C E S  N O T E S  
S U M M E R  2 0 1 3

Dairy Film intern Alison Graebner '14 with heifers.

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Letter from the Director

Summer is always a time of transitions at CES, and never more so than now. First and foremost, I am delighted to welcome the Center’s new Director, Professor Ralph Bradburd. Many of our alumni know Ralph as a dedicated and demanding economics professor; in recent years he has also been an invaluable member of the Center for Environmental Studies, teaching a popular tutorial Water as a Scarce Resource and serving on the Advisory Board that steered the program through the complex processes of expanding our curriculum and faculty. Having worked closely with Ralph over the last four years, I look forward to seeing the new developments his leadership will bring.

We also welcome two visitors to our teaching faculty. Shaila Seshia Galvin will be joining us as a postdoctoral fellow funded by a special grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Shaila has recently received a joint PhD from Yale’s Department of Anthropology and Forestry School, and will be teaching courses addressing food systems and sustainable agriculture through the social sciences. Her research explores the human side of organic agriculture in India’s Uttarakhand province. We’ll be joined also by Brian McCammack, a 2012 graduate of Harvard’s History & Literature program. Brian’s research examines the environmental history of the African-American Great Migration to Chicago. In addition to ENVI 101 Nature & Society, he’ll also be teaching courses in environmental literature and African-American environmental culture.

As for the departures, Professor Nick Howe, our in-house specialist in the environmental humanities, leaves us for the year to join an exciting interdisciplinary seminar at Harvard’s Charles Warren Center. We’ll welcome him back in September 2014, just as our policy expert Professor Pia Kohler embarks on a one-year leave.

Having led the Zilkha Center since its inception five years ago, Stephanie Boyd has stepped down as Director. Stephanie has done an exceptional job in shaping the Zilkha Center’s mission and pushing the College to establish more aggressive goals for reducing our use of energy and other resources on campus. For many of us the most impressive part of her legacy will be the new Environmental Center, as the former Kellogg House will soon be known. Working with building committee chair David Dethier and our architectural team at Black River Design, Stephanie has challenged us to fundamentally rethink the way we construct and occupy buildings. As a result, our goal is to turn that beloved old house into a state-of-the-art structure that is net-zero for energy and water use.

As for me, I’ll have a sabbatical year to dedicate to my long-standing
research on Paraguay, and then return to my regular duties in the Department of Romance Languages. It has been an exciting four years for me and for CES, and I am very grateful for the vision and commitment of our students, faculty, staff and alumni.

With best wishes,
Jennifer French
Associate Professor Spanish, and
Director, CES, July 2009 - June 2013

Postscript from Incoming Director

It is hard to describe in this brief space even a small portion of Jennifer’s accomplishments as Chair of CES. Just to mention some of the more notable achievements, Jennifer’s tenure as Director saw Environmental Studies’ hiring of two full-time faculty members (Nick Howe and Pia Kohler), this in a period of severe fiscal austerity at the college level no less, also an extraordinary transformation of Environmental Studies from a program that only offered an academic concentration to one that offers, in addition to the concentration, majors in environmental science and policy, and last but certainly not least, the conceiving and planning of the construction of a new, centrally located, physical space to house CES and the Zilkha Center, a building that incorporates cutting edge technologies to conserve both water and energy, designed to be so efficient as to meet the strict requirements of the Living Building Challenge. All this is a testament to Jennifer’s unflagging energy, political adroitness, patience, and dedication.

As the incoming director, I’m inheriting a CES that is stronger and more dynamic than it has ever been, and I’m tremendously excited about the possibilities for student engagement and learning made possible by our new resources. Challenges remain of course, including the actual construction of our new building, expanding and improving the course offerings of our majors, building upon our already-strong ties with the departments whose courses are the foundation of our majors, and integrating even more departments and programs into our Environmental Studies majors and activities. Jennifer has left me a great team to work with and deep bonds with the rest of the college community upon which to build, and although I’m well aware that I am following in some very big footsteps, I’m confident that the CES is poised for even greater achievements.

Ralph Bradburd
Professor of Economics, and
Director, CES
Students

Williams Sustainable Growers

By Sara Clark ’15

The Sustainable Growers had another wonderful year of growth in 2012-2013. Throughout the summer and school year, we worked in Parsons Garden and the Presidential Garden to produce a delicious mix of crops including lettuces, carrots, kale, spinach, tomatoes, peppers, herbs, corn, peas, beans, garlic, and even watermelon! Just as in previous years, the food we harvested was eaten in the dining halls, donated to the WRAPS program, or brought home to the kitchens of our volunteers. In addition, we used the gardens not only as a place of production but also as a center for learning to provide students with hands-on experience in sustainable agriculture.
To broaden our membership, we strove to involve more students in garden activities by partnering with groups such as the Queer Student Union and hosting joint work parties. During the winter, we continued our growing season momentum by organizing a variety of food-related events and starting seedlings on a grow cart. Finally, we celebrated the opening of our spring 2013 season with a joyous ceremony, including a performance by the Mucho Macho Moocow Marching Band, a serenade by student musicians, and an inspiring speech recounting our history. Altogether, we had a great year in the gardens, and we look forward to a productive summer and fall!

Purple Bike Coalition

By Erich Trieschman ‘13

Semester: Spring 2013

Hours: Open 2-4 hours a week for free service to the college and community.

The Purple Bike Coalition is a student-run bike repair shop located on the first floor of Mark Hopkins in Greylock Quad. Funding provided by the CES and Zilkha Center covers components, tools and 8 work hours per week. Services are available to all Williams students, faculty and staff.

This year, in preparation for a campus-wide free bike share program, our shop has tripled in square footage, our budget has doubled and our workforce has tripled. The main services of the shop now include repairing students’ bikes and maintaining the college’s fleet of rentable bikes. While repairing bikes, we make an effort to educate those who are curious and interested. We were also recently involved with the installation of a bike...
Purple Bike continued...

repair stand outside of the Paresky Center.

We believe the PBC plays a large role in bike use, maintenance, safety and culture on campus.

Thursday Night Grassroots 2012-2013

By Co-Presidents Tara Miller ‘15 and Zoe Grueskin ‘14

In November, TNG kicked off its Divest Coal campaign at the Log with help from the always wonderful alumni band Darlingside, a video message from Bill McKibben, and over 200 students. The Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility is currently considering the campaign’s proposal to prevent direct investment in coal companies. TNG also helped Driscoll dining hall go paperless with reusable mugs! Dining Services hopes to expand the program this fall. A bus full of Williams and MCLA students returned to DC in February for the Forward on Climate rally where they joined 40,000 to demand action on climate change and say no to the Keystone pipeline once and for all. In April, over 100 students participated in 22 fun and educational sustainability
Divest Coal Campaign Kickoff in November 2012

events for No Impact Week. Keep an eye out this fall for a very special TNG-created fundraising calendar to fight mountaintop removal!

To get involved with the divestment campaign, email swl1@williams.edu. For more info about the calendar, email tkm2@williams.edu.

CES Supported Student Internships 2012

Celeste Berg ’13
I spent the summer working as a Research Fellow at the Sustainable Endowments Institute (SEI), an environmental research and advocacy non-profit located in Cambridge, MA. SEI works primarily in the higher education sector; the organization promotes the initiation and enlargement of green revolving funds on college campuses. Green revolving funds are innovative financing mechanisms that provide upfront capital for sustainability projects that generate ongoing cost-savings, which are then repaid into the fund so that it can finance further projects. Under the umbrella of SEI’s newest initiative, the Billion Dollar Green Challenge, I conducted research, mainly by phone interview, into how colleges and universities are incorporating food and dining projects into the green revolving fund model. I wrote a White Paper that is available on the Billion Dollar Green Challenge website, www.greenbillion.org.
Lucy Bergwall '15
I worked with the national organization, Summer of Solutions, in its chapter located in the Pioneer Valley of Massachusetts. Summer of Solutions is a youth-run program that gives participants the opportunity to create and implement projects that address environmental and social challenges in the specified community. I participated in the local food economy by practicing organic farming and selling pesto made from our own garlic scapes, along with visiting small local farms and collaborating with a new organization dedicated to increasing demand for and access to fresh local food. I also helped to coordinate a free summer workshop series open to all community members, with offerings such as kids’ gardening, computer skills and bike maintenance. I came away from the summer with an increased understanding of the challenges that poor communities face in responding to environmental changes and a desire to work on projects in the local, sustainable food movement in the future.

Talia Calnek-Sugin '15
I interned at New York Sun Works, a non-profit organization that builds and maintains hydroponic greenhouses and growing classrooms in New York City public elementary and middle schools. These greenhouses, which students work on, provide food for the cafeterias and teach kids where their food comes from. I worked most frequently in the greenhouse at the Manhattan School for Children, New York Sun Works’ flagship project, where I maintained the hydroponic (water-based) and aquaponic (combination fish and plant cultivation) systems. This was one part chemistry class and one part gardening; I did everything from regulating pH and electrical conductivity levels to pruning, seeding, and harvesting. In addition, I helped to build two new greenhouse-esque growing classrooms, one on the Upper West Side of Manhattan and one in Brooklyn, which will open for students to use beginning this September. This involved putting together the growing apparatuses, planting the first rounds of seedlings, initializing the chemical content of the water reservoirs, and teaching the teachers at the schools how to operate their new greenhouses. It was fun and exciting to work at such an innovative new organization, and I can’t wait
to see how New York Sun Works continues to grow and to educate children about food that is healthy for them and for the world around them.

Vera Cecelski ’13
I spent the summer working with the National Ocean Service at the NOAA Laboratory in Beaufort, NC. I did photo and video documentation for field researchers, was an assistant on fieldwork trips, and did science writing and editing. I worked primarily with biologists studying harmful algal blooms, marsh grass restoration, and invasive lionfish. Thanks to connections at the lab, I was also able to obtain my SCUBA dive certification and work with local marine mammal researchers.

Lucie Coleman ’14
I spent the summer interning at the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies (BALLE) in Bellingham, Washington. BALLE’s mission is simple: it seeks to create a society of vibrant local communities that support the basic needs of their people and function in harmony with the environment. The small staff labels themselves “localists” and proponents of a new economy based on real human connections and local innovation. They envision a world where ideas and best-practices are freely shared rather than jealously guarded, and where networks of sustainable, secure, local economies have democratized prosperity. While much of the work I did was administrative, what I take away most acutely from my experience this summer is inspiration. I know that the dynamism and energy of the staff, and their dedication to thinking and rethinking - as well as remaining focused on - an ultimate goal will stay with me and inform my work for the rest of my life. What’s more, I was constantly inspired by positive examples of success I found myself surrounded by this summer. Bellingham itself is a model for the new economy movement – almost all of the storefronts in its two downtown areas proudly display signs declaring them independent businesses. I found continuous encouragement in the articles I researched for the BALLE newsroom celebrating innovative entrepreneurs and creative solutions to social and environmental problems. I was even excited by the hundreds of names I entered into the online
database because they represented people supporting our cause. My supervisor told me at the beginning of my internship that BALLE was a “positive” organization: we aren’t here to tell people what’s broken, but rather how to fix it -- so much of my experience with environmentalism thus far has been about reinforcing the belief that our society is broken. After this summer I can truly say I believe in a way to fix it.

Wade Davis ’13
The Renewable Energy Initiative (TREI) is a young organization joining the movement to change the way electricity is generated in the United States. My internship with TREI allowed me to experience the many challenges and organizational requirements of a startup nonprofit, such as securing funding, maintaining an active board of directors, and setting up a membership structure. TREI’s mission over the next several years is the addition of a renewable energy fund to the 401(k) plans of 50 million Americans, which could generate billions of dollars of investment in the renewable energy sector. Many companies are not aware of these 401(k) options, but TREI helps these companies recognize the addition of a renewable energy fund as a smart investment and a good complement to their corporate sustainability programs. This summer, TREI was also focusing on its Drive Sunshine campaign to educate homeowners about the affordability of residential solar and electric vehicles. At Drive Sunshine events, TREI brought along a team of staff and volunteers with specialized knowledge of residential solar, electric vehicles, and renewable energy investing. Over the course of my internship, I met a range of representatives from the renewable energy sector and the world of corporate sustainability. These individuals provided great information and perspective on the exciting projects happening right now in Colorado and around the country. I am eager to see how TREI facilitates these important changes as it expands its role in the coming months.
Sara Finkle '14
I spent the summer interning with the Northland Seed Growers in Northland, New Zealand. NSG is a small and young group, but they are doing fairly unprecedented work in the seed world. While NSG is built around many of the same principles that guide the seed saving movement in the US and abroad (such as food security and maintaining valuable seed lines developed by past generations) the group also differs in certain ways. Instead of striving to save as many (heritage) seeds as possible, the seed growers work to find the best seeds in nutrition, yield, and resilience for their region and grow those well. This means a certain element of breeding, beyond simply growing out the seed line. Meanwhile, the group was experimenting with new structures for managing the responsibilities of the seed bank and with new elements of technology.

In a developing group, this left a lot of work for me. I was involved in almost every area of the group. This ranged from processing seeds to counting seeds to databasing them. It meant helping out in the garden whenever it was needed (and the weather acquiesced!). I got involved on the social dynamic by helping to facilitate group meetings. And finally, I worked to develop the website which will allow all the seed growers to share information about what they are growing, look to each other for help, archive information, and collate data, all without the expense and carbon emissions of driving long distances across the countryside.

While I am now more aware of the challenges and nuances of seed growing -- as well as the long term nature of the work-- I am also more excited than ever to develop my knowledge base and share some of the new models that I encountered with my community here in Massachusetts.

Julieanne Fontana '14
My internship with the Hoosic River Watershed Association based in Williamstown, MA focused on performing Shoreline Surveys of the Hoosic River. These surveys characterize the main qualities of each stretch of river through descriptions of the streambed, riparian habitat, wildlife observed, as well as assessing human influence through nearby land use and outflow pipes into the river. The information collected will be used in the future to target problem areas and to compare to future data. For example, an outflow pipe with a sewer gas odor and separating boom was flagged as an area in need of priority attention. I collected information with a team of two other interns by canoeing the river when possible and walking along the banks when canoe access was not possible, such as near the flood chutes in North Adams. At the end of my project, I compiled a Summary of Shoreline Surveys that provides a detailed description of each section and highlights priority action. As a secondary project, I also helped conduct culvert surveys in Berkshire County. This data is used to size
culverts to the stream width and depth and allow the flow of water to support fish, mammals, and other organisms. This internship allowed me to learn more about river watersheds and local organization action plans while taking action to protect resources that affect the Williams community.

Zoe Grueskin '14
I spent 10 weeks as an intern at the Sierra Club in Washington, D.C. My internship fell between two departments, organizing and federal policy, and I had separate supervisors for each, though their work often overlapped. I had a few constants in my weekly schedule, including pulling together reports from the policy team and the field organizers, taking notes on calls, and updating a website, but one of my favorite things about my internship was that there was no normal week. There were hearings, meetings, and events happening around the city, and I was always invited to attend. I even spent a week in the woods for a youth-led grassroots organizing training. I learned so much this summer about the way federal environmental policy is developed and moves through the system and about organizing for social change and environmental protection. It was an incredible experience, and I am extremely grateful for the support of the CES and the alumni who made it possible.
Robin Hackett ’13
I worked as a National Forests Policy intern with The Wilderness Society in Washington D.C. Despite the decidedly anti-environmental stance of the 112th Congress, the experience was interesting, educational, and rewarding. As a National Forests Policy intern with TWS I divided my time between myriad short-term assignments and long-term, research-based efforts. The short-term projects entailed tasks such as developing fact sheets for circulation among congressional staff, drafting sign-on letters for circulation within the conservation community, and writing policy memos. My long-term project for the summer entailed quantifying the unroaded acreage in National Forests that was not recognized by the Forest Service when the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule was issued. This is the first such national inventory of unroaded acreage that has been conducted since 2001.

Paul de Konkoly Thege ’14
I worked as a science and networking intern for the White Roof Project, a nonprofit organization centered in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. They organize volunteer events and advocate for painting roofs white with solar-reflective white coating. By doing this, residents of the often old and inefficiently powered tenement buildings in the Lower East Side can save up to 40% on summer energy costs while helping to improve air quality and reduce outdoor air temperature in one of the 4 highest-consumption neighborhoods in Manhattan. My first responsibility working for the White Roof Project was to research surface temperature monitors and determine which products the organization should buy within financially feasible bounds. Ostensibly, I was then to install the monitors on white and black tar roofs to take comparative surface temperature measurements—however, the White Roof Project board didn’t acquire the funding for the monitors until mid-August when the painting season was already winding down. I plan on helping implement this project next summer. Throughout the summer I also operated as networking intern, communicating with academics at Columbia and UCSD and discussing potential partnerships in studying the effect of white roofing on ambient air temperature in the Lower East Side next summer. Some physical outreach work was involved as well: I visited businesses and nonprofits throughout the city and described to them the benefits of white roofing. And of course, I helped to paint 4 roofs white along the way! I hope to continue as much work as I can for the organization throughout the school year.
Andrea Lindsay '13
Researching food justice in Los Angeles last summer was an incredible way to spend ten weeks--this work was so rewarding that I extended the project into my senior thesis. My research involved three main components: volunteering with organizations engaged in food justice work; interviewing staff, volunteers, and community members involved with these organizations; and reading secondary literature and primary documents produced by organizations in LA. I spent my first two weeks meeting with different people working on food justice and attending various events and volunteer opportunities in an effort to find organizations that could host me as a volunteer and also provide opportunities for interviews. Since then, I have been working with three different organizations in different parts of LA, experiencing and observing how they address the need for healthy, affordable, quality food in low-income communities and communities of color. Through my participant observation and interviews, I have begun to identify the various ways that the concept of food justice resonates with diverse individuals and communities, and to explore how growing food and gaining control over food access can build empowerment and independence. I look forward to pursuing these themes further through my thesis research--and possibly my career!

Charles Lorenz '13
I conducted a comparative study of four bicycle share programs: Boston’s Hubway, Denver’s B-Cycle, New York City’s Citibikes, and Washington, D.C.’s Capital Bikeshare. Bicycle sharing programs are a cheap, flexible, and fun alternative to traditional forms of public transportation in today’s modern urban metropolises. Coast to coast, the United States now offers many public bicycle sharing programs - and more are starting each year. The most popular and well-known programs, which include Boston’s Hubway, Denver’s B-Cycle, and Washington, D.C.’s Capital Bikeshare, are changing the way people think about public transit. Furthermore, these programs promote the creation of sustainable cities by offering a healthier, less carbon-intense, and enjoyable transit experience. These programs also support the local economies, by lowering indirect costs associated with pollution and fostering a revolution in bicycle ownership and use. While my comparative study covered only a short time period, the few surveys I collected yield very interesting ideas (even though the statistics are unreliable due to small sample sizes). The photo documentation and my discussion of the best practices serve to indicate areas where improvements have been made and the direction in which these programs are headed.

Julio Cesar Luquin '13
Working with the Association des Jardiniers de Tournefeuille and Ferme Borde-Bio in France was a great experience. I was able to work with two different organizations and see how both these organizations use their projects and activities to help educate people about the importance of protecting the environment. It was interesting to see how these organizations differ in their techniques but still have a common goal. In the Association des Jardiniers de Tournefeuille I was able to work with children and people of different cultures. In the Ferme Borde-Bio I was given the chance to work in a farm and see the many farming techniques that are practiced in Toulouse. Meeting different people and working with these organizations helped further my understanding of the techniques used to educate people about the environment.
Julia Matejcek  
I left my first year at Williams with the understanding that my passion lies at the intersection of biology, environmental science, and environmental policy. The combination of these three disciplines creates a framework that allows me to approach the study of nature in a holistic way: an understanding of biology in the context of an environment or habitat, along with a grasp of how this science should back policies, gives me a full and nuanced picture to work with.

This framework is especially useful when applied to marine systems because of their complex ecology and unclear management needs. For the summer I wanted to pursue an experience that would allow me to continue studying in an interdisciplinary way, and to apply this way of learning to the field of marine biology. I applied for an internship in fieldwork with the Marine Research Intern Program of the University of Victoria and, with the help of generous funding from the Center for Environmental Studies, I spent August at the Whale Research Lab, a field station on the beautifully rugged coast of British Columbia. As one of several interns I had the chance to help graduate students collect data for their theses, spend a month in some of the most wild wilderness, and to work in close proximity with our research subject, the Pacific Gray Whale.

The Whale Research Lab is based in the university’s Department of Geography, so their research is quite interdisciplinary with graduate students studying everything from the gray whale’s prey to their interactions with whale watching vessels. All of the research has huge implications for gray whale management, and I left the internship with an appreciation for the importance of fieldwork as well as a new desire to explore its political applications. I feel very fortunate to have had this chance, and I look forward to continuing my exploration of marine biology, keeping in mind all that I have learned.

Samantha Murray ’14  
It takes a certain kind of person to be a farmer. After traveling throughout North Berkshire County with fellow Williams student David Nolan and Sarah Gardner of CES, that much has been overwhelmingly clear “We must be crazy to do it,” one older farmer laughed. “It won’t make you any money. You have to love it.” When we told him that was the response we usually got he laughed even more “Of course everyone you talk to says that. We’ve all got the same disease.”

Although Berkshire farmers share a love of land and animals, every farm we visit has a unique style, due in large part to the often eccentric personalities of the people who work there. When we get out of whatever vehicle we’ve managed to borrow for the day, sometimes after putting the poor machine through miles of bumpy, washed out roads to get there, we always know we’re in for an adventure. As a beach-going native of Southern California I had never been to an operating farm before starting this project. Who could forget watching fifty sheep come barreling down the hill at us after hearing their owner’s whistle? Or the farmer who was convinced he might have to kill a fox midway through an interview because it kept killing his chickens? Or the time we were terrified we’d have to return a dented mini-van to College Cars, after becoming the victims of an aggressive, head-butting goat?

Farmers are resilient. They’ve made it through and continue to face tough times. They usually started out the interviews wary and a little brusque, but once we convince them that we’re interested in preserving the future of farming in the Berkshires they
end up having a lot to say. We often get the sense that they’ve been frustrated about the farming system for years, but no one’s ever taken the time to listen to their complaints and suggestions. Though they are such an integral part of the local economy and way of life in the Berkshires, farmers are grossly undervalued. We hope this project does something to change that. We hope we can find a way to strengthen local agriculture and preserve the beauty of our county. But there’s a lot to be done. Luckily for us, in the meantime it seems like farmers are willing to continue to practice the patience that has allowed them to endure throughout the years. “I’ll keep doing it,” one bashful Williamstown farmer told us while looking down at his hands. “I just can’t seem to let it alone.”

Katherine Newcomer ’14
I spent my birthday this year holding a tiny loggerhead turtle hatchling, and I’m pretty sure it even beat out the year I was in Italy as the best birthday ever. I worked at Mote Marine Laboratory in the Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program. In the program we walked the beaches looking for turtle nests and protecting each 100 or so eggs from the threats on the beach. I would respond to depredations and cleared out eggs that were eaten or destroyed by raccoons. I relocated eggs during tropical storm Debby in waist high water. I saw a daytime nester and helped tag her for our turtle-tracking program. I helped hatchlings get to the water and dug up nests after a hatch just to make sure there were no stragglers. We collect data on nest depth, distance from the ocean, specific gps coordinates, and responded to so many turtle activities that we had a record year and more than 2000 nests were laid near Sarasota, Florida. That number includes four nests from a single green turtle, and if you’ve never seen a green turtle nest you won’t know why finding the eggs on one of them is my proudest achievement. I learned about the responsibilities of taking care of a federally protected animal, talking to the public on the beach while still collecting your data methodologically, and keeping straight thousands of nests over miles of beach in the office. It was a great summer, and I gained a lot more than a good tan.

David Nolan ’13
Every time we arrived at a farm, we met a different scene, a different dog, and a different story. We met descendants from some of the first settlers of our own Berkshire Valley; families that have lived in the same house seven generations or more. But history is not all we learned. Underpinning every farmer’s livelihood is a love for the land and work. While changing markets have forced broad changes in farming, farmers seem to maintain a similar demeanor, whether they run vegetable or beef or dairy farms. Many of the interviews leave us laughing at the self-deprecation with which farmers look at themselves, calling themselves soft in the brain for being even involved in a business with such low profit margins. They are all the more impressive since these jokes are only half-jokes, and they still laugh at their circumstances. We ask each farmer how they got into the business and more often than not they answer with a grin “By bad luck and being born into it.”

It is clear that in the past couple of decades something about farming was bad luck. Farms, particularly dairy farms, have been closing by the dozen over the last twenty years or so. This has not always been the case nor should it be, given the amount of open land that makes our area so beautiful. Keep Berkshire Farming’s goal is to understand what has made farming bad luck, and if we can, begin to remove the
obstacles that threaten the most consistent and consistently productive industry the area has ever seen. Perhaps one of our most important findings does not relate to a farm’s business model, but a farmer’s lifestyle. We consistently hear about the reliance farmers have on each other throughout the year. Community interdependence allowed farming to become as prevalent as it was in the 60’s and 70’s, when Williamstown alone had over twenty dairies. But as one farmer earnestly said, “The future is relying on our neighbor.” While some things must change, local knowledge and community connections must only strengthen. And the farms are the place to start.

Clara Noomah ’13
Thanks to the Center for Environmental Studies and Professors Joan Edwards and Luana Maroja, I was able to be a plant detective. I researched my targets, I asked around, I infiltrated - but more than anything I beat the bogs, mountainsides and backwoods of Alaska in search of those species I was sent after. My quest ties into my sponsors’ continuing research on the flora of Isle Royale, Michigan, particularly Professor Maroja’s work on plant genetics. Many of the plants that grow on Isle Royale are considered “arctic disjuncts” - plants that grow in a self-contained bubble far from their normal, more northerly range. This type of distribution raises many questions: How and when did these plants get here? How are they different from their long-lost arctic siblings? What arctic population did they separate from most recently? Professor Maroja is working to answer at least some of these questions using genetic analysis, but to do that she needed a set of the same species from their normal North American range, i.e. Alaska or Canada. As an Alaskan with a great curiosity for the natural world and a wish to see more of my wonderful state, I stepped up to the job of seeking out these plants. Some species, namely edible berries and dangerous plants, were much easier to find than others. In my search for the more difficult specimens, I gained insight into the world of botanists and other plant enthusiasts and learned a great deal about how habitat succession, climate and human presence affect species distribution over time.

Laurel O’Connor ’15
My summer internship at the San Francisco branch of Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) was absolutely amazing. The experience readied me for opportunities in the environmental field by giving me hands on work in the urban development sector. I worked mainly with data research and analysis, compiling data sets for over a dozen projects that ranged from new housing developments to city action plans. I worked alongside Jen McGraw, an incredible mentor and graduate of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Working alongside McGraw, I was able to gain real insight into urban development as she exposed me to the politics and complexities of energy planning behind each project. I came to understand that data are not so much about numbers and spreadsheets as about storytelling and integrity. Though our clients varied from State agencies to private firms, each case was handled with precision and creativity. I gained new insight into data management, analysis, and presentation. As our world changes, so too are the stories that we tell and the supposed facts upon which they are based; however, if we are to hope for a more stable future, we have to provide honest and transparent ways of providing our stories and figuring our facts.
Meghan Rowe ’14
I interned with the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (WRLF), a land conservation non-profit. The WRLF aims to protect natural lands to be conserved for public access, so that water systems are protected and so that land is kept affordable for farm use. My projects included helping with the summer children’s nature programs, where children experienced and learned about many different natural environments; helping the trail crew with the many trails the WRLF maintains; leading the Overland Berkshire Adventure Camp splash hikes, where I taught the children about watersheds and wildlife river ecology; and renovating the dairy shed at Sheep Hill, which included painting a mural and creating displays that detail the history of the Rosenburg’s Sunnybrook Dairy Farm and information about the milking process.

Sonja Thalheimer ’14
Thanks to the CES Summer Funding I received, I had an amazing summer studying permaculture and sustainability in agriculture in Germany and Switzerland. Permaculture, a term coined by Bill Mollison, is the combination of “permanent” and “agriculture”, and describes a system of farming that seeks to create permanently viable and enduring farming systems and ways of interacting with the surrounding community. I was able to experience many types of agriculture personally, while talking with a range of farmers and understanding their different methods of farming, and the choices and belief systems that have brought them to these places. At the end of my research, I compiled my experiences, learning, and thoughts into a twenty-page paper.

Jasmine Thomasian ’15
Have you ever been behind Mt. Greylock Regional School? Did you notice the garden? At the beginning of the summer you might not have seen it. It lies on the slope behind the school, where long grass hid the fence, and most of the plants were seedlings. Today, thanks to the generosity of the Finnegan family, a cheery pastel shed marks the garden’s location, along with an archway of branches built by Hallie Walker. Upon working up the courage to actually walk up to the garden, you will see an oasis of green. Cucumbers, tomatoes, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, lettuce, cabbage, bush beans, and herbs currently dwell in Mt. Greylock’s hidden Eden. Signs hand painted by Ms. Walker guide one around the many flourishing vegetable beds. A sturdy cucumber trellis and three-pronged tomato cages, built on the high school’s “Where Am I” day, add stability to the scene. So far this summer, radishes, garlic, cucumbers and potatoes have been harvested from the garden and donated to the Berkshire Food Project. The Project will also be the recipient of any other vegetables that ripen this summer. When school starts up, ripe produce will be given to the school’s cafeteria, to be served in lunches. But who, exactly, does all the planting, tending, and harvesting? During the school year, the Mt. Greylock Youth Environmental Squad (YES) maintains the garden. Over the summer, an intern from Williams College is hired through the Center for Environmental Studies, and families from the local community “adopt” the garden for a week each. Since the garden is a collaborative effort between Mt. Greylock Regional School and Williams College, there are also a handful of teachers and staff members from both schools who oversee operations. This summer four YES members played lead roles in the garden: Walker, Rebekah Packer, Ned Kliner and Josie Verter. The Williams intern was Jasmine Thomasian, and teachers and staff who held leadership roles include (the
aptly named) Sarah Gardner, Kaatje White, Rebekah Green, and Brent Wasser. In past years the goal has been to keep everything in the garden growing; this year the YES members hope to create an instruction manual for the garden, passing down wisdom and a sense of protocol to future garden leaders, and keeping the green paradise alive.

Chie Togami '13
Founded in 1971, Earthjustice first began as the Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund. Earthjustice is currently the nation’s largest non-profit environmental law firm and has provided free legal representation to thousands of clients ranging from large environmental non-profits such as the Wildernesss Society, to smaller groups like the Alaska Center for the Environment. The organization concentrates its work in three key areas: preserving our natural heritage, promoting a clean energy future, and safeguarding our health. As a policy and legislation intern this past summer, I had the opportunity to support the work of Earthjustice’s policy team in their efforts to prevent legislative attempts to undermine crucial environmental progress. My work consisted primarily of attending congressional hearings, preparing and disseminating information to Congressional offices, making phone calls to hill offices, drafting and editing policy documents and fact sheets, and maintaining Earthjustice’s database of Congressional votes and staff members. I am once again extremely grateful to CES and our generous donors for making such an amazing opportunity possible!

Emily Ury '13
Working at CES on the Keep Berkshires Farming Project has taught me a lot about the area surrounding Williams College. The research involved visiting local farms and having conversations with farmers about their work and the state of farming in the area. This was the most exciting part of our research, as each visit gave us a window into the lives of the hardworking men and women that maintain the pastoral beauty of Berkshire County and highlighted the importance of the farming industry in the local area. The report that developed from this research gives a snapshot of local agriculture and what can be done to help this struggling industry. I focused on the nine dairy farms in the towns of Northern Berkshire County and the specific problems in the dairy industry. One problem is the disconnect between the milk that is being produced here (and being sold out of the county) and the milk being purchased by local consumers. Another problem is the financial loss dairy farmers are suffering year after year (due to low milk prices and, in part, from transportation costs). My work involved researching ideas for recommendations including looking at different models that dairy farmers are using around the country and in Canada to make dairy more profitable and to keep it local. The next steps will be to conduct a feasibility study for potential solutions and hopefully work together with the farmers to revitalize this important part of the local food system.

Cary White '13
From the end of June to mid-July this summer I worked on the Keep Berkshires Farming project conducted by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and CES’ Sarah Gardner. This project, modeled on techniques used in upstate New York, is aimed at revitalizing the market for local agriculture by improving networks of distribution and rebuilding the infrastructure required to sustain a farming community. As the effort was in its initial stages, my job was to travel around the North Berkshires and conduct surveys with all of the restaurants
about how to make the use of local food more profitable for their businesses. This opportunity provided me with invaluable experience in understanding the challenges facing sustainable business and public policy.

Environmental Studies
Senior Awards 2013

Left to right: Alexandra Carr, Andrea Lindsay, Chie Togami

Continued on next page...
Andrea Lindsay ‘13 was awarded the **Rosenburg Prize** in Environmental Studies for outstanding scholarship and potential for solving local, national, and international environmental problems.

The **Thomas Hardie III Memorial Award** for the best student work in Environmental Studies was awarded to Vera Cecelski ‘13 for her paper “You Can Do a Lot With a Towel and a Dog Carrier”: The Intricacies of Marine Mammal Stranding Response.

The **Scheffey Award** for outstanding environmental accomplishments, activism and leadership was presented to Alexandra Carr ‘13.

The **Environmental Studies Committee Award** for outstanding contributions to the Environmental Studies community at Williams was awarded to Chie Togami ‘13.
Five students graduated with an Environmental Studies concentration, six with an Environmental Policy major, and six with an Environmental Science major.

Front row, left to right: Brandon Abasolo, Wade Davis, Alexandra Carr, Emily Ury, Andrea Lindsay, Sonja Thalheimer, Zara Currimjee
Back row, left to right: Chris Cameron, Vera Cecelski, Cedar Blazek, Chie Togami, Robin Hackett
Stormy Times in Hopkins Forest...

By Drew Jones, Hopkins Memorial Forest Manager

Irene, Sandy, Derecho: no, these are not this summer’s student caretaking crew, but a few recent storms that have left a major impact on Hopkins Forest in the past two years. From Hurricane Irene to a recent unnamed local cloudburst, the Forest seems to be increasingly under siege from a pattern of more frequent and intense severe weather events. Such tempests – tropical storms, summer thunderstorms, unseasonable snowstorms – are having a powerful impact on the Forest’s streams, soils and plants, as well as the property’s infrastructure – roads, trails, and research installations. Williams faculty and students in Biology and Geosciences are working to document and describe these effects on the ground and project what they might portend for the ever changing forest. Read more at http://hmf.williams.edu/files/2013articlepdf.pdf.
Campus Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC)

By Pia Kohler, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies

The Campus Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC) has been in existence since 1997, yet until this year it was a non-standing committee. Over the year, the Committee examined its mission, membership and role on campus, leading to the faculty adopting in May a motion to make CEAC a full standing committee with a revised membership. Thus the Committee will continue its tradition of bringing together staff from relevant administrative offices with faculty and students to provide a cross-campus forum for communication on environmental matters, provide advice and assistance in developing environmental strategies, and foster a sense of shared environmental responsibility among the campus community.

During the 2011-2012 year, CEAC had studied ways of increasing bicycle use on campus, and developed recommendations relating to bicycle racks and the implementation of a bicycle-rental program on campus. In 2012-2013, CEAC built on this work, notably facilitating connections with campus offices as the student-run Purple Bike Coalition developed a campus bike-loan program that is set to launch in Fall 2013.

The Committee also turned its attention to a more comprehensive look at sustainability issues on campus and convened a Community Forum on Sustainability. This Forum, scheduled as part of No Impact Week in April 2013, was an opportunity for community members to hear information on progress achieved and also to provide input on plans for the future around six broad issue areas: energy and emissions, waste and recycling, food, land use and management, transportation, and community engagement.
Log Lunches

A Year of Dynamic, Eclectic Environmental Lunch Talks and Homemade Soups!

By Sarah Gardner, Associate Director, Lecturer in Environmental Studies

CES’ popular Friday lunch series continues to draw in crowds of students, faculty, staff and community members for the delicious homemade soup and half-hour environmental talk. This year’s speakers ranged from government officials to activists to students and academic researchers. The fall semester kicked off with a rousing talk by Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan ’82 who was on campus to receive a Bicentennial Medal. She spoke about the USDA’s role in promoting regional food systems and healthy eating. Jonathan Landsman and Ken Brown, 2005 graduates, followed with an entertaining talk about the ins and outs of non-traditional careers (gardening and forestry) titled, “You Don’t Have to be a Consultant.” Jesse Brackenbury ’97, Operations Director of the Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston, explained the excitement and challenges of his work developing a 1.5 mile public greenway along the new space created by the infamous Big Dig. Further talks included Sarah Gardner and her summer student interns (Sam Murray ’14, David Nolan ’13, Cary White ’13, and Emily Ury ’13) who presented their findings from their in-depth interviews with every North Berkshire farm, summer research grant recipient Amelia Simmons ’13 spoke about her work.
Log Lunches continued

researching small-scale Italian meat producers, and CES internship grant student Celeste Berg ’13 recounted her experiences working at a green revolving loan fund, Sustainable Endowments Institute, founded by Williams alum Mark Orlowski. Dozens more talks, including one on the future of wind energy by alum wind developer Chris Varrone ’84, and an inspiring speech about America’s salvation through bicycling by avid cyclist, activist and cycle race commentator Richard Fries. Full summaries of these talks and the additional dozen Log Lunch talks of the 2012-13 academic year, along with photographs, may be viewed on the CES website at http://ces.williams.edu/category/articles/

We’d love to hear from you! If you’re interested in visiting campus to give a talk about your environmental pursuits we’d like to host you: please contact Sarah Gardner at sgardner@williams.edu or 413-597-4209.

Course Notes

Environmental Planning Workshop: Experiential Education in the Community

By Sarah Gardner, Associate Director, Lecturer in Environmental Studies

The Environmental Planning Workshop (Envi 302) is something of a rite of passage for Environmental Studies students as they make their way through the program. The rubber meets the road in this class, in which students’ knowledge of environmental theory, policy and science is applied to hands-on community problem solving. It’s always eye-opening and exhilarating to work on real projects with actual clients, but tackling complex problems during a semester class can be unpredictable and frustrating. The value of these experiential projects becomes increasingly clear as the students sink their teeth into them during the course of the semester; full appreciation for the experience comes once the final public presentation and final report have been delivered!

The fall 2012 projects were: “Berkshire Regional Energy Plan” for the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, “Food System Study of
Institutions, Distributors, Stores and Processors” for Keep Berkshire Farming, “Disaster Relief and Affordable Housing in Williamstown” for Higher Ground, and “North Adams Open Space and Recreation Plan: Promoting a Healthier City” for the City of North Adams. The final reports and Powerpoint presentations may be viewed on the CES website at http://ces.williams.edu/publications/student-papers/class-papers/

The fall 2013 projects include a site reuse study for the Spruces mobile home park in Williamstown, a feasibility study of crop production for food or biomass on a farmland parcel of Hopkins Forest, a parking study and plan for the City of North Adams, an open space and recreation plan for Williamstown, and a farmland base assessment of Berkshire County with American Farmland Trust.

For more information contact Sarah Gardner at 413-597-4209 or sgardner@williams.edu.

The Dairy Case

Sarah Gardner spent a spring sabbatical working on her documentary film about the dairy industry in Western Massachusetts. Sarah has been researching farms, farmers and the food system of Western Massachusetts for several years and the diminishing dairy industry has always been one of her major concerns. She is collaborating with local filmmaker Dave Simonds and students Andrea Lindsay ’12 and Alison Graebner ’13 (pictured above) provided invaluable help on the film project, going on shoots, interviews, and logging footage.

Dairy farming is at a crisis point in Massachusetts: the region is close to losing the critical mass of farms required to maintain a viable industry. Most
small and mid-sized dairies are struggling nationwide but the extra challenges of farming in Massachusetts—the high production costs and land development pressures—make it especially difficult to keep farming. The Dairy Case is a documentary film project that calls attention to dairy at a time when support for local food is high, but appreciation of traditional dairy farms is low. It shows how important these farms are to the history, culture, landscape, and future agricultural viability of New England. The film is a realistic picture of the present and highlights scenarios for a revitalized farming future. It is set in the context of the new food movement, which receives much publicity, but which does not include conventional dairy. It creates a dialog between the new food movement and traditional farming culture and explores opportunities for collaboration and mutual support. The footage is close and personal with farmers and farm families. In the words of Agricultural Commissioner Greg Watson, “Dairy farmers are among the best stewards of our land. Some of these farms have been in operation for centuries so shouldn’t we be asking ‘What are they doing right?’”

The project has received support from several foundations and organizations that share a concern about the dairy industry, including the Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board, the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, the Berkshire Taconic Foundation, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Williams College faculty technology fund.

Stay posted: the film will be finished in June 2014. To learn more, visit the film’s website where there is sample footage as well as a link to the Berkshire Magazine dairy panel featuring Sarah Gardner as well as Commissioner Greg Watson, representative Gail Cariddi and dairy farmers Win Chenail and Suzie Konecky. http://sites.williams.edu/thedairycase/iberkshires/
Environmental Analysis Lab

By Jay Racela, Technical Assistant

The Center for Environmental Studies’ Environmental Analysis Lab--under the guidance of Prof. David Dethier and Technical Assistant Jay Racela--continued the process of gathering and analyzing meteorological, hydrological and biogeochemical data from Hopkins Memorial Forest.

During the spring of 2013, the lab hosted twenty-two ES102 students, helping them to learn how to analyze the local environment in-depth using aspects of Geoscience, Biology and Chemistry. We also hosted: CH255 students for sample analyses by Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS) and CH364 students learning AAS and Ion Chromatography. Over the summer the lab hosted Austin Paul ’16 and Amanda Schott ’15 for their training of PCB extraction using the Accelerated Solvent Extractor, and Scott Wieman ’14, who used the lab for his senior CHEM/ENVI thesis. In addition, the lab employed Molly Pickel ’15 and Andrew Nemeth ’15 (pictured above) as the summer CES-lab Research Assistants continuing the hydro-geochemical analyses of HMF and studying the Green River in more detail for use by ES102. Finally, the Science Center purchased an Elemental Analyzer for the lab that will enable low-cost, high-integrity chemical analyses of soils, plants, foods and waters.
“What is nature worth?” The answer to this question—which traditionally has been framed in environmental terms—is revolutionizing the way we do business.

In *Nature’s Fortune*, Mark Tercek, CEO of The Nature Conservancy and former investment banker, and science writer Jonathan Adams argue that nature is not only the foundation of human well-being, but also the smartest commercial investment any business or government can make. The forests, floodplains, and oyster reefs often seen simply as raw materials or as obstacles to be cleared in the name of progress are, in fact, as important to our future prosperity as technology or law or business innovation.

Who invests in nature, and why? What rates of return can it produce? When is protecting nature a good investment? With stories from the South Pacific to the California coast, from the Andes to the Gulf of Mexico and even to New York City, *Nature’s Fortune* shows how viewing nature as green infrastructure allows for breakthroughs not only in conservation—protecting water supplies; enhancing the health of fisheries; making cities more sustainable, livable and safe; and dealing with unavoidable climate change—but in economic progress, as well. Organizations obviously depend on the environment for key resources—water, trees, and land. But they can also reap substantial commercial benefits in the form of risk mitigation, cost reduction, new investment opportunities, and the protection of assets. Once leaders learn how to account for nature in financial terms, they can incorporate that value into the organization’s decisions and activities, just as habitually as they consider cost, revenue, and ROI.

A must-read for business leaders, CEOs, investors, and environmentalists alike, *Nature’s Fortune* offers an essential guide to the world’s economic- and environmental-well-being.”

Kimberley S.K. Beal ’03
Kimmie Kemper Beal and Angus Beal ’03 are living in Salt Lake City and running a six-member CSA using urban plots of land. One of their plots is in the garden of Zinnia Wilson, ’05. When Angus finishes
Emergency Medicine residency in 2014, they will be looking for land to farm back in New England.

William Broadbent ’73
Bill and his wife, Camille, have been active in ranching and land preservation in Montana since the 1980s, an involvement that began when Bill was invited by his Williams classmate Scott Hibbard to visit Montana and look into a newly funded land trust organization. The Broadbents, along with their children, Avery and Will, have been active stewards of land preservation, introducing at their ranch (26 Land & Cattle Co.) a plan that focuses on sustainable ranching with intensive rotational grazing and a system to maintain healthy riparian areas. The Bill and Camille Broadbent family have been honored as co-recipients of the 2012 William F. Long Conservation Award http://www.mtlandreliance.org for their commitment to the land and to conserving wild places, with special attention to upland bird habitat. Bill has served on the Montana Land Reliance Council of Trustees for over two decades; he is also active in the Williamstown Rural Land Foundation and the Greenwich Land Trust in Greenwich, CT.

Elizabeth Dorr ’12
I’ve been working as an admissions counselor at SEA Semester, living on Cape Cod and traveling to recruit students at colleges and universities across the country, including Williams! Any undergrads interested in environmental studies, experiential education, field research, and the oceans should definitely look into a SEA Semester study abroad program. It was a life-changing experience for me while at Williams, so I really enjoy helping other students find this amazing opportunity!

K.K. DuVivier ’75

Emily Fertig ’06
I finished my PhD in Engineering and Public Policy and have moved to MIT for a postdoc, researching quantitative methods for decision making under uncertainty in climate policy.
Aaron Freedman ‘12
I’ve been enjoying working on regional food systems with Red Tomato, catching up with Sarah Gardner and CES undergrads Sonja Thalheimer, Andrea Lindsay, and Jacob Addelson at the annual NESAWG conference, and volunteering with 350MA, the state chapter of Bill McKibben’s national climate change organization.

Irena Hollowell ‘02
I am deeply engaged with the Acorn Community Farm (home of Southern Exposure Seed Exchange), whose 28 members run a garden seed business with a radically flexible, member empowering structure.

Mary Keller ‘87
I am combining my work in the History of Religion and Indigenous Studies with Sacred Lands outreach in Wyoming with the Restoring Sacred Lands on Common Ground Alliance. They host a three day event each summer that includes an academic seminar with outstanding academic and Indigenous experts, a field day that helps reconnect Apsáalooke people with the mountain that adopted them, but from which they’ve been removed for 140 years until Nature Conservancy’s purchase of the mountain once again opened access to the mountain, and on the third day, a ceremonial gathering led by Grant Bulltail to bring together people who share an interest in the ecological health of the region.

Zachary Lamb ‘02
After 3+ years doing green building, recovery, and development work in New Orleans, I’ll be starting a PhD at MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning in the fall. I’ll be working on climate change adaption and resilience in the built environment with a specific focus on informal communities that can’t or don’t rely on formal mechanisms of risk reduction or recovery (i.e. government, insurance, infrastructural protections).

Looking forward to being back in the northeast and within striking distance of the Purple Valley.

Jonathan Landsman ‘05
Since speaking at a September 2012 Log Lunch, I’ve changed from a gardener into a bureaucrat, working still for the York City Parks department, as a negotiator between Parks and other public agencies. When these agencies need to build on Parks land (which is constantly), I revise their projects to protect key park interests such as trees and public access, and attempt to secure givebacks such as attractive and beneficial replantings on the lands they disturb.

Abby Martin ‘11
I recently moved to Washington, DC, to study city park systems at The Trust for Public Land. I’m having a blast combining everything from ecology to economics to environmental policy in my research on park
systems and their roles in creating vibrant, livable cities.

Liz Rosan Kirkwood ’94
I’m the executive director of FLOW (For Love of Water) - a water law and policy educational center for the Great Lakes based in Traverse City, Michigan. I am especially involved in efforts to block the Enbridge pipeline expansion that runs through the Straits of Mackinac in the heart of the Great Lakes.

Kin Ma ‘89
I turned my Environmental Studies minor into a major pursuit by completing a PhD degree from Michigan State University and joining the Department of Geography and Planning at Grand Valley State University (GVSU) in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 2003. I teach Physical Geography, Geography of the United States and Canada, and Asia. I have also been active in the Faculty Facilities Planning Committee that has guided GVSU to build LEED buildings such as the state of the art Pew Library and Information Commons (http://instagram.com/p/dVr_fFwU81/). I have also traveled to Taiwan and Korea, making a visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). My family and I are very excited about returning to Williams for my 25th College reunion in June 2014.

Lauren McDonald ’12
I have been working as an apprentice at Hawthorne Valley Farm in Ghent, NY where I help manage a two-acre vegetable garden that sells to our farm store and the New York City Greenmarkets.

Mark Orlowski ‘04
I am getting ready to celebrate the 9th anniversary of the Sustainable Endowments Institute, where I serve as Founder & Executive Director. I am excited to have had the opportunity to meet dozens of Eco Ephs across the country over the years and to have had the privilege of receiving advice and support from many Williams folks including Sam Arons, John Chandler, Bill McCalpin, Gaye Symington, and Gordon Winston.

Along with focusing on the Institute’s Billion Dollar Green Challenge (www.greenbillion.org), I organized and launched the New England Leaders in Energy Efficiency Financing (LEEF) Network last year. The goal of the LEEF Network (which is funded by the Barr Foundation and the John Merck Fund) is to provide free consulting services to colleges, hospitals, municipalities and K-12 schools across New England to help them establish green revolving funds to invest in building energy efficiency upgrades thereby saving both energy and money! Feel free to get in touch with me if you know an institution in New England that might want to take advantage of the LEEF Network.

Andy Stevenson ’07
I am currently living in Palo Alto pursuing my JD and MBA at Stanford University. I took the fall semester off from grad school to help run the Obama re-election campaign’s operations in Nevada, but am still on track to complete both degrees in the spring of 2015. Tentatively planning to remain out west after finishing the program and work in the energy sector in some undetermined capacity.
Johnny Sundstrom ’66
I am the founder and director of the Siuslaw Institute www.siuslawinstitute.org. In June, I had the opportunity to travel to Siberia for an international conference: Rivers of Siberia. I have been involved in the creation of Salmon and Watershed Councils and other restoration efforts in the Russian Far East - on the Pacific Coast, Sakhalin Island and Kamchatka Peninsula - for almost 10 years, and it has been a very satisfying and exciting opportunity. With many other activities going on here in western Oregon, this is only one aspect of our work. In 2004, we won the Thiess International Riverprize for our restoration on the Siuslaw River here in Oregon. Riverprize is given annually in Australia, and they expect the Winner to engage in “Twinning” to transfer knowledge and experience to other places in the world where their expertise can be of value. That’s how we got involved in these Russian partnerships, and now one of the Councils (Bolshaya River in Kamchatka) is among the four Finalists for the 2013 Prize, which will be awarded in Brisbane, Australia later this year.

Susie Theroux ’05
I am currently living in Berkeley, CA as a postdoc at the Department of Energy’s Joint Genome Institute studying carbon cycling and greenhouse gas emissions by microbes in wetlands in San Francisco Bay. All the sunshine makes for some great days in the field!

Nina Trautmann Chaopricha ’03
In June 2013, I finished my dissertation through UW-Madison on the origin and vulnerability of the often-ignored third of global soil organic carbon below 1 meter depth. I used cutting-edge biogeochemical soil analyses to show how rapid climate change led to soil carbon stabilization by fire and burial. One of my favorite parts of grad school was developing and teaching an interdisciplinary undergraduate service learning and career exploration capstone course on community-scale composting, through which I engaged ten students and community partners from three cities to develop recommendations for local municipal composting projects. I now live in Ithaca, NY and would be happy to host CES friends visiting the area.

Kathryn V. White ’88
For pure fun and in response to full schedules, short attention spans, and desires for immediate gratification, I’ve embraced short story and Flash fiction writing. Flash fictions are short stories--but usually in the 500 to 1,000 word range. In addition, Flash fiction sometimes straddles the border between prose and poetry. Thus, some Flash fiction may be referred to as prose-poetry.

My intent is to share stories that are meaningful, playful, inspirational, and insightful. I like to weave in spiritual and philosophical themes and alternative perspectives.

Six of my short-short stories are published as Amazon Kindle eBooks. More information on my writing can be found at: http://www.kathrynvwhite.com/.
CES held its annual reunion weekend breakfast in Harper House, where dozens of alumni and families met up with faculty, staff, and old friends.

Kristin Hunter-Thomson ’03 and Jordan Goldwarg ’03

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.

Center for Environmental Studies Faculty and Staff 2012-13

Ralph Bradburd, Director
Sarah Gardner, Associate Director
Nicolas Howe, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
Drew Jones, Hopkins Forest Manager
Pia Kohler, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
Brian McCammanck, Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies
Jay Racela, Technical Assistant
Shaila Seshia Galvin, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Environmental Studies

CES Notes, Summer 2013
A publication of the
Center for Environmental Studies

CES Notes
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