



## First Certificate Class Discuss Their Summer Internships and Senior Projects

Our first Certificate class of eight seniors have returned from their summer environmental internships made possible by a grant from the A.W. Mellon Foundation. Their diverse internships incorporated topics such as policy, science, gender and women's issues, marketing, and religious studies and will be integrated into their senior projects. Learn more about our Certificate seniors and their internship experiences at <http://ccbcs.conncoll.edu/class2002.html>.

On a small, organic banana farm in Talamanca, Costa Rica, **Leys Bostrom** worked with a group of local women seeking to create a better economic future. She participated in banana cultivation and plantation maintenance and helped them develop a tourist aspect to their operation as a means to supplement



Marjorie Lundgren '02 by Hatchet Pond in the Quinnebaug Highlands project area, Southbridge, MA.

their annual income. As a Gender and Women's Studies major, Leys was interested in the difficulties women in other countries encounter. As an environmentalist, she focused on the difference between organic and conventional production in terms of environmental sustainability. Her senior integrative project will show the process involved in the production of organic bananas through a photographic essay. Leys' article on her internship experience with the Institute for Central American Development Studies can be found to the right.

Environmental Studies major **Marjorie Lundgren** worked with the Connecticut chapter of The Nature Conservancy to  
*Senior Internships continues on page 4*

## The Economic Struggle: Conventional versus Organic Bananas

By Leys Bostrom '02

Rows of banana plants line the only road along the south-eastern coast of Costa Rica, where I spent 10 weeks this past summer. Chiquita, Dole, and the Standard Fruit Company own the majority of these plantations. One cannot help but notice the blue fungicide-containing plastic bags hanging on each tree. They are used to cover the bananas with chemicals during their entire development into the unnaturally large and yellow fruits that are exported to Europe and the United States. Unfortunately, this is only part of the chemical-process used to grow such "perfect" bananas. Other methods include aerial sprays every 12 days, ground injections, hand applications of pesticides, and pesticides used to rinse the bananas and preserve them while traveling overseas. This type of pesticide use causes ground and water contamination, poor air quality, and a myriad of human health problems, including sterility and chronic respiratory illnesses in the workers. The health and treatment of the banana plantation employees are not priorities at all. These large companies do not support workers rights and, in a country with few employment options, are constantly threatening to fire one worker to hire another. However, in Costa Rica there are also about 1,000 small organic banana plantations that are hidden from the public eye.



A brochure created by Leys Bostrom '02 for La Asociación de Familias Productoras El Yúe.

*Organic Bananas continues on page 6*

Established in 1993, The Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology & Environmental Studies (CCBES) is an interdisciplinary program that draws on the expertise and interests of faculty and students in the liberal arts to address contemporary ecological challenges. The Center strives to integrate all areas of learning to deal with the issues of sustainability and the natural environment. Building on a scientific understanding of the natural world, the Center invites the social sciences, the humanities, and the arts to help understand and solve difficult environmental issues.

## From the Director

Robert A. Askins

I write this letter in an office at Doshisha University in Kyoto, where I am spending a semester doing research and teaching. My students are participating in the Associated Kyoto Program, which is jointly sponsored by 16 American colleges and universities, including Connecticut College. They spend a year in Kyoto studying Japanese, living with a family, and taking courses in subjects related to Japan. Only a few students in the program are science majors, so I am teaching a general course that blends natural history, ecology and environmental history. I've tried to take full advantage of our setting in Kyoto. We have observed a well-studied troop of Japanese macaques (monkeys) in the mountains west of Kyoto, stood at dusk in the courtyard of one of the city's ancient Buddhist temples to watch giant flying squirrels emerge from their nest hole and glide into the dark forest, and identified wintering ducks on the Kamogawa (literally, Duck River) in the center of the city. We have also discussed books on Japan's environmental disasters (Minamata disease, lethal air pollution, and the destruction of rich fishing areas), and the environmental movements that have been crucial both in improving air and water quality and in convincing ordinary people that they can use democratic processes to protect their communities. We've also discussed the loss of natural habitats such as wetlands and evergreen hardwood forests, and the impact this has had on biological diversity in Japan.

My current research focuses on how to maintain Japan's biological diversity. A book I published on conservation of North American birds will be translated into Japanese and I am writing some new sections on Japanese conservation issues. Each chapter will include boxed inserts with summaries of Japanese studies that illustrate important concepts.

One of the major themes of the book is the importance of natural disturbances in sustaining populations of many species of plants and animals. After reading the scientific literature and traveling to some of the key natural areas in Japan, I am convinced that seasonal flooding along rivers was critically important for perpetuating wetlands, grasslands and thickets. Along some rivers, about ten percent of the floodplain was denuded of vegetation every year, creating a continual supply of open habitats. Flood control has eliminated this process along most of Japan's rivers, leaving little habitat for many marsh species (such as the Japanese crane) or grassland species (such as the skylark).

The most endangered songbird on the main islands of Japan, the Japanese marsh warbler, probably originally depended on periodic floods. Only about 1,000 of these birds remain in Japan. They are found in reedbeds, most of which have been filled in to create farmland or building sites. Compounding the problem of reedbed destruction, marsh warblers need reedbeds with patches of low sedge, the sort of patchwork that would result from periodic disturbance of the marsh surface. With flood control, this patchwork disappears as tall reeds cover the entire marsh.

Currently the largest population of Japanese marsh warblers is found at Hotoke-numa, a marsh near Misawa in northern Honshu. Here the proper mix of reedbed and sedge is maintained by controlling the water level and by permitting moderate grazing by cattle. These actions replace the natural flooding that would have continually created marsh warbler habitat in the original landscape. Remarkably, this marsh is protected by the small

town of Misawa and by an active local chapter of the Wild Bird Society of Japan. Their efforts not only protect the marsh warbler, but also other threatened species, including birds, plants and dragonflies.

Despite the importance of this site, the effort to save it is primarily local, not national. This is typical of conservation efforts in Japan, where there are thousands of local conservation groups but few powerful national conservation groups. In one way this strengthens conservation because local groups carefully monitor and maintain their local nature preserves. It means, however, that sites of national or global importance often do not receive appropriate support. For example, the largest population of the endangered Japanese cranes is found in Kushiro Shitsugen National Park in Hokkaido. The cranes have been protected for decades because of their special cultural significance in Japan, but their habitat has not always been preserved. After 1970 about a third of the marsh at Kushiro was filled in to create farmland. A dedicated local group supports conservation and research in the park, but they did not have the resources to purchase wetlands outside the park boundary or the influence to convince the government to expand the park. An effort of this magnitude would require a larger national organization.

My experience of talking with researchers, park managers and amateur naturalists and visiting natural areas has given me an understanding of Japanese conservation issues that I never could have obtained from reading books and scientific papers in Connecticut. I plan to share this new perspective with my students when I return to Connecticut College.



Professor & Mrs. Robert Askins (center) with the Wild Bird Society in Kyoto, Japan.



**GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER  
FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY  
& ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE**

**CCBES**

Box 5293 Connecticut College  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
Phone 860 439 5417 / Fax 860 439 2418  
E-Mail [ccbес@conncoll.edu](mailto:ccbес@conncoll.edu)  
<http://ccbес.conncoll.edu>

Robert Askins, *Director*  
Glenn Dreyer, *Executive Director*  
Gerald Visgilio, *Associate Director*  
Diana Whitelaw, *Assistant Director*  
Jana Savanapridi '00, *Editor & Intern*

**STEERING COMMITTEE**

Thomas Ammirati, *Physics*  
Phillip Barnes, *Zoology*  
Catherine Benoit, *Anthropology*  
Jane Dawson, *Government*  
Paul Fell, *Zoology*  
William Frasure, *Government*  
Manuel Lizarralde, *Botany & Anthropology*  
John Nugent, *Government*  
Peter Siver, *Botany*  
Christine Small, *Botany*  
Douglas Thompson, *Physics*  
Derek Turner, *Philosophy*  
Scott Warren, *Botany*  
Marc Zimmer, *Chemistry*

**BOARD OF ADVISORS**

Ms. Wendy Blake Coleman, '75  
*Office of Water, US EPA*  
Mr. John Cook  
*The Nature Conservancy*  
Dr. David Foster, '77  
*Harvard Forest, Harvard University*  
Dr. Richard Goodwin  
*Professor Emeritus, Connecticut College*  
Mr. Ralph Lewis  
*Connecticut State Geologist*  
Mrs. Helen Mathieson '52  
*Connecticut College Board of Trustees*  
Dr. Edward Monahan  
*Connecticut Sea Grant College Program*  
Dr. Norman Richards  
*Environmental Management, Mohegan Tribe*

*Newsletter Designed by Sarjit Rattan*

*Organic Bananas continued from page 1*



*Organic, shade-grown bananas are still not available in the U.S.*

*La Asociación de Familias Productoras El Yüe Carbón 1 Talamanca* is one of the many groups that participate in this organic production. They organized in 1994 as a group of women seeking alternatives to better their economic situation and general quality of life. Since then their project has grown, and today they are able to harvest over 600 banana plants on a half-hectare of land. They are planning to export bananas to Germany in September of 2001, as a trial project. The organic bananas do not look as perfectly yellow, nor are they as big as the conventional fruits, yet they taste better. They are grown chemical-free, among other kinds of plants that provide natural shade. They are much healthier to eat, and can be fed to many domestic animals or used as fertilizer. This is a more sustainable method of banana production, with much less environmental pollution. However, these organic bananas cannot be sold for as high a price, and their producers must struggle against the competition of the better-looking and faster-growing conventional bananas.

During my time working in the small village of Hone Creek, Talamanca, Costa Rica, I learned a lot about the local culture, the differences between organic and conventional banana producers and the daily struggles of the people. I lived with Emilia Cruz, the president and founder of *La Asociación*, and her family. She expressed to me the intense struggle that she and other women in the group had faced with their husbands, during the initial stages of the work. Several women were unable to join the group for this reason, and others continue to struggle today. Their husbands feel that a wife's place is in the home doing the cooking, cleaning, laundry and ironing. At times I felt personally uncomfortable with the strong, cultural machismo with which I was confronted almost everywhere.

I had arrived in Costa Rica with no real expectations about what my experience would be like. I spent a lot of my time talking with the members of this association about when and how it began, as well as about their current projects and future goals. Emilia quickly expressed concern about the economic status of the group and explained that the women were interested in the initiation of a tourism project. At popular beaches and a well-known town, Puerto Viejo, only 3½ miles away, the local

*Organic Bananas continues on page 6*



assess the extent and impact of invasive plant species in the Quinnebaug Highlands, a 34,000-acre forested region in north-eastern Connecticut. With the help of another student, she collected detailed ecological information on 184 plots and used Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to characterize the extent and location of invasion by a variety of exotic species. The information will be used by The Nature Conservancy to decide which locations to try to protect from further invasion. Marjorie's internship enhanced her knowledge of forest ecology, non-native invasive plant species, GIS and the work of conservation organizations. Her senior thesis will deal with the role of non-native, invasive species in conservation.

At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, **Laura Rowe** worked as an assistant to a scientist in the Malaysia-MIT Biotechnology Partnership Program. They explored aspects of commercializing a component of vitamin E found in palm oil from Malaysia. Laura helped evaluate a business plan for this new dietary supplement in conjunction with Malaysian scientists and business experts. Later she assisted in creating a presentation explaining the steps from natural product discovery and development to actual commercialization. Laura, an Ethnobotany (self-designed) major, says that her experience "definitely opened my eyes to another side and a different realm in the discipline of ethnobotany." Her internship sparked interests in the field of pharmacology and ethnopharmacology and made her ask questions about cultural compensation, intellectual property rights, and patents. These issues will be incorporated into a senior thesis on intellectual property rights, specifically related to the problems anthropologists and ethnobotanists face today regarding indigenous compensations and the preservation of ethnobotanical knowledge.

**Jessica Schwartz** interned at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., an environmental consulting firm in Massachusetts. Jessica, a Biology major, began by taking an on-line course "Introduction to ArcView" to familiarize herself with Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. One of her projects dealt with the permitting process for locating wireless telecommunication towers. This included environmental and cultural impact analysis, use of GIS and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Jessica also worked on a rare-species study, shoreline studies and stream surveying. All of her projects dealt with sensitive environmental issues that required making balanced, ethical choices. She gained the technical GIS skills essential to her senior thesis on analyzing changes in tree species composition in the Arboretum over the past 50 years. A secondary goal of this study is to digitize geographic information for the locations of Arboretum boundaries, topography, permanent transect lines and markings, trails, stonewalls, water bodies, and major roadways.

Environmental Studies major **Hannah Shayler** worked as a research assistant in the Connecticut College Freshwater Ecology Laboratory. Hannah collected lake sediment core samples and water samples from nearly thirty North Carolina lakes. She prepared sediment samples for light and electron microscopy and used these instruments to identify the remains of freshwater planktonic algae and diatom species. Hannah will spend time at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Canada in January to continue her thesis research. Her senior thesis will use scanning electron microscopy to correlate differences in the

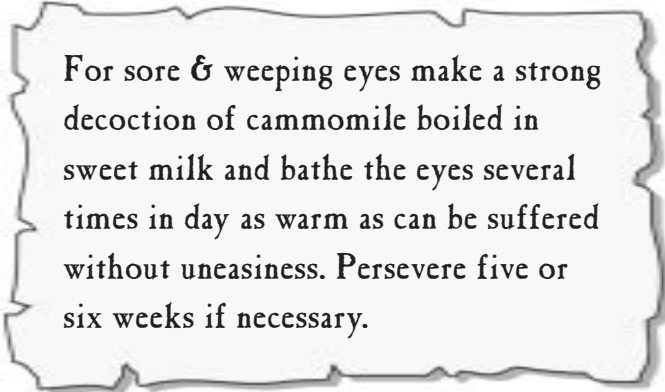
morphological structure of the diatom genus *Brachysira* with geographic distribution along environmental gradients. Hannah hopes her work will illustrate the importance of a minute organism as an integral component of the freshwater ecosystems of the eastern United States.

At the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Water Management Bureau, **Maria Sinnamon** collected water samples from various beaches and performed bacterial analysis on them. She also sampled water from the Naugatuck River to check the effectiveness of the recently upgraded Waterbury, Connecticut sewage treatment plant. With these samples, Maria used LD-50 and other techniques to test the suitability of the water for sustaining river life. She now has a better understanding of the state's involvement in the upgrade of the Waterbury Sewage Treatment Plant as well as some of the history of the Naugatuck River. Maria, an Environmental Studies major, will do her senior thesis on how the upgrade of the Waterbury sewage treatment plant has improved the water quality of the river and how sensitive species have reappeared as a result.

**Emily Templin**, also an Environmental Studies major, interned at the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) this past summer. One of Emily's experiences was working on a healthy schools project, to determine the scope of environmental health problems in Oregon. As a result of her work, the Council decided to apply for a grant to support a healthy schools initiative. Emily also helped the council on water conservation issues by researching nationwide water conservation policies, looking for innovative municipal models, and identifying program funding sources. Her experience with OEC allowed her to see how non-governmental organizations operate, their role in informing the community and how they influence the legislative process. Emily will do a senior thesis to determine how communities and non-governmental organizations have been successful in organizing to reduce environmental health hazards in schools. Case studies and theories of social mobilization will be examined to determine what has made movements effective.

Religious Studies major **Rachael Towers** assisted in a "relic" vegetation study at the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum in Connecticut. This project targeted the remains of old homesteads on the Mashantucket-Pequot Reservation and compared the vegetation in these formerly settled locations to nearby less disturbed vegetation. She also collected and prepared herbarium specimens, did library research on the subject of

*Senior Internships continues on page 6*



**For sore & weeping eyes make a strong decoction of cammomile boiled in sweet milk and bathe the eyes several times in day as warm as can be suffered without uneasiness. Persevere five or six weeks if necessary.**

*A medicinal recipe transcribed by Rachael Towers '02*

# Certificate Program Guest Lecture Series

Tim Keating of Rainforest Relief and Carole Baldwin of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History lectured on the beauty and importance of remote places such as tropical rainforests and the Galapagos Islands. The speakers were invited by the Goodwin-Niering Center as part of the Center Certificate Seminar course. Their presentations were followed by a private dinner or meeting with the certificate students for more in-depth discussion.

## Tim Keating: Rainforests in the Shopping Cart and the Alternative Consumer

The first thing Tim Keating did after he stepped off the train in New London was inspect the wood of the benches at City Pier. "Tropical hardwood," he said with a sigh. He had hoped that his previous talk here during Earth Day, 2000, would have remedied this situation.

Keating is an environmentalist, naturalist and the director of Rainforest Relief, a non-profit organization he co-founded in 1989 to stop the unsustainable use of rainforest materials through education, advocacy and direct action. The organization hopes to reduce consumption of over-extracted rainforest materials such as tropical woods, oil, pulp, paper, beef, agricultural products (bananas, coffee, chocolate) and mining products (oil, gold, aluminum and other metals.) According to Rainforest Relief, every second 1.5 acres of rainforest are lost due to logging and clearing for plantations that grow monocultured agricultural products and an estimated 100 to 450 species suffer extinction daily due to this loss.

Although they are not something we see in this country, tropical rainforests have a huge impact on our daily lives. In addition to controlling local weather and influencing the global climate, rainforest trees provide a significant portion of the planet's oxygen and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Many plants in the rainforests are prized for their medicinal values. Over 100 pharmaceutical companies as well as the U.S. government are currently funding projects studying the indigenous plant knowledge of native shamans and healers. Quinine, muscle relaxants, steroids and cancer drugs are just a few of the pharmaceuticals derived from these plants, and new drugs for AIDS, cancer, diabetes, arthritis and Alzheimer's still await discovery.

Keating's presentation "Rainforests in Your Shopping Cart" was designed to change the way people think about the earth and eliminate unsustainable habits in everyday life. His presentation juxtaposed beautiful images of the rainforest with images of corporate ads that endorse consumerism harmful to the rainforests and the environment in general. He reminded the audience that corporations have access to us all the time through a variety of media, while he only had a one-hour lecture. Keating spoke passionately about the wonders of the rainforest while showing slides of exotic animals and plants that most of us will never see in person. Most people do not think about rainforest preservation on a regular basis, and Keating's presentation aimed to bring this seemingly remote problem to the forefront of public consciousness.

Rainforest Relief has worked to successfully eliminate the use of tropical hardwood in numerous boardwalks and bridges across the country. They continue to collaborate with businesses such as The New York Times, Barnes & Noble, Brinker International (owner of Chili's), Timothy's World Coffees, Hilton Hotels, and Home Depot to identify alternatives to rainforest products. To find out more about Rainforest Relief and their programs, visit their web site at <http://www.rainforestrelief.org>.



Tim Keating with a female, three-toed sloth.

## Carole Baldwin Takes Us Way Beyond Darwin

An underwater fish resembling a translucent handkerchief glides gracefully by. Another has eyes distantly connected to its body on arm-like attachments. A bioluminescent creature swims by looking as if it is adorned with Christmas lights. All of these unusual species can be found in the waters off Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. The islands, located 600 miles off the South American coast, were named after the giant tortoises that inhabit them. They are one of the most volcanically active areas in the world. Their geographic isolation, distinctive habitats, and unique species provide scientists with a tool to study changes in plants and animals over time. Many animals arrive by air and sea. New species resulted from the adaptations needed to



Carole Baldwin observing a marine iguana

Carole continues on page 6

*Organic Bananas continued from page 3*

people are supported economically by the trade. We began working on ways to attract tourists to visit their banana farm. I took many photos and compiled notes in English and Spanish with the goal of creating an illustrated brochure. The final product provides information about the group and publicized their knowledge and efforts. My final weeks were spent distributing the brochures locally to tour groups, hotels, and cafés and talking with people about the reality of tourists visiting the plantation. Also, I worked with the group to build a path through part of their plantation and made bi-lingual signs for the many tropical fruits, flowers, and medicinal plants that they grow. An outside organization purchased several books that enabled the women to begin a more formal collection of resources, with the hopes of it evolving into a full-scale library. Their biggest challenge right now is that no one in the group is able to speak or write any English.

Although it was difficult to leave, my hope is that enough was accomplished for the group to actively continue work on the tourism project. I feel that the frustration that I was initially greeted with had dissipated somewhat by the time I left. My Spanish skills increased significantly during my 10-week home-stay in this Spanish-speaking country. I became friends with most of the other families along the dirt road on which I lived, and I learned about the struggles facing women and men within the Costa Rican family, culture, and economy.

*Carole continued from page 5*

## **Carole Baldwin Takes Us Way Beyond Darwin (continued)**

survive in the various island environments. The Galapagos became famous after Charles Darwin's visit inspired his legendary *Origin of Species*.

Carole Baldwin, a Museum Specialist in the Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Division of Fishes at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, shared captivating images of underwater life in her presentation "Galapagos: Way Beyond Darwin." Baldwin grew up near the seashore and her love for the ocean led to her research interest in tropical-marine and deep-sea fishes. She had the chance to use the only two IMAX 3-D cameras in the world to film her underwater adventure. "Galapagos" became the first IMAX 3-D natural history film of such a remote location. Her scuba gear allowed her to investigate the shallow underwater realm while a modern research submersible enabled her to explore the sea to depths of 3000 feet. The thousands of pounds of gear were hand-carried over treacherous lava terrain and the underwater cinematographer dealt with a two thousand pound camera system, strong currents and lighting problems. The results give the IMAX 3-D audience a glimpse of the Galapagos Islands' wildlife and landscape, while allowing them to share in the excitement of the expedition. The project not only produced a one-of-a-kind film but also resulted in important scientific discoveries of previously unknown species of marine fishes and invertebrates.

Carole Baldwin's "Galapagos: Way Beyond Darwin" was brought to us by The Smithsonian Associates and Connecticut College's Holleran Center through a generous sponsorship from the Pfizer Foundation. Visit the Smithsonian web site at <http://www.mnh.si.edu/expeditions/galapagos/index.htm> for more information on this project.

*Senior Internships continued from page 4*

non-native plant uses from the mid-eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century, and transcribed a nineteenth century manuscript, "Medicinal Recipes," an instructional guide for making botanical medicines. Rachael's senior integrative project will focus on the spiritual and religious aspects of native New England ethnobotany. This research will include ritualistic and ceremonial plants, significant plants found in mythology, and plants that have spiritual meanings attached to them. She will compare these data to environmental philosophy and religious theory, with the goal of providing a multi-disciplinary theoretical perspective on the topic.

The first Certificate class will graduate this year and a special ceremony will be held on Friday, May 24th in honor of their achievements.

### ***Request for Nominations***

#### ***Annual Alumni Environmental Achievement Award***

This award recognizes and celebrates Connecticut College alumni who have made significant contributions to all categories of environmental endeavors, including research, education, conservation, and activism. If you would like to nominate an alumnus please contact the Center at [ccbes@conncoll.edu](mailto:ccbes@conncoll.edu) or by phone at 860-439-5417.



*Carole and photographer with the underwater 3D camera*



# Student and Faculty Research Collaborations During Summer '01

The Distribution of the Diatom Genus *Frustulia* in Lakes and Ponds Along the East Coast of the United States

**George Baskette RT**  
Professor Peter Siver, Botany

Comparison of Waterbodies from Cape Cod, North Carolina and Florida Using a Suite of Water Chemical Parameters

**Corrie Pelczar '02**  
Professor Peter Siver, Botany

The Distribution of Species Within the Diatom Genus *Brachysira* in Waterbodies Along the East Coast of the United States

**Hannah Shayler '02**  
Professor Peter Siver, Botany

The Relation Between Discharge and the Intensity of Turbulence Along an Eddy Fence in a Pool of a Rocky Mountain Channel

**Jaime Goode '02**  
Professor Douglas Thompson, Physics

The History of Channel Restoration in New York Streams and Rivers

**Melanie Gryboski '01**  
Professor Douglas Thompson, Physics

Relations between Sediment Transport and Supply

**Lauren Hartzell '03**  
Professor Douglas Thompson, Physics

The Effect of *Phragmites* Invasion on Nursery Habitat of *Fundulus Heteroclitus*

**Kris Light '01**  
Professor Paul Fell, Zoology

Analysis of Invertebrate Populations in a Formerly Impounded Tidal Marsh and Nearby Reference Marshes Using Several Sampling Techniques

**Anna Pakenham '02**  
Professor Paul Fell, Zoology

Computational Analysis of an Environmentally Important Metalloenzyme: Nitrile Hydratase

**Lopa V. Desai '03**  
Professor Marc Zimmer, Chemistry

Computational Analysis of the Active Site of the Methanogenic Protein, Methyl Coenzyme M Reductase

**Lindsay Todd '04**  
Professor Marc Zimmer, Chemistry

Northeast Utilities Environmental Internships

**David Boettcher '02,**  
**Erik Brzozowski '04**  
**Kate Driscoll '03**

## Student Summer Research Focus

By Kate Driscoll '03

In the summer of 2001 I interned at Millstone Nuclear Powerplant. I worked in their environmental lab that assesses the plant's environmental impact on the marine habitat of Niantic, Connecticut. I had the opportunity to work with astoundingly smart people who are at the top of their fields. We studied species of economic importance such as winter flounder, lobsters, cunner and tautog, and the staff really made an effort to explain the research as we collected data. The study of egg fecundity was a new program for Millstone and it was wonderful to think I was working on something relevant. I was responsible for analyzing benthic and ichthyoplankton samples to record species and population counts. I also contributed to the gathering of samples for the lobster study. The purpose of this study was to record sex and size as well as an account of the degree of shell disease for each lobster so that the data can be studied over the long term. I was also involved in algal studies of the rocky shore zone, surveying several sites to see if the increase in water temperature has an effect on the algal population. As a side project, I got to help in the banding of this year's baby ospreys. When you get to hold one, you realize just what amazing creatures they are. Interning at Millstone was a great opportunity. I did tons of field work and hey, it beats lifeguarding!



*This newsletter is printed on recycled paper*

# Meet the New Team of Environmental Coordinators

*By Leigh Tillman '03*

Connecticut College, in its dedication to act as an environmental model, hires an Environmental Coordinator to initiate the actions necessary to further the college's efforts. Traditionally the role of Environmental Coordinator is filled as a one-year internship by a graduating senior.

This year, however, the role is being filled by the cooperative efforts of four currently enrolled students. Amelie Baudot '02, Kassie Rohrbach '03, Leigh Tillman '03, and Erin Waesche '02 have divided up the responsibilities. Amelie and Erin supervise the campus recycling program. They work directly with house environmental representatives to help them play a more active role. Amelie, Kassie, and Erin are planning Earth Day for Southeastern Connecticut. Their goal for the celebration, Erin explained, is to "add more attractions to make this year bigger and better." Kassie and I are running the Environmental Model Committee (EMC), the school's forum for environmental dialogue between all the departments on campus. We have attempted to include more departments and are working to incorporate the different facets of environmentalism on campus to increase communication and effectiveness.

As a group, we are learning a lot about environmental education and implementation in a community setting. The job has given us a pragmatic appreciation of turning ideas into action. Overall, it has been an extremely successful year so far and we look forward to future opportunities to make a difference.



*Environmental Coordinators Leigh Tillman '03, Amelie Baudot '02, Erin Waesche '02, and Kassie Rohrbach '03 (left to right)*

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
New London  
CT 06320  
Permit No. 35

CONNECTICUT  
COLLEGE  
CCBES Box 5293  
270 Mohegan Avenue  
New London, CT 06320-4196

