Dear Students, Alumni and Friends of CES,

2010-11 marked another exciting and productive year for environmental studies at Williams. The new majors in environmental science and environmental policy, approved in April 2010, had an excellent inaugural year. Four members of the Class of 2011 graduated with Envi Policy degrees (in addition to three contract majors). Fifteen rising seniors and juniors have also declared majors in Envi Science or Policy, and the original seven-course concentration remains an attractive option for many others.

Meanwhile, our teaching faculty has expanded modestly in order to support the growth of the curriculum: Pia Kohler and Nicolas Howe will join CES next fall as assistant professors of environmental studies. Professor Kohler (Master of Environmental Science, Yale Forestry; Ph.D., International Environmental Policy, MIT) comes to Williams after teaching for several years at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her research examines the politics of science advice organizations, the groups that provide and interpret scientific information to treaty-making bodies. Nicolas Howe (M.A., Ph.D., Geography, UCLA) was one of two CES postdoctoral fellows sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in 2010-11. His research explores the ways that religion and secularism inform environmental politics in the contemporary US. Our new colleagues will share responsibility for Envi 101 and 402. Professor Kohler will also teach environmental policy, while Professor Howe’s courses will expand our offerings in the environmental humanities.

Next fall we’ll also welcome Greg White, professor of government at Smith College, and David Cassuto of Pace Law School as Class of 1960 Visiting Distinguished Professors of Environmental Studies. Greg will teach an advanced seminar in international environmental policy, while David will reprise the environmental law course he taught this past spring.

As the year comes to a close, we say good-bye to a wonderful group of visiting faculty members, each of whom has enriched our curriculum and enlivened our community of activists and scholars: Professors Bill Lynn and Bill Vitek and postdoc Heather Houser. We wish them and the members of the Class of 2011 success and happiness – all will be much missed!

With best wishes,
Jennifer French
Director, Center for Environmental Studies
Environmental Studies Senior Awards

The Rosenburg Prize in Environmental Studies for outstanding scholarship and potential for solving local, national, and international environmental problems was awarded to JJ Augenbraun ’11, a psychology major and environmental studies concentrator.

Rooney Charest ’11, an Environmental Policy Contract Major, was awarded the Tom Hardie III Memorial Award for the best student work in Environmental Studies in recognition of her thesis, “Keeping it Local: Farm Viability in Berkshire and Bennington Counties.” Her paper is posted on the CES website at: ces.williams.edu.

Madeline S. King ’11 won the Scheffey Award in recognition of her outstanding environmental accomplishments, activism and leadership.

The Environmental Studies Committee Awards, for dedication to the Center for Environmental Studies, contributions to the program, and scholarship was awarded to Jennifer Rowe ’11, an environmental science contract major.

Recreating Kellogg House

David Dethier, Edward Brust Prof. of Geology and Mineralogy
Chair, Kellogg Building Committee

The Center for Environmental Studies left Kellogg House, the oldest wood-frame building on campus, nearly four years ago, and journeyed to Harper House to await construction of the new Stetson Library adjacent to Kellogg. In 2010, the Environmental Studies faculty voted to move to a new facility centered around Kellogg and Dean Wagner created a building committee of faculty, staff and students. The Building Committee was charged with developing a building to house both the Center for Environmental Studies as well as the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives.

The Committee selected Black River Design, architects from Montpelier, Vermont, and a design team with expertise in historic renovation and high-performance design. Two of the team members are Williams graduates who spent considerable time as students in Kellogg House. The Building Committee and the design team see the Kellogg project as an exciting opportunity to demonstrate our academic and operational commitment to environmental study and sustainability. The new center will serve as a productive workspace, a comfortable home, and exciting learning tool for environmental education.

The Building Committee has suggested that the Kellogg project seek certification for high performance from the Living Building Challenge (https://lbc.org/lbc). The LBC involves creating an attractive, efficient building, generating all energy necessary for the building through renewable resources, capturing and treating water on site, supplying
The popular Log Lunch program hosted a range of environmental luncheon speakers, including alumni, activists, visiting faculty, artists, those who work in non-profit organizations and government, as well as environmental entrepreneurs. The talks from this year are listed below.

September
- **From the Ground Up: Building a Sustainable Economy in the Heart of West Virginia Coal Country**, Julia Sendor ’08, Community Organizer, Step by Step
- **Climate Change Avatars**, Eban Goodstein ’82, Director, Bard Center for Environmental Policy

October
- **Environmental Education Around the World**, Elissa Brown ’09
- **Toward a Philosophy of Limits**, Bill Vitek, W. Ford Schumann Visiting Professor of Democratic Studies, Williams College
- **The Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change in Developing Countries**, Michele De Nevers, Senior Manager, Environmental Department, World Bank
- **Nuclear Power: Pitfalls and Dangers of a Nuclear Renaissance**

November
- **Conservation Inspired Storytelling**, Jason Houston, Freelance Photographer
- **Creating a More Sustainable Tomorrow: The Corporate Role**, George Favarolo, Managing Partner at Esty Environmental Partners
- **Balancing People, Profits, and the Planet - Stories from the Front Lines of Green Entrepreneurship**, Josh Knauer, CEO Rhiza Labs

December
- **Not Just for Rich White Liberals: Turning Carbon Offsets into Environmental and Economic Justice**, Cindy Frantz, Associate Professor of Psychology, Oberlin College

January
- **Hopkins Forest Permanent Plot Study: A Window on the Past, A Portal to the Future**, Hank Art, Rosenburg Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology and Williams College and Summer Science Research students
- **Up and Atom: Community Responses to Nuclear Power at Plant Vogtle in Burke County, Georgia**, Chandler Sherman ’11

The CAFO Hothouse: Industrial Agriculture and Climate Change, David Cassuto, Visiting Professor of Environmental Law, Williams College

February
- **Variance Harvesting, Processing and Trades: How Food Narratives Drive Sustainability**, Brooks McCutchen and Janis Steele, Berkshire Sweet Gold Maple and Carbon Farm, Charlemont, MA
- **California’s 150,000 Sustainability Educators: A Model of the Green Paradigm Shift?**

Will Parrish, Teacher, Environmental Science, Gateway High School and California State Curriculum Commissioner

Environmental Education Initiative

March
- **The Black Line Journey**, Rick Harlow, Co-founder and Coordinator, Elders Project
Antarctic Research: Why It Pays To Get Cold about Warming, Hugh Powell, Science Editor, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

April
First Steps Towards a Local Food System, Abrah Dresdale and Josiah Simpson, Conway School of Landscape Design
Climate Change and the Urgent Need for Clean Wind Energy Projects Off and On Shore - and the Latest on Deepwater Offshore Wind Projects, Jeff Thaler, partner, Bernstein Shur, Portland, Maine
Environmental Studies Thesis Presentations: Keeping It Local: Farm Viability in Berkshire and Bennington Counties, Rooney Charest ’11 and The Food Movement: A Case Study of Urban Agriculture and Advocacy for Food Justice, Kathleen Durante ’11

Lectures, Panels, Festivals and other Events

The Center for Environmental Studies hosted several distinguished visiting speakers during the academic year, as well as community and social events. For more details on these events, visit the CES website.

September
Global Warming and the Long Haul: Building a Network to Change the Future, Eban Goodstein ’82, Director, Bard Center for Environmental Policy
Plenitude: Practical Steps for a Sustainable Economy, Juliet Schor, Professor of Sociology, Boston College
Hopkins Forest Fall Festival

November
Black Swans and the U.S. Future: The Challenge of Resilience, David Orr, Environmental Studies and Politics, Oberlin College
Panel Discussion on Race and the Environment, Steven Chase, Antioch University, New England; Jorge Marcone, Rutgers University; Lizabeth Paravisini-Gebert, Vassar College; Kimberly Smith, Carlton College

February
Biomass Panel: A discussion about the biomass project proposed for the racetrack site in Pownal, Vermont: Getting Biomass Right: Should We Be Generating Electricity from Trees? Mary Booth, Co-founder, MA Environmental Energy Alliance and William Moomaw, Director, Center for International Environment and Resource Policy, The Fletcher School, Tufts University

March
Maplefest in Hopkins Forest

April
Fishing, Aquaculture, and the Future of the Last Wild Food, Paul Greenberg, author of Four Fish: The Last Wild Food
Consulting the Genius of the Place, Wes Jackson, Founder, The Land Institute
Uses and Abuses of Environmental Memory, Lawrence Buell, Professor of American Literature, Harvard University
Bike to Work Day

May
CES Spring Fling with music by Bill Vitek, Visiting Professor and Chie Togami ’13 and guests
Ten Williams College students and I started the fourth census of the permanent plot system in the Hopkins Memorial Forest in June, 2010 and a second team of ten students and I will complete the inventory this summer. The project was initiated by the U.S. Forest Service 75 years ago when they established quarter-acre plots in which every woody stem greater than 0.5-inches in diameter has been measured and tallied by species. Several sample trees in each of the plots had a core removed to determine age and radial growth rates. In addition, the shrubs and herbaceous plants were inventoried in 10 plots, each of which is 1/1000-acre in area. Since 1970 the monitoring has been conducted by faculty and students at Williams—in the 1970s, 1990s, and now in the 2010s. The long-term data on tree growth and vegetational changes in an "unmanaged" forested landscape provide a unique database for the interpretation of human impacts (ranging from differential local land-uses to global climate change) on biotic communities.

We are concentrating on the analysis of sample tree core data that shows the radial growth over the last 300 years, a period that spans the industrial age in which both atmospheric CO$_2$ levels and global climate have changed dramatically. We are paying special attention to the diameter growth changes reflected in the census of the permanent plots as we tease-out the legacy effects of past land-uses and successional trends from those of a changing local climate, using the weather data archives of the Hopkins Memorial Forest (http://www.williams.edu/Geoscience/weather/). We are also undertaking an analysis of the relationship between climatic changes and the expansion of invasive exotic species, especially shrub honeysuckles, multiflora rose, buckthorn, and Japanese barberry, in the permanent plots over the past 75 years.

The census of the Hopkins Memorial Forest permanent plot system provides insights into how humans have made enduring impacts on biological communities of the region both on a direct level through different land-use activities and on a global level through global-scale environmental change. More information on the Hopkins Memorial Forest will be available in the coming year, but until then please visit http://www.williams.edu/CES/hopkins.htm.

Environmental Analysis Lab
Jay Racela, Technical Assistant, CES

The Center for Environmental Studies’ Environmental Analysis Lab—under the guidance of Prof. David Dethier and Jay Racela—continued the process of gathering and analyzing meteorological, hydrological and biogeochemical data in the Forest. Four standard weather stations, two stream gauging stations, and one vernal pool water depth and temperature station, using digital data loggers, ran continuously throughout the year. Data from the main weather station are streamed to the campus information network and displayed on our site (web.williams.edu/Geoscience/weather/), which along with data from the Taconic Ridge 50-m MET tower and the Morley photovoltaic array, has the highest number of visits for any site hosted by the Williams College Office of Information Technology. Bi-weekly and monthly collection and laboratory analysis of rain or stream water also continues as part of the ongoing forest geochemical monitoring that began in 1984.

The lab added a webcam to the main forest weather station that can be accessed from inside the Williams College network, and we upgraded the datalogger at the main Birch Brook stream gauging station. During the spring of 2011, the lab hosted twenty-three ES102 students, helping them to learn how to analyze the local environment in-depth using aspects of Geoscience, Biology and Chemistry. The lab was kept busy with the various independent projects taken on by these aspiring environmental scientists! We also hosted the following: CH255 students for sample analyses by Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy (AAS); CH364 students learning AAS and Ion Chromatography, Megan Trager ’14 for her training of PCB extraction using the Accelerated Solvent Extractor, and James McCarthy ’11, who used the lab as the foundation for his senior GEOS thesis.
Environmental Planning Workshop is an experiential course in which students work in small groups on planning projects for client organizations that request our assistance. In this class, the students get out into the Berkshire community and become involved in pressing local issues. The four projects from fall 2010 are listed below. The final reports may be read on the CES website under “Publications and Resources.”

“Feasibility Study of the Wylde Property in Williamstown, MA.” Client: Leslie Reed Evans and the Williamstown Affordable Housing Committee. By Alison Agnew ’11, JJ Augenbraun ’11 and Nick Williams ’11.


“A Trail Plan for Downtown Williamstown’s Christmas Brook Area.” Client: Dave Fitzgerald, Williams College Horticulturalist and Hank Art, Rosenberg Professor of Environmental Studies and Biology. By Andrei Baiu ’11, Alex Elvin ’11 and Lauren Golstein-Kral ’12.

Campus Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC)

The Campus Environmental Advisory Committee had a busy and productive year starting with a motion for Faculty Meeting consideration that CEAC become a full-standing committee, but had to withdraw the proposal pending the drafting of a Sustainability Plan for Williams College, a document that conceivably could alter the role of CEAC. The Sustainability Plan Draft has now been completed and is heading to the President’s Office for the next steps in editing and implementation.

CEAC provided support for Williams’ participation in the Sustainability Tracking Assessment & Rating System developed by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. The Committee drafted an instrument to survey the faculty regarding the extent to which they offered courses on sustainability in the curriculum and conducted sustainability-related research. We also to help the Sustainable Food Program Manager and the ad hoc Sustainability Plan Development Group with various elements of a sustainable agriculture/food/dining plan for the College. Recommendations have been collected and have been forwarded to the SPDG and the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives.

Finally, CEAC continued to provide advice on and reaction to other environmental and sustainability issues such as: energy conservation projects, building projects, the Weston Field renovations, the proposed biomass project in Pownal, VT, the PaperCut program, the Williams College Building Guidelines, and the incorporation of sustainability education as part of orientation of first-year students.
CES-Supported Internships and Research Projects, Summer 2010

Rooney Charest ’11 Agricultural Policy Research
I began the summer knowing that I wanted to research and design policies to reduce the environmental impact of the American food system, but I was unsure of what my focus would be. After speaking with my advisor Sarah Gardner, I immersed myself in readings about the rise of industrial agriculture, the environmental repercussions of federal farm subsidies, and agricultural conservation programs. The more I read about the failures of federal policy, the more I became convinced that the best way to achieve a more sustainable food system would be to take a more localized approach. I interviewed employees at the USDA National Resources Conservation Service Field Office in Hadley and the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources’ Office in Amherst, as well as a number of organic farmers from Franklin and Hampshire counties. With the majority of the background research for my thesis completed, I ended the summer ready to dive in to some more original research during my senior year.

Brian Cole ’11 On the Trail to Art
Light was glowing in the Eastern sky as I was rudely awakened by the clanking of cook pots. I jumped out of the tent to find a mangy Black Bear nosing around my cooking area. I hollered and hurled rocks, but it wasn’t until I ran for him that...
he became scared. He took off running...with my red pocketknife dangling from his mouth. Life in the wilderness may keep me on my toes, but it is a perfect place for quiet reflection, inspiration and experimentation with landscape art. On the Trail to Art was a landscape art trip in the Marble Mountain Wilderness of Northern California. The trip consisted of 13 days, the entirety of which I spent in the wilderness working with various natural materials and seeking inspiration from the surroundings. The art was constructed solely out of material found on site using only my hands and at times, a pocketknife. Each completed art piece was photographed, and an accompanying journal entry captured the inspiration for each study. The beautiful outdoor setting and the broad array of natural materials made my experience unparalleled and unforgettable, and the natural world shared a wealth of inspiration. During my time in the wilderness, I fostered a connection with the landscape around me and laid the foundation for continued artistic exploits in the great outdoors. On the Trail to Art can be found at: http://onthetrailtoart.blogspot.com/

Wade Davis ’11 Kennebec Land Trust Internship
One morning I found myself tearing up invasive honeysuckle in a mosquito-infested forest of central Maine. That afternoon I was in the office typing a press release to announce the Kennebec Land Trust’s new book, and the next morning I was leading 30 first-graders on a nature walk. My time at the Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) was filled with a well-balanced variety of field and office work. I blazed trails, attended a forestry conference, created a property brochure, researched a grant, wrote press releases, managed invasive plants, and much more. This experience has taught me how effective land conservation occurs on the local level. I learned that a successful land conservation movement requires a community-wide effort with strong partnerships and committed individuals drawn from the full spectrum of land users and landowners. The KLT internship provided the opportunity to meaningfully experience the many layers of land conservation.

KK Durante ’11 The Urban Food Justice Movement
I explored the workings of the food movement in New York City last summer and the views and ideologies that its participants embrace. I conducted fieldwork in different neighborhoods of the city with varying access to fresh food. I visited upscale farmers’ markets with locavore advocate consumers, such as the Union Square Greenmarket, while I also spent time in two neighborhoods designated as “most at risk” for obesity, diabetes, and other diet-related diseases, East Harlem and Cypress Hills, Brooklyn. I was involved in an obesity intervention program for kids in East Harlem. In Cypress Hills I worked with City Harvest on a ‘Power of Eating Right Program’ for middle and high school students. I worked with food justice community organizations, City Harvest and Just Food, visited community gardens and mobile markets, and took part in a Greenmarket Rescue, rescuing 2,000 lbs of fresh food in one afternoon. As my fieldwork progressed I began to identify the social and cultural determinants causing the food injustices in New York. Over the course of the summer, I came to understand a dynamic and variegated rising social movement, whose adherents are questioning the production, organization, and distribution of one of the most basic and essential things in human life. The experience provided me a prism through which to examine this issue, which is closely tied to our environment, health, and society.

Sara Finkle ’14 New England Climate Summer Internship
I spent last summer participating in New England Climate Summer, a campaign run by Students for a Just and Stable Future. Climate Summer involved one week of training in community organizing, environmental science and policy, and bike maintenance. We then broke off into teams of four, and spent the next eight weeks in eight different towns, trying to build the climate change movement around Massachusetts. We traveled by bicycle. Climate Summer was an amazing opportunity to see some of the great work being done in communities to lower carbon emissions and become more sustainable and self sufficient. It was also a great way to learn how to organize, and what I feel most proud of are all of the people whom I encouraged to take action against climate change.

Andrew Gaidus ’11 Project for Public Spaces Internship
Last summer I interned at an urban planning non-profit organization in Manhattan called Project for Public Spaces (PPS). PPS uses an approach called “placemaking” in their planning and design, which emphasizes local community involvement as a key ingredient for successful public space projects. PPS has completed projects in over 2,500 communities in 40 countries and all 50 U.S. states. The main project I was involved in was the Tappan Zee Bridge Replacement / I-287 Corridor Transit Oriented Development Project, which will create a public transit link between Westchester and Rockland counties. A key role that PPS is playing in this project is holding workshops with the eight communities involved to discuss issues and opportunities resulting from his new development. I also conducted an independent research project with two other interns to analyze usage patterns in Teardrop Park, at the southern tip of Manhattan. The project concluded with a formal presentation to the entire PPS staff of our methodology, data analysis, results, conclusions, and short/long term
recommendations. I helped create two videos documenting PPS-sponsored events: Williamsburg Walks, a street closing event to encourage residents to rethink and celebrate their neighborhood, and the East New York Farmers Market. This internship provided me with invaluable experience in the world of urban planning.

**Tommy Gaidus ’13 Hoosic River Watershed Association Internship**

My time with HooRWA consisted of three separate projects. My work started with trail maintenance on the Mahican-Mohawk trail, then moved to creating an historical brochure of the North Adams area, and finished with the surveying of local river crossings. Although all three projects dealt with different aspects of the surrounding area, they all provided me with an opportunity to learn more about the Williamstown-North Adams area and to help improve it and make its residents more aware of what the area has to offer. Working with HooWRA was a great experience because it allowed me to learn so much about the area that I call home for so much of the year. I now have a much greater appreciation for the area and will continue to give back to it as much as I can.

**Timothy Hickey-LeClair ’11 Berkshire Climate Internship**

I split my time as an intern between two local organizations dedicated to lowering CO2 emissions in Berkshire County: the Center for Ecological Technology and Williamstown COOL Committee. My activities fell into three main categories: outreach, research, and writing. I attended a number of events, including town picnics, street fairs, schools, hardware stores and supermarkets giving Berkshire county residents information on everything from free weatherization services to bio-oil cooperatives in the area. I researched and created a comprehensive list of actions second-homers can take to reduce the carbon foot-print of their part time residences; and I edited Green Community Petitions from several municipalities seeking grants from the commonwealth for green projects. Finally, I interviewed several environmentally-forward individuals, and composed Climate Hero Profiles about the steps they’d taken to reduce their carbon footprints. These experiences gave me valuable insights into what does and doesn’t prompt action at the ground level, and exposed me to the newest trends, technologies, and innovations in green energy and sustainability.

**Andrea Lindsay ’13 Streets for all Seattle Internship**

My summer internship through the Sierra Club on the Streets for All Seattle campaign was a truly experiential education in grassroots organizing, political campaigning, and urban and transportation planning. Streets for All Seattle is a nonprofit organization dedicated to making walking, biking, and public transportation the easiest ways to get around the city; it was formed in the spring of 2010 as a coalition of environmental, community, business, labor, and other organizations all united around the values of health, safety, equity, and building a future for Seattle that works for everyone. As a intern for the campaign, I spread the word about Streets for All Seattle at a variety of events around the city, built partnerships and studied the relationship between transportation issues and social justice values such as equity, access and affordability, health and environmental justice. This internship confirmed my desire to work at the intersection of environmental and social justice and to continue developing my abilities to motivate, organize, and empower people to create change in their lives, communities, and the world.

**Abby Martin ’11 Land Use Research**

As part of my architecture and environmental studies contract major, I as writing a senior thesis on the built environment and a sense of place in Mystic, Connecticut. I spent part of the summer there, through the generosity of the Bernard M. Schuyler Memorial Fund, conducting full-immersion research into the town and its architectural identity. I was able to take advantage of many local resources, particularly the archival collections at Mystic Seaport, the Mystic-Noank Library, the Mystic River Historical Society, and Connecticut College. I worked with architects, planners, historians, and other local residents, building a deep understanding of Mystic’s built and natural landscapes, and people’s historical and present-day connections to them.

**Evalynn Rosado ’12 Center for Community Design Internship**

I worked with the Florida Center for Community Design and Research on a project entitled “Historical Ecology and Ecological Knowledge in the Tampa Bay Socioecosystem.” I examined hydrology of the Hillsborough Watershed from historical map documentation dating from the mid 19th and 20th centuries. Our small group of interns constructed geospatial datasets of the hydrological information these maps contained using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The product of our work on the predevelopment maps allows analysis of the effects of American development on the ecology of the Tampa Bay area. I also worked on a research project analyzing the effects of different types of development on wetland habitats. I visited four different local wetlands and learned about their characteristics, functions, government policies that exist in Florida to protect them, and the forces that threaten their health. Another project was a study of local perspectives on water conservation. I assisted a colleague in transcribing phone interviews with both local residents and professionals who discussed their conservation practices as well as the regional policies that influence those practices. The work I did with these projects allowed me to gain knowledge of the interaction between people and water in multiple ways: historic, modern, social, ecological and analytical.
Chandler Sherman ’11 Nuclear Power Research: Plant Vogtle, Waynesboro, Georgia

Last summer I researched the community impacts of nuclear power. Nuclear power has risen in public attention recently, advertised as a carbon-free, low-cost energy solution to wean our economy off fossil fuels. The Obama administration endorsed expanding our nation’s nuclear power program, granting an $8.3 billion loan guarantee to Georgia Power for the construction of the first two nuclear reactors in three decades, at Plant Vogtle in Waynesboro, GA. I traveled to Georgia and interviewed residents, politicians, activists, and plant workers in this segregated, low-income town about the nuclear reactors already in their backyard, and their thoughts on the plant’s expansion. The overwhelming majority of people I spoke with on the street and in local stores had no opinion about the nuclear plant in their neighborhood, or viewed the plant favorably, as one of the few good employers in this economically depressed town. However, residents of the entirely African-American neighborhood directly surrounding Plant Vogtle had a different story to tell, about Georgia Power’s illegal seizure of their property and the unexplained increase in deadly cancers in their families, starting a few years after the plant began operation. Though expanding our country’s use of nuclear power could help the United States meet its current energy needs while reducing carbon emissions, doing so would require large, risky upfront investments, increase dependence on a new finite natural resource, put the health of the surrounding community at risk, and leave the nation with vast quantities of radioactive waste that remains hazardous to human health for tens of thousands of years. My research indicated that a similar financial investment in a renewable energy source like wind power could bring the research and development to make such emissions-free technologies feasible to meet American energy needs, in a tenth of the construction time as a nuclear power plant and without producing radioactive pollution.

Connor Stern ’12 Centre for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife Internship

Conrad the cormorant arrived at the Centre for Rehabilitation of Wildlife in Durban, South Africa the same day I started volunteering there. He had a pulled muscle in his wing and couldn’t fly. At first we kept him inside with a heat lamp, and since he refused to eat we had to force-feed him pieces of sardine. He made slow, steady progress over the next few weeks, and we moved him into a large outdoor enclosure so he could spread his wings. We knew his injury had healed when one morning he swooped down from a branch, grabbed three whole sardines out of our hands, and swallowed each one of them before gracefully flying off to another perch on the opposite end of the enclosure. When we took him to a lake to release him, he hopped out of his box and enthusiastically plunged into the water in search of fish. I was sad to see the empty enclosure where my feathered friend once lived, but was happy to have helped get him back in the wild where he belongs. After all, the best cage is an empty cage.

Sonja Marie Nuechterlein Thalheimer ’13 NC Conservation Network Internship

I interned at the N.C. Conservation Network, an umbrella organization for environmental groups throughout the state of North Carolina. Primarily, I worked with Peter Waltz, who is in charge of the organizational aspects, and also on my own tabling for a Farmland Preservation Trustfund bill. The tabling was at Farmer’s Markets across the Piedmont and also at one event more toward the coast. I also did some general organizing, including entering names into the database that I’d gathered at the tabling, hunting down pictures to use in email alerts, helping out with a Clean Water Lobby Day, and much more.

Carol Tsoi ’11 J.C. Calderon Architect PC Internship

I interned at J.C. Calderon Architect PC, located in Manhattan’s Upper East Side. Due to Mr. Calderon’s commitment to intern instruction, I was able to follow and contribute to eight different projects. These projects ranged from private residences, public institutions to apartment renovations. Undoubtedly, the preliminary design process offers the greatest latitude in executing green measures. My main project for the summer was to research the requirements of a LEED certified home. Since the private project was in the nascent stages of development, the most daring designs and green measures remained viable options to me. My research culminated in a design proposal for the new home, which would target each of the 35 topic areas in the LEED Rating System for Homes. Through the design process, I practiced my newly gained draftsmen skills. I learned the technicalities associated with the program AUTOCAD, such as scale, hot keys, viewports and plotting. By the end of the summer, I submitted my renderings of the plan, section and elevation of the two-story home. This internship exposed me to the rigors and joys of being an architect and has clarified my post-Williams path.

Emily Ury ’13 PCB Research

I worked as a research assistant in the Williams College Chemistry Department conducting a study on PCBs in the Hoosic River. PCBs were introduced to the river by the Sprague Electric Company in North Adams between 1950 and 1980 and
that surge of support for living sustainably, in February I sustainability for '84’s 25th reunion. Perhaps buoyed by 2009, when I was fortunate to speak as part of a panel on Lots has happened since my last visit to campus in June I’m working in environmental economics in the Boston area. Jim Neumann 1984

air pollution. sustainable manufacturing practices to reduce water and based companies to ensure their suppliers are following a coalition of NGO’s and local activists to persuade US- reduce poaching in protected areas. They are working with the Chinese government for the past 10 years to establish a network of provincial protected areas like our China to set up a National Park system like our own, making flooding more prevalent in rural areas due to heavy development and poaching is causing major losses of wildlife. Despite these threats, TNC is helping China to set up a National Park system like our own, establish a network of provincial protected areas like our state parks, and to reduce fish losses due to dams and reduce poaching in protected areas. They are working with a coalition of NGO’s and local activists to persuade US-based companies to ensure their suppliers are following sustainable manufacturing practices to reduce water and air pollution.

Josephine Warshauer ’11 Friends of Lower Cape Fear Internship
After a fascinating spring semester at Williams learning about American democratic society, I immersed myself in grassroots and civic action while working with Friends of the Lower Cape Fear (FLCF) in Wilmington, North Carolina. The citizen-based organization is heavily involved in a campaign to stop Titan America (a company rooted in Greece) and its subsidiary, Carolinas Cement, from successfully building what would be the nation’s fourth largest cement plant. If built, the plant and accompanying open pit mine would significantly harm the air, water, and environment of the Wilmington area and contribute to health issues, such as asthma. The individuals I worked with brought experience, ingenuity, knowledge, and passion to the cause, daily. From them, I learned invaluable lessons about organizational structuring, community outreach, and the impacts of cement on our surroundings. I am tremendously indebted to the FLCF board members for providing me with the opportunity to intern with FLCF and to the Williams Center for Environmental Studies, for their financial support.

Harry Kangis 1972
I am in my final year of a 3-year term as Chair of The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) Ohio Chapter’s Board. My wife and I just returned from a two week TNC organized tour of China, with a particular focus on the Yangtze River and Yunnan Province. TNC has been helping to prevent pollution and save the Yunnan Province. TNC has been helping the Chinese government for the past 10 years to establish a conservation structure that can help to mitigate the substantial damage to the environment resulting from China’s explosive growth. For example, China already has 85,000 dams, with hundreds more on the drawing board. While many of these provide clean hydro power, they are decimating native fish populations and actually making flooding more prevalent in rural areas due to heavy silting. Wholesale deforestation has led to the substantial erosion which makes the Yellow River so yellow. Most rivers are polluted almost to the point of being unbearable for drinking water due to human, agricultural and industrial waste. Heavy development and poaching is causing major losses of wildlife. Despite these threats, TNC is helping China to set up a National Park system like our own, establish a network of provincial protected areas like our state parks, and to reduce fish losses due to dams and reduce poaching in protected areas. They are working with a coalition of NGO’s and local activists to persuade US-based companies to ensure their suppliers are following sustainable manufacturing practices to reduce water and air pollution.

Jim Neumann 1984
I’m working in environmental economics in the Boston area. Lots has happened since my last visit to campus in June 2009, when I was fortunate to speak as part of a panel on sustainability for ’84’s 25th reunion. Perhaps buoyed by that surge of support for living sustainably, in February I started a new project advising the World Bank and a handful of Eastern Europe/Central Asian governments on adapting agriculture to climate change. The work has taken me to Albania, Moldova, Macedonia, and Uzbekistan - fascinating places all, though very poor and clearly in need of assistance in this area. In June I was named a lead author for the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - one of about 800 or so scientists and economists worldwide who will write the UN’s next assessment of the impacts of climate change around the world. This summer I’m starting some new work on impacts of sea-level rise and tropical cyclones in Vietnam, Mozambique, and Ghana. And, in the fall, the EPA will publish The Benefits and Costs of the Clean Air Act: 1990-2020 - see www.epa.gov/oar/sect812 if you're interested - a study I contributed to that makes a very strong economic case for air pollution regulation. At home, my son turned 18 and starts college in September, and my 15-year old daughter just returned from a mission trip to El Salvador. Hope to have a chance to visit Williamstown again before my 30th...

Mary Taylor Miller 1988
CES remains near and dear to me, and I use what I learned at Williams daily! I am very fortunate and lucky to do the work that I always imagined! Our family runs Elkhorn Ranch, a guest and horse ranch in the Altar Valley southwest of Tucson, Arizona. Along with our ranching neighbors, we launched a watershed conservation organization called the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. Last year, the group won the Burch Award for collaborative conservation, awarded by the Quivira Coalition. We facilitate partnership and communication between private and public parties working in the valley, and encourage on-the-ground conservation projects like prescribed fire and...
watershed restoration. We now have an annual Scientific Research Fellowship, available to anyone interested in doing research in the watershed. Learn more about Elkhorn Ranch at www.elkhornranch.com and also visit www.altarvalleyconservation.org. Between the two, you’ll see what I’ve been up to the past 15 years or so! I wish I could see CES friends more often, and have such fond memories of everyone and all the fun we enjoyed!

Andrea Walter 1988
I’ve been writing grants, hauling brush, eradicating poison ivy and otherwise building our elementary school nature trail. Many other teachers now use it to teach or just get the children a few minutes of exercise. Here’s a blog post describing the trail and some of our learning experiences. http://www.soufulservice.com/connectingwithnature/nature-trail-project-at-a-local-school/. Hope you have a great reunion. I am a 4th grade teacher, Polk County, NC.

David Evan Markus 1994
David completed his two-year stint as senior counsel to the Leader of the New York State Senate and suspended private practice to serve as deputy chief counsel to the New York Judiciary under Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, where he works on justice policy on behalf of the third branch of state government. David also is a third-year dual rabbinic and spiritual direction student in ALEPH (a post-denominational seminary), a fellow in Rabbis Without Borders, and associate spiritual leader of Temple Beth-El of City Island (New York). When he’s not trucking between NYC, Albany, Washington and various lifecycle events, David pretends to sleep.

Dan Auerbach 2001
After four years in Fort Collins at Colorado State University, I’m working on my dissertation for a degree in ecology, focused on modeling riparian community dynamics in Western U.S. rivers. I hope to build from this fairly theoretical base toward work that promotes a balance of use and stewardship of global water resources. I’d encourage any alums or undergrads with an interest in aquatic science or water policy to get in touch, and I’d be happy to play guide for anyone looking to do some backcountry skiing in Colorado.

Irena Hollowell 2001
For most of the past two years, I’ve been living at Acorn Community, a small egalitarian intentional community in central Virginia, where we collectively own and operate Southern Exposure Seed Exchange (SESE). We sell open-pollinated, untreated garden seed, and part of our mission is to help keep older varieties alive and to make it more possible for home gardeners to save seed. We host monthly feasts, hold dance parties, have pet turkeys, swim in our pond (newly leech-free thanks to our ducks), and have fun in many other ways. The business is providing well for the community, and we are planning to build a new office for it, using many green building methods. Meanwhile, we are finishing several smaller construction projects. We are contributing to the beginnings of a new intentional community, Living Energy Farm, which plans to use zero fossil fuel and to operate an educational center about sustainable living. Also, SESE is currently one of 60 plaintiffs in a lawsuit against Monsanto. Like many people here, I work a lot in the gardens in the summer. However, I’ve been spending the hottest part of each day inside, doing things like outreach for the Communities Conference that will be held this August at Twin Oaks, Acorn’s sister community. I am extremely happy to work at a place that gives me the flexibility and learning opportunities I get here.

Brian Burke 2002
Brian Burke is currently huddled over a computer in the Sonoran Desert, trying to hydrate well while he writes a dissertation on grassroots experiments with alternative economies in Colombia. He’s excited about an almost-homecoming in the fall, when he moves to Maine to huddle over a computer, trying to stay warm while writing a dissertation. He also plans to get into lots of trouble with Daniel Shearer and Jen Lazar (both ’04 and in Portland, ME), teach a winter session course at Colby College on environmental issues in Latin America, and finish his Ph.D. in anthropology by next May. If you find yourself near Tucson or Waterville, send an e-mail.

Jonathan Weiner 2002
I got engaged and followed my fiance to Baltimore. I have left the litigation team at NRDC down one Williams alumnus, and now am working as an associate attorney in Earthjustice’s DC office. I focus mainly on energy efficiency standards and consumer product labeling. http://earthjustice.org/blogs/jonathan-wiener

Bill Sacks 2003
I graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison last August, with a Ph.D. in Environment & Resources. Soon after, I moved to Boulder, CO, with my wife and one-year-old son. I am now working as a software engineer at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Specifically, I am working on various aspects of their climate model, which is one of the models used for the IPCC assessments. It has been great to find this opportunity to combine the two fields I studied at Williams and beyond: computer science and environmental science. It has also been great to again live in a town nestled up against the mountains!

Sam Arons 2004
Sam continues to work on the Green Business Operations team at Google. Most recently he’s been installing electricity meters in several of Google’s largest offices around the world in an effort to measure consumption and find ways to improve efficiency. The first use of the data was a pilot employee energy saving competition, which resulted in 10% plug-load savings at a financial payback of 3 years (!). He’s planning to present his results at the Behavior, Energy, & Climate Change (BECC) conference in November.
Mark Orlowski 2004
Mark delivered the featured commencement address at Berkshire Community College’s 51st commencement exercises on June 3. Mark has been traveling frequently to build support for the Billion Dollar Green Challenge, a new initiative of the Sustainable Endowments Institute launching in the fall. On a recent visit to San Francisco, Mark hung out and stayed over with Sam Arons ’04. Sam, along with Bill McCalpin ’79, serve on a distinguished 32-member Advisory Council for the Billion Dollar Green Challenge. Mark was also recently selected as a scholar for the Aspen Institute’s 2011 Environment Forum.

Sara Jablonski 2007
I am in the middle of my masters program at Michigan State. My department has a really long name because it is crazily interdisciplinary. It’s called the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies. I am doing my masters research about a participatory research program that is going on between a plant breeder at MSU, the national agricultural research program in Ecuador (INIAP) and farmers in bean-growing regions of Ecuador. I’m studying the nature of farmer participation in the bean improvement program, in order to understand and document the farmers’ perspectives of the program. I am here for three months, after which time I will return to Lansing, Michigan, to finish my masters, hopefully by May 2012.

Andrew Stevenson 2007
May 17th was my last day full-time with Resources for the Future and Climate Advisers. In late summer I’ll be moving to California to start a JD/MBA program at Stanford University’s law and business schools, after taking the summer off to relax and travel. I’ll also be remaining on in an advisory role with Climate Advisers starting in the fall, and plan to stay connected in some way to climate/energy/environmental issues. For now, I can be reached at astevenson07@gmail.com.

Reunion Weekend: June 10-12, 2011
On Reunion weekend about one hundred CES alumni and their families reunited at our reception in Harper House. Prior to the reception, we held a conversation about the Kellogg House Building Project and discussed the plans to move, renovate and add onto the old Kellogg House. Some photos from the reception are below.

Photographs by Alex Elvin
Graduation 2011

On June 5th, fourteen seniors graduated with a Concentration in Environmental Studies and four seniors graduated with a major in Environmental Policy. The photos below are from the CES Class Day reception.

Photographs by David Simonds
Center for Environmental Studies Faculty and Staff 2010-11

Jennifer French, Director
Sarah Gardner, Associate Director
Heather Houser, Post Doctoral Fellow
Nicolas Howe, Post Doctoral Fellow
Drew Jones, Hopkins Forest Manager
Jay Racela, Technical Assistant

Field Notes
Sarah Gardner, Editor
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.

Field Notes is printed on paper containing 30% post-consumer waste.