



ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

THE QUEST FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL EQUITY: A SEMESTER OF INQUIRY

DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER, the certificate seminar students, and members of the college community more broadly, had the opportunity to dive into issues of global environmental justice and explore them in depth.

The seminar this past semester was designed to dovetail with the Goodwin-Niering Center's Elizabeth Babbott Conant biennial conference, *The Quest for Global Environmental Equity in an Increasingly Inequitable World*, held on campus April 19-20. The seminar included readings, discussions and guest lectures to prepare students for each of the three sessions of the conference. By the time the conference rolled around, the certificate students were well-versed in all of the cases being examined, as well as larger concepts and debates in the field; they were ready to delve deeper.



Jane Dawson

Discussions of global environmental justice in the seminar and conference were enriched by the two-year Global Environmental Justice (GEJ) faculty development initiative that brought 18 faculty from across disciplines together to explore how global environmental justice might be viewed from their specific disciplinary perspective. The ultimate goal of the initiative was to develop new global environmental justice-based courses across the disciplinary spectrum. It focused on three specific types of environmental justice dilemmas and involved faculty travel and study during January & March 2013. Participants traveled to India, Peru or South Africa and shared their experiences at the conference through faculty panel discussions, a design that was new for the biennial event. And

in an unusual move, the faculty group co-sponsored the conference with the help of funding from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation.

Thus, the certificate seminar, discussions and GEJ faculty development initiative and travel excursions and the biennial conference with its focus on global environmental equity, all came together to foster intense and widespread discussion of this complex issue across multiple sectors of the college community. Just as the conference was designed to build on the three regions and foci of the faculty development initiative, the certificate seminar was organized along these same lines. The semester's topics included conceptual discussions on what constitutes an "environmental injustice." It focused on the role that globalization has on environmental conditions and quality of life, and in deepening inequalities between populations living in the developed, capitalist democracies of the "Global North" versus those bearing the environmental burdens across the developing societies of the "Global South." Our personal roles in the over-consumption that drives much of this

environmental injustice — whether it's always needing the newest techno-gadget or buying precious metals mined in fragile and distant environments — provided a continuing theme in our discussions, and in our exploration of actions we can take in our own lives to mitigate the environmental injustices wrought through our voracious consumption practices.

The three conference sessions, also addressed in the certificate seminar and faculty groups, were: (I) "Globalization and Environmental Inequity," with a focus on India and environmental injustices experienced by urban marginals and India's millions of slum dwellers; (II) "Resource Extraction and the Export of Environmental Risk," with a focus on Peru, mining injustices, and the environmental conditions of both urban marginals and indigenous populations; and (III) "Balancing the Needs of People and Biodiversity Conservation," shifting the focus from the unjust distribution of environmental burdens to the other side of the equation — injustices related to access to environmental benefits such as greens spaces, national parks and areas of

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Melina Laboucan-Massimo, Climate and Energy Campaigner, Greenpeace & Cree environmental justice activist provided a pre-conference lecture, *From Our Homelands to the Tar Sands*.



Goodwin-Niering Center
for the Environment

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Glenn Dreyer, *Executive Director*
Jane Dawson, *Associate Director*
Amy Cabaniss, *Assistant Director*
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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

ALTHOUGH THE GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER FOR the Environment already has an impressive set of accomplishments over the last two decades, we were not willing to rest on our laurels this year, our 20th anniversary. Instead, we launched a series of impressive events and new classroom innovations. Readers already know about the one-day event last fall to bring attention to the 50th anniversary of the release of Rachel Carson's book, *Silent Spring*. We followed that up with a pair of events on global environmental justice headlined by Nicholas Kristof, a Pulitzer Prize-winning *NY Times* columnist and author of *Half the Sky*. We then hosted our ninth biennial Elizabeth Babbott Conant Symposium. All three events provided incredible opportunities for our students to learn about environmental issues from people who are deeply committed to helping solve some of the environmental problems faced by the people of the world. We also made major strides in expanding the campus environmental offerings in several new academic disciplines through a collaborative effort with the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation. Thanks to this work, students will have new educational opportunities that continue to stress the role of members of the Connecticut College community as global citizens in a world with serious environmental challenges.

Our spring conference, *The Quest for Global Environmental Equity in an Increasingly Inequitable World*, and the Kristof event, were designed as culminating events in support of a two-year project that involved eighteen faculty members with monthly seminars focused on global environmental justice. Our associate director, Jane Dawson, led this group of faculty as we investigated numerous issues related to social and economic issues associated with environmental problems throughout the world. In many cases, economic activities of more prosperous countries tend to export environmental costs of development to less prosperous countries, the so-called global south. The main goal for the initiative was to raise Connecticut College faculty awareness of issues of environmental sustainability and global environmental justice. The ultimate outcome will be a series of new course offerings on campus that incorporate the ideas discussed in the seminar as main themes in courses.

The seminar group was split into three main subjects including the problem of recycling of electronic wastes, the impacts of mining on local cultures and the challenge of preserving biodiversity while maintaining the rights of indigenous use of the land and its resources. On numerous Friday afternoons for the last two years, faculty gathered and shared their ideas on these important topics. Eighteen spots were opened for faculty to participate in the seminar and eventually travel to one of three locations to see how the theories discussed in the seminar operated in practice. One group headed to India to look at the issue of urban slums and electronic waste recycling. A second group travelled to Peru to look at the economics of mining and the social and environmental consequences of these activities. I was fortunate to be part of the group that headed to South Africa to look at the park preservation system and the impact this has on disadvantaged groups in that country.

The South Africa group included six fellows from the center represented by professors of botany, biology, chemistry, geology, government and philosophy. As part of our preparation for the trip, we read and discussed books and papers that ranged from popular literature to scientific journal articles and ethics. We then boarded a plane for the long flight south with an exciting eleven-day itinerary packed with meetings with government employees, activists, graduate researchers and local community members.

We began our activities in Cape Town in a unique biome that is one of the most endangered in the world. We met with



Goodwin-Niering Center 20th anniversary cake

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STRIVING FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE: AN INTEGRATED FIVE CENTERS EXPERIENCE

NICHOLAS KRISTOF COMES TO CAMPUS



Nicholas Kristof, New York Times journalist, op-ed columnist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, speaks to a full-house at Connecticut College.

DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER, the College's five academic centers tried an experiment in integration, coming together to focus on a common theme throughout the semester and participating in overlapping events and discussions. The theme, global justice, linked the goals and identities of all of the centers, with environmental (GNCE), global (CISLA), social (Holleran and CCSRES), and digital (Ammerman) justice being important center foci. Working together, the centers developed a plan for a semester-long discussion that they opened to the entire campus community, with an excellent response. The keynote event for the semester's discussion of justice was an evening with Nicholas Kristof, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author, and long-time crusader for social justice around the world. With his public lecture focusing on gender discrimination in developing societies, the Goodwin-Niering certificate students, students from the other centers and those from almost a dozen spring courses, prepared for the presentation by reading his book, *Half the Sky*, and viewing the accompanying documentary. In the GNCE Certificate Program seminar, we devoted several weeks to issues of global gender discrimination, as well as examples of women's empowerment through environmental action reflected in the Greenbelt Movement of

Wangari Maathai. Nicholas Kristof spoke to a packed, overflowing auditorium on Feb. 13, sharing his passion to fight injustice wherever he sees it and encouraging students to explore the world, see how others live and find their own ways to join the crusade for social justice both at home and abroad. After the lecture, Kristof joined the students from the five centers in a private roundtable discussion that allowed the students to delve into the issues and dilemmas presented in Kristof's book and lecture. Not everyone agreed with Kristof's approach to fighting gender discrimination in developing societies, touching off a discussion that reverberated across campus for weeks to follow. Faculty with differing views on how to engage in the struggle for greater gender equality abroad also came together in a planned panel discussion the following week, and offered numerous critiques and alternative approaches. Alumni working in social justice careers also participated on a panel discussion about what it means to pursue a career in this broad field.

As the semester progressed, the discussion moved to the Holleran Center's students working on social justice-based senior integrative projects, with a conference of presentations held on April 6th. And the Goodwin-Niering Center's biennial conference on *The Quest for Global Environmental Justice*, April 19th and

20th, provided the capstone event for the semester's discussions. Bringing together the expertise, interests and talents of the students from the five academic centers has long been a goal of the College, and the semester's discussions on justice provided an opportunity to do just that. All in all, the Goodwin-Niering certificate students experienced deep immersion in a broad spectrum of global justice issues this past semester and hopefully are inspired in some small or large way to act on this new knowledge. — Jane Dawson

STATE OF THE LAND

Through a collaborative effort of the Coast Guard Academy and the New London County Environmental Educators Coalition (NLCEEC), of which Connecticut College is a member, the 3rd annual Sustainability forum was held on April 3rd. *State of the Land: Creating an Environmentally Sustainable Connecticut Through Smart Land Use*, held at the Coast Guard, Dimick Hall, was open to the public. Captain John Hickey, Commanding Officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Shore Maintenance Command provided an engaging keynote address on transformational thinking in terms of green building and land use. In addition, panel presentations were delivered by:

- Kip Kolesinskas, Conservation Scientist, American Farmland Trust
- Jean Davies, Senior Planner, CT River Council of Governments
- Ron McCormick, Ecologist, Bureau of Land Management

The mission of the NLCEEC is "to advance environmental education in New London County through collaboration among organizations and individuals dedicated to building environmental literacy and stewardship in area schools and communities." Connecticut College representatives include Amy Cabaniss, Assistant Director, Goodwin-Niering Center and NLCEEC Chair, and Kathy Dame, Assistant Director, Arboretum. — Amy Cabaniss

SERVICE-LEARNING FOR SOPHOMORES

THE SPRING 2013 SEMESTER marked an innovation in the Goodwin-Niering Center's Certificate Program—a new course for sophomores that relies on the Center's historic links to land conservation. The new service-learning component relates to what we hope will be a long-term collaboration with Avalonia Land Conservancy. For the foreseeable future, the Center plans to work with Avalonia to help our students better understand the value of land conservation and to provide the local conservation organization with some much-needed assistance. It is a pairing that seems to offer both organizations some tremendous benefits. We also like to think that our Center's namesakes, Richard Goodwin and William Niering, would have been proud to be associated with this new endeavor in a subject that was near and dear to both of them.

The idea for a new sophomore-only course stemmed from a desire to more rapidly incorporate the newest members of the certificate program into an academic experience that was both challenging and fun. Through this process, we hoped to develop more comradeship and a stronger connection to the Center. Feedback received from course evaluations suggests that the new course was a resounding success and an important new component of the certificate program experience.

The certificate seminar class for sophomores, ES290, has historically been a two-credit seminar that includes a combination of varying topical discussions and student presentations. The sophomores have always participated in the class with the Center's seniors and juniors. This provides an opportunity for all three classes of certificate students to share their knowledge and skills, which is an important aspect of the center that will continue to be a focus in future years. The hope has been that both sophomores and juniors would gain valuable guidance from the seniors by listening to presentations on their accomplishments and challenges related to summer internship experiences and senior integrative projects. Juniors also present information on their summer internship plans. However, sophomores had less to do in the seminar and no formal presentation requirements, giving a sense that the sophomore experi-

ence was too passive. To address this issue and provide a better bonding opportunity, the sophomore-level course was expanded to four-credits by adding the new service-learning component. Now, sophomores meet as a group before the regular seminar time to work on projects that have tangible benefits for Avalonia and the surrounding community. This new service aspect of their academic program has helped to generate a sense of pride and meaning to the work that sophomores complete for the Center.



GNCE students erecting purple martin housing at Knox Preserve

This year the group of eleven sophomores split into five groups to work on projects at Avalonia's Knox Preserve in Stonington. One group looked at a small saltmarsh inundated with exotic-invasive *Phragmites* plants. Using knowledge from researchers including Connecticut College's Bill Niering and Scott Warren, they investigated possible solutions to eradicate the invasive plant on the preserve. A second group of students worked to develop a self-guided trail map for the preserve that users could print from home before exploring the site. A third team

worked closely with Avalonia to research, and install, a bird-housing system for purple martins. Avalonia is pleased to report that the martins have already begun to use the new nesting gourds. A fourth team worked to study the issue of invasive plants in the open field area of the preserve. This long-term project will assess changes in vegetation over time. The final group developed public outreach activities that Avalonia can implement to increase interest in their organization and land preserves. These activities are scheduled for next fall. Each project evolved through a series of steps, with the guidance of the Center and Avalonia volunteers. In particular, Beth Sullivan, Binti Ackley, Anne Nalwalk and Janice Parker all devoted time, patience and enthusiasm to help the students create useful outcomes. During the last class of the semester, our students presented their impressive ideas to Avalonia and fellow Center students.

The highlight for the Avalonia volunteers, Center students and directors occurred on April 27th when we did a hard day of work at Knox Preserve. Students put on their work clothes and gloves, picked up loppers and shovels and went to work pulling invasive plants, installing the bird houses, planting native plant species and performing trail maintenance. We enjoyed a sunny cool day, wiping sweat from our brows and dirt from our jeans. When the day was done, the changes to the preserve were obvious.

As we reflect on the experience and look ahead to the next steps, the Center is happy to report that our sophomores produced several projects that will benefit Avalonia both in the short and long terms. Some projects are considered complete while others continue on, for new sophomores entering the certificate program and carrying the torch forward. We envision this year's sophomores sharing their advice with new groups of certificate students tasked with completing their own challenging projects. When it is time for these students to graduate, they will head out around the world and have the opportunities to connect, and share their expertise, with land conservation groups elsewhere. In this way, they will carry the legacy of Goodwin and Niering to new places and new generations of environmental activists. — *Douglas Thompson*

SEMESTER OF INQUIRY

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biodiversity preservation in South Africa. In addition to Connecticut College faculty sharing their experiences, nationally-known speakers added their perspectives in each of these three conference sessions. Speakers included Professors David Caruthers of San Diego State University, Robert Darst of University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Vinay Gidwani of University of Minnesota and Alison Ormsby of Eckerd College. Adam Whelchel from The Nature Conservancy also presented.

We were also very fortunate to have two outstanding keynote lecturers. Kristin Shrader-Frechette, a leading philosopher in the field of environmental justice and professor at the University of Notre Dame, provided the opening lecture of the conference. Jim Puckett, the executive director of the Basel Action Network and leading crusader against the environmental injustices wrought through the dumping of electronics (known as e-waste) on impoverished societies, walked us through the logic that dictates that wastes inevitably flow from North to South. Both lectures provided excellent food for thought. For a pre-conference public lecture and dinner with Certificate Program students, we also hosted a leading indigenous Cree activist affiliated with Greenpeace who has been participating in the struggle to slow Canada's environmentally devastating tar sands extraction from Cree lands. Melina Laboucan-Massimo provided a dynamic and informative lecture that was an eye-opener for many in the audience; our students plied her with questions over a long dinner conversation.

All in all, the synergistic effect of the conference, certificate seminar and faculty development initiative on key issues of global environmental justice, provided for a stimulating semester. It opened our eyes to the environmental injustices caused by economic globalization, poverty, careless and destructive resource extraction and failure to consider the needs of people when designing national parks and biodiversity preservation projects. While there was much to be concerned about in our brief, but intensive, study of global environmental justice issues, we also saw reasons for hope and were inspired by the dedication of individuals, governments and non-governmental organizations struggling to promote greater environmental justice in their regions of the world. — *Jane Dawson*



GNCE Class of 2013 (Front row, l-r): Rhea Corson-Higgs, Raymond Palmer, Wynndee Reese, Rebecca Horan (Back row, l-r): Mark Roberto, Seana Siekman, Clare Murphy-Hagan, Katie Lynch, Rebecca Conner, Mitchell Serota

TWELFTH ANNUAL RECOGNITION CEREMONY

SATURDAY, MAY 18 MARKED the day when graduating seniors in the Certificate Program were honored in a recognition ceremony celebrating their accomplishments and successful completion of the program. Goodwin-Niering Center faculty, staff and fellows joined with seniors' family and friends in Ernst Common Room to recognize the ten members of the Class of 2013. Doug Thompson, Karla Heurich Harrison '28 Professor of Physics and Director of the Goodwin-Niering Center welcomed the students and their guests. He noted, "This was a very closely-knit group of students with a diverse set of interests that all converged on an environmental focus. They accomplished many wonderful things during their time on campus and the Center is excited to see the positive impacts they will have on the world around them." Two Certificate Program students, Rhea Corson-Higgs and Katie Lynch, were also recognized by Doug for their outstanding contributions to the Center. For this they received the Helen F. Mathieson '52 Award for Excellence in the Certificate Program at the Connecticut College Honors and Awards Ceremony.

Jane Dawson, Virginia Eason Weinmann '51 Professor of Government and Associate Director of the Center presented an overview of the Certificate Program seminars that focused on toxins in the environment in the fall semester and global environmental justice in the spring. This followed with personal introductions of

each of the students by Assistant Director Amy Cabaniss. They in turn spoke briefly of their internships, senior integrative projects and immediate plans for the future. Certificates were then presented by Executive Director Glenn Dreyer and Doug Thompson adorned the students with hand-crafted ceremonial sashes, distinguishing them as Goodwin-Niering Center scholars during the next day's Commencement ceremony.

Scott Warren, Jean C. Tempel '65 Professor Emeritus of Botany at Connecticut College, provided the Recognition Ceremony address. He spoke of the remarkable legacy of Richard Goodwin and William Niering, and the establishment of the Goodwin-Niering Center with a generous endowment gift from Helen ('52) and Andrew Matheson. Warren stated that Helen and Andrew felt the center "should be named in honor of the two people who, for more than half a century, had made Connecticut College synonymous with study, concern and action on the environment."

The ceremony concluded with a fine reception and champagne toast commemorating the Goodwin-Niering Center's 20th anniversary and this, the twelfth class of Certificate Program students. With everyone chatting and viewing the students' impressive posters on their Senior Integrative Projects, it was apparent that pride, excitement and hope for the Class of 2013 filled the room. — *Amy Cabaniss*

ADVANCING CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY

THIS HAS BEEN another transformative year for sustainability at Connecticut College, with many efforts coming to fruition. Four pivotal components comprise this year's greatest sustainability achievements: 1) the establishment of the Office of Sustainability at the Steel House; 2) the completion of the College's Sustainability Plan; 3) investment in resource efficiency projects; and 4) continued expansion of student-facilitated, College-supported sustainability programs.

Office of Sustainability at the Steel House: Over the last year and a half, the College has been greatly expanding and advancing our commitment to sustainability both on campus and in the surrounding community. During that time, a wide variety of students, staff and faculty have come together in programs, working groups and committees to achieve our many recent successes. In an effort to help provide more structure to our commitment to sustainability, the College will be establishing an Office of Sustainability at the historic Steel House in the southern part of campus. This will include offices for the Manager of Sustainability, sustainability interns and community members involved with sustainability efforts.

Sustainability Plan: The Senior Administrators and President have approved the Sustainability Plan that is comprised of four major sections: Education, Resource Efficiency, Campus Stewardship and Community Building. The Education section focuses on the importance of continuing to foster an understanding of the core values of sustainability on campus — social equity, economic well-being and environmental stewardship — and the importance of integrating sustainability throughout the curriculum. Resource Efficiency focuses on the need to continue our efforts to minimize the amount of resources the College consumes and thus, the amount of waste we produce. Campus Stewardship identifies ways to increase the sustainability of our current operational practices. The final section, Community Building, stresses the importance of developing a more diverse and inclusive community at the college. As we enter the summer, the Office of Sustainability will begin working toward

the achievement of the Sustainability Plan goals.

Investment in Resource Efficiency: In an effort to continue the College's effort to fund resource efficiency projects on campus, an allocation from next year's budget was made to support project completion. Also, the College will be investigating whether or not a Sustainability Revolving Fund should be established to make funds continuously available for resource efficiency projects, instead of relying on the college's operating budget each year. Savings from these projects would be returned to the Sustainability Revolving Fund until each project has paid for itself. After that point, the savings from all projects would go to the College's operating budget. As savings continue to be added to the fund, other projects can be completed. The Office of Sustainability will work closely with Facilities Management and the Finance Office to identify projects, using the allocation received for the coming fiscal year. If this is deemed successful, the College will consider formalizing the Sustainability Revolving Fund and pursuing opportunities to increase the amount of money available through the fund.

Student-facilitated Sustainability Programs: Student involvement continues to serve as the cornerstone of the College's sustainability efforts, as they are involved in developing and implementing virtually every sustainability project and program.

At the beginning of the year, the Office of Sustainability established a Sustainability Internship Program for students interested in working on specific projects on campus and in the surrounding community. Nineteen interns have been hired through this program. The Community Organizers for Sustainability Transformation (COST) Program had a strong second year, helping implement the second annual Zero Waste Challenge and the fourth annual Give n' Go Program. Additionally, the Sprout Garden is in its first growing season at a new location behind the Crozier-Williams College Center. The garden was expanded to 10,000 square feet. Three students are serving as Garden Managers this summer, where they are growing a wide variety of vegetables to be sold to staff and faculty during the summer and the dining halls in the fall. — *Joshua Stoffel, Manager of Sustainability*



Give n' Go program (l-r): James Knight, SCADD (Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence), Genevieve Harding '13



Sprout Garden (l-r): Walker Cammack '16, Azul Tellez '15

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

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local residents who specialize in the use of many of the local plants for traditional medicinal purposes and talked with a graduate student who is working to learn about the informal economy in planned and unplanned settlements. We met city employees who are part of an emerging group of environmental stewards from the local township areas. We also hiked in the local national park to see the unique species in the area and talked with experts on these species. We even met with non-profit groups working to protect the area from hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. Each person offered eye-opening revelations about the complexity of balancing conservation, economic development and social justice issues.

The second half of the trip focused on Addo Elephant Park north of Port Elizabeth. We learned about the long and complex history of elephant and human interactions. In this particular location, elephants were almost entirely wiped out in order to protect local citrus orchards. We saw how elephants are now important targets for conservation efforts and simultaneously serve as an economic driver to help local impoverished communities. We eventually boarded a plane with a whole new perspective on the issue of biodiversity in a country like South Africa.

The entire two-year seminar experience will serve as an inspiration as faculty members wrestle to condense their varied experiences into subjects that are useful in their courses. The endeavor has also increased interest of seminar members in the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment, and we already have newly recruited center fellows. Ultimately, the seminar may serve as one of the most important recent attempts to increase the number of environmentally-related courses offered on campus. In the not-too-distant future, students will begin to think of their role as global citizens in ways that they may have never before imagined.

— *Douglas Thompson*

WELCOME TO THE CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2015



(Front row, l-r): Micaela Tepler, Azul Tellez, Alex Iezzi, Margot Wilsterman, Maeve Kidney
(Back row, l-r): Conor Quilty, Jen Hoets, Mara Lookabaugh, Lisa Paulsen, Anna Curtis-Heald
Missing from photo: Kristina Satterlee

CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2014 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

MARY BUCHANAN

Major: *Biological Sciences*

Environmental interest: Biological science and environmental policy connections with emphasis on wildlife conservation
Internship: Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, Mystic, Conn.

AVA FOSTER

Major: *Botany and Architectural Studies*

Environmental interest: Sustainable architecture in Danish and traditional New England designs
Internship: Steven Winters Associates, Inc., Norwalk, Conn.

EMILY GOLDSTEIN

Major: *Architectural Studies; Minor: Philosophy*

Environmental interest: Sustainable architecture in new and existing homes
Internship: Amacher & Associates Architects, Cambridge, Mass.

BARRY KE

Major: *Environmental Studies; Minor: Economics*

Environmental interest: Equator Principles in China
Internship: China Environmental Investment Union, Beijing, China

JESSIE MEHRHOFF

Major: *Environmental Studies and Economics*

Environmental interest: Activism against surface mining in the U.S. & Australia
Internship: Appalachian Voices, Washington, D.C.

EMILY NIXON

Major: *Environmental Studies and Hispanic Studies*

Environmental interest: Sustainable agriculture in Latin America
Internship: Fintrac, Inc., Washington, D.C.

CHELSEA PARISH

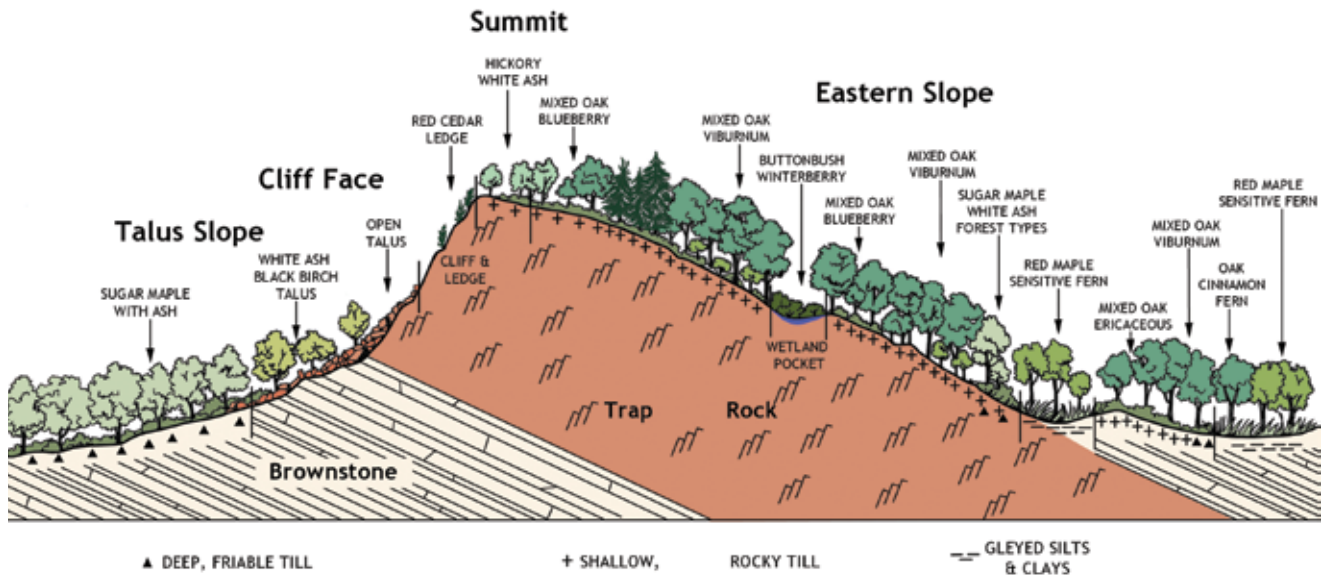
Major: *International Relations*

Environmental interest: Environmental Policy within the EU
Internship: Trust for Public Land, Washington, D.C.

KATIE SURREY-BERGMAN

Major: *Environmental Studies*

Environmental Interest: Endangered species conservation methods
Internship: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, MBL, Woods Hole, Mass.



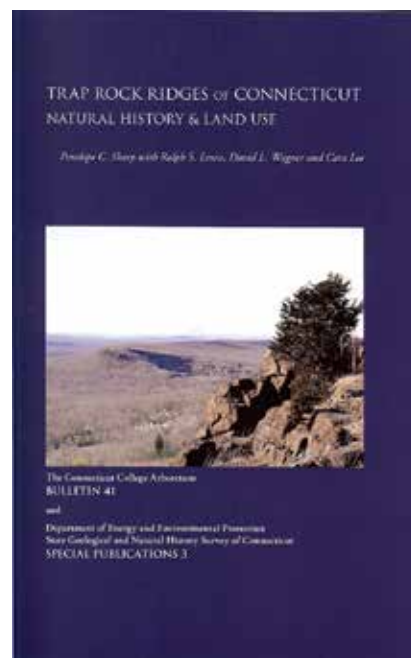
Trap rock ridge cross-section illustration by Janet Zeh (*Arboretum Bulletin No. 41*)

NEW ARBORETUM BULLETIN ON TRAP ROCK RIDGES

TRAP ROCK RIDGES are unique and prominent geological features that thrust up from the floor of the Connecticut River Valley in Connecticut and Massachusetts. The ridges were formed by multiple layers of lava from ancient volcanoes that were periodically covered by sediments, forming a sort of layer cake effect. When one side of the valley slipped down, the whole valley floor tilted. Since the lava is much more resistant to erosion and glaciation than the intervening layers of sediment, the lava layers remained over geologic time, forming distinct ridges in the landscape. These ridges are now home to a great diversity of native plants and animals and have been exploited for their stone since colonial times by quarrying operations. The term “trap” comes from *trapa*, the Swedish word for step, and trap rock describes the distinctive step-like appearance of the rock faces of these small mountains.

This spring, the Arboretum published *Trap Rock Ridges of Connecticut: Natural History & Land Use* (Bulletin No. 41), a multi-authored, 58-page booklet that resulted from a joint project with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP). The lead author of the publication was Penni Sharp, an

environmental consultant who has lived at the base of one such ridge for decades. Ralph Lewis, retired State Geologist and Goodwin-Niering Center Advisory Board Member, provided a clear and well-illustrated chapter on the geologic formation. UConn Professor David Wagner added a special section on butterflies of the trap rock ridges. This publication includes color photos, maps and illustrations as well as lovely line drawings of characteristic plants. An exciting feature is a two-page, illustrated cross-section of a typical ridge showing both the geology and the matrix of plant communities from talus slopes, up the rock face to the crest and then down the gently sloping eastern flank. *Trap Rock Ridges of Connecticut* is available from the Arboretum Office and retails for \$10. — *Glenn Drejer*



2013 CLIMATE RALLY AND KEYSTONE XL PROTEST

ON FEBRUARY 17, 25 Connecticut College students (ten of whom are GNCE students) traveled with members of the Connecticut Chapter of the Sierra Club to Washington, D.C. for the 2013 Climate Rally and Keystone XL Pipeline protest. Bill McKibben, climate activist and founder of 350.org, Michael Brune, Sierra Club Executive Director, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse of RI and many First Nation representatives from Canada and the U.S. thanked the crowd of over 35,000 for their support and urged them to continue fighting for climate and social justice. The sense of urgency and commitment to the cause was palpable in the crowd after hearing inspirational words from these leaders. They wanted President Obama to put his strong climate change statements into action. Those at the rally then took to the streets of D.C., passing the White House and returning to the National Mall, all the while collectively shouting, singing and dancing. The day concluded with words of inspiration and a First Nation circle dance to unite the group before parting ways.



Certificate Program students participate in climate rally and Keystone XL protest

Connecticut College students participating in the Climate Rally and Keystone XL Protest demonstrated their commitment to a more just energy and climate future while being inspired to continue calling for change, especially after seeing the many others around the country who are similarly dedicated. For

Goodwin-Niering Center students in particular, this was an excellent opportunity for them to put into action the academic theme of this semester, social and environmental activism. GNCE provided financial support to defray the transportation cost. — *Rebecca Conner '13 & Rebecca Horan '13*

NEWS FROM GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER ALUMNI

2011

JANAN EVANS-WILENT

Major: Environmental Studies

I am currently working for the New England Aquarium in Boston, Mass. as the project manager for the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI), a five-year National Science Foundation-funded project. I am also about to submit my first scientific article for publication. I presented my senior thesis on bioacoustics in Bottlenose dolphins at the 19th Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals in Tampa, Fla. in November 2011.

KRISTIANE HUBER

Majors: Environmental Studies and Government

Since graduation I have worked as an Events and Outreach Coordinator with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Connecticut. I manage beginning-farmer programming, coordinate publicity and plan conferences and multi-day courses for organic landscapers. In the fall

I will begin coursework at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment, pursuing an M.S. in Natural Resources and Environment with a concentration in Policy and Planning. My individual research and coursework will focus on climate adaptation planning, both internationally and in the Great Lakes Region.

2012

ZOË DIAZ-MARTIN

Major: Environmental Studies; Minor: Latin American Studies

I recently returned from South Africa where I was working with a small NGO doing community outreach as well as interning at a federal reserve, Seekoievlei Nature Reserve, in the Free State Province. I am currently working with the Fish & Wildlife Service at Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge monitoring and banding terns on Falkner Island off the coast of Guilford, Conn. In June I will attend the 2013 Annual Tropical Biology

Conference in Costa Rica to present my senior honors thesis. Within the next year I hope to apply to graduate programs to pursue a career in tropical ecology and conservation.

LIZ NOONAN

Major: Environmental Studies; Minor: Theater

I am working at Discovery Communications (home of the Discovery Channel, Animal Planet, Science Channel, TLC and others), as the Recruitment Coordinator in our New York Office. I support the Global Staffing and Talent Management team that does all of the recruiting, interviewing and hiring for open positions within the company, worldwide. I also work with our Campus Connect team that handles our campus recruiting and internship branch. In this role, I run the New York branch of our intern program and help to manage it on a national level. I love working in media, and Discovery is the perfect place with all of our environmental content.



Capturing the Beauty of Nature
14th Annual Arboretum amateur photography
contest

*"Bark on Fire" by Jennifer Sullivan, 2013 Arboretum
Photography Contest, Honorable Mention*



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