



# CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

## Craig McCarrick '07

### *Environmental studies*



**Q: What drew you to environmental studies?**

A: I came to Connecticut College thinking of majoring in chemistry, but after I took my first course in environmental studies, I knew it was the right fit for me, especially because I love being outdoors.

**Q: What kind of resources are available to environmental studies students?**

A: The College's Arboretum is an amazing laboratory. Any type of terrain you could be looking to study is there. In one of my classes, we did an inventory of animals and organisms in the pond. In my geomorphology class, 10 of the 11 labs were outside: on campus and off campus along the coastline. New London is an urban setting, but our campus is not at all. To have the ocean so close by is very beneficial.

**Q: Are environmental issues important on campus?**

A: I want people to know how rooted Connecticut College is in the study of the environment. We practice what we preach here. The whole school, in essence, does environmental studies. Student initiatives have led to the College's annual purchase of renewable energy credits and a system for composting food wastes. Whenever the College builds, it takes the environmental aspects into account.

**Q: Did your major prepare you for your career?**

A: Environmental studies is a hot field right now. I could have gone right to grad school, but I've opted to go to work for an environmental consulting firm.

## Environmental Studies

### Overview

The Connecticut College environmental studies major is one of the oldest in the country, founded in 1969 by two long-time faculty members and nationally renowned ecologists, William A. Niering and Richard H. Goodwin. The College honors both with its Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment. In this strongly interdisciplinary major, you will choose from two tracks — one natural science-focused, the other with a strong social science perspective. Graduates from both tracks are in strong demand in industry, government, environmental consulting and advanced research. The environmental studies major is part of a College commitment to conservation and sustainability. In 1999, the College was the first in the nation to sponsor a carbon offset program. You might serve on the Environmental Model Committee, join the Renewable Energy Club or work in the College's organic garden.

### Facilities

Our equipment and facilities include transmission and scanning electron microscopes, a light microscope facility, an extensive greenhouse, water quality instruments and a hydraulic flume used to model stream and river hydrodynamics. Classes and research take full advantage of the College Arboretum, which includes native plant collections and data collection sites for long-term studies of vegetation change. Our freshwater ecology lab maintains interactive databases of chemical, physical and morphological data on lakes in the northeastern U.S. as well as tools to identify microscopic algae.

### Research Opportunities

You'll have many opportunities to participate in research with faculty from 10 departments. They serve as instructors, advisers and research mentors, and they will push you to tackle issues from multiple perspectives. You might take a government course on environmental policy in the Southwest along with an environmental studies class on the region's ecology and geology. Many students participate in a semester-long immersion program in ecological sciences at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Mass., one of the world's foremost marine research centers. You might accompany faculty to regional, national and international conferences and symposia, or travel with faculty on research and academic trips. Most students participate in the College's funded internship program in the United States or abroad. You may apply for one of the College's interdisciplinary certificate programs. Students in the Goodwin-Niering Center have interned at sites as varied as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Boston and organic farms in Costa Rica and Panama.

## Faculty

**Robert Askins**, *Professor of Biology*  
B.S., University of Michigan; M.S.,  
Ph.D., University of Minnesota  
Ecology; ornithology; impact of  
forest fragmentation on natural  
communities; ecology of early  
successional birds

**MaryAnne Borrelli**, *Associate  
Professor of Government*  
B.A., Wellesley; M.A., Ph.D.,  
Harvard University  
Environmental policy

**Beverly Chomiak**, *Senior Lecturer  
in Geology and Environmental  
Studies*  
B.S., M.S., University of  
Connecticut; Ph.D., New  
Mexico Institute of Mining and  
Technology  
Economic geology and  
geochemistry; geographic  
information systems

**Andrew N. Davis**, *Visiting Assistant  
Professor of Environmental Studies*  
B.S., Trinity College; M.S., Ph.D.,  
University of Massachusetts,  
Amherst; J.D., George  
Washington University  
Environmental law and policy;  
marine pollution

**Jane Dawson**, *Virginia Eason  
Weinmann '51 Professor of  
Government*  
A.B., Bryn Mawr; M.A.,  
Harvard University; M.A.,  
Johns Hopkins University;  
Ph.D., University of California,  
Berkeley

International environmental  
politics; comparative  
environmental activism and  
politics

**Glenn Dreyer**, *Charles and  
Sarah P. Becker '27 Arboretum  
Director; Executive Director of the  
Goodwin-Niering Center for the  
Environment*

B.S., University of California,  
Davis; M.A., Connecticut  
College  
Vegetation management; ecology  
and horticulture of native plants;  
invasive exotic woody plants;  
large and historic trees

**William Frasure**, *Professor of  
Government*  
B.A., University of Pittsburgh; J.D.,  
Yale University; Ph.D., Johns  
Hopkins University  
Environmental policy and law

**Pamela Hine**, *Senior Lecturer  
in Botany; Director of  
Environmental Studies Program*  
B.A., Bates College; M.A.,  
Connecticut College  
Environmental education; tidal  
marsh ecology; pollination  
ecology

**Chad Jones**, *Assistant Professor of  
Botany*  
B.S., Brigham Young University;  
Ph.D., University of Washington  
Terrestrial plant ecology; invasive  
plants; plant succession

**Manuel Lizarralde**, *Associate  
Professor of Ethnobotany*  
B.A., M.A., Ph.D., University of  
California, Berkeley  
Ethnobotany of tropical

rainforests and New England  
Native Americans; ecological  
anthropology

**Peter A. Siver**, *Charles & Sarah P.  
Becker '27 Professor of Botany;  
Chair of the Botany Department*  
B.A., SUNY Binghamton;  
M.S., University of New  
Hampshire; Ph.D., University of  
Connecticut

Limnology & phycology;  
biodiversity and biogeography  
of aquatic organisms;  
paleolimnology

**Douglas M. Thompson**, *Professor  
of Geology*  
B.A., Middlebury College; M.S.,  
Ph.D., Colorado State University  
Geomorphology; hydrology; river  
restoration

**Derek Turner**, *Associate Professor of  
Philosophy*  
B.A., American University; M.A.,  
Ph.D., Vanderbilt University  
Environmental philosophy

**Gerald Visgilio**, *Professor of  
Economics; Associate Director of  
Goodwin-Niering Center for the  
Environment*  
A.B., Providence College; M.S.,  
Ph.D., University of Rhode  
Island  
Environmental and natural resource  
economics

**Marc Zimmer**, *Professor of  
Chemistry*  
B.S., M.S., University of  
Witwatersrand, South Africa;  
Ph.D., Worcester Polytechnic  
Institute  
Environmental chemistry

## What can you do with a major in environmental studies?

### Toby Ahrens '99

Ph.D. candidate in biogeochemistry at  
Stanford University.

Earned a master's degree in  
environmental engineering from Stanford  
and worked as a research assistant in the  
Marine Biological Laboratory at Woods  
Hole, Mass.

### Hannah Shayler '02

Working on a master's degree in natural  
resources at Cornell University, and  
investigating how to best foster informed  
decision-making about fish consumption.

### Henry Kesner '03

Curatorial assistant and project manager  
for the Latin American Plant Initiative  
project at the Harvard University  
Herbaria. Also working on a master's  
degree in management at Harvard.

Double majored in anthropology and  
environmental studies and earned a  
certificate in museum studies. Was  
a curator of collections intern at the  
Wellesley College Greenhouses and  
Botanic Gardens.

### Sara Zisa '03

Earned a master's degree in  
environmental studies at Brown  
University. Wrote her thesis on "Wal-Mart  
and Sustainability: Closing the Eco-  
Efficiency Gap."

While at Connecticut College, went  
to Cuba with Professor Dawson for  
a conference on environment and  
development issues.

## Selected Courses

Environmental Studies as a Natural Science; Environmental Studies as a Social  
Science; Hydrology; Environmental Activism and its Political Impact Around  
the Globe; U.S. Environmental Policy and Politics; Introduction to Geographic  
Information Systems; Freshwater Ecology; Estuarine Ecology; Plant Ecology; Earth  
Surface Processes and Landforms; Coastal Dynamics of Southern New England;  
Environmental River Restoration; The Impact of the World's Population on our  
Environment; Geologic Hazards and Humans; Sustainable Agriculture; Law and  
the Environment; Environmental Economics; Thinking Philosophically About the  
Environment

## About Connecticut College

Connecticut College is a highly selective residential liberal arts college with 1,900  
students from all over the country and the world. The academic program offers  
more than 47 majors in the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities as well as  
innovative interdisciplinary programs. Students engage with dedicated faculty and  
each other to create a vibrant social, cultural and intellectual community in which  
learning is valued for its own sake — and individuals' diverse perspectives enrich the  
experience of all.