



Center Conference Addresses Issues of Environmental Justice



Dr. Virginia Ashby Sharpe of the Hastings Center, addresses the ethical issues of environmental justice in her evening presentation.

Two grassroots environmental organizations, the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice and the Southeastern Connecticut Indoor Air Quality Coalition, joined with the Goodwin-Niering Center to sponsor its third biennial conference "A Quest for Environmental Justice: Healthy, High Quality Environments for all Communities." The environmental justice movement was founded on the premise that poor and minority communities face an unfairly high level of exposure to environmental hazards. Many top researchers contend that toxic facilities are more likely to be located in economically depressed or minority neighborhoods, while others see no correlation between race or income and the risk of toxic exposure. The goal of the conference was to explore whether or not racial minorities and the poor are being environmentally victimized and to evaluate public policy concerning environmental fairness.

The audience of 135 people included representatives of federal, state and local agencies, NGOs, and students and faculty from Conn and other universities. Dr. Bunyan Bryant's keynote address gave a brief history of the environmental justice movement and outlined some of its key goals. The movement was spawned from the African American Civil

Rights movement of the 1960s. It gained momentum in 1976 during a milestone conference at Black Lake, Michigan. Over 300 attendees passionately debated the course the movement should take, and many of those in attendance, including Dr. Bryant, went on to become leading scholars in the rapidly expanding field of environmental justice.

In his address Bryant, the Chair of Resource Policy and Behavior Concentration at the University of Michigan, cited numerous studies, including "Toxic Waste and Race in the United States," which demonstrated that race is one of the most important factors in determining where hazardous waste facilities are located. In essence, the data from numer-



Dr. Mark Mitchell of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice chats with the Director of Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, EPA, James Younger.

ous studies show that the percentage of African Americans tends to be higher in areas close to most kinds of toxic waste facilities.

The speakers that followed Bryant participated in a session entitled "Race, Class, and Environmental Hazards." Ethnobotanist Manuel Lizarralde from Connecticut College brought a global perspective to the discussion with his talk on "green imperialism." He argued that multinational corporations use "biodiversity prospecting" to exploit indigenous

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Established in 1993, The Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology & Environmental Studies (CCBES) 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.

From the Executive Director

Much has changed on the national environmental scene since our school year began last September. A new administration with a very different take on environmental issues has made its conservative ideology felt on issues from global warming negotiations and energy policy to land preservation and pollution standards. While dismayed by the abrupt shift in attitude, I am reasonably confident that conservationists from both major parties will limit the actual damage to national environmental policy. On a more positive note, the controversies engendered by the new direction in Washington have certainly revitalized the conservation movement, from local grassroots groups to the huge national organizations. All are hurrying to protect the organisms, places, and programs that they perceive as most threatened by the shifting political winds.

Last December, at about the time the Electoral College was finally meeting to select a President of the United States, three Center representatives traveled to Washington to attend a meeting titled "The National Conference on Science, Policy and the Environment," Professors Peter Siver, Gerald Visgilio and Center Assistant Director Diana Whitelaw met with a large and diverse group of scientists and decision makers to help set environmental science priorities and agendas for the incoming president and congress. The resulting report, "Recommendations for Improving the Scientific Basis for Environmental Decision-making," (<http://www.cnie.org/2000conference/>) is very comprehensive. The organizing principle of the meeting and report is that stakeholder-informed science is the most powerful means to building consensus for solving the serious environmental problems facing the United States and the world community. Recently President Bush seemed to agree when he noted that we need more scientific study of global warming and the role of greenhouse gases before we create national and international policy that will affect economies as well as the environment.

Our Center members returned from Washington invigorated by participating in a national level exercise in priority setting, and with new perspectives on environmental issues to share with our students. As this edition of Environmental Connections shows, the Center's conference, guest lectures, internship opportunities and other programs enable Connecticut College students to actively participate in the great, contentious, stimulating, and never ending national environmental debate.



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Newsletter Designed by Sarjit Rattan

This spring's Certificate Seminar allowed four more seniors to share their internship experiences with other students (see Fall 2000 *Connections*.) Their internships included wildlife rehabilitation, studying indigenous cultures, estuarine ecology research and working on environmental policy. The seminar prepares students for their internships and senior integrative projects, as well as providing them with the opportunity to discuss current issues with invited speakers. The students attended lectures by John Cook and Ralph Lewis (see page 6) followed by private dinners with the speakers and Center faculty. The Goodwin-Niering Center environmental internships are made possible by a grant from the A.W. Mellon Foundation. To learn more about our seniors visit ccbcs.conncoll.edu/newstudents.html.

Zoology major Dana Gaekle didn't realize that in addition to being a lab assistant, food-preparer, treatment administrator, patient examiner, and receptionist during the day at the New England Wildlife Center, she would also be playing the role of "mom." At night she cared for squirrels, rabbits, opossums, mice, birds and a fawn, leaving her without a full night's sleep all summer long. Although the babies were the most challenging facet of her internship, they were also the most rewarding. Dana worked with red-tailed hawks, deer, raccoons, gulls, doves, coyote pups, owls, turkey vultures, and other wildlife at the non-profit organization in Hingham, Massachusetts. She also had the opportunity to befriend a domesticated red fox named Foxy who enjoyed human atten-

tion. Dana had always considered a career in non-profit wildlife medicine and is now even more interested in such a position. She treasures her unique experience and asks,

"how many college students get to play with a red fox?"

Jaimie Haines helped conduct an experiment that studied the flow of Nitrogen-15 through the Rowley River, one of the

main rivers flowing into Plum Island Sound. In addition to her contribution to this study for the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, Jaimie Haines, a biology major, also worked on a small independent project on the food choices of two types of fish, the mummichog

and Atlantic silverside, and the differences in their chosen foods as they moved up the river. Past research had shown that the two species feed in different habitats. Her research indicates that there is an overlap in the food choices of the two species when they move up river, and that their choices are not solely benthic or pelagic. Jaimie's internship made her realize that she wants to do research in coral reef

ecology, concentrating her efforts in conservation and education. Her summer experience crystallized her understanding of conservation: "the only way we will be able to conserve natural areas is by educating the public about their importance to the environment as a whole, and the responsibility of the public for protecting them."

The Long Island Sound region is home to 10 percent of the U.S. population and provides \$5 billion annually to the local economies. Population increases and development have led to estuarine habitat loss and degradation to the place known as the "American Mediterranean." Countless studies show that the Sound's ecosystem will ultimately become unsustainable if certain habitats are not preserved

Certificate Program

Seniors Share Their Summer Internship Experiences



Foxy, a domesticated fox who enjoys human attention at the New England Wildlife Center.



Dana Gaekle '01 cares for a red-tailed hawk during her internship.

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Dan Steinberg '01 (left, rear) studied indigenous populations in Ecuador for his internship.

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and restored. These concerns gave birth to Save the Sound in 1972. Environmental Studies major Jason Hamilton worked in the Stamford office of this organization as a policy intern, witnessing the interplay between public policy, ecology, politics and community-based activism. Several research projects gave him the opportunity to travel, as well as to complete an individual study on the ever-changing intricacies of conservation easements, state and federal land acquisition grant programs and coastal zone management polices in New York and Connecticut. He also compiled an updated listing of information on fauna, flora and natural history of the Sound. Jason gained information for his senior thesis, as well as hands-on experience along the way.

Dan Steinberg, an Anthropology major, interned at Cultural Survival in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he learned more about the successes and failures of the movement to protect indigenous cultures. Cultural Survival is a nonprofit organization that sponsors research on indigenous people and publishes one of the leading indigenous affairs journals, *Cultural Survival Quarterly*. Dan wrote an article on indigenous peoples of Labrador, Canada and Sulawesi, Indonesia who united against a major transnational mining company to protect their lands. The article was published in the fall 2000 edition of the *Quarterly* (see www.cs.org.) The internship allowed him to meet with indigenous leaders as well as experts in the field and was followed by an individual study project in the rain forests of Ecuador with the Chachi Indians. He campaigned for development projects sponsored by indigenous people, and helped with ethnographic research as well as alternative development projects.

Junior Certificate Students Finalize Their Plans For Summer Internships

LEYS BOSTROM will travel to Costa Rica to intern at the Institute for Central American Development Studies. Leys hopes to learn how environmental education and policy affect Costa Rican women and will document her experience through a photographic journal for her senior integrative project.

MARJORIE LUNDGREN will be an Invasive Species Monitoring and Control Intern at The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut. Her senior study will deal with invasive species on Conservancy Preserves.

LAURA ROWE will work on various aspects of the commercialization of tropical medicinal plants under the Malaysia-MIT Biotechnology Partnership at MIT. The topic for her senior project will be learning about medicinal and pharmaceutical uses of plants with the help of other cultures.

JESSICA SCHWARTZ will study how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) influence environmental impact statements at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., in Watertown, Massachusetts. GIS maps will also help her quantify the impacts of nutrient runoff from development near tidal marshes for her senior integrative project.

HANNAH SHAYLER will work with Dr. Peter Siver on the biogeography of algal communities in the freshwater ecology lab at Connecticut College and will use the results in her senior project on the geographic distribution of *Anomoeneis* algae.

MARIA SINNAMON wants to understand the state's involvement in the monitoring and clean-up of polluted waters when she interns at the Water Management Bureau, Department of Environmental Protection in Hartford. Her experiences will be used in her senior integrative project on the use of environmental policy to analyze the politics and motivations for river alteration.

EMILY TEMPLIN will be an environmental research and policy intern at the Oregon Environmental Council, where she will learn how environmental policy is shaped by non-governmental organizations. She will apply this knowledge to an assessment of the position of environmental groups on the trading of fishing quotas for her senior project.

RACHAEL TOWERS will engage in historical and ethnobotanical research and curate an outdoor subsistence gardening exhibit as she interns at the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum and Research Center in Southeastern Connecticut. Her senior project will examine the mythological and ritualistic roles of plants as they pertain to religion.

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peoples by taking raw materials from their lands without just compensation. These raw materials not only include vegetables and minerals but also genetic materials, which the agricultural and pharmaceutical industries use to make huge profits.

University of Pittsburgh Professor Harvey White spoke on the politics of what he calls syndrome behavior. Syndrome behavior deals with people's reactions to the possible siting of a toxic waste plant in their neighborhood or "backyard". He presented examples of these behaviors, including "Not In My Backyard" (NIMBY), and "Why In My Backyard" (WIMBY), and then analyzed how successful each type of group can be in resisting the creation of a proposed plant. He cited the strong organizational skills of people in affluent Clarion County, Pennsylvania who were successful in resisting a proposed landfill. Wealth and education, he explained, are a big help to communities in protesting, but even the poorest community, if well organized and unified, can fight the creation of a new toxic facility.

Pam Davidson, a Ph.D. Candidate at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, provided a contrast to the other speakers in Session I. She did not deny that racial and economic disparities exist in the siting of toxic facilities. She said, however, that the studies which determine the impact of toxins on surrounding communities have severe methodological problems. Studying the effects of one toxin at a time does not provide enough solid evidence that the local community is affected. She questioned the validity of many recent studies and argued that new steps should be taken to improve future studies.

Professors Timothy Black and John Stewart of the University of Hartford performed a social demographic analysis of communities surrounding solid waste disposal facilities in Connecticut. Their results, even when adjusted for factors such as income, clearly proved that high percentages of minorities live in the areas near these facilities. The figures for Hartford and Bridgeport were especially troubling, as the facilities in these cities now handle a majority of the trash incinerated in the state since the trash disposal system was regionalized in the early 1990s. Black and Stewart pointed out that not only are the emissions from the plants harmful in themselves, but the emissions of hundreds of diesel-powered trucks which transport garbage to each plant daily compound the harmful effects to the environment.

The Hastings Center's Deputy Director Virginia Ashby Sharpe gave an evening presentation on "Environmental Justice: Ethics and the Allocation of Environmental Benefits and Burdens" that showcased the role that the values of freedom, fairness, human and natural welfare, and democratic participation play in decision making around environmental risk.



Advisory Committee Member and Trustee Helen Mathieson '52 discusses the conference with Lauren Hartzell '03.

Environmental justice will be difficult to establish in a free market society. Lauren Hartzell '03, one of the Certificate students who attended the conference, says "Sharpe made me realize that my decisions can affect the quality of lives of others. If I choose to fight against the placement of a public waste facility in my neighborhood, I am fighting to have it put in a neighborhood with fewer resources."

Session II began with "Confronting Environmental Injustice in Connecticut," which discussed the ways in which activism, education, and involvement are important when ordinary citizens organize to fight against environmental injustice. Physician Mark Mitchell, Director of the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice, stressed the importance of educating the local community and organizing to affect changes in state policies concerning environmental fairness. Cynthia Jennings is the Board Chairperson for the Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice in Hartford. In her speech "Multi-racial, Cross-cultural Environmental Mobilization: One Person Can Make a Difference" she used examples from her own experience in fighting the expansion of a landfill in North Hartford. James Younger, Director of Civil Rights and Urban Affairs with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, discussed the laws and policies of the federal government that concern environmental justice. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Case Investigator, Jacquelyn Pernell, moved from the federal to the state level and examined environmental policy in Connecticut.

Professor Diane-Michele Prindeville from New Mexico State University examined the role of American Indian and Hispanic women activists and the strategies they employ in their struggle for environmental justice in New Mexico. Jace Weaver ended the second session with a talk on the environmental injustices that Native Americans have experienced. He argued that race has traditionally been a factor in

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Certificate Program Seminar Guest Lecture Series

The Goodwin-Niering Center invited two distinguished members of its Advisory Committee to present lectures as part of the Center Certificate Seminar course. John Cook of The Nature Conservancy and Ralph Lewis, the State Geologist with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, met with certificate students for dinner and discussion after their presentations. Both speakers discussed internship and employment opportunities at their organizations.

John Cook: Standing on the Border Looking Out

John Cook began his career as an English major at Colgate University, but soon dropped out due to lack of direction. He went into the woods to contemplate his future, and was never the same again after having an “out of body” experience while watching a bird fly by. From that point forward he became an avid nature lover and returned to Colgate University for intensive biological study. Early in his career Cook served the Thames Science Center (now the Science Center of Eastern Connecticut) on Gallows Lane in the College Arboretum as Resident Naturalist/ Director. From there he moved on to a twenty year career with The Nature Conservancy and currently serves as the Vice President for the Northeast Division. The Nature Conservancy (www.tnc.org), founded in 1951, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting valuable lands and waters worldwide using science, tangible results and a nonconfrontational approach. It is the world’s largest private international conservation group, and it works with private individuals and communities as well as businesses.

John gave an intimate talk on his life and work in his lecture “Realities, Myths, and Core Challenges of Ecological Conservation.” He drew examples from his work in New England, Florida and finally in New Mexico/Arizona, where he experienced a new movement in ranching. Here a group of Malpai Borderland ranchers, caught up in a debate over grazing in the West, was willing to talk with environmentalists and public officials. The joint effort’s result was the conservation of a million-acre piece of land in Arizona and New Mexico. Cook points out that, “if the private landowner is not part of the plan, regulatory solutions don’t work.” He says that “a preserve with a fence around it doesn’t do the job, ...we need to support and be part of healthy rural economies, as well as straight biological systems.”



The Nature Conservancy's John Cook with Richard Goodwin, Professor Emeritus of Botany.

Ralph Lewis: Geology Molds The Landscape

Is it easy to drive east to west in Connecticut? Ralph Lewis, State Geologist with the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey of the Department of Environmental Protection, understands why it is not. Lewis’ presentation, “The Influence of Geology on the Landscape of Connecticut,” explained how the geological formation of Connecticut influenced the shape and use of the land.

The geologic history of Connecticut can be summed up in one word - crunch - due to continental collision. The third smallest state in the Union, it spans approximately 100 miles, but it may have been 500 to 3000 miles across at one time. Connecticut was in the middle of a continental collision that formed the supercontinent “Pangea.” During the Mesozoic Era the plate tectonic processes reversed, breaking up the supercontinent, and creating the opening of the Atlantic Ocean. The four geological terranes of Connecticut are named after their plate tectonics ancestry: the Avalonian, Iapetus, Newark, and Proto-North American terranes. The small continent of Avalonia collided with Proto-North America, closing and collapsing the Iapetus Ocean. The Newark terrane was a rift basin formed from the breakup

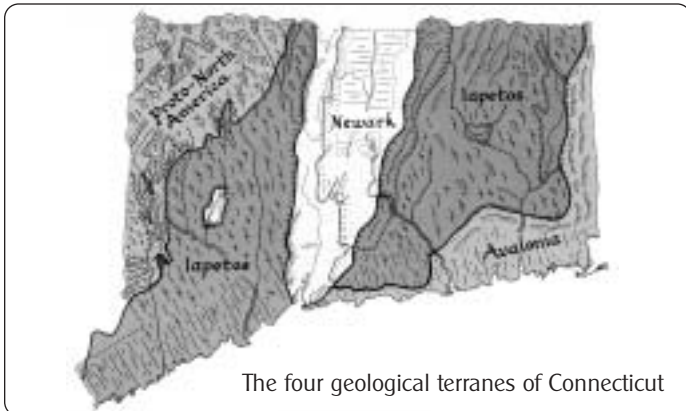


Ralph Lewis, State Geologist with the Department of Environmental Protection.

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of Pangea. Thus, the basic bedrock topography of the state was formed millions of years ago.

Lewis explained how the distribution of glacial deposits, which were directly influenced by the north-south "grain" of the bedrock, in turn influenced the way in which humans were able to develop and utilize the region. Farm towns developed on hilltops, mill towns along the many rivers. Major transportation networks spread through the lower, flatter, more populated locations. There is still no major East-West highway north of the coast in Connecticut.



The four geological terranes of Connecticut

College Recognizes Young Environmentalists

In March, Assistant Director Diana Whitelaw participated in the Special Awards judging of the Connecticut Science Fair 2001, held at Quinnipiac College in Hamden. This year Sara Kosmaczewski, an eighth grader from Sister Karen Skurat's class at St. Rita School in Hamden was selected to win \$100 from the Goodwin-Niering Center for her project "The Scourge of Our Watershed? The Dose Makes the Poison." Sara believes that the pesticide Scourge, used at a very low dose by licensed professionals, is safe for controlling the spread of the West Nile virus by mosquitoes. However, she concluded that other pyrethrin-based pesticides pose a threat to our watershed environments at the much higher doses sold in commercially available products.

The team of Melissa Mroczek and Alanna Ocampo shared a \$100 Connecticut College Arboretum award for their project "How Susceptible Are Healthy and Wounded Trees to Canker?", which looked at the spread of canker to healthy trees through infected soil. They are members of Nancy Johnson's eighth grade class at Sacred Heart School in New Britain. In providing these special awards the Center and Arboretum hope to find and encourage future environmental scientists among the ranks of high school students.

the removal of native peoples from their lands. Weaver is a Professor of American Studies, Religious Studies and Law at Yale University.

The final session "Prospects for the Future" included "In Pursuit of Healthy and Livable Communities." Kenny Foscue from the Connecticut Department of Public Health said that public health officials should be involved in the process of cleaning up brownfields, which are waste sites at former industrial or commercial properties. Public health officials need to be involved at all stages of the cleanup process so that the best interests of the surrounding community are served. The Southeastern Connecticut Indoor Air Quality Coalition's Co-chair, Estelle Bogdonoff, talked about the achievements of her organization, which is a group of concerned residents, health officials, educators, business owners, and others who are working together to improve the quality of our environment. Kenny Foscue introduced the program "Tools for Schools," used to find ways to improve the indoor air quality and general health of staff and students in schools. Kathy Cooper-McDermott, an Environmental Health Nurse with the New London Department of Health and Human Services, then elucidated the goals of the Asthma Indoor Risk Strategies program, which works to reduce the impact of asthma, one of the most severe health problems in New London County.

Professor of Public Policy Christopher Foreman from the University of Maryland at College Park, spoke about the "Promise and Peril of Environmental Justice." He expressed skepticism about the ability of the environmental justice movement to form coherent policy on a national level. He is unconvinced that statistics prove discriminatory siting practices occur, and argued for involvement at the local level to solve problems on a case-by-case basis.

Many Goodwin-Niering Center certificate students elected to attend this conference for their certificate requirements, and several admitted to having little or no prior knowledge of environmental justice. "After absorbing so much information concerning the current state of issues of environmental justice," stated Hannah Shayler '02, "one leaves the conference with an overwhelming sense of responsibility to promote awareness and fairness when dealing with issues of environmental quality." The conference was made possible by the support from Skyes Multicultural Diversity Committee, the Beaver Brook Fund, New England Grassroots Environment Fund, The Multicultural Center and Unity House, The Holleran Center For Community Action and Public Policy, and the Departments of Botany, Zoology, Anthropology, Government, Economics, Gender and Women's Studies, and Chemistry. Additional conference information can be found at ccbes.conncoll.edu/ejconf.html.

Meet the Certificate Class of 2003



STEFAN APSE

Major: Philosophy
 Environmental Interests: promote and advance environmental consciousness in a rapidly developing world
 Internship Possibility: educational outreach programs with renewable energy co-ops, the Green Party, or urban redevelopment organizations



SARAH LATHROP

Major: English Minor: Religious Studies
 Environmental Interests: land conservation and habitat protection
 Internship Possibility: writing for environmental groups such as Cultural Survival or the New York League of Conservation Voters



KATHERINE DRISCOLL

Major: Environmental Studies
 Environmental Interests: sustainability legislation at the municipal level
 Internship Possibility: work with legislators on the use of tropical hardwoods at Rainforest Relief in New Jersey



MOLLY LIPPMAN

Major: Human Development
 Environmental Interests: educating children about the environment
 Internship Possibility: environmental education through La Selva, an environmental preserve and research center in Costa Rica



SUSAN DUNCAN

Major: Botany
 Environmental Interests: the study of the environment through archaeological records
 Internship Possibility: an archaeological dig in the southwestern United States through an American college or University, or a private group

VETRI NATHAN

Majors: Zoology and Italian
 Environmental Interests: the ecology and behavior of whales
 Internship Possibility: working with the Sound, Oceanography and Living Marine Resources Project at SACLANT Undersea Research Center in La Spezia, Italy



SCOTT EPSTEIN

Major: Environmental Studies
 Environmental Interests: the affects of population growth, pollution, and land development on the environment
 Internship Possibility: studying birds through the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program



KASSIE ROHRBACH

Major: Gender and Women's Studies
 Environmental Interests: sustainability awareness
 Internship Possibility: environmental activism with the Kettle Range Conservation Group in Republic, Washington.



JARED FERTMAN

Major: Environmental Studies
 Environmental Interests: human impact on animals and plants
 Internship Possibility: to analyze how different species react to increasing human interaction working with the New Jersey DEP or the Bay Center of Ocean City, New Jersey



MELANIE SMALL

Majors: Botany and Environmental Studies
 Environmental Interests: coastal botany and ecology
 Internship Possibility: the effects of suburban development pollution on declining eelgrass populations



LAUREN HARTZELL

Majors: Environmental Studies and Philosophy
 Environmental Interests: the scientific exploration of geology and philosophical investigation into channel restoration
 Internship Possibility: the science and mechanics of channel restoration of rivers



JOHN TRAVERSI

Major: Zoology
 Environmental Interests: environmental hazards for marine animals and their habitats
 Internship Possibility: field research on a whale-watching vessel with the Ocean Alliance/Whale Conservation Institute in Lincoln, Massachusetts



LINDSEY KRAVITZ

Major: Environmental Studies
 Environmental Interests: the effects of whale-watching boats on whale populations
 Internship Possibility: ecotourism of whales on research ships on the West Coast, Mexico, or Alaska



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper

Southeastern Connecticut's Earth Day 2001 Festival a Wonderful Gift

By Daniel Leptuck '00

Mother Nature smiled upon us on Sunday, 22 April 2001. What a magnificent day. She gave us the most beautiful day of the year, and Her approval acted as a sign of grace as Earth Day 2001 brought together young and old alike in celebration of our home. Classroom and recess were rolled into one as people from all walks of life enjoyed an educational and fun day.

Opening with a morning yoga sun salutation led by Marya, Earth Day was nothing short of wonderful. The enchanting music and lyrics of Tom Callinan inspired the youngest children as well as college students. His words flooded the Knowlton Green with a sea of hope as the dancing and sing-along crowd helped spread his message so it could reach every ear.

The strong, motivating words of Tim Keating from Rain Forest Relief brought to light the power that citizens can, and do have in making a difference in society and on this planet. His thought-provoking speech brought out the grassroots activist in all of us and explained why we, as a society, should take back control of our lives from multinational corporations.

The Gordon Stone Band showed us that having a passion for what you do is the most important gift an individual can possess. Their mix of jazz, bluegrass, and world music gave us all a reason to stop sitting and get moving.

Dr. Henry Kelly bridged the gap between the world of science and common sense with his fitting presentation. His words challenged us as citizens of this planet to make lifestyle changes, and to make them soon. By being accountable for ourselves, and by leaving this planet in better shape than when we found it, we can act as stewards for our future generations and for the people of this planet.

Jerry Ziegler, a musician in the Dance Department, and his class reminded us that many primitive sounds could be molded into one beautiful pulse; that the simple act of bang-

ing a drum can change your whole attitude and perspective of this Earth. He also reminded us that this land's predecessors had the foresight to urge us all to make drastic changes before this living planet dies.

Our guests and exhibitors taught us all that there are still many, many more acts that we can all do to make a difference: pick up that piece of trash on the beach; respect that hermit crab as he goes on his way; take responsibility for the amount of energy you use and find a way to lessen it; teach children right now the importance of every ecosystem; read a book; open your eyes to the ongoing destruction of this planet; see this planet as the living organism that it is; respect all life.

Our visitors enjoyed a beautiful day on the College Green, heard wonderful music, absorbed powerful words and challenges and best of all, were educated on the importance of sustainability, accountability and responsibility. I never expected the day to be so flawless. I guess it acted as a reminder of the magnificent and beautiful power of our Mother Earth. She smiled upon us. What a magnificent day.

Daniel Leptuck '00, an Economics major, is the Environmental Coordinator at Connecticut College. Among his many tasks is helping students operate a successful Earth Day festival.

College Commits to Purchase 17% of Total Electricity

From Renewable Sources

Last Fall, Sarah Zisa, Kassie Rohrbach, and Leigh Tilman began a campaign to convert Connecticut College's electricity sources from the traditional mix of fossil fuel and nuclear to renewable sources. After learning about the Connecticut Energy Cooperative's option of 100% renewable electricity, the three decided that Conn should serve as an environmental model, change its electricity provider and become a member of the Cooperative. The three sophomores worked with Dan Leptuck, who is environmental coordinator, the student organization Students Against Violence to the Environment (S.A.V.E.), the college's Environmental Model Committee, the administration, and the Student Government Association (S.G.A.) to reach their goals.

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College Commits to Purchase 17% of Total Electricity (Cont. from page 9)

After a year of planning, organizing, fundraising, and educating, Sarah and Kassie formed and co-chaired the Renewable Energy Club on campus to organize student support needed to educate the campus community about renewable energy, and convince the students to support the idea. The College became members of and partners with the Connecticut Energy Cooperative after the club raised \$1500 with bake sales and donations. As partners, the College receives many benefits from the Cooperative, including building energy audits, help with energy conservation campaigns, and a discount on the membership fee when any member of the College community joins the Cooperative. By far the greatest accomplishment this year was a student fee that will pay for 17% of our electricity to be purchased from renewable sources, including low impact hydroelectricity, methane from landfills and wind. The Renewable Energy Club presented a petition to SGA, asking students to support the conversion to renewable energy by agreeing to a \$25 student fee that would pay for 17% of electricity usage to be purchased from the Cooperative. Over 75% of the student body was presented with a petition in person and 98% of them signed it. With such overwhelming results, SGA and the Board of Trustees passed the proposal for the student fee.

Next year, Zisa, Rohrbach and Tilman plan to continue their campaign. Future goals include converting the remaining 83% of the College's electricity to renewable sources and spearheading an aggressive campus energy conservation campaign.



Connecticut College's Renewable Energy Club Members at Harkness Chapel (from left to right) Kassie Rohrbach, Sarah Zisa and Daniel Leptuck.

Photo courtesy Hartford Courant.

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