes-



Mary Stranghoener '05 teaches a nature class on the beach

ter abroad in Australia. The other aquarium interns were good sources of information because most had previous aquarium experience. The small size and local feel of the Maria Mitchell Aquarium was what originally drew me to this program because of my excitement to teach and interact with people. This opportunity was very fulfilling because of the information I learned, applied, and saw results after giving tours and leading marine field trips. My experience at the Maria Mitchell Association was also productive because it helped me channel my interests in marine biology and, hopefully, a future career in this field.

Matt Wibbenmeyer '07:

Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide

John H. Ohly '33 Memorial Fund

Over the summer, I spent ten weeks in my hometown, Eugene, Oregon, with the staff of E-LAW U.S., the U.S. office of Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide. E-LAW U.S. operates an international network of over 400 grassroots public interest environmental lawyers. These lawyers, called Amigos in the E-LAW language, communicate with one another, giving and receiving strategic advice and en-

couragement. Amigos can also call upon the help of E-LAW U.S.'s two staff attorneys who add further legal support, and two staff scientists who review Environmental Impact Assessments and provide general scientific support. E-LAW also provides the opportunity for Amigos to visit Eugene to receive personal instruction in English language, law, science, or organizational development. While I was at E-LAW, I had the pleasure of meeting environmental lawyers from Swaziland, Bolivia, Germany, and Nigeria. My work at E-LAW was interesting and ran the gamut from simple tasks such as database entry, to more exciting tasks like doing internet research directly for an E-LAW Amigo. I was able to spend a significant amount of time with two visiting Amigos from Bolivia and hear firsthand about their difficult work. Not only was it inspiring to hear about their pioneering efforts in Bolivia, they renewed my interest in learning Spanish. Through the research I was assigned and the people I was exposed to, I learned a great deal about many places in the world that I previously had known little about. For me, working at E-LAW made the world smaller and showed me a realm of possibilities that I might never have encountered on my own.

Creative Endeavors

Nikhar Gaikwad '06:

Natural Gas in New Delhi: A City's Initiative to Operate a Transport Fleet on CNG Fuel

John H. Ohly Memorial Fund

India's capital, New Delhi, has consistently been ranked one of the ten most polluted cities in the world. In New Delhi, the load of ambient air with automobile pollutants is extremely high, at levels more than ten times India's legal limits. In 2001, following its tradition of environmental judicial activism, the Indian supreme court ruled that the city of New Delhi must convert its entire public transport fleet to run on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel. CNG is an environmentally-friendly fuel and does not burden atmospheric air like petrol and diesel.

Fund supported me to conduct a short "creative endeavor" field trip to New Delhi to explore how the



This summer, the John H. Ohly '33 Memorial

city's public transport fleet operates. I traveled various bus routes in the city; spoke to drivers, conductors, and passengers; and got a sense of the impact of CNG on New Delhi's environment. My overall impression was that across the spectrum, transport authorities and general commuters were satisfied with the range of services provided by CNG buses. More importantly, I discerned a distinct sense of pride among city-dwellers regarding the environmental impact of CNG: Pollution levels had dropped considerably, and New Delhi had become a model city internationally for its successful incorporation of environmental-friendly fuels.

Scott Moskowitz '05:

***Photo-Documentary on State Highway System
Bernard M. Schuyler Memorial Internship***

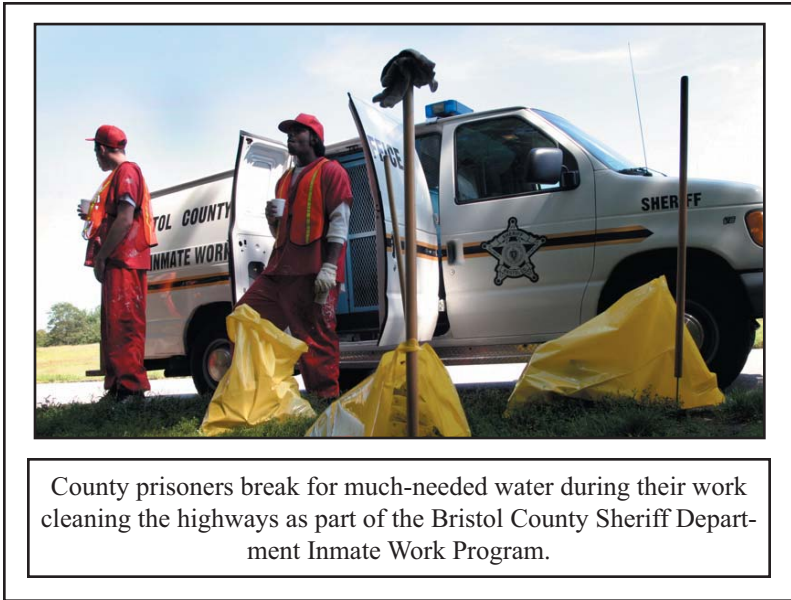
As a commuter, it is easy to disregard the highway as anything but a theoretical space, a route designed for, and occasionally functioning at, maximum transportation efficiency. For these reasons, actual physical intersection between highway and human

can be startling, even jarring when they do occur. I spent the summer documenting such interactions. There are legions of workers, often blending in with scenery, whose job it is to make regular physical contact with the highways, in order that commuters do not. Just as the physical presence of the highway

is easily disregarded, so too are the people whose work it is to ensure the highway's upkeep and efficiency.

I worked on several documentary projects joined by these themes. I documented the work of the Commerce Insurance Cares Vans drivers. These drivers patrol key highway routes in tow trucks, offering free assistance to distressed motorists,

during morning and afternoon rush hour. I drove to many highway rest stops photographing and interviewing workers. I photographed traffic patterns both from afar, and from a driver's perspective, via a camera mounted to a bracket on my dashboard. I photographed and interviewed distressed motorists during my own patrols. Finally I completed a narrative photo-documentary on the Inmate Work Crews that clean the highways in Bristol County, Massachusetts.



County prisoners break for much-needed water during their work cleaning the highways as part of the Bristol County Sheriff Department Inmate Work Program.

Fall in Hopkins Memorial Forest: Wind towers, Grasshopper labs, and White-tail deer

Another fall has come and gone in the Hopkins Forest and with it the usual flurry of activity that accompanies the cooling of the air, shortening of the days and falling of the leaves — Fall Festival, Ecology field trips, visiting school groups, saw-whet owl banding and deer hunting. In addition, this Autumn saw the installation of a 50-meter anemometer tower atop the Taconic Range on the western edge of the forest. This tower — enabled in large part by

the work of Nicolas Hiza, David Dethier and some funding from CES and Buildings and Grounds--will measure the wind speed at various heights for a two year period. Our intention is to use this information to model wind dynamics and assess the potential for wind power on the nearby mountains. So next time you are out walking in Williamstown set your sight on the high ridge to the west and see if you can locate a long needle-like structure rising from it.

During the planning of the wind tower installation, HMF hosted a symposium on regional wind power for a group of fellows from the MIT Laboratory for Energy and the Environment. The program was facilitated by David Dethier, Nancy Nylen (Center for Ecological Technology), and Nicholas Hiza. Fellows learned about the geo-physical, political and logistical issues to be considered in planning wind farms, and were led on a hike to see potential sites on the Taconic Range.

In another development, the Forest expanded by an additional 73 acres with the purchase of a section of the Wire Bridge Farm in August. This distinctive property, tucked between the Hoosic River and Northwest Hill, increases the variety of habitats and potential research and demonstration sites within HMF. In addition to a wooded hillside, the property includes a thermal spring, calcareous fen, open fields and a strip of river-front forest. Students and faculty have already begun collecting and analyzing water samples from the spring, and members of the Spring 2005 Environmental Planning class will be engaged in developing a land-use plan for this parcel.

As any resident of northwest Williamstown knows, late fall is hunting season in Massachusetts. This year hunters harvested eight white-tail deer during HMF's two week special permit hunt. This hunt has been held annually for the past 30 years; during this period the deer harvest has declined somewhat as the forest has matured and hunting pressure has eased. With the extirpation of the white-tail's natural predators (mountain lion and gray wolf) more than 100 years ago, humans have become the ma-

ajor player in regulating deer populations, primarily through hunting. A spring walk through the Hopkins Forest, with its relatively lush understory and healthy populations of ground and shrub nesting birds, attests to the ecological value of keeping the



Fall Forest Festival



Hauling the anemometer to the top of the Taconic Ridge

deer herd under control as we have tried to do over the years. Moreover, reasonable population levels tend to reduce competition among individuals and foster healthier populations; the good size of the deer taken from the Forest this year suggests that this is the case in the tri-state area.

As winter arrived, and senescence is complete, the forest assumes its role as a winter laboratory as well as playground for cross-country skiers. This January John McCarter offered a winter study course on animal tracking that made considerable use of the Forest. Students had the opportunity to follow the trails of many of the Forest's year-round residents, including white-footed mice, meadow voles, gray and red squirrels, rabbits, deer, fishers, bobcats, ruffed grouse, and coyotes—testimony to the fact that, in spite of appearances, life in the winter forest never ceases.

-Drew Jones, Hopkins Forest Manager

Class of 1960s Distinguished Visiting Scholars

Michael Dombeck on Public Land Conservation

On October 7, 2004, Michael Dombeck, former chief of the US Forest Service, co-author of *From Conquest to Conservation: Our Public Lands Legacy*, and current professor of Global Environmental Management and University of Wisconsin System Fellow of Global Conservation, gave a lecture entitled “Conservation Challenges of the Century.”

Dombeck began with the legacy of public land con-

servation in the United States: the era of the “tame and conquer” mentality that dominated until the 1840s, the period from the 1860s to the 1930s in which we believed in our ability to “improve on nature,” and the modern period from the 1970s



Students talk with visiting speaker Michael Dombeck over dinner



Michael Dombeck speaks on our public lands legacy

to today, where ecosystem management predominated until the administration of G.W. Bush. He emphasized the balance that needs to be made in public policy decisions between short-term and long-term benefits, and the importance of land conservation for long-term resource security and high quality of life.

John DeVillars on Environmental Politics

John P. DeVillars, former New England administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and former Secretary of Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, spoke to a roomful of students, faculty and local residents on December 2, 2004. Entitled “Where to From Here? Reflections on the Global Environmental Condition and the Presidential Election,” he held the audience’ rapt attention with his analysis of the future of national environmental policy given the reelection of George Bush. George Wislocki, founder of Berkshire Natural Resources Council and 20 year friend and mentor of John DeVillars, presented him

with a personal introduction.

DeVillars spoke about the condition of the national and international environment and about the current political realities. “The two are inextricably linked,” he said, “and I am sad to say I believe each is in a very troubled and sorry state.” Focusing on global climate change, DeVillars expounded on the undeniable evidence and then he shifted his analytical gaze to climate politics. While much of the world, especially Europe, has responded to climate change by reducing greenhouse gases or committing to reductions, the U.S. leaders have chosen to “blindly ignore the potential doom that may lie ahead...our

leaders, rather than taking steps to address the problem, are going 180 degrees in the opposite direction, acting in ways that will surely worsen it: isolating the world community by refusing to engage in meaningful international dialogue, let alone sign Kyoto.” The United State’s rejection of international climate agreements is not only an outrage but is “deeply unethical and immoral: an abdication of responsibility for future generations.” DeVillars spared no words in criticizing George Bush’s environmental policies, “he has been the worst president for our environment in the history of the country. His agenda is not conservative; it is radical, truly radical, and as Al Gore described it, “breathtakingly irresponsible in its willingness to ignore the future consequences of its actions.”

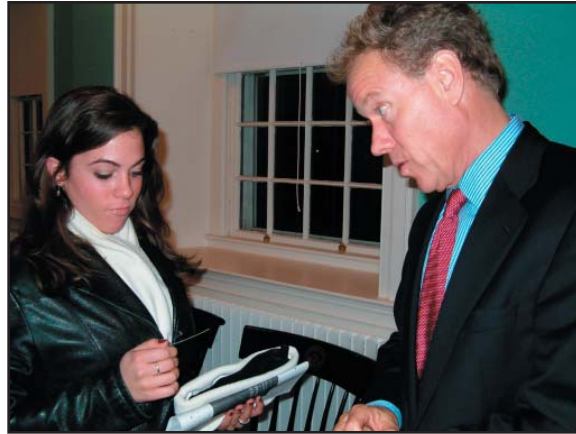


John DeVillars

DeVillars concluded with some thoughts as to how we might improve upon the situation. Mainly, we need to get the money out of environmental politics and we need to get business leaders, insurers and investors in. He remains hopeful that there will be a backlash against the corruption and rampant irresponsibility that pervades Washington. “Constituencies can be won over leader by leader, company by company, house of worship by house of worship.” And November’s election even had some silver lining, he said. “Virtually in every case when voters had a chance to vote on environmental matters they did the right thing. In Colorado, advancing renewable energy; in Montana, in the face of heavy industry lobbying, tightening pollution standards on the mining industry, and in Red States and Blue States alike voters appropriated \$2.5 billion dollars

– money out of their own pockets – to protect land and open space.”

He expressed hope in young environmentalists. “Not everyone cares about environmental issues. Very few think as much about them as you do. And fewer still have the knowledge and commitment and passion to do something about them. The health of our environment and the sustainability of our planet is in many ways the province of industrialists and politicians – those who pollute and those who regulate. It is the rare industrialist who looks beyond the next annual earnings statement. And it’s rarer still to find a politician who looks beyond the next election. But as environmentalists we recognize that



John DeVillars chatting with Alexis Saba '06

we have both an opportunity and an obligation--especially the young people here--to look beyond the shouting present to the whispering future.”

DeVillars closed with a tribute to Wangari Maathai, who won the Nobel Peace Prize for her environmental work in Africa, where she organized a women’s movement to plant trees to reforest and replenish the land. She began in 1977 in her backyard and since then has been clubbed by police, jailed, and denounced as a subversive. But she persevered, “like a tree--steady and unbowed,” to lead a movement that spans now the continent.

He ended with a call to action, “I hope that you will be part of this larger struggle for a healthier, more just world. And I hope and trust that as you do so you will go forth, as Maathai has, “steady and unbowed.”

-Sarah Gardner, Assistant Director of CES

Greensense Update

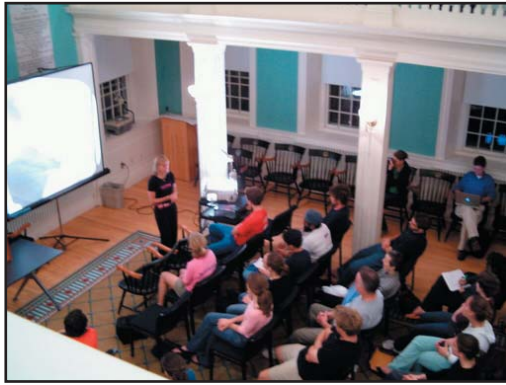
Greensense started the fall with a bang by teaming up with Students for Social Justice, the Center for Environmental Studies, the Women's and Gender Studies Department, the Chaplain's Office, and the Leadership Studies Department to bring Medea Benjamin to speak in Griffin 3 on September 16. Benjamin is the founding director of Global Exchange and a co-founder of

Code Pink, a women's peace group; she has also worked with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, and the Institute for Food and Development Policy, among other human rights organizations. She spoke on "Social Justice, Peace, and the Environment: What's at Stake in the 2004 Elections."

Building on the energy generated by Benjamin's talk, Greensense's crew of returnees and newcomers worked on several campus-based projects this fall. We visited entries to inform them about the environmentally responsible options available on campus. We worked with Dining Services and Buildings and Grounds to get the composting program going at co-ops and houses. We worked with the same two departments to begin using VendingMisers (devices that turn off vending machines during off-peak hours, saving significant energy) on campus; three have been ordered and will be installed soon.

Greensense also teamed up with Students for So-

cial Justice to organize a hunger banquet on November 19. Brian Rawson from Oxfam America spoke on world hunger issues and the policies that contribute to them. Greensense and SSJ also collaborated on an alternative gift fair, held on December 4 and 5, at which students and community members could purchase holiday gifts and make donations to various environmental and social justice causes. The fair was successful, raising about \$5000 for the various organizations involved. We chose to donate Greensense's portion of those funds to the Heifer Project. Greensense and SSJ are co-sponsored a Free University class entitled "Topics in Social and Environmental Justice," for which members of the two groups lead classes/discussions on issues they find interesting and important.



Medea Benjamin addresses a crowd on "Social Justice, Peace, and the Environment: What's at Stake in the 2004 Elections"

We are working on other events that bridge the town-gown divide. Greensense is collaborating with the Center for Ecological Technology in Pittsfield on the Reuse-A-Shoe drive; this is a Nike-sponsored project to turn old athletic shoes into running tracks in low-income areas. We have collected many garbage bags full of shoes in bins located at the gym and in each mailroom. We are also in the preliminary stages of planning our annual Earth Week festivities; this year's theme is food and agriculture. We are currently working with CES and Dining Services, and we plan to involve community organizations as well.

Stay tuned this spring for a great Earth Week and a series of events and opportunities for action related to climate change. As always, all are welcome at our meetings (Tuesdays at 9:00 pm in the CES living room). If you have questions, feel free to email Jocelyn at 05jbg@williams.edu.

-Jocelyn Gardner '05

Campus Environmental Advisory Committee Update

The arrival of snow this winter will highlight one of the fantastic environmental advances Williams has made with the help of its innovative Buildings & Ground staff. CEAC gave high marks to B&G's switch of material to lay on campus sidewalks and dorm entryways. Williams had been using salt, an unfriendly substance in the nearby rivers where it ends up. Thanks to B&G, Ice Ban is now applied and keeps our campus walkways clear of slippery ice. Ice Ban, a byproduct of the beer brewing process, causes no damage to the nearby water.

Other environmental firsts for Williams are also on their way. With construction beginning on the new Baxter and plans being finalized for the Sawyer-Stetson project, CEAC is happy to report that green building procedures will be followed when possible. So much so, that Williams may soon con-

struct its first building that could become LEED-certified.

In an effort to continue to make our campus more environmentally aware of human impacts, CEAC is joining up with friends in Greensense and Buildings & Grounds to organize an energy conservation contest with some new twists. This program looks to inform students how their everyday habits of leaving lights on affects the world environment and how painless it is to change those habits. CEAC looks to the spring to implement this program.

The installation of photovoltaic panels on Schow Science Library was also an exciting moment this fall; check it out on the web at <http://137.165.199.145/>

-Sarah Meserve '05

Alumni Notes

Johnny Sundstrom '66

Mr. Johnny Sundstrom, Chair of the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District and Coordinator of the Siuslaw Institute, Inc, accepted the prestigious International Thies Riverprize at a gala awards ceremony in Brisbane, Australia on September 1, 2004. The Siuslaw River Basin Restoration Project of Oregon, USA won the prize in a field of entrants from three continents. This is the sixth year in which the International Thies Riverprize has been presented. "The Siuslaw River Restoration Project represents world's best practice in river watershed repair, with components of the project of particular relevance to other river catchment systems globally," Professor Paul Greenfield, Chair of the International Judging Panel said. "The Siuslaw River Basin Restoration Project has restored the hydrology of local creeks and improved water quality, facilitating the repopulation of fish species in the basin, including the once near-extinct Coho Salmon. "This award recognizes the extensive efforts undertaken by government agencies, scientific panels, landholders and community members in helping to improve what was

one of the world's most productive aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems at the turn of the century", he said. The Siuslaw River Restoration Project has been undertaken in consideration and with cooperation of the confederated tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw 'First Nations.'

Chuck Hewett '72

I'm happily serving (since March 1) as the Chief Operating Officer of The Jackson Laboratory, the world's largest mammalian genetics research institute. In addition to our research program, we provide mice for biomedical research to as many as 12,000 different research institutes around the world. To top it all off, my office looks out on Acadia National Park which is less than 100 yards from my window! Daughter Elizabeth is class of 06 at Williams heavily involved in the pre-med program. Best to all my friends at the Environmental Studies Center.

Harry Kangis '72

I continue my active work for both the Ohio Nature

Conservancy, where I am Vice-Chair of the board, and for the Conservancy's worldwide office where I provide marketing and strategy advice. My wife, Julia, and I continue our quest to hike in and photograph all 58 of the U.S. scenic national parks.

Chris Tower '75

News of me is that I've recently made some major changes in my life. November a year ago, after a little over 25 years of life as a Buddhist monk in the Serene Reflection (Soto Zen) tradition, I decided to return to lay life. I am most grateful for the years I spent as a monk, for the teaching I received, and to the community of dedicated men and women I lived with for so long. I continue to keep up my practice of meditation, in lay life. I spent 22 years living in the training monastery, Shasta Abbey, in Mount Shasta California. At the time I was there, it was a community of from thirty to forty five or so men and women. Shasta Abbey was founded by my master, Rev. Master Jiyu-Kennett who was the Abbess and also the founder of the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives. The Order now has affiliated meditation groups, priories and monasteries both in this country and in Europe. Rev. Kennett passed away in 1996 and I left Shasta Abbey in 1999. For three years I traveled as a monk in the world doing various things from running a priory in Portland Oregon for a year, to getting two very small meditation groups going on the east coast in New York City and in Riverhead, Long Island. I am still traveling, meeting with my groups once a month, and looking for what might be good to do next and possibly a place to settle down. As far as marriage and family goes, although the monastic community was about half men and half women, my order was celibate, so I have no family at the present time. If anyone would like more information about Shasta Abbey and the other monasteries in our order, the practice that I follow, or my teacher Rev. Master Jiyu-Kennett, you can find it at www.obcon.org which is the website of the Order of Buddhist Contemplatives.

Cecilia Danks '83

After working at a community forestry non-profit organization in Northern California and completing my PhD from UC-Berkeley, I moved back to

New England in 2002. I am an assistant professor in Environmental Studies and the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Vermont in Burlington. In 2003, I gave birth to my only child, Sarah Marie, who has Down syndrome but is doing well. This past fall I was back to working full time teaching courses in environmental studies and forestry and conducting research projects on institutional issues of sustaining healthy communities and forests.

Susan Gentile Ward '80

I'm an associate core faculty member in the Department of Environmental Studies at Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, NH. I teach in two programs within the department, environmental education and teacher certification. Also, as a part of my work at ANE, I'm the managing director of the Center for Environmental Education Online, a web site which is an environmental education resource for K-12 educators. I continue to live in Northfield, MA with my 13- and 16-year-old sons.

Barbara Allyn Behling '92

Hope everything is well with everyone at CES and Williams...as I simply have fallen off the face of the earth...or rather more like fallen into the NRV (New River Valley) of Roanoke, VA. I've been up to my eyeballs in work, both non-profit and the private sector, and in least likely of places: medicine. I started out interning/consulting non-profit and ended up more often than not a liaison between physicians, Depts. of Health and those being affected by the local contamination. Several years later I found myself volunteering the University of Michigan Hospital whilst I worked, and BAM!...decided that medicine was for me. After several more years in the OR, the floor and then clinical research for the UM Health System, I found myself head-hunted to Roanoke, VA by Aventis-Behring Pharma in some development track program for product development. It's been two years now. But I didn't stay with them after all because I preferred to work the floor and the clinic. I suppose I'm really just a researcher/hospitalist at heart (and you can blame my ex-fiance for introducing me to the medical field) as I simply cannot work less than 65-80 hours a week and seem

lost if I don't spend my 'quality time' with patients. The plan at hand is now to "finish" my education with medical school and live a career as something between community health patient advocate and researcher. My MCAT is April 2005, and I've already begun the nightmares of broken #2 pencils and blanking out on the standardized exam. If anyone is up for jazz, hiking, camping or reintroducing me to rock-climbing, I'm available in the Roanoke area.

Elizabeth Bluhm '95

I have recently moved to the Radiation Epidemiology Branch of the National Cancer Institute, investigating the role of chemicals (including hair dye) and radiation in cancer etiology.

Dan Bolnick '96

I've just moved, to Austin TX (1006 Lund St. Austin TX 78704), to start a position as an assistant professor of Integrative Biology. It's a big shift, from doing my own science, to having to supervise others doing the real work for me. Also trying to adjust to how warm the winters are here (it's 70 degrees today). I think I'll have to flee northwards during my summers here.

Saumitra Jha '99

I am currently trying to finish up a Ph.D. in economics at Stanford. I am hoping that this could be the year that it all comes together!

Andrew Schulte '03

I wanted to say a quick hello to all the CESers and check in after basically dropping off the face of the earth for a while. After taking some time to regroup and figure out plans following graduation, I now find myself at the London School of Economics working on a Masters in Environmental Policy, Planning, and Regulation. Aside from the fact that there's not much face-to-face time with profs (something that takes a bit of getting used to following Williams and, especially, CES), the program is great and I'm enjoying myself immensely in London. Don't know yet where I'll be for '05-'06, but I certainly wouldn't mind staying on in the UK for another year. I'd love to hear from any of you and learn what you're up to these days. My e-mail is

aschulte@wso.williams.edu or a.r.schulte@lse.ac.uk. If you find yourself in or around London, drop me a line and we can try to meet up.

Nina Trautmann '03

I'm teaching Geography and studying Applied Geoinformatics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, through which I survived a remote sensing lab on eigenvectors conducted jointly in English, Cantonese, and Mandarin. I also recently went snorkeling in a HK marine protected area and managed to find Nemo (three of them, actually). Happy New Year!

Elaine Denny, '04

The new year finds me in Chiapas, Mexico, where I am improving my Spanish and studying biodiversity issues in the indigenous highland villages as part of my Watson Fellowship. Ron Nigh, visiting prof from 2003 sends his greetings – I celebrated a wonderfully homey New Years at his new adobe house overlooking the beautiful mountain city of San Cristobal de las Casas. Also of interest, perhaps, is that I spent Aug-Nov of last year in India studying organic farming and many other aspects of sustainable development in the region. I hope you and all the rest of the folks at CES are doing well. Say hi to everyone for me!

Keep in touch with CES alumni through the Alumni Notes: send us updates for the next issue through the CES website at www.williams.edu/ces/resources/alumni.htm

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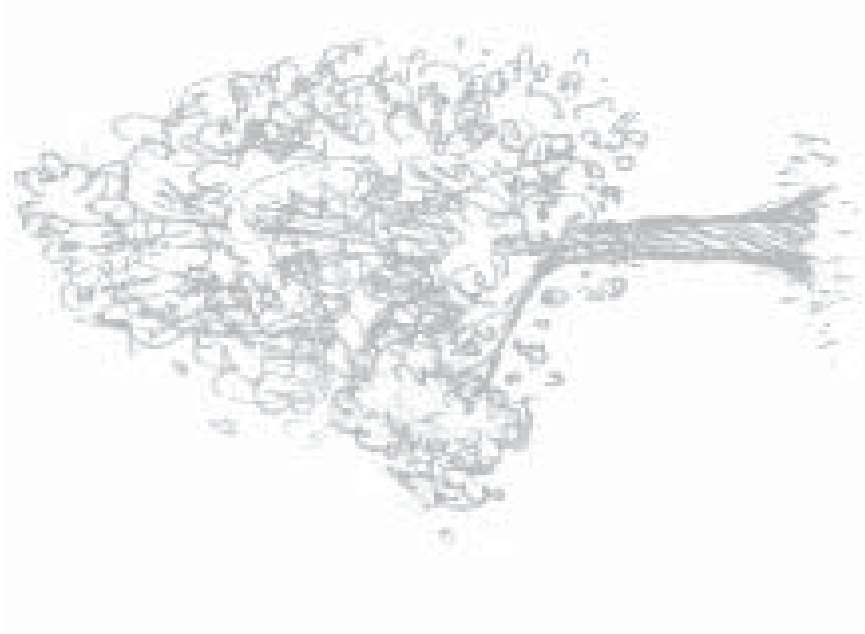
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The Williams program in environmental studies allows students to focus some of their elective courses in an integrated, interdisciplinary study of the environment—that is, the natural world, both in itself and as it has been modified by human activity.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



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