

ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

REPORT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

THIS DECEMBER, nearly 60,000 people descended upon the Danish capital city of Copenhagen for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 15th Conference of Parties (COP15). The significance of this two-week long meeting was not lost on any: COP15 was, in the eyes of most, a last-ditch effort to ensure that there was some international mechanism regulating greenhouse gas concentration past the year 2012.

As I was hoping to further study international environmental policy, COP15 represented a wonderful opportunity to gain professional experience. Therefore, I applied for and received Observer Status to attend. The Observer Status is important to the U.N. process not only to increase the participation and representation of civil society but also to increase transparency. A parallel conference to COP15, also held in Copenhagen, was Klimaforum, a free event for all. Klimaforum, or Climate Forum, was a two-week-long "People's Conference" on all things related to climate change.

On Dec. 3 I embarked on an 18-day journey to see global governance in action. After graduating from Connecticut College in 2008, I never thought I would give my Goodwin-Niering Center Senior Presentation again. But it was *déjà vu* when I found myself at the front of a Klimaforum workshop speaking about my summer internship. During the summer of 2007, I completed an internship with Snowchange Cooperative, a nonprofit organization based in Finland that documents indigenous communities of the northern regions and has worked with Sámi individuals, families and organizations for the past decade. The Sámi are indigenous people of Norway, Sweden, Finland and the Kola Peninsula of Russia; my internship involved living and



While in Copenhagen, Jessica LeClair '08 maintained contact with the Connecticut College community via Twitter.

working with a Sámi family in the Norwegian Arctic, documenting traditional land use change for Snowchange.

At Klimaforum I had the opportunity to present the work of the Snowchange Cooperative at a workshop hosted by the Citizens' Global Platform (CGP). CGP is sponsored by the U.N. Alliance of Finland and strives to create and adopt new ways for marginalized citizens to be a part of international political processes. Civil society in Brazil, Tanzania, India and Finland form the basis of CGP. In Copenhagen, I met with representatives from each of these countries and together we planned our discussion. While each of us spoke about the different ways climate science was being undertaken in his or her country, there was one resounding



similarity — climate change is happening and people's lifestyles and livelihoods are changing with it.

The anticipated outcome of COP15 was a new or revitalized global treaty committing nations to preventing catastrophic climate change. The nearly 45,000 accredited individuals were dismayed, frustrated and just plain angry when access was severely restricted during the second week of the conference. On the final day of negotiations only 90

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GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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Established in 1993, the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment 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.

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

LAST YEAR during a planning retreat, the Center began to grapple with the often repeated question, "What is in a name?" To many people, a great deal is contained in a title. Names carry important traditions, useful information about the related organizations, and sometimes, misconceptions. After careful consideration, a good deal of debate and an eventual vote, the members of the Center decided to officially change our name to the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment. We believe the shorter name better reflects the broad-based environmental activities of the Center and will encourage greater participation from underrepresented disciplines. We also hope for more uniformity in the use of the name, and less confusion with the separate environmental studies program and major.

For the first seven years, we were officially known as the Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies. Because the name was a bit long and unwieldy, students immediately began to use the acronym CCBES, pronounced "seebz," to describe the Center. Ten years ago, a gift from Helen Fricke Mathieson '52 and her husband, Drew Mathieson, renamed the Center by adding the names of Richard Goodwin and William Niering to honor the contributions of these two key ecologists in the school's history. Since then, the Center operated as the Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies.

In an era when text messages omit vowels and consonants just to save a few tenths of a second of typing, few people take the time to recite full titles. The common usage of the name of our Center was no different. To some we operated simply as the "Goodwin-Niering Center." For many students and people on campus the alias CCBES remained the nickname of choice. Visitors and people new to the campus sometimes assumed the environmental studies major was directly overseen by the Center because of the overlap in names. The Center lived on with these multiple identities, which created confusion and a general lack of name recognition.

During the retreat, members of the Center also voiced concerns that the original name, Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies, discouraged non-scientists from becoming more involved. There was a misconception, especially among many students, that the Center was just for science majors. Nothing could be further from the truth. If there is one lesson that all the members of the Center agree upon, it is that the environment needs to be a central part of people's daily thinking. Societies cannot simply march along with complete disregard for the impact humans have on the global ecosystem. Environmental thinking cannot be reserved only for the scientific community if global environmental problems are to be successfully addressed. Thus we hope the new name presents a more inviting image, and that more students and faculty feel welcome to participate.

We are excited to continue the important educational mission started by Richard Goodwin and William Niering that highlights the connection between humans and the global ecosystem. In the end, we hope that, by having a little less in our name, we ultimately add a great deal to our Center.

Douglas Thompson
Karla Heurich Harrison '28 Director

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http://goodwin-nieringcenter.conncoll.edu



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CENTER ALUMS RETURN TO CAMPUS THIS FALL

ON OCT. 28, **Lauren Hartzell '03** gave a lecture on “The Precautionary Principle and Climate Change Policy.” Hartzell was a double major in philosophy and environmental studies and completed the certificate program at the Goodwin-Niering Center. She wrote her senior honors thesis on obligations to future generations and the environment. After graduating, she went on to complete a Ph.D. in philosophy at Stanford University, where she wrote a dissertation on ethics and the problem of climate change. This year, Hartzell moved to Seattle to take a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in the philosophy department at the University of Washington.

In the talk, which was cosponsored by the philosophy department and the Goodwin-Niering Center, Hartzell defended a version of the



Lauren Hartzell '03

precautionary principle and emphasized the need to take action to address threats of catastrophic environmental harm. The precautionary principle was first applied to the environment at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, “Earth Summit,” whereby Rio Declaration Principle #15 states: “In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.” Hartzell has also developed what she calls a precautionary decision-making framework that policymakers might use to help assess possible responses to those threats, including threats associated with global climate change.

Daisy Small '03 returned to campus this fall to teach “Classical and Current Topics in Botany.” She was a Center graduate who double-majored in botany and environmental studies. Small wrote her senior honors thesis on the subject of forest community changes following

the hemlock woolly adelgid infestation of southern New England and went on to



Daisy Small '03

the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to earn a master's degree in geography. The subject of her studies concerns the storage and remobilization of coarse particulate organic matter in whitewater streams in the Adirondacks.

Small credits her success in graduate school with her experience at the Goodwin-Niering Center, where she developed communications skills necessary to present her own work and a sense of confidence helpful in interacting freely with scientific scholars. Following her year back on campus, Small will return to UNC to continue her doctoral studies on fluvial geomorphology and ecology, examining the potential for ecosystem service unbundling in stream restoration.

Jessica LeClair '08, author of the cover story on the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, is the outreach and student programs coordinator in the College's Office of Volunteers for Community Service.



Jessica LeClair '08

Rebecca Beachell '09 returned to the College as an AmeriCorps Vista volunteer in the Office of Volunteers for Community Service. A Goodwin-Niering certificate student with a government and East Asian studies double major, Beachell combined those interests in her senior integrative project, examining water pollution in China, focusing on the Yellow River, and the laws that allow the development of environmental NGOs. She chose Connecticut College because the Goodwin-Niering Center provided an opportunity to blend her interest in the

environment with a non-science major. Both as a student and now at OVCS,



Rebecca Beachell '09

Beachell enjoys working with student volunteers in community-learning positions and coordinating tours with local schools and after-school programs. She plans to pursue a career in early childhood education with a focus on environmental studies.

CONFERENCE

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members of civil society were allowed to participate. With tensions high inside and outside the conference center, the 119 world leaders who had gathered for the final day failed to accomplish the objective. No global agreement to halt the onslaught of climate change was formulated. In its place were the weak and paltry Copenhagen Accords. We all left Denmark disappointed.

However, progress was made in Copenhagen. For the first time the climate change movement truly became global — the north and south divide is gone, a unified force fighting for climate justice was born, and even though they couldn't actually agree, 119 world leaders recognized the importance of climate change at national and international levels. We must now build upon this progress and keep working toward ensuring a sustainable future. It was clear to me that people will not rest until a deal is made.

— *Jess LeClair '08*

Editor's Note: Jessica is currently the outreach and student programs coordinator in the Connecticut College Office of Volunteers for Community Service. Her trip to the conference was supported by the Goodwin-Niering Center, the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts, the Holleran Center for Community Action and Public Policy, the Connecticut Chapter of the International Partnering Council and private donors.

CERTIFICATE SEMINAR THEME FOR FALL 2009: FOOD, ENVIRONMENT AND AMERICAN CULTURE

THE SEMINAR TOPIC for the Goodwin-Niering Center certificate students this fall was “Food, American Culture, and the Environment” — a topic that the students dove into with relish. The weekly seminar gave students and faculty a chance to examine American food habits from an ethical, health and environmental perspective.

Starting with Michael Pollan’s eye-opening *Omnivore’s Dilemma*, we meticulously deconstructed our food habits and the many previously unknown impacts of the choices we make. The discussions were deepened by the participation of numerous experts and practitioners in the area who generously donated their time and unique perspectives to the seminar group. Anthropology Professor Jeffrey Cole began the guest series by urging the group to recognize the unusual food culture (or lack thereof) that characterizes America, which has pushed us toward an unhealthy and unsustainable fast food diet. Organic farmer Pauline Lord of White Gate Farm promoted the health and environmental benefits of the organic approach, bringing baskets of fresh vegetables and herbs to class for us to munch on. Local restaurateur Jonathan Rapp of River Tavern in Chester visited to share his commitment to the locavore movement and the benefits of supporting local communities and farmers. Thomas Peterlik of Yale University inspired the students by chronicling the introduction of local, organic and unprocessed foods to the Yale dining system, prompting a group of certificate students to launch their own crusade for movement in that direction here at Connecticut College (and making some headway on the issue too).

The group also took on the issue of choosing between carnivore, vegetarian and vegan — but going beyond the usual ethical questions to focus instead on the immense environmental impact of meat consumption and its often overlooked carbon footprint (which is greater worldwide than the carbon footprint of all global transportation put together); no consensus was reached on this issue and the topic generated intense debate.

As if we weren’t worried enough about our food consumption choices by then, our next guest was Professor Karina Mrakovcich of the U.S. Coast Guard

Academy — an expert on fisheries and senior integrative project adviser to one of our seniors this year — who provided us with extensive insight into the question of sustainable seafood consumption and how we might make better choices on this front (a tough thing to do, given the state of our fisheries). Finally, another contentious topic, the growth and consumption of genetically modified foods, brought Kristin Hardeman, lecturer in the botany department, to the seminar and pressed students to learn more about the science before making any judgments on this issue.

Throughout the semester, the group read, talked, debated and finally got to eat. The seminar culminated in an “Ethical and Sustainable Potluck,” for which students were asked to think about their

own perspective on what food sustainability means and bring a dish that reflected their views. And who knew we had such wonderful cooks amongst our scholars? Recipes were exchanged and students each presented their dish and its sustainability credentials as we made our way through what turned out to be at least a five-course dinner. The food was amazing — tasty bruschetta, salads and local cheeses, soups, and entrees drawing on food traditions from around the world — and all accompanied by locally pressed cider and wonderful conversation. It was a fitting end to a very eye-opening seminar series.

— Jane Dawson
Professor of Government
Associate Director, Goodwin-Niering Center

CENTER’S ANNUAL BANQUET HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL AND ORGANIC CUISINE

SENIOR CERTIFICATE STUDENTS PRESENT AND PROFESSOR ROBERT ASKINS HONORED

DURING FALL WEEKEND, the Goodwin-Niering Center hosted the fourth annual banquet for the Center’s senior certificate students. Parents, families, advisers and faculty enjoyed a selection of organic and local food and beverages.

The banquet was in keeping with this semester’s certificate program theme of “Food, the Environment, and American Culture” (other story, this page).” Before dinner, the seniors presented overviews of their summer internships and upcoming integrative projects while guests sampled a selection of cheeses from a small family farm in Colchester. Dinner featured entrée selections of Stonington sea scallops, maple mustard glazed organic chicken breast or heirloom tomato polenta lasagna, all accompanied by a roasted local root vegetable medley.

In an effort to demonstrate the value of the locavore movement, the Center partnered with the College’s Office of Events and Catering to bring the very freshest, healthy and tasty local food options to the table. Alumni Relations later shared a note from a pleased parent: “The Goodwin-

Niering Center banquet for seniors was by far the best event we attended this past weekend. Wonderful to chat with professors and place faces with names we have heard so much about. The student projects were inspiring. ... The food was thoughtfully prepared and wonderful! Overall a great way to spend a Saturday evening with our daughter! Thanks!”



Robert Askins,
recipient of
the Goodwin-
Niering Center’s
Distinguished
Service Award

While the evening was primarily about the students, it served as a special occasion to recognize a member of the faculty who has been instrumental in the Center’s 17 years of success. Biology professor and ecologist Robert Askins was presented with the Goodwin-Niering Center’s Distinguished Service Award by his colleague Glenn Dreyer, executive director of the Center.

Dreyer highlighted a number of the major activities in which Askins has been involved since the Center’s beginnings in 1993. He took the lead in gaining faculty support for a Center for Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies. In the late 1990s when the Center reorganized to include an undergraduate certificate

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FROM FARM TO TABLE TO CAMPUS

CERTIFICATE STUDENTS of the Goodwin-Niering Center had the opportunity to draw on their course readings to interact with leaders of the local sustainable food movement when Pauline Lord of White Gate Farm, Jonathan Rapp of River Tavern and co-founder of “Dinners at the Farm,” and Thomas Peterlik, director of the Yale University Culinary Resource Center, participated in the certificate seminar this fall.

Pauline Lord, a Stanford University graduate and psychotherapist, returned to her native Connecticut from California 10 years ago with her husband, a volcanic seismologist, to begin a new career in farming. They settled on a 100-acre property owned by her mother in East Lyme, 10 miles from Connecticut College. After a decade of hard work, White Gate Farm has become known locally for the diversity of its produce, which is available at its farm stand as well as local restaurants. Center students enjoyed a sampling of vegetables fresh from the farm, and were amazed by the colorful eggs from her 50 chickens of diverse laying breeds.

Asked by a student whether farmers’ markets are changing people’s awareness of food, Lord answered that the interest in purchasing food directly from the farm is more than a trend: “What really brings them in is how much better the food tastes.” When asked by another student whether the nation can be sustained by organic farming, Lord turned solemn in answering that it will take a very long time to heal the Earth, pointing out that the



Pauline Lord, organic farmer and owner of White Gate Farm



Thomas Peterlik, director of the Culinary Resource Center at Yale University

goodness of the lettuce they sampled that evening came from the richness of the soil.

Jonathan Rapp, executive chef and owner of an acclaimed Upper East Side Manhattan restaurant, also returned home eight years ago to a small town along the Connecticut River to open his wildly successful restaurant in Chester. Rapp and area friends founded “Dinners at the Farm,” an annual event that celebrates the abundance from Connecticut’s farms while at the same time benefiting local agricultural and charitable organizations. A multi-course meal from farm to table, served to more than 1,000 people over the course of the summer, requires significant relationship-building to establish a network of local farmers. Rapp said, “Over the past 50 years this country has lost thousands of small farms. Those that remain do so for the love of it, yet they are not compensated well enough. Locally grown food cannot compete price-wise with industry-subsidized foods. Yet we don’t calculate in the price of damage to the Earth.”

Joining Rapp at the certificate seminar was Thomas Peterlik, a neighbor and fellow proponent of the locavore movement. Peterlik told of how his native country has the strictest food laws in Europe, where the *Austria Bio-Garantie* requires “the farmer’s name on the beef and the carbon footprint on the package.” As the *Bio*-branding was introduced people began to realize the difference in the taste of local products versus imported. “The food speaks for itself,” he said.

Peterlik is part of the strong local and organic movement at Yale University, where more than 50 percent of all produce is grown in Connecticut and 50 percent of the beef is New England grass-fed. All

nutritional information is computerized with ingredients and recipes online and it is possible to drill down to identify what is local and its source. A certificate student inquired how they came to this idea. Peterlik credits the role students have played in raising support for organic food on campus. By 2003, “Food from the Earth,” a budding student organization, achieved a full seasonal and sustainable menu at Berkeley

College, one of Yale’s 12 residential colleges. The popularity of the program led to sustainable food at every meal, in every dining hall on the Yale campus. Peterlik challenged the Goodwin-Niering students to spread the word to offer local alternatives, to capture the interest of the entire student body and then take it to the next level.



Jonathan Rapp, chef and co-founder of Dinners at the Farm. Photo by Michelle Parr Paulson

ANNUAL BANQUET *continued from page 4*

program, Askins was responsible for obtaining a grant from the A.W. Mellon Foundation that supported the start-up and operation of the program including paid student internships. Askins oversaw the Center’s first multidisciplinary environmental conference, which has become a tradition and a hallmark of the academic program. In addition to serving as the Center’s faculty director for 14 of its 17 years, Askins has been actively engaged in research and publication in conservation biology, teaching and chairing either the biology department or the East Asian languages and cultures department.

As a token of the Center’s appreciation, Dreyer presented Askins with the Distinguished Service Award in a form of a framed photograph, titled “Arboretum Pond,” by Frank Kaczmarek, a microbiologist, professional photographer and husband of Colleen Kaczmerick, a Goodwin-Niering Center faculty fellow from the chemistry department.

CLASS OF 2010: ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIPS AND SENIOR PROJECTS

FOR THE NINTH SUMMER, certificate students of the Goodwin-Niering Center participated in internship opportunities that enhanced their knowledge of and commitment to the environment. After returning to college in the fall the students detailed their experiences in internship reflection papers and in the coming year will build upon their learnings through senior integrative projects.

The following highlights from the students' reflection papers describe a deepened connection to the ocean, its endangered species and their seashore habitat; a passion to advance environmental education; the drive to further community building and environmental justice at home and abroad.

Environmental studies major **MELANIE BENDER** developed an appreciation of the ocean this summer by coordinating an internship with U.S. Coast Guard Academy professor and marine scientist Karina Mrakovcich and the Connecticut Department of Environmental



Protection on its lobster monitoring program. Melanie did library research to gain an understanding of the lobster species and the industry and accompanied lobstermen to collect larval lobster samples in Long Island Sound.

“My experience this past summer has given me the tools to better relate to diverse opinions and a grasp of the complexity that accompanies all environmental concerns. I consider my internship a great asset to my knowledge base of both the conservation and biology of lobsters as well as how to better understand the compelling human component that is interwoven with the environment.”

For her senior integrative project Melanie will seek to evaluate the effect of new and stringent regulations enacted by the state of Connecticut on the lobster, the lobstermen and their livelihood.

ERIN BRADY, a government and environmental studies double major, worked in the District of Columbia Public

Schools (DCPS) as part of the Urban Education Leaders Internship Program, which is charged with the responsibility to create innovative, out-of-the-box solutions to systemic urban education challenges.

“As part of the Greening DCPS Innovation Team I was able to get an extremely in-depth and honest view of the environmental efforts (or lack thereof) of DCPS. Due to the number of issues that DCPS deals with each day to try to improve the education of the district's children, there is not enough time or capacity to put toward ‘greening’ the system. When the main focus is to make sure children can read there are not a lot of people who are willing to devote their time to monitoring a recycling program.”

For her senior integrative project Erin will build on her internship experiences to look at how environmental education is practiced in urban charter schools and whether eco-focused schools can serve as a model for traditional public schools.

Environmental studies major **ARIELLA COHEN** interned in Boston at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region I New England Branch. As part of the Assistance and Pollution Prevention Unit, Ariella focused on helping auto body shops throughout New England begin to comply with the new Clean Air Act regulations that go into effect January 2011.

“Overall, interning with the EPA was a valuable and enjoyable learning experience. First of all, the internship gave me a realistic idea of what working in an environmental field will be like. My office did a great job of educating the interns on the many offices and career tracks within EPA.”

Ariella's senior integrative project will focus on the motives of communities that contest a housing developer's right



to circumvent zoning laws according to Chapter 40B of the Massachusetts Housing Law, if 25 percent of the development is low-income housing or is sold below market value. Ariella will attempt to determine whether these communities are truly concerned for the environment or whether this is an attempt to prevent low-income families from moving into their towns.

MARIA FIGIOLA, who is majoring in environmental studies with an art minor, interned at Corporate Accountability International (CAI), a nonprofit advocacy group based in Boston. The organization focuses on holding multinational corporations responsible for harmful activities affecting the rights of people and the environment with specific campaigns around food, water and tobacco. Maria interned in the



communications department and worked on visuals for all three campaigns.

“My internship was a very valuable experience because I learned practicalities of design and photography, as well as the inner workings of a very organized campaign team. Because I was given a lot of trust, respect and creative leeway as an intern, I was constantly stimulated by my work, my surroundings, my co-workers and the current events related to the issues of CAI's campaigns.”

For her senior integrative project Maria will document the “branding of the environmental movement” using specific campaigns as examples and case studies. She will accomplish this through interviews, research and analysis of campaign images, relying on experiences from the CAI communications department as a framework for developing standards.

As a biological sciences major, **ERICA HILDEBRAND** spent her summer at Woods Hole Océanographic Institution in Massachusetts as a student researcher in a microbial ecology and physiology lab. Erica first reviewed the scientific literature on the types of microbes and habitats in

order to understand her internship project and then, in the laboratory, learned new techniques such as DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction amplification and how to optimize experimental protocols.

“I think the most important aspect of my internship was the problem-solving and troubleshooting skills that I was able to develop, by optimizing new procedures in the lab and working to figure out what was going wrong, and what I could do to fix it. My internship was a great learning experience for me this summer. I not only learned about the field of environmental microbiology, which I find really interesting and may be interested in continuing to work in, but I also learned a lot about laboratory group dynamics and the day-to-day aspects of research that are really important.”

For her senior integrative project Erica will study microbial communities from salt marshes that have been treated with differing amounts of nitrogen fertilizer and evaluate how archaeal- and bacterial-expressed genes are different between treatments. The goal of this project is to look at the microbial community structure in the Sippewissett salt marsh on Cape Cod and model effects of fertilizer runoff on microbial communities in this type of habitat.

Environmental studies major **JAMES IRWIN** interned with the Sierra Club in Portland, Maine, on the Cool Cities Campaign. James compiled data about climate action in Maine cities and towns, researched best practices for a manual to distribute to Cool Teams in Maine, and organized grassroots and grasstops support for local and national climate action.



“I found that grassroots organizing was far more essential to the task of creating and implementing a climate action campaign than I had previously thought. Especially in small towns that lack governmental capacity, it is important to have a strong group of citizens working on this issue. Through personal experience I learned about the setbacks and

barriers that one comes up against when working on such a campaign.”

The internship provided James with very valuable primary research for his senior honors thesis where he will explore the vulnerabilities of small cities to climate change from a socio-ecological systems perspective and how such cities can move toward becoming resilient to climate change while also building community and creating a just and prosperous future.

KEVIN IZZO, an environmental studies major, completed a summer internship at the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies, a nonprofit small business incubator specific to technology-based, start-up companies. Kevin was assigned to work with Kilowatt Technologies, a new conservation and efficiency company in Shelburne, Vt., which operates as a “software as a service” company utilizing its proprietary software to help lower the energy use of large buildings while saving money and simultaneously reducing their carbon footprint. Through this experience Kevin came to understand the challenges of start-up companies and the internal workings of green business.



“In terms of green business, perhaps my greatest revelation is that many businesses, large or small, are extremely wary of almost anything to do with efficiency or conservation. Even with the vast potential to save money through conservation and efficiency and with Kilowatt guaranteeing no initial capital investment, many businesses are extremely slow to make any decisions that can reduce their carbon footprint.”

For his senior integrative project, Kevin would like to apply Kilowatt’s and other consulting firms’ methods of increasing efficiency to study the growing trend of bringing environmentalism to large-scale sporting events and to demonstrate the economic viability of holding green sporting events.

As an economics major, **LILY KUNIN** interned at the Calvert Social Investment Foundation in Bethesda, Md. Calvert Foundation is a nonprofit established with the mission to help end poverty through investment. As a community investment

profile researcher, Lily focused on the “Mission Plus” category, which consists of organizations that typically fall outside of the foundation’s traditional loan criteria, but make a strong social impact. She also participated in a “Brown Bag Lunch” program



on microfinance, where interns at Calvert enjoyed the opportunity to network and meet people in microfinance industry.

“Clean energy aligns with the mission to end poverty. Calvert Foundation gave me a stronger ‘social perspective’ and demonstrated how an underlying mission behind investment decisions can be involved.”

Lily’s senior integrative project will focus on how developing countries can meet the rising demand for energy, looking at electricity and clean energy in terms of cost competitiveness, energy security, environmental concerns and local economic development projects.

STURGIS SOBIN, an economics and environmental studies double major, interned in Bethesda, Md., in the estimating department of Clark Construction Group, a national leader in green construction. Sturgis worked as part of a team to develop accurate construction cost estimates and analyze scheduling, materials, building systems and construction methods on the major multimillion-dollar projects.



“Because most of the projects Clark bids on are LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified, I was able to gain firsthand experience in how green building projects are realized. The internship was a valuable learning experience because of its technical nature and competitive business culture. I was expected to understand and implement green building processes as a part of the preconstruction phase of building. This internship also let me test myself in a demanding work atmosphere.”

Sturgis’ senior integrative project will be an economic analysis of the effects of the American Recovery and Reinvest-

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WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2012!

The Goodwin-Niering Center is pleased to welcome 10 new sophomores into the certificate program.

KELSEY COHEN

Proposed Major: Architectural Studies
Areas of Interest: Green living, sustainable design

BRYSON COWAN

Proposed Majors: Government/
Environmental Studies
Area of Interest: Empowering women in environmental challenges

ZOE DIAZ-MARTIN

Proposed Majors: Latin American
Studies/Environmental Studies
Area of Interest: Conservation of biodiversity in South American national parks

STEPHEN DWORKIN

Proposed Major: English
Areas of Interest: Experiential and scientific/environmental writing

LUCY FRYE

Proposed Major: Architectural Studies
Areas of Interest: Historic preservation and sustainable design

ANNA KAUFMAN

Proposed Major: Biology
Area of Interest: Multi-use marine sanctuaries with controlled nature tourism

ELIZABETH NOONAN

Proposed Major: Environmental Studies
Areas of Interest: Green business and environmental sustainability

ALYSSA PERACCHIO

Proposed Major: Biology
Area of Interest: Effects of toxins on coral reef ecosystems

DANIEL SEEHAUSEN

Proposed Major: Environmental Studies
Area of Interest: History and future of the alternative energies market

LEAH VARGA

Proposed Majors: Biology/Dance
Area of Interest: Effects of pollution on marine ecosystems and immorality of our actions

SENIOR PROJECTS

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ment Act of 2009 on green building in America. It will entail in-depth research of current macroeconomic market data and will include firsthand observations and data collected from his internship. He seeks also to find out whether green building standards will translate to other industries such as mass transit and water and power infrastructure.

CHARLES VAN REES, a biological sciences and environmental studies double major with a strong interest in Hispanic studies, ventured to Talamanca, Costa Rica, for an internship with WIDECAST (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the support of locally staffed conservation efforts. As a research assistant to the head biologist on the Gandoca beach conservation project, Charles trained volunteers in the protocol of sea turtle research



and conservation, which covered how to gather data from nesting turtles, capture and relocate their eggs, and care for relocated nests until hatching. Charles' stated objectives for his stay in Costa Rica included the acquisition of a clearer perspective of global conservation efforts and a deep understanding and familiarity with one particular conservation project for use as a case study in his honors thesis.

"These objectives were unquestionably met by my internship experience. ... At work I trained volunteers and cared for future generations of a critically endangered species, and in my free time I explored a country and culture entirely foreign to me. In this respect, I view my time in Costa Rica as an invaluable learning experience the likes of which I may never see again."

For his honors thesis, Charles will rely on his firsthand experience to provide him with a specific case study to draw on in an analysis of the scientific and ethical consequences of species extinction manifested by a literature review of both scientific articles and philosophical texts.

To read more of the certificate students' internship experiences visit www.conncoll.edu/centers/goodwin-niering/7799.htm.

**EARTH DAY -
AT CONNECTICUT COLLEGE**

SAVE THE DATE: Connecticut College will celebrate Earth Fest! on April 17, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tempel Green (rain date April 18).

MOVEMENT TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY ON CAMPUS

IN AUGUST, consultants Woodard & Curran delivered the Environmental Sustainability Baseline Assessment Report to the College. Initiated by the Environmental Model Committee (EMC), the assessment serves as a comprehensive overview and evaluation of the structural and behavioral aspects of campus operations as they relate to environmental concerns.

Areas addressed in the study include energy, water, solid and hazardous waste, recycling, pest control, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, food, transportation, campus design and growth, purchasing, the workplace environment, management systems, and integration of sustainability concepts in the curriculum.

The results of the assessment confirm that the College has made significant progress in its efforts concerning environmental sustainability. Some highlights include our Center's Certificate Program in Environmental Studies; a high percentage (75 percent) of the campus land managed for conservation; water conservation through limited irrigation and spot watering; a campus recycling rate of 37 percent and high ranking in the annual intercollegiate

competition RecycleMania; nearly 100 percent offset of our annual electricity purchase with wind Renewable Energy Certificates; and many more practices deemed praise-worthy.

"The College has already undertaken many of the important first steps in achieving sustainability, many through student initiatives, and others through the individual and collective efforts of committed staff, faculty and administration," the report stated.

Yet more progress needs to be made at the College. Among the recommendations: to collect additional data through a master plan for all campus utilities, and an energy conservation assessment of all buildings; to define what sustainability means to Connecticut College and develop a campus sustainability strategic plan; and to develop a sustainability management system with written policies and procedures for strengthened College endorsement of sustainability.

The College has begun to implement the assessment recommendations by establishing a new Sustainability Steering Committee comprised of the dean of the faculty, vice president of administration, vice president of college relations,

Goodwin-Niering Center director, Arboretum director, EMC chair, campus environmental coordinator and Student Government Association president. The steering committee has drafted a vision and mission statement and has also produced a draft definition of sustainability specifically for our campus. Planning has begun for "Signs of Change: Cultivating Sustainability at Connecticut College," a daylong teach-in on Feb. 11, with a panel presentation and discussion on sustainability and small group sessions on topics covered in the assessment.

Since the receipt of the assessment, work has commenced on contracting for the utility master plan and the energy conservation study. These reports, along with the assessment, will provide the information necessary to develop a truly comprehensive, long-term campus sustainability plan.

— Amy Cabaniss

Campus Environmental Coordinator

PROFESSOR EMERITUS R. SCOTT WARREN RECEIVES WILLIAM A. NIERING OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

R. SCOTT WARREN, Jean C. Tempel '65 Professor Emeritus of Botany, has been nationally recognized by the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation (CERF) for his 37 years of exceptional teaching and research.

Warren received the William A. Niering Outstanding Educator Award on Nov. 1, 2009, at CERF's "Estuaries and Coasts in a Changing World" conference in Portland, Ore. In CERF's news release, Warren is praised by David Foster '77, director of Harvard Forest and member of the Goodwin-Niering Center Advisory Board, as being "one of the most effective student mentors in New England and a proponent for wetland preservation who backs his emotion with authoritative science."

Warren, a marsh eco-physiologist and Connecticut College faculty member since 1970, was an active member of the Goodwin-Niering Center from its inception.



JOIN THE RECYCLEMANIACS!

THIS SPRING, Connecticut College will once again participate in a friendly competition with more than 500 colleges and universities. The college or university that can achieve the highest recycling rate and least waste generation and disposal wins the RecycleMania competition.

The eight-week competition runs from Feb. 1 through March 27, 2010. Spread the word and reduce and recycle!

For more information, please visit www.recyclemaniacs.org or contact Campus Environmental Coordinator Amy Cabaniss at x5218.

Will you consider receiving a full-color electronic copy of *Environmental Connections*?



Please help us conserve paper and energy by reading our newsletters online at <http://goodwin-nieringcenter.conncoll.edu>

To be removed from our paper mailing list, contact us at goodwin-nieringcenter@conncoll.edu

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