

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

## RICHARD H. GOODWIN 1910 – 2007



*Richard Goodwin teaches a botany class early in his Connecticut College career.*

DR. RICHARD HALE GOODWIN died on July 6, 2007, after suffering a stroke a few weeks earlier. He is survived by his wife, Esther, their son, Richard Jr., and their daughter, Mary Wetzel. Connecticut College held a memorial service on Oct. 20 that was attended by more than 130 friends and family members. The Goodwin-Niering Center was named for Dr. Goodwin and his colleague William A. Niering in 1999 thanks to an endowment gift from Andrew and Helen Mathieson '52.

Dr. Goodwin joined the Connecticut College faculty in 1944 as professor and chairman of the botany department and director of the College's Arboretum. In 1969 he led the effort to establish an interdisciplinary major in human ecology (now environmental studies), a program he directed for the next six years. After fully retiring from the College in 1975, Dr. Goodwin stayed very involved in the life of the College, attending academic seminars and Center and Arboretum

events until shortly before his death. Last May he was present at the Goodwin-Niering Center's Certificate Student Recognition Ceremony, as well as Professor Scott Warren's retirement party.

Dick Goodwin lived a fortunate life, from his privileged upbringing in suburban Boston to his successful career in teaching and research. He is probably best known for his many land conservation

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GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER  
FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY  
& ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

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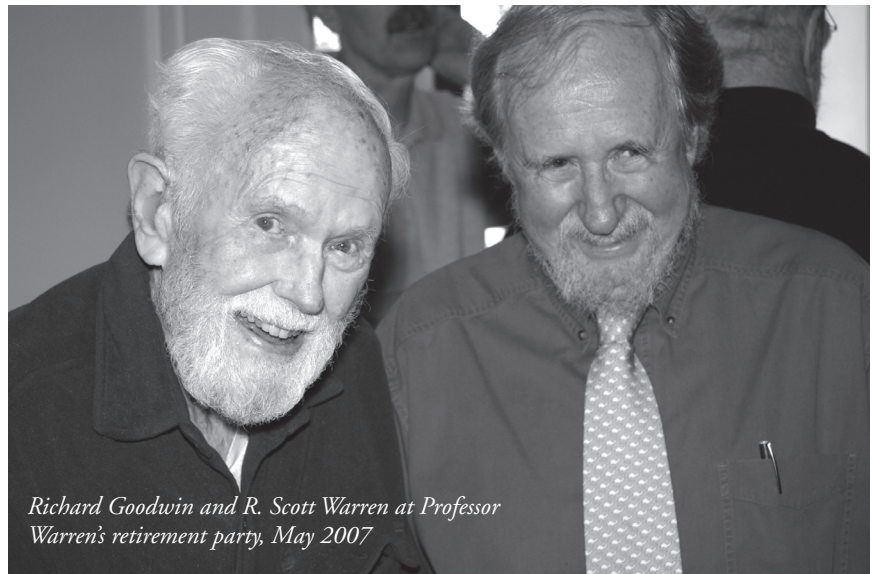
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Established in 1993, the Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology & Environmental Studies is an interdisciplinary program that draws on the expertise and interests of faculty and students in the liberal arts to address contemporary ecological 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.



*Richard Goodwin and R. Scott Warren at Professor Warren's retirement party, May 2007*

GOODWIN

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achievements. In the 1950s he set aside an internationally significant scientific research program in experimental plant morphology to devote most of his time to conservation. He served as president of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) twice, and is widely recognized as the person responsible for setting TNC on a path that led to its becoming the most successful land preservation organization in the world. This was in no small part due to a \$550,000 Ford Foundation Grant that he organized, which allowed TNC to make the transition to a paid professional staff in the mid-1960s. His vision included TNC becoming a force for preservation on the global stage, which has also come to pass. His emphasis on science-based conservation has become a hallmark of The Nature Conservancy.

On the local level, he grew the Connecticut College Arboretum holdings from 79 acres to over 400 in his first 20 years at the College, and was involved in acquiring nearly 60 percent of the College's current total 750 acres. He was also busy around his home in East Haddam, Connecticut, where he created TNC's 1,200-acre Burnham Brook Preserve.

Dick Goodwin, more than anyone else, is responsible for the environmental emphasis that we now associate with Connecticut College. He created one of the nation's first undergraduate academic environmental programs. He hired William Niering in 1953 to teach and conduct research in the Arboretum natural areas and managed lands. Dr. Niering went on

to establish an international reputation in plant ecology, putting the College on the environmental map in the process. Niering also established the Environmental Model Committee, which has evolved into a very active sustainability group on campus. Dick Goodwin personally saved hundreds of acres around the College (often using his own financial resources) from what would have been the inevitable conversion to residential and commercial purposes. Both the green setting of Connecticut College and its strength in field ecology are largely due to his efforts.

Dick's continued engagement with the College and in science and conservation well after his retirement was very inspiring to faculty, students and staff. He continued to note changes in the flora and fauna of Burnham Brook Preserve up to his last months. He regularly drove his Volvo station wagon to the College to drop off rainwater samples for chemical analysis by Dr. Siver's lab. Past his 90th year, he published his autobiography (*A Botanist's Window on the Twentieth Century*, 2002, Harvard Forest, Petersham, MA) and a history of the Burnham Brook Preserve. He served as a valued advisor to the Goodwin-Niering Center and the Arboretum up to the end of his days. He will long be remembered and sorely missed.

Glenn Dreyer, *Executive Director*

*Please see the Goodwin-Niering Center Web site for additional biographic and memorial information about Dr. Goodwin.*

## AWARDS PRESENTED AT CENTER'S ANNUAL BANQUET

ON SATURDAY, Sept. 29, during the College's Fall Weekend, the Goodwin-Niering Center hosted the second annual banquet to honor Center certificate students. Parents, families, advisors and faculty turned out to enjoy good food and camaraderie. Two members of the Alumni Advisory Board, Hildegard Van Deusen '43 and Patricia Dingle '76, were also in attendance. Before dinner, the seniors made brief presentations on their summer internships and upcoming integrative projects. The occasion was also used to honor Gerald R. Visgilio and Center certificate student Tyler Dunham '09.

Dr. Visgilio was honored for his service as Center associate director from 1999 until 2007. A professor in the economics department, Visgilio developed a strong interest in environmental economics in his early years at Connecticut College. Long before the Goodwin-Niering Center and its certificate program were created, he was an integral part of the human ecology program, which is now called environ-

mental studies.

In 1999 Gerald Visgilio was one of the faculty members who helped design the Center certificate program and, as associate director, he oversaw the Center's academic program, which includes the certificate in environmental studies and the biennial conferences. He also chaired the admissions committee, the faculty group that selects the students admitted to the certificate program. He also co-taught the certificate seminar every semester for seven years.

Visgilio provided the Center with both insightful guidance and hard work in developing the themes and organizing the programs for the Elizabeth Babbott Conant Interdisciplinary Conferences on the



*Tyler Dunham '09 and Professor Gerald Visgilio show their respective Goodwin-Niering Center awards.*

### TYLER DUNHAM MAKES A GREAT "GREEN" IMPACT

TYLER DUNHAM '09 has been a driving force behind Connecticut College's efforts to go green, working diligently to improve student awareness on issues of conservation and renewable energy. That's why he was an easy choice for the 2006-07 Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies' Student Environmental Leadership Award.

The award, presented to Dunham during the college's fall weekend celebration, recognizes outstanding students for their leadership efforts and dedication to energy conservation, renewable energy, recycling and waste minimization, and other campus environmental concerns.

Dunham's efforts are tireless. Last year, the environmental studies major helped launch the energy-saving initiative "Concert from Conservation." The idea was if students could use 10 percent less electricity — by doing such things as using compact fluorescent light bulbs, turning off lights and computers, and doing bigger loads of laundry — they could use 25 percent of the money saved to help fund a concert on campus. The initiative was a huge success; students reduced their energy usage in the campus residence halls by 12 percent and earned about \$2,500, which helped enhance the spring Floralia concert festival.

As president of the college's Renewable Energy Club, Dunham is an active participant on the college's Environmental Model Committee, a group of faculty, staff and students responsible for developing programs and policies — such as the college's Green Building Policy and Renewable Energy Policy — that integrate environmental sustainability into all aspects of campus life.

*Excerpted from an article by Erin Burdett '08 in "Current News" on the College Web site. See <http://aspen.conncoll.edu/news/3824.cfm> to read the article in its entirety.*

Environment. Once the conferences ended, he worked with Associate Director Diana Whitelaw to edit the presentations into books printed by commercial academic publishers. The topics they dealt with have been as diverse as acid rain, coastal preservation and environmental justice.

Center Executive Director Glenn Dreyer presented Gerald Visgilio with a Distinguished Service Award in the form of an environmentally friendly plaque made from wood certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). FSC certification assures that the wood comes from a well-managed forest, managed with sustainable forestry methods.

In his remarks Dreyer said: "It is in no small part due to Gerald Visgilio that we have a thriving academic center that works to focus the insights and perspectives of the natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities on environmental questions. On behalf of the Goodwin-Niering Center it is my honor to recognize your contributions and achievements, and to present you with this plaque as a token of our gratitude."

Campus Environmental Coordinator Amy Cabaniss presented junior Tyler Dunham with the Student Environmental Leadership Award, which recognizes outstanding students for their leadership efforts and dedication to energy conservation, renewable energy, recycling, waste minimization, and other campus environmental concerns. (See adjoining article, "Tyler Dunham Makes a Great 'Green' Impact").

## SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIPS AND PROJECTS, CLASS OF 2008

DURING THE SUMMER OF 2007, the seventh class of certificate students participated in many different kinds of internships, with topics that included the establishment of marine protected areas, balancing ecological and historical preservation in the National Park System, rainforest reforestation in Amazonia, environmental impacts on an Arctic community, and coastal impacts from hurricanes and storms. Their interests took them to locations as far away as Indonesia, Peru and Norway, and as close as Mashantucket, Connecticut. After returning to college this fall, the students wrote internship reflection papers detailing their experiences. Read more about our certificate seniors at <http://ccbcs.conncoll.edu/Seniors.html>. Excerpts from the students' papers are offered below.

Biology major CHRISTINA COMFORT worked for Save Our Seas (SOS),



a nonprofit environmental organization based in Kauai, Hawaii, which has launched a number of successful environmental initiatives including the Open Ocean Recycling Program, Reef Check and Ocean Pulse.

*I achieved a better understanding of the amount of research that is involved in making decisions about marine protected areas, and learned about controversies surrounding their establishment, such as recreational and commercial fishing interests, tourism, and enforcement issues. I also have a much better appreciation for the scale of the sustainability problem in the ocean.*

For her senior project, Christina plans to focus on the ecological impacts and sustainability issues relating to the scientific use of marine protected areas for the extraction of coral reef organisms used in biomedical compounds for the production of medically useful drugs.

CARA DONOVAN, an environmental studies and Hispanic studies major, interned at the Rainforest Education & Resource Centre (CREES) in Manu, Peru,

which develops and implements education and research programs to promote improved sustainable natural resource management practices and co-operative conservation strategies in tropical environments.



*About a month before my arrival, a few volunteers had planted approximately 40 pihuayo palm saplings around the Mascoitania Creek. This is a highly impacted part of the forest since the land had previously been used to grow sugar cane. The original intention of the pihuayo palms was to provide a food source for macaws, parrots and parakeets. However, since pihuayo is not native to the area, I removed the saplings and replanted them in the garden, closer to the grounds of the center. I also planted about 200 additional palm saplings.*

For her senior project, Cara will create a plan to implement a reforestation project on deforested land that can also provide a source of income for locals by including useful tree species. She will also conduct research on how such a project could potentially obtain funds through carbon offset revenues.

English major ELIZA GREENMAN interned at the Norman Bird Sanctuary in Middletown, Rhode Island. A 300+ acre wildlife area that constitutes the largest area of preserved open space in Newport County, the sanctuary is dedicated to providing quality environmental education programs for people of all ages.



*This land is one of very few surviving New England salt-water farms. The farmhouse that was occupied by generations of gentleman and tenant farmers still stands on the property. The area was attractive to painters and writers of the 18th and 19th century, such as the author Henry James and the painter John Le Farge. The internship allowed me to participate in an orga-*

*nization devoted to community interaction, conservation and preservation. It gave me an insider's perspective on people's interaction with their local environment.*

Eliza's independent study will explore nature as a theme in literature using works of both fiction and nonfiction writers whose literary projects provide manifestations of the relationship between humans and their environment.

KATHRYN GUTLEBER, who is majoring in English and environmen-



tal studies, completed her internship with *E/The Environmental Magazine* in Norwalk, Connecticut. E's primary mission is to generate awareness of environ-

mental issues and provide recommendations on how people can minimize their environmental impact.

*While working for the magazine, not only did I learn to write in a style that captures the readers' attention, but I also learned how to bring forth issues that were of immediate concern to the average reader. For example, while writing an article on high speed ferries as an alternative method of transportation to cars, I began the piece with a scene of bumper to bumper traffic on the highway, something that many Americans experience every day and would like to change. Drawing people in through the concerns of their everyday lives, and then showing how their concerns are also connected to concerns for the environment, is what makes for effective writing in environmental journalism.*

For her senior project, Kathryn plans to create a marketing report on current and future environmental initiatives at Connecticut College, with emphasis on how the college can expand both its local and global environmental stewardship through socially responsible investment.

Environmental studies major KELSEY JACOBSEN spent her summer working for Operation Wallacea, a British organization that facilitates conservation-



oriented marine and terrestrial research in six locations around the world. Kelsey worked in Indonesia on Hoga Island near Sulawesi, within the Wallacea Marine Protected Area (MPA), one of the largest marine reserves in Indonesia.

*My first two weeks were spent at the rainforest site on Buton Island where I participated in Jungle Training, an introduction to life in the rainforest. During my time on Hoga, after participating in the Coral Reef Ecology course, I completed my PADI Divemaster training. As a divemaster trainee, I was considered part of the island staff. I was put in some difficult leadership situations in which I found myself on radio duty when emergencies on boats arose and I was left to coordinate emergency plans and mediate between boats.*

Kelsey's senior project will examine the effects of the MPA on local lifestyle and livelihood as well as some of the destructive fishing practices it attempts to eliminate. In addition, she plans to characterize an effective MPA that balances ecological and social needs for developing tropical countries.

BIANCA KISSEL, an environmental studies major and botany minor,



interned with Cross Cultural Solutions in Ayacucho, Peru, one of the country's poorest regions where 30 percent of the population lives in extreme poverty.

*Environmentally, Ayacucho struggles with many complex issues. In an attempt to help with some, I got involved with the non-profit organization Red Ecologica Interinstitucional Hatun Sacha or simply Hatun Sacha which means "big tree" in the local language. We planted over a thousand tree cuttings that will hopefully develop into successful saplings that can be planted throughout the city in the spring. These native trees do not require pesticides or fertilizers and produce small black fruit that can be used to make jam and wine.*

For her senior project, Bianca will evaluate the health benefits of chewing coca leaves, which are used widely in the

Andean culture. She will also explore the misuse of coca to produce cocaine in Peru and how the cocaine industry is impacting the country environmentally, socially, economically, politically and internationally.

JESSICA LECLAIR interned for the Snowchange Cooperative, an organization



in Finland that documents traditional knowledge in many regions of the Arctic. Jess worked in Nesseby, a small village of 800 inhabitants that lies on the Varanger

Peninsula in northern Norway.

*Some of my diverse internship responsibilities were to: assist in the creation and finalization of a salmon fishing exhibition at the Varanger Samiske Museum; help in a local tannery to prepare fish, moose and reindeer skins; paint a future duodji (Sámi handicraft) workshop; guard the stage at a local music festival; collect plants to be eaten and to be used to tan leather; assist a dog musher gathering and packaging materials for the dogs; and aid farmers in sheep herding and the collection of hay. Beyond my internship responsibilities there was time to explore, to talk, and most importantly to listen and to watch. The people I met shared their world; they shared observations, stories, and even jokes.*

Jessica, who is majoring in international relations and environmental studies, plans to complete an independent study exploring how 20 years (from 1988 to 2008) of research on climate change, and its predicted effects on the Arctic, have affected environmental actions in Norway.

LINDSAY MICHEL, who is majoring in anthropology and environmental studies, spent



her summer at the nearby Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center. She worked in the historical research department where the staff is responsible for collecting, synthesizing and interpreting historical documents, archaeological data and oral histories as they relate to Native American communities in southern New England.

*I examined New London documents to find land-owning families of color that could be connected to either the Mohegan or Pequot Indian tribes. When I found two families, I began to trace their land ownership in New London and then later their connections to families on the Mohegan Reservation. I then began to reconstruct a reservation map from that time period using land records and an old book written by the tribe's sachem. This map helped situate these families on the land and provided the research department with a new and useful geographic tool.*

Using land records assembled during her internship and other sources, Lindsay will track land ownership from colonial times in a section of the Arboretum north of Gallows Lane. She will create a series of GIS maps that indicate tract ownership at different points in time, and that show stones walls of different types as well as other farm artifacts such as foundations and refuse pits and wells.

Environmental studies major

KATHERINE SERAFIN worked as a



research assistant for the Hurricane and Extreme Storm Impact Group, United States Geological Survey (USGS), in St. Petersburg, Florida.

*I was responsible for processing and analyzing a lidar survey documenting coastal change along Fire Island, New York. The Hurricane Impact Group uses an Experimental Advanced Airborne Research Laser (EAARL - a scanning airborne laser) to survey the topography of beaches. Data is acquired prior to and after the storm in order to quantify amounts of coastal change. I now have a new appreciation for findings in science journal articles, as I understand the lengthy process one performs in order to analyze data.*

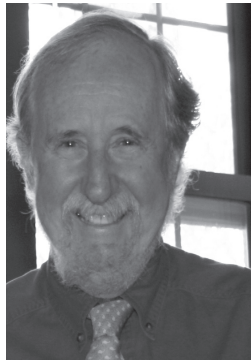
Katherine plans to complete an honors thesis comparing topographic profiles on two beaches in Groton, Connecticut: one constrained by a seawall and one unconstrained. Her study will focus on seasonal differences as well as long-term profile changes in order to examine how seawalls influence beach profiles and to evaluate how anthropogenic activities affect local beaches.

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## HABITAT RESTORATION THEME FOR FALL 2007

RESTORING NATURAL HABITATS was the theme selected for multidisciplinary treatment in the certificate program Seminar course this fall. To begin restoration, obtaining information about the composition of natural habitats in the past is a crucial first step toward changing a system to some prior (presumably healthier or more desirable) state. For example, in stream and river channel restoration, designs that recreate natural habitat conditions help to decrease bed and bank erosion rates, reduce sediment loading, improve water quality and encourage biodiversity of fish communities.

From an art history perspective, historic landscape depictions in paintings, murals and other illustrations may be a reliable source of information about their structure and function, but other social, religious and political ideas might also be represented. The first lecture in the seminar, *Nature as Urban Culture: Burgher Reality in the Landscape Art of Pieter Bruegel*, was presented by Robert Baldwin, Connecticut College associate professor of art history. When analyzing landscape paintings, Baldwin asked the students to consider landscape features, activities, food, culture, economic and social issues,



Professor Emeritus R. Scott Warren presented a lecture on tidal marsh restoration to the seminar class.

than simply creating an accurate record of an actual location.

A second lecture on the topic of *Tidal Marsh Restoration* was given by R. Scott Warren, Jean C. Tempel '65 Professor Emeritus of Botany at Connecticut College. Warren, a nationally recognized marsh eco-physiologist, has focused his research primarily on the tidal marshes and estuaries of New England, with special emphasis on restoring marshes that have been degraded by tidal restriction and subsequent invasion by giant reed (*Phragmites*).

particularly from the perspective of the wealthy patrons who commissioned Bruegel's paintings to decorate their villas. There is often a much more complicated agenda at work in such paintings

Dana Warren, a Ph.D. candidate at the Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, presented the third lecture in the seminar: *Impacts of Deforestation and Stream Restoration*. He discussed measures that were used to quantify the results of a restoration technique called Natural Channel Design that seeks to mimic stable, natural segments of nearby streams.

Through readings and discussions with guest speakers and Center faculty, students explored the ideas of what restoration means in different ecosystems, the difficulties inherent in deciding when to initiate a restoration and what the end point should be, and how to evaluate the success of restoration specific projects.

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## STUDENT AND FACULTY RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS, SUMMER '07

EACH SUMMER, students and faculty collaborate with faculty on research projects. The following are those conducted during the summer of '07 on environmental or ecological subjects:

*Abundance and Nest Success of Early Successional Birds on Powerline Corridors:* William Karis '09, Corrine Folsom MA, Stephen Rossiter '09; Professor Robert Askins (biology)

*Characterization of Denitrifier Diversity in Salt Marshes by Determining Terminal Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms of nirS Genes:* Adrian Idrizi '08; Professor Anne Bernhard (biology)

*Effects of Natural Ice Nucleating Bacteria on the Freezing Tolerance of the Mussel *Geukensia demissa*:* Alex McCorkle '09; Professor Stephen Loomis (biology)

*Estimating the Trophic Conditions of Connecticut Lakes Using Siliceous Algae:* Keith Stocks '08; Harrison Mackenzie '09; Professor Peter Siver (botany)

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## CLASS OF 2008

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GABE SIDMAN spent his summer at the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP) in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which preserves the famous Civil War battlefield.

*Ecological and historic preservation often clash, and this was particularly evident with the different preservation goals at GNMP. The current General Management Plan aims to return the landscape of the battleground to how it appeared in 1863. The woodlots slated for removal have become some of the best habitat for woodland species in the area, and are in many cases very biologically diverse. Some have criticized the plan for destroying important habitat. An alternative perspective*

*is that the removal of trees will provide native grassland habitat, which is becoming increasingly rare in the eastern United States.*

In his senior project, Gabe, an environmental studies major and history minor, plans to explore the ways in which parks accomplish ecological and historical preservation simultaneously, and the difficulties that arise in balancing the two.

— compiled by Mary Villa



# RACHEL CARSON: AN ECOLOGIST FOR THE 21ST CENTURY



*Eliza Greenman '08 speaking at the Rachel Carson panel discussion, with Roland Clement looking on.*

THE CENTENNIAL of the birth of Rachel Carson was celebrated at Connecticut College on Sept. 21, 2007. The late scientist, educator and author was honored during a program that included a lecture, a panel discussion moderated by Carson biographer Dr. Linda Lear '62, and an illustrated presentation of the Lear/Carson collection at Connecticut College by Laurie Deredita, director of special collections, Shain Library.

Dr. Maril Hazlett, research director for the Climate Energy Project of the Land Institute in Salina, Kansas, gave a talk titled *Rachel Carson: Controversy and Common Ground*. Center certificate student Kelsey Jacobsen '08 wrote the following about Hazlett's ideas:

*Dr. Hazlett argues that the significance of Carson's "Silent Spring" lies largely in its rejection of extremism. Carson warns us to avoid the traps created by extremist tactics like stalling, simplifying to invoke anger, destroying the idea of common ground, and creating dissention. In order to keep the environmental movement afloat, Hazlett recommends keeping future conversations focused on common ground. In line with this philosophy, "Silent Spring" doesn't call for the absolute elimination of pesticides as one might assume, but calls instead for moderation, less harmful methods and intelligent use of chemicals.*

*Over the past forty years, however, Americans have lost sight of what Dr. Hazlett calls Carson's "passionate and even-headed" ideas. According to Hazlett, this decline in environmental interest may*

*be a reaction to the ease with which Carson brings up points in "Silent Spring" that people do not want to hear. She discusses the intertwined relationship of humans with*

*nature, submission to forces larger than ourselves, and the necessity for us to adapt to nature. She also stresses the safety, order and beauty that exist in uncontrollable situations like a natural ecosystem. These concepts are not favorable to consumer societies like our own because we like to have the power of choice rather than be controlled by something as untamed as the wilderness.*

The lecture was followed by a panel discussion, which, in addition to moderator Lear, included Connecticut College professors Jane Dawson (government); Julie Rivkin (English); Mab Segrest (gender and women's studies); Scott Warren (botany); Roland Clement (wildlife biologist and former vice president of the National Audubon Society); and Center certificate student Eliza Greenman '08. The event was organized by Laurie Deredita and Center Advisory Board member Linda Lear.

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## NEW CENTER FACULTY PROFILES

### CHAD JONES

The newest member of the botany department and the Center Steering Committee is Chad C. Jones, assistant professor of botany and environmental studies. Jones, who began teaching at Connecticut College in September, is interested in a wide range of plant ecology topics, but particularly plant succession and invasive species. He has studied plant colonization following a broad array of disturbances ranging from volcanic eruptions and the retreat of glaciers to gopher mounds in mountain meadows. He also has used statistical models and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to predict the potential distributions of invasive species at several geographical scales. Professor Jones teaches courses in general ecology, plant taxonomy, plant ecology and environmental studies.



### PAMELA HINE

In contrast to our new arrival, new Steering Committee member Senior Lecturer in Botany Pamela Hine has been teaching at Connecticut College since receiving her MA here in 1984. As the lead person for introductory botany courses and a key team member in a number of biology classes, many hundreds of students have benefited from her well organized presentations in both lecture and lab. Pam also advises large numbers of environmental studies and botany majors. Many students have conducted successful individual study and honors projects under her guidance, often on subjects related to environmental education. She has research experience in pollination ecology and tidal marsh ecology.



## COLLEGE CELEBRATES FIRST HARRISON DIRECTORSHIP OF CENTER WITH LECTURE AND DINNER



A. Vincent Scarnano

Goodwin-Niering Center Harrison Director Robert Askins

ON NOV. 7, Robert Askins, the Karla Heurich Harrison '28 Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center, presented the first of the 2007-2008 endowed chair lectures at Connecticut College. Jan Hauser '54 and Karla MacMahon '80, who are the daughter and granddaughter of Karla Heurich Harrison '28, were present at the lecture and celebratory dinner. Karla MacMahon offered the following remarks: "My grandmother is very passionate about the environment and education. To this day she treasures the time she spent at

Connecticut College — what an extraordinary place it was, and is, and what special lifelong friendships she forged here."

An ornithologist and ecologist, Askins is deeply involved in conservation biology and restoration ecology. He is nationally recognized for his research on the ecology of migratory birds and the impact of forest fragmentation on their populations.

In the words of Robert Askins: "Some of the best evidence for the negative effects of habitat fragmentation on biological diversity was derived from studies of forest

birds in the northeastern United States. In this region suburban development often converts continuous forest into an open landscape with small, remnant patches of woodland. Although these remnants are often protected as nature preserves or parks, they are not suitable habitat for many species of forest birds. Forest birds disappear or decline in these sites because abundant predators from surrounding open habitats prey upon their eggs and nestlings. Small nature preserves are therefore not very effective at sustaining populations of forest birds, and habitat fragmentation is now recognized as one of the major threats to their survival in eastern North America. Many species depend on large areas of habitat, so it is important to try to protect large nature reserves and to try to coordinate conservation activities across landscapes to protect large expanses of natural habitat."

## SUMMER SUSTAINABILITY INTERN: JEFF NEMEC '09

WHETHER it was learning that Harris Refectory's food remains are sent to a pig farm, or taking a ride with Physical Plant staff to see how trash and recyclables are discarded, Jeff Nemeč '09 had a successful and busy eight-week stint as the 2007 summer sustainability intern. Jeff is a philosophy major, and is also a member of the Center's certificate program.

Using Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ as a guideline, Jeff assessed the sustainable building efforts taken by the College in the second phase of the Hamilton and Marshall Residence

Hall renovations. He gathered data on the amount of college trash and recyclables generated and disposed, and also updated the college's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. Even

with his many duties, Jeff found time to help maintain the campus organic garden. Way to go, Jeff!



### WELCOME TO THE CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2010!

The GOODWIN-NIERING Center is pleased to welcome 10 new sophomores into the certificate program. Students and their proposed majors are listed below:

Melanie Bender: *Environmental studies*

Erin Brady: *Government/environmental studies*

Ariella Cohen: *Environmental studies*

Maria Figliola: *Environmental studies*

Erica Hildebrand: *Biological sciences*

James Irwin: *International relations/environmental studies*

Kevin Izzo: *Environmental studies*

Lily Kunin: *Economics*

Sturgis Sobin: *Economics/environmental studies*

Charles Van Rees: *Biological sciences*





*Tyler Dunham '09 and Misha Johnson '08 deposit food waste into one of the Earth Tubs.*

## STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVE: EARTH TUBS!

THE LATEST student environmental project was the idea of Misha Johnson '08, Tyler Dunham '09 and Leia Crosby '09. Two Earth Tubs, commercial-sized compost units that will reduce the college's food waste by up to 35,000 pounds a year, were presented to the college community on Nov. 19, 2007. Food waste — including fruit, pasta, egg shells, tea bags and napkins — from some of the dining halls on campus will now be collected daily by students and turned into compost using the Earth Tubs, which are fully enclosed and insulated. The compost will be used in the college's organic garden and will be donated to F.R.E.S.H. New London, a nonprofit, community garden organization dedicated toward personal wellness, community health and environmental stewardship.

An anonymous Connecticut College alumna provided the \$25,000 needed to fund the composting project. "This project has had so much support from the college community," Dunham said. "In just one year, we were able to take an

idea and make it a reality. It started with a student idea, but it has really become a whole community project."

The composting system is the latest in a series of environmental initiatives by Connecticut College. Recently, for example, the College was recognized by the

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the 2006-2007 Individual Conference Champion for purchasing more green power than any other school in the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC).

### JOIN THE RECYCLEMANIACS!

This spring semester, Connecticut College is once again participating in a friendly competition with well over 400 colleges and universities. The institution that can achieve the highest recycling rate and least garbage generation and disposal wins the competition. A 10-week competition to increase campus awareness and participation in recycling and waste minimization, RecycleMania runs from Jan. 27 through April 5. Spread the word and reduce and recycle!

For more information, please visit [www.recyclemaniacs.org](http://www.recyclemaniacs.org) and contact Campus Environmental Coordinator Amy Cabaniss at (860) 439-5218.



# CC COMMITS TO WORK TOWARD CLIMATE NEUTRALITY

Efforts are underway across the nation to forestall global warming contributions from colleges and university campuses. In January 2007, President Higdon became a Charter Signatory of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC). This pledges educational institutions to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as a means of helping to slow global warming. To date, the number of signatories is about 460. At Connecticut College we have inventoried our GHG emissions annually since 1990. A comprehensive plan for our institution, in accordance with this initiative, is being devised by a committee that includes students, faculty and staff. We anticipate that the plan will include energy conservation and efficiency initiatives, offsetting campus electricity consumption with renewable energy certificates, and implementing waste minimization efforts.



EARTH DAY -  
COMMUNITY DAY  
AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE  
Connecticut College will celebrate Earth Day – Community Day on  
April 19, 11-4 on Knowlton Green (rain date April 20).

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