

ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS



Back row, l-r: Jessica Wright, Natalie Calhoun, Aly Cheney, Olivia Rabbitt, Emily MacGibeny, Caitlin Persa, Maia Draper-Reich and Cian Fields.
Front Row, l-r: Marina Stuart, Emma Rotner, Anna Marshall and Matt Luciani.

WELCOME TO THE CLASS OF 2016

AFTER A VERY COMPETITIVE application year, the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment is very pleased to welcome 12 new students into our certificate program. Students and their areas of interest are presented below. We're looking forward to seeing great things with the Class of 2016!

NATALIE CALHOUN

Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental Interest: Waste life cycle, management, and solutions

ALY CHENEY

Majors: *Environmental Studies and Economics*
Environmental Interest: Hydro fracking impacts

MAIA DRAPER-REICH

Majors: *Biological Sciences and Dance*
Environmental Interest: Relation between Arctic communities, scientists, and policymakers

CIAN FIELDS

Major: *Economics*
Environmental Interest: Auto industry policy and environmental impacts

MATT LUCIANI

Major: *History*
Environmental Interest: Environmental racism toward Southwestern U.S. Native Americans

EMILY MACGIBENY

Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental Interest: Traditional ecological knowledge — biodiversity and environmental awareness

ANNA MARSHALL

Majors: *Environmental Studies and Anthropology*
Environmental Interest: Environmental impacts of dam removal

CAITLIN PERSA

Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental Interest: Intersection of renewable energy and art

OLIVIA RABBITT

Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental Interest: Economic and social structures of permaculture

EMMA ROTNER

Majors: *Environmental Studies and International Relations*
Environmental Interest: Environmental and social justice issues with mining and development

MARINA STUART

Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental Interest: Accessibility and efficacy of science writing

JESSICA WRIGHT

Major: *Biological Sciences*
Environmental Interest: Potential compatibility of environmental and animal welfare activism



Goodwin-Niering Center
for the Environment

Douglas Thompson, *Harrison Director*
Glenn Dreyer, *Executive Director*
Jane Dawson, *Associate Director*
Jennifer Pagach, *Assistant Director*
Keleigh Baretincic, *Center Assistant*

CENTER FELLOWS

Robert Askins, *Biology*
Robert Baldwin, *Art History*
Anne Bernhard, *Biology*
MaryAnne Borrelli, *Government*
Beverly Chomiak, *Physics*
Jeffrey Cole, *Anthropology*
Maria Cruz-Saco, *Economics*
Robert Darst, *UMASS Dartmouth*
Andrew Davis, *Environmental Studies*
Ann Devlin, *Psychology*
James Downs, *History*
William Frasure, *Government*
Anthony Graesch, *Anthropology*
Pam Hine, *Botany*
Chad Jones, *Botany and Environmental Studies*
Richard King, *Williams-Mystic School*
Manuel Lizarralde, *Anthropology and Botany*
Stephen Loomis, *Biology*
Karina Mrakovich, *US Coast Guard Academy, Marine Science*
Michelle Neely, *English*
Peter Siver, *Botany*
Rachel Spicer, *Botany*
Derek Turner, *Philosophy*
Gerald Visgilio, *Economics*
Marc Zimmer, *Chemistry*

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Environmental Historian
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Helen Mathieson '52
Connecticut College Trustee Emeritus
Edward Monahan
Connecticut Sea Grant Program, Retired

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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

THIS LETTER marks my last as the Karla Heurich Harrison '28 Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment. So, perhaps you will forgive me if I am feeling a bit introspective as I consider events of the past six years. Happily, the spring semester brought a fresh sense of excitement to members of the center as we welcomed the latest group of sophomore recruits who we anticipate will be the environmental leaders of tomorrow.



If I represent the out-with-the-old part of the familiar phrase, then these certificate students certainly fulfill the in-with-the-new requirement. These students were key contributors in our partnership with the local Avalonia Land Conservancy. For the second-consecutive year, students were challenged in the sophomore-only course with applied projects in land conservation. Students completed projects on saltmarsh restoration, pollinator habitat creation, coastal dune replanting, cottontail habitat construction, invasive plant evaluation and community outreach. The student's desire to make a positive impact on the landscape blossomed in each student as they used their unique set of skills and enthusiasm for the environment to solve real-world problems. I believe that the introduction of this new component to the certificate program is one of the most important changes that took place during my time as director. I am excited to see it evolve in the future.

This year, the center also welcomed additional faces to our list of fellows and staff. Jennifer Pagach took over as the Assistant Director last fall. She has a wonderful background in environmental management and worked most recently for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment. Jen brings a tremendous amount of energy to the center office and is a knowledgeable and well-organized resource. She played an important role in both the sophomore-only course, and the certificate program in general. The ranks of our center fellows also swelled this year with the additions of Michelle Neely Assistant Professor of English, Richard King from the Williams-Mystic program, and Andrew Davis an adjunct law professor in the environmental studies program. Each person brought novel ideas and expertise to the center.

Finally, I was thrilled about the recent publication of my first book, *The Quest for the Golden Trout*. The book tells the story of economically driven fisheries management and corresponding massive reconfigurations of river ecosystems spurred by trout fishing. These changes ultimately served to distort Americans' perceptions of nature and wildness. I desperately hope that the book will serve as a wakeup call on the importance of preserving our nation's rivers and streams. The support I received from the center while writing this book was immensely important and very much appreciated. The book adds to the list of scholarly contributions from past center directors, and I am very proud to be part of an environmental tradition that dates back long before my arrival to the college.

For decades the college served as a source of information and inspiration for people on and off campus. Richard Goodwin and William Niering set the standard with environmental contributions that were of national importance. Goodwin's work was mostly related to land conservation efforts, especially in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy. Niering, one of the first center directors, was both an ardent conservationist and renowned scientist with a long list of seminal papers. My immediate predecessor, Robert Askins, continued the tradition with his important books, *Restoring North America's Birds* and *Saving the World's Deciduous Forests*. I only hope that my contributions will positively impact conservation and restoration practices to the same degree as these three key figures in the center history.

My environmental passion dates back decades and has always been centered on rivers. As a child, I spent hours exploring rivers and streams near where I lived. I loved walking along waterways trying to understand the origins and fates of flow. I tossed numerous sticks into the mercy of the current to study the results. I was always fascinated at the twists and turns in course imparted by invisible forces on

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GETTING TO KNOW THE GNCE FELLOWS

HERE at the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment, we are lucky to have some fantastic fellows from within our Connecticut College faculty as well as professionals outside of the College community. To introduce them to you, we'll be highlighting some of them from time to time, looking at their professional and environmental interests as well as what they bring to the center. In this issue we are spotlighting Michelle Neely, assistant professor of English and Adjunct Professor Andrew N. Davis, Ph.D., a partner at the national law firm Shipman & Goodwin LLP who practices in the firm's Real Estate, Environmental and Land Use practice group. Both joined the Center in 2013.

We asked each of them about their childhood and college experiences, how it shaped their understanding of the world, and what they think of Connecticut College and the Center. Here is what they said.

MICHELLE NEELY, *Assistant Professor of English, Connecticut College*



Michelle teaches several courses that include environmental themes, including "Humans and Other Animals in Nineteenth-Century American Literature" and "American Earth: Puritans to Present,"

and is on the Center's 2015 food conference planning committee.

I grew up in a semi-rural, horsey suburb of San Diego where we pretty much had two seasons: spring and summer. I have spent most of my life in Southern and Northern California, so now that I live in Connecticut, having all four seasons is very exciting for me; there's something new about the world to notice and appreciate every day. My college experience at the University of California, Berkeley was idyllic. College was the first time I experienced what it was like to feel deeply challenged by the people around me — challenged in the classroom, of course, but also challenged personally to examine my beliefs and assumptions — and that was incredibly exciting, and a real gift.

If I have a regret about college it's that

I was, if anything, too focused. I had known that I wanted to get a Ph.D. in English and become a college professor since about first grade, and in typical style took exclusively English classes for most of my first three years. I saved almost all my G.E. requirements for my senior year, and thus discovered far too late that I was passionate about much more than just literature. A women's studies class on global/transnational feminisms and a geography class on climate change science in particular impacted me (and my conceptions of environmental justice and global warming, respectively) very deeply. I think about these experiences when I advise students. College is a special time in which you have opportunities for immersive learning experiences in panoply of fields and disciplines, and I've become an advocate for undergraduates to be braver and more wide-ranging in their course selection wherever possible — let the universe surprise you!

I first got involved with the center because I was excited to participate in, and support, interdisciplinary conversations about the environment. Since getting involved I have only grown more excited about GNCE because I am continuously inspired by the passion and intellect that center students, staff, and faculty bring to their work. Hearing center students discuss their internships and senior integrated projects has been one of the absolute highlights of my year so far. Another highlight has been having center students in my English courses because their GNCE experiences and different disciplinary perspectives always add something really valuable to our classroom conversations.

In many ways, my primary relationship to the environment has always been an ethical one — I have tended to feel most connected to the environment when I'm thinking, talking, or acting for environmental issues that concern justice — for humans or for other species. My scholarly work has also attuned me more and more to the historical and cultural dimensions of what Americans now and in the past mean or have meant when they talk about nature, or the environment, and why that matters. I also think that my sense of "the environment" has always been (perhaps unusually) imbricated with nonhuman animals. My current book project and some of my teaching is about the presence

of animals in 19th-century U.S. literature and culture, and those research and teaching interests probably emerge, at some deep level, from the fact that I have always felt very connected to and interested in nonhuman animals.

ANDREW N. DAVIS, *Ph.D., Partner at Shipman & Goodwin LLP, in the firm's*



Real Estate, Environmental and Land Use Practice Group

An adjunct professor of environmental science, law and policy here at Connecticut College since 1994, Andrew counsels his law

clients in transactional, permitting, compliance and enforcement matters under federal and state health and safety, hazardous waste, air and water pollution, site development and property transfer laws.

I was born and raised in the Boston area, and despite having lived in lots of places, I still bleed the colors of all of the Boston professional sports teams!

As a biology major at Trinity College in Hartford (NESCAC rival of the Camels!), I had a very interesting experience working with two professors on environmental/marine related issues. In fact, my honors thesis was on the environmental factors influencing asexual reproduction in the jellyfish *Cyanea capillata*. I then went on to grad school at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst for my M.Sc. and Ph.D., working on, among other things, marine ecology of sublittoral algal communities. My advisor had major grants which took me to South Africa, the UK and the Arctic. While in the Arctic (east coast Canadian archipelago and Greenland), we were part of a scientific team funded by BP, Petro Canada and the Environmental Protection Service of Canada, working on the Baffin Island Oil Spill (BIOS) project. We undertook a baseline study of the Arctic marine communities including fish, invertebrates, seaweeds, etc. then had controlled, permitted oil spills in different types of habitats (e.g., sheltered vs. heavily exposed bays), cleaned up the oil and then monitored recovery of the ecosystems. This was in the early to mid-1980s, and it is my understanding that

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FALL CERTIFICATE SEMINAR: FOOD AND THE ENVIRONMENT

THIS FALL we began what is shaping up to be a two-year odyssey exploring the myriad of connections between food and the environment. The focus of the fall seminar was on the environmental impacts of our modern food system and the foods we choose to consume. The spring seminar was the opposite strand, namely how environmental changes (including climate change) are affecting food availability and security.

I think it's honest to say that virtually none of us came through with our food habits unscathed! Starting with Michael Pollan's classic, *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, we soon began to learn that everything we eat seems to have some connection to corn, even if complicated ingredient labels lead you to believe otherwise. Delving deeper into the environmental impacts of modern intensive monocrop/corn farming, we were brought face to face with the damage caused by overuse of synthetic fertilizers as well as their links to fossil fuels — in their composition, transport, and mechanization of cultivation methods on these huge industrial-style farms. Toxic pesticides were yet another environmentally unfriendly facet of intensive agriculture in the United States. Reading Lester Brown's *Full Planet, Empty Plate*, the group was surprised how big the impact our food choices have on the global climate. In the UN Food & Agriculture Organization's 2007 report, it was revealed that livestock and growing consumption of meat and animal products around the world has a greater carbon footprint than all world transport combined. Anna Lappe's compelling book, *Diet for a Hot Planet*, made this case in much more detail. After gaining this knowledge, one of the main concerns of everyone in the group was the amount of meat (particularly, beef, which has quite an outsized footprint) served in the College dining halls. Mike Kmec, Dining Services Manager, came to the seminar and filled us in on a very impressive set of measures that Dining Services have already adopted despite a very tight budget. Students played with ideas for how the food system at the College might reduce its carbon footprint while not costing additional funds, nor triggering negative student reaction to proposed changes.

We also had a number of wonderful

guests visit, greatly enriching the seminars. The Peruvian indigenous farmers from Potato Park traveled from their home country for the first time ever and spent five days with various groups on campus. As climate change has set in, their potato farming on the mountainside has had to adapt and move ever high up the mountain to escape warmer temperatures below — and they are reaching the top of the mountain. Their carbon footprints are very low, yet they have to deal with dire consequences from the high emission lifestyles of others. The opportunity to discuss the differences in culture and



Associate Director, Jane Dawson

carbon footprints was moving, especially when a Center student finally answered their burning question of what was causing it — it is US! Thanks to discussions with the farmers we came face to face with our own culpability and what it means for real people in far reaches of the world. Our own Center expertise was showcased as Doug Thompson guest lectured on how farming can cause erosion and soil depletion, and Jennifer Pagach shared climate change impacts on Connecticut agriculture including aquaculture from multi-decadal increases in precipitation and flooding in the northeast. We had a local farmer Ed Wazer from Shundahai Farms in Mansfield talk about how agriculture and livestock done right cause carbon storage and restore the soil, as documented in *Cows Save the Planet*. The staff from City Seed from New Haven dazzled students with all the amazing food programs they have that bind and feed needy communities, giving many access

to fresh produce for the first times.

Additional guest speakers included two of our own students, Kristina Satterlee and Azul Tellez, co-chairs of the organic garden group Sprout. They had a wealth of information to share and had everyone in the seminar participate in a Sprout garden work session. Dr. Maggie Clark, from Colorado State University also gave a very enlightening talk on cookstoves in developing countries, which not only cause immense pollution but undermine the health of women and children. Our own Goodwin-Niering Center Fellow, Dr. Karina Mrakovich of the US Coast Guard Academy, kindly shared her expertise on fisheries and seafood sustainability. Senior Emily Nixon spoke about the GMO (genetically modified food) debate and the issues that are polarizing individuals and communities on this tricky topic.

The Center hosted its annual fall banquet for our students and families, building the menu entirely on principles of sustainability — and proved to be very tasty indeed! Seniors used the banquet as an opportunity to share with parents and guests their internship experiences of the preceding summer, which — as always — wowed our audience! At the end of the semester, we attempted to put our learning into practice by coming together for a sustainable potluck dinner at a faculty home. Each person had to introduce their food item & its sustainability credentials, with a great deal of diversity in how we prioritize what constitutes sustainable food — is it organic? Local? Vegetarian or vegan? Unprocessed? Humane certified? All of these questions had been discussed throughout the semester, and everyone had arrived at their own conclusion — a lesson in and of itself.

Through this all, we have worked with Center fellows to put together the agenda & speakers for the biennial GNCE conference, which will be held in March of 2015. Our topic is “Feeding the Future,” and the conference promises to be an exciting culmination of two years of food & environment discussion, so make sure you check out the amazing progress on our website, direct link with the save the date in this newsletter. — Jane Dawson, *associate director and Virginia Eason Weinmann Professor of Environmental Studies and Government*

THE CENTER WELCOMES A NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

THE GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER for the Environment has a new assistant director! Some of you may know Jennifer Pagach (rhymes with magic) from her local and regional climate change monitoring and adaptation work at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. For the past five years she led climate science monitoring and education in the state, including sentinel monitoring for climate change in Long Island Sound, and continues to help lead local and regional efforts in this arena.



Assistant Director, Jennifer Pagach

Some of her cutting-edge work includes the 2009-10 adaptation workshops that used Groton as a model community for coastal climate adaptation planning processes, and the “Connecticut Adaptation Resource Toolkit” or CART website that is one-stop shopping for adaptation actions that is already helping communities around Connecticut.

Jennifer has a diverse environmental background and many professional contacts and connections that she is excited to be sharing with the Connecticut College community. She holds dual undergraduate honors degrees in geology and philosophy from Central Connecticut State University’s Honor Program and did her graduate work in geology as well as GIS Certification at the University of Connecticut. She ran multiple environmental youth programs, worked in public health and environmental policy, and does extensive teaching and course development work at several Connecticut colleges. She is best known for her public speaking on an array of pressing environmental issues, and for her commitment to training and mentoring programs for professionals and students. She has her own company, Power of Change, which assists communities dealing with ecological and human impacts from climate change, as well as empowering individuals to embrace personal and spiritual change.

Jennifer says that she is honored to be with the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment, working to continue the tremendous environmental stewardship legacy with continuing generations. She is taught ES 110 this spring, a gateway course for the Center, and will teach ES 290, the service-learning course for

GNCE FELLOWS

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the information/research generated was useful in the cleanup of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska. This event led to the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which I cover in depth in my marine pollution seminar course that I teach at the college.

During my graduate school science experience, I realized that I wanted to combine my scientific training/skills with environmental law. While attending George Washington University for law school, I was the research assistant for several years to Arnold Reitze, one of the preeminent environmental law professors. Since graduation from law school in 1990, I have been practicing environmental law for national and international corporate law firms and am currently a partner leading the national environmental practice at Shipman & Goodwin LLP in Hartford. Also, I have been an adjunct professor at Connecticut College since the early 1990s, teaching two upper level seminars: “Law, Science and the Environment” and “Marine Pollution.”

There are numerous environmental issues/challenges we and subsequent generations are confronting, both locally and globally. We need to all have the perspective that, “humankind is a part of nature, not apart from nature.” The availability of safe, clean drinking water — a limited resource — is so critical to our (and other species) survival, and even more critical in developing countries. In fact, I had a thought recently when I took my wife, Suzanne, to the movie theater and purchased a couple of bottles of water to go with our buttered popcorn: I would be really rich now if I realized as a kid that when I was an adult we would be paying more for a gallon of water than a gallon of gas! Another huge challenge is education about, and transformation of, our and the

the Center’s certificate program sophomores. Already in March she hosted and presented at a Coastal Erosion workshop right here on campus, co-sponsored by CT Sea Grant and E.J. Prescott. A Reiki Master, she leads meditations in the Arboretum. Please feel free to stop by her office in Olin 109 to introduce yourself.

world’s energy policy to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and look to alternatives/renewables, like wind, solar and ... algae for biofuels! I also believe, and this is a sensitive and politically-charged issue for some (but I adhere to the words of Dr. Seuss: “be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don’t matter and those who matter don’t mind”), that we need to look hard at the world’s population growth. Along with pollution and consumption of resources, population growth is a significant, but often overlooked, factor significantly affecting the environment. Years ago I was taught the lessons of Garrett Hardin’s “Tragedy of the Commons”: too many utilizing too few resources! People love to throw around the sustainability buzz word, but in my mind, any intellectually honest discussion about the environment must include energy policy and population growth.

I think the Center has been functioning extremely well over the years and I am excited, and honored, to be selected as a fellow. I have taught and counselled numerous excellent students at the College who were part of the Center’s program and are now out in the real world making a difference. Given my 24 years of practicing environmental law in the corporate world, I hope I bring a real world perspective to the Center and the students, ensuring that the Center’s interdisciplinary approach emphasizes that the “business” aspects of the environment should be in the forefront of the students’ minds and projects. Understanding business, and working within (but always pushing the boundaries of) the constraints of the financial world, is critical to educating people about the environment and facilitating the changes needed to resolve environmental issues.

WELCOME ABOARD Michelle and Andrew, the Center is lucky to have you!

LAMBERT LECTURE FEATURES AGASSIZ BIOGRAPHER

AS PART OF its Jean Thomas Lambert Environmental Lecture Series, the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment hosted author Christoph Irmscher for a presentation and book signing on Nov. 5, 2013 for his recent biography, “Louis Agassiz: Creator of American Science.” The Center co-hosted this event with Williams College-Mystic Seaport Maritime Studies Program.



Dr. Christoph Irmscher

While Dr. Irmscher is in the English Department at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, he reflected that he prefers working in an interdisciplinary environment because it creates a more cohesive perspective. He praised Connecticut College and the Goodwin-Niering Center for also using this holistic approach. This approach was especially necessary for him to complete the biography on Agassiz, a 19th century biologist and physician. One pleasant surprise to Dr. Irmscher about working with scientists is how they would often grammatically edit his writing, and do it correctly. In turn, he shared his appreciation of the poetic nature of some of Agassiz’s field observations, specifically the passion in which Agassiz described jellyfish and other marine creatures that fascinated this landlocked Swiss-born scientist.

The lecture went on to give personal and historical perspective on this influential natural historian. Among the first to posit that Earth had experienced an ice age, Agassiz was a passionate scientist who was often seen rooting in barrels

of fish and spouting his firm beliefs at Harvard, including that Darwin was completely wrong about there being a common origin of species. “A great deal of debate still surrounds the teaching of evolution and the general refusal to accept scientific evidence when it is inconvenient, such as in the case of global warming,” said Douglas Thompson, professor of geology and the Karla Heurich Harrison ’28 Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center. “The story of Agassiz gives us a glimpse of past periods in time when science and politics mixed with less than ideal outcomes.”

Another example of less than ideal outcomes was the photographic documentation by Agassiz of African American slaves. He did this to study and document what was perceived at the time to be an inferior species. This is an important reminder that perception, even “scientific analysis” often reflects our current and not necessarily accurate beliefs. Rather than harshly judge Agassiz and his contemporaries for being narrow-minded and prejudiced, perhaps the lesson is to keep an open mind and realize there are many discoveries and paradigm-shattering truths still yet to be uncovered.

Dr. Irmscher stayed on for an enlightening dinner and discussion with the Center students, fellows, faculty and staff. In addition to his latest book “Louis Agassiz: Creator of American Science,” he has published several others, including “John James Audubon: Writings and Drawings,” “The Poetics of Natural History,” and two volumes on Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, “Longfellow Redux” and “Public Poet, Private Man: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow at 200.”

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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these directionless explorers. Although my early experiences on brooks and creeks feed my interest in water, I had no idea where life would take me when I graduated from high school. It was only later that I recognized the similarities between the passage of a twig downstream and the daunting array of choices young scholars face as they undertake personal journeys towards unknown destinations.

One reason I am so passionate about the value of both the center and a liberal arts education is the opportunity it offers for new generations to explore unforeseen options and connect interests to life-long aspirations. For me and many others, college is a life-changing voyage. The center, in particular, does an amazing job of helping students recognize their own environmental passions while supplying gentle course corrections as needed to help each scholar reach their own best endpoint. Students in the center feed of each other’s enthusiasm as they continue to express their own individuality through advanced academic achievement. It is a truly impressive assemblage of people.

As I ponder the future of our current collection of certificate students, I wonder what important contributions they will make in the future. These students will eventually have opportunities to change the cultures of the places they work, make important discoveries, influence policy decisions, teach a new generation of environmentalists and help out with local conservation efforts. It is very easy to feel good about the future when we see the strength and promise that each of our graduates represents. I feel confident that they will look back at their years at Connecticut College and their experiences in the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment with fond memories. I am sure that many of our certificate students will point to this period in time and recognize it as a fundamental step in their development as a person who cares deeply about the environment. It has been a great joy to me that I could provide a little nudge as they headed along their way.

GNCE CERTIFICATE SEMINAR STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITH THE POTATO DELEGATION FROM PERU



GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER ALUMNI NEWS

SCOTT EPSTEIN '03

CC Major: *Environmental Studies*
Minor: *Psychology*

Scott Epstein manages the transportation group at Pinyon Environmental, Inc. He is actively involved in a variety of transportation and transit projects, from constraints studies, to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects from small categorical exclusions to large environmental impact statements. In addition, Scott is working on two public-private partnership projects and multiple design-build projects, both as an owners representative and for the contractor.

JESSICA LECLAIR '08

CC Majors: *Environmental Studies and International Relations*

Jessica LeClair currently works in the Office of Climate Change and Technology Innovation at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

Since beginning at DEEP in 2012, Jessica has worked on many different issues relating to climate change in the state and region, from helping advance CT's first comprehensive energy strategy,



to supporting the build out of electric vehicle infrastructure, to participating in the development of regional climate change action plans. While spending her days at DEEP, Jessica is happy to be back on campus for the afternoons and evenings as the assistant women's rowing coach. She enjoys being back on the

Thames River getting to know current students and learning about the remarkable work they do.

LINDSAY MICHEL '08

CC Majors: *Anthropology and Environmental Studies*

Since graduating, Lindsay has worked for a variety of entities including Conservation Corps Iowa, where she was focused on timber stand improvements, invasive



species removal, and prescribed burning. At the Fish and Wildlife Service, she worked on Faulkner Island monitoring and banding common and roseate terns,

and at the Greenwich Land Trust, Lindsay managed 700 acres of conservation land. Currently, she is working for the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, a state-wide conservation organization focused on forestry and hiking trails.

As the land conservation director, she is in charge of acquiring land for conservation, managing our land through sustainable forestry, and coordinating our volunteer monitoring program. She works with landowners, local land trusts and state and federal agencies to prioritize and protect properties along key trail corridors and within large tracts of undisturbed forest.

LIZ NOONAN '12

CC Majors: *Environmental Studies and Theater*

Liz is in her second year working in New York, New York for Discovery Communications. Discovery Communications is the media company behind Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, Science Channel, TLC, and many others for a



total of 14 domestic and 183 international networks. After a year working in recruiting she has moved over to the communications team and could not be happier! Discovery is an excellent intersection of her interest in media and her longtime passion for the world around

us. As the #1 non-fiction media company in the world, the Discovery Channel brand is based on curiosity, so every day is exciting!

KATHERINE SERAFIN '08

CC Majors: *Anthropology and Environmental Studies*

After completing her Goodwin-Niering Center funded internship with the U.S.



Geological Survey (USGS) in the summer of 2007, Katherine was offered a job upon graduation with the USGS researching coastal impacts from hurricanes. Colleagues pointed her to Oregon

State University (OSU) for graduate studies and she began her degree program in the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Science in fall of 2010. In October 2013 Katherine completed her Masters of Science degree in Ocean, Earth, and Atmospheric Studies. Her thesis focused on developing a probabilistic model that incorporates the seasonal and climate-based temporal variability of extreme water levels to evaluate flooding and erosion along the Oregon coastline. After completion of her master's degree, she began her Ph.D. at OSU. Katherine's current research involves investigating patterns in the large-scale ocean and climate and their relationship to regional climatic forcings driving locally high-water levels in the Pacific Northwest. Collaboration with different research institutions for this project has already taken her to Santander, Spain for 5 weeks last April and soon to Santa Cruz, CA. Outside of the office, Katherine enjoys outdoor adventures in the Pacific Northwest accompanied by wine and craft brews, friends, and her fiancé, Rob.

DAISY SMALL '03

CC Majors: *Botany and Environmental Studies*

Daisy Small completed her master's at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in geography. There, she studied the ecology and geomorphology of rivers. Connecticut College is lucky to have Daisy back as she presently teaches introductory botany.

GNCE ALUMNI

Let us know what you're up to.

We are always looking for alumni updates, so please email your updates to jpagach@conncoll.edu along with any changes in contact info including your mailing address.

We will be sending a survey to alumni soon, so please take the time to share your thoughts and input on what we can do to increase and strengthen our Center connections.

SUMMER 2013 SENIOR INTERNSHIPS

MARY BUCHANAN, *Biological Sciences major*

The Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center is a wildlife sanctuary and educational facility that promotes appreciation and understanding of the local environment in southeastern Connecticut. Much of their work involves preserving land for the sake of visitors and wildlife. Their most recent land preservation project saved the Coogan Farm Property in Mystic from commercial development, ensuring its future as a public park. For my internship, I gathered ecological data about the natural features of the Coogan Farm, such as the bird species present, the extent of invasive species infestations and the locations of wetlands. I created maps using GIS to display the results of my fieldwork and produced a final report making site-specific land management recommendations.

EMILY GOLDSTEIN, *Architectural Studies major, Philosophy minor*
Amacher & Associates, Architects is a sustainable architectural firm located in Cambridge, MA. The firm specializes in zero-net energy design, which allows the building or residence to be completely self-sustaining. With the incorporation of solar panels on the roof, zero-net energy design allows for an extremely energy efficient building envelope keeping the residence cool in the summer and warm in the winter. I spent weeks compiling product data, researching sustainable design practices and familiarizing myself with drafting software. Through this intensive and consuming process, I was able to analyze and complete my own set of zero-net energy drawings and plans during my time spent at the firm. The field work and hands-on experience I gained during my time at Amacher & Associates was invaluable and prepared me well for my senior integrative project.

BARRY KE, *Environmental Studies major, Economics minor*
China Environmental Investment Union is a professional environmental consulting firm, offering a variety of services such as consulting, investment, advisory and environmental training programs. The Union's stated aim is to create opportunities for Chinese environmental industry to develop its technology and promote China's environmental market. As an intern, I had opportunities to work



Gnce Class of 2014, l-r: Chelsea Parish, Emily Nixon, Jessie Mehrhoff, Katie Surrey-Bergman, Barry Ke, Mary Buchanan and Emily Goldstein

with the head of the union to conduct research on activities of green credit policy in the year of 2013 between China and Europe, which was related to my SIP. Also, there were some environmental conferences held in the union, and I got a chance to participate in all of them. Those experiences not only broaden my vision of global environmental issues but help me decide my future career path.

JESSIE MEHRHOFF, *Environmental Studies and Economics majors*
Mountaintop removal coal mining (MTR) has leveled more than 500 Appalachian mountains to date. During the summer of 2013, I had the opportunity to intern for Appalachian Voices, a non-profit organization that brings together the expertise and talents of scientists, political scientists, field activists and Appalachian residents to educate politicians about the destructive nature of MTR. As the mountaintop removal campaign assistant, I lobbied congressional staff on Capitol Hill, spearheaded a letter-to-the-editor drive and directed an August in-district meeting campaign. This work has prepared me to complete a comparative study of activists' efforts to stop dirty surface coal mining in both the United States and Australia.

EMILY NIXON, *Environmental Studies and Hispanic Studies majors*
Fintrac, Inc. is an environmental consulting company that aims to strengthen national agriculture sectors in order to reduce poverty, improve food security and promote economic growth in rural communities. The firm contracts with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is currently implementing

development projects in South and Central America, Africa and Southeast Asia. As the project management intern, I had the opportunity to not only learn the logistical aspects of a U.S. government-funded enterprise, but also to provide technical and research support to the field teams in Ethiopia and Honduras. Through my experience with Fintrac, I am now able to conceptualize the direct and undeniable connections between agriculture, food security and overall familial health, as well as the less obvious impact on women and youth, educational opportunities and environmental stewardship. Throughout the summer I was introduced to agriculture technologies and methods to increase production in environmentally sustainable manners, which prepared me for my senior integrative project this spring.

CHELSEA PARISH, *International Relations major*
The Trust for Public Land is a national land conservation organization, with offices across the United States. The mission of the organization is to conserve land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. The Washington D.C. office in which I interned during the summer of 2013 focuses on lobbying efforts in order to preserve and obtain federal funding. As the federal affairs intern in D.C., I had a variety of responsibilities including: writing policy briefs, attending House and Senate subcommittee hearings, researching politicians, determining potential funding, following bills on the docket and writing requests and invitations. I had the opportunity to attend "GO WEEK," which

was focused on lobbying for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). As a learning experience it provided a unique view into hearings on the environment and political lobbying in D.C. It presented me with larger questions about the success of environmental lobbying, the future of environmental policy and new ways to frame issues to gain public and political support for the environment.

KATIE SURREY-BERGMAN,
Environmental Studies major
The Marine Biological Laboratories

(MBL) is an international center for training, education and research in the environmental and biological fields, including ecology, medicine, microbiology and genetics. It is the oldest private center for marine research in the country and is known around the world for its incredible, groundbreaking research. My supervisor at MBL was Dr. Christopher Neill, who was working on the Naushon Project. This project is a five-year study that concentrates on the assessment and restoration of the valuable coastal grasslands found on the nearby island

of Naushon. My job this summer was to help with the physical setup of the fence lines for the experiments and to collect vegetation analysis data that was added to an ongoing database. The internship gave me the opportunity to not only work with minimal supervision, but to also work in groups with my peers and engage in more intensive hands-on fieldwork as well. Lastly, this summer provided amazing exposure and networking at a reputable organization. Learning about the incredible research that goes on at a place like MBL was an invaluable experience.

MARGARETT “MAGGIE” L. JONES RECEIVES GNCE’S ALUMNI ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

THE GOODWIN-NIERING Center for the Environment’s Alumni Environmental Achievement Award recognizes and celebrates Connecticut College graduates who have gone on to make significant contributions in a wide variety of fields. On March 24, 2014, the Center bestowed Margaret “Maggie” L. Jones of Mystic, Connecticut with the award in a special ceremony on campus, including some one on one time with the Center students.

Maggie was a Cum Laude Botany Graduate in the class of 1985 and was a student of Professor’s Bill Niering and Robert Askins, among others. Perhaps most notable from that time was the research she did with Professor Askins on forest fragmentation and bird communities, and the resulting professional publications. She is a gifted birder who is able to identify a very large number of birds by ear, and has worked on the Arboretum’s biennial breeding bird census as well as many other long term bird monitoring projects.

After graduation Maggie became very involved in local conservation activities and served on the Board of Directors of the Avalonia Land Conservancy and on the Stonington Inland Wetlands Commission. She continues to be very actively involved in conservation activities and is a field trip leader and consultant with over 20 environmental organizations.

In 1992 Maggie Jones was appointed Executive Director of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic. The Nature Center is a combination wildlife sanctuary, natural history museum, and



2014 Alumni Environmental Achievement Award to Margaret L. Jones '85

educational facility highlighting the habitats of southeastern Connecticut. The Nature Center serves more than 50,000 people, many of them school children, on an annual basis. She not only grew the organization in size and scope but established the regions first nature-based preschool in 2006 and helps maintain the extensive property. Many Connecticut College students have directly worked with Maggie, through the Environmental Studies course Field Work in Environmental Education, and through the Goodwin-Niering Center. She has been instrumental in adding significant acreage to the preserved land managed by the Nature Center, including a 200 acre conservation easement and the 45 acre Coogan Farm, linking the Nature Center to downtown Mystic and the Mystic River.

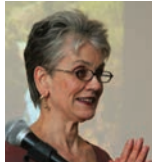
Like many successful leaders of non-profit organizations, she has excelled

at fund raising challenges, raising over \$850,000 for a campaign to update the Nature Center’s buildings and exhibits, and just last year \$4.1 million for the Coogan Farm Acquisition Project.

We at the Center think about a couple of things when vetting a candidate for this Alumni Environmental Achievement Award. One is to find people that Dick Goodwin and Bill Niering would be proud of, and who exemplify their dedication to environmental education and conservation. The other is to pick people who will be inspirational figures to current and future Connecticut College students. There is no doubt that Maggie Jones easily meets both of these criteria, and it is an added pleasure to finally recognize a “local,” someone who grew up in southeastern Connecticut and has dedicated her life to making our community a better place for everyone. — Glenn Dreyer, *GNCE Executive Director*

PARTING SHOTS!

THE CENTER hosted many special events this academic year! Here are some highlights, please feel free to join us at future events that we post on the GNCE Facebook Page.



Francis Moore Lappé takes questions from the audience

On Thursday, May 1, we were lucky enough to host Francis Moore Lappé from the Small Planet Institute. Lappé shared her extensive current research that examines the policies and politics that have kept hungry people from feeding themselves around the world as well as the misconceptions that have obscured our own national, social and humanitarian interests.

Glenn Dryer and Doug Thompson led an interpretive hike of Mamacoke Island this spring for over 25 attendees. Highlights included the unusual glacial geological formations, Native



Mamacoke Island hike

American use of this tidally connected island, a submarine launch from the adjacent naval base, and of course, snacks!



Connecticut College President Katherine Bergeron gives a warm welcome

The May 17 GNCE Certificate Ceremony was kicked off by Connecticut College President Katherine Bergeron, and marked the successful program commencement of all seven members of the class of 2014. The GNCE executive committee, fellows and staff were all present, along with family, friends and advisors to celebrate their many accomplishments. Congratulations to Mary Buchanan, Emily Goldstein, Barry Ke, Jessie Merhoff, Emily Nixon, Chelsea Parish, and Katie Surrey-Bergman!



Congrats to our 2014 Certificate Students! L-r: Emily Goldstein, Chelsea Parish, Emily Nixon, Katie Surrey-Bergman, Jessie Mehrhoff, Mary Buchanan and Barry Ke.

SAVE THE DATE!
Our bi-annual conference is scheduled for Friday March 27 and Saturday March 28, 2015. Sneak a peak at our amazing line up for our "Feeding The Future" conference at <http://www.conncoll.edu/academic-centers/the-goodwin-niering-center-for-the-environment/conferences/>

We're always looking for interesting environmental news to post on our page, so please feel free to email anything you'd like us to share: goodwin-nieringcenter@conncoll.edu

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