

2015 - 2016

NEWSLETTER

ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

CONGRATULATIONS GNCE CLASS OF 2016!

ON SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2016, we celebrated the fifteenth class of the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment. Ten students completed the

requirements to receive their certificate in Environmental Studies. Faculty, staff, family, and even President Bergeron celebrated the hard work and dedication that each

of these students exhibited over the past three years. After receiving their certificates and custom made graduation sashes, students and their families enjoyed a champagne reception while viewing their Senior Integrative Projects posters. We wish this class only the very best!



Photo credit: Marina Stewart

GNCE CLASS of 2016 celebrates outside of their recognition ceremony!

L - R, *Cian Fields, Aly Cheney, Caitlin Persa, Natalie Calhoun, Emma Rotner, Jessica Wright, Olivia Rabbitt, Marina Stewart, Matt Luciani and Anna Marshall.*

10
students

GNCE Family

1



All smiles while waiting for their certificates



2014 Spring Welcome Dinner - their first group photo together!

Students pose with Helen Mathieson '52





LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Goodwin-Niering Center
for the Environment

Jane Dawson, *Harrison Director*
Derek Turner, *Faculty Associate Director*
Jennifer Pagach, *Associate Director*
Keleigh Baretincic, *Program Coordinator*

CENTER FELLOWS

Robert Askins, *Biology*
Rachel Black, *Anthropology*
Anne Bernhard, *Biology*
Wendy Blake-Coleman '75
U.S. EPA
Allen Carroll '73
ArcGIS Online, Esri
Beverly Chomiak, *Physics*
Jeffrey Cole, *Anthropology*
John Cook, *The Nature Conservancy*
Siri Colom, *Sociology*
Maria Cruz-Saco, *Economics*
Andrew Davis, *Environmental Studies*
James Downs, *History*
Glenn Dreyer, *Arboretum*
Michele Fitzpatrick, *Avalonia Land Conservancy*
David Foster '77, *Harvard Forest, Harvard University*
William Frasure, *Government*
Anthony Graesch, *Anthropology*
Pam Hine, *Botany*
Chad Jones, *Botany and Environmental Studies*
Richard King, *Williams-Mystic School*
Linda Lear '62, *Environmental Historian Connecticut
College Trustee Emeritus*
Ralph Lewis, *Connecticut State Geologist, Retired*
Manuel Lizarralde, *Anthropology and Botany*
Helen Mathieson '52, *Connecticut College Trustee
Emeritus*
Edward Monahan, *Connecticut Sea Grant Program,
Retired*
Karina Mrakovich, *US Coast Guard Academy, Marine
Science*
Michelle Neely, *English*
Maggie Redfern, *Arboretum*
Joseph Schroeder, *Behavioral Neuroscience*
Peter Siver, *Botany*
Daisy Small, *Botany*
Rachel Spicer, *Botany*
Douglas Thompson, *Physics*
Stephen Winters-Hilt, *Visiting Associate Professor*
Wei, Zhang, *Economics*
Marc Zimmer, *Chemistry*

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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As the College moves forward in implementing its new strategic plan as well as diving into a substantial curricular reform fall 2016, the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment has been exploring ways that we can actively participate and promote these initiatives. One of the several pillars of the strategic plan is the promotion of sustainability, a multifaceted concept that includes economic and social equity goals but is founded on sustaining the planet so that we can provide future generations with a quality of life unimpaired by further resource depletion and environmental degradation - quite a daunting challenge in this era of climate change and mass consumption. While the GNCE's certificate program has awarded certificates in "environmental studies" to 15 classes of graduates, we have long felt that our mission extends beyond academic "studies" and that our commitment to environmental sustainability should be a central component of our identity. Thus, beginning in spring 2017, the GNCE will award our graduating class a Certificate in Environmental Sustainability, recommitting ourselves in this new and explicit way to furthering the college's sustainability goals in the way we do best - though promotion of environmental stewardship and scholarship, aimed at protecting our precious planet for future generations.



We are also very excited that the College selected Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* as the freshman reading for the summer/fall of 2016, and the GNCE has been actively participating in events and discussions on this timeless classic. Our goal, along with other centers, faculty, and staff on campus is to extend this discussion far beyond just the freshmen class and their seminars, to foster important discussions on human-induced environmental change, contemporary issues such as pesticides and Zika, crusading women in the environmental sphere, and more. Not only are GNCE seminar students focusing on these issues in the certificate seminar in the fall, but we also hosted historian Michelle Mart who presented a Lambert Lecture on "The Stories We Tell About Pesticides," and were honored to have the opportunity to hear about Rachel Carson's achievements in an extremely well-attended lecture in October by historian and Connecticut College alumnus Linda Lear '62, trustee emeritus, recipient of the 1999 Goodwin-Niering Center Alumni Achievement Award, and long time and generous supporter of the work of our Center.

We are also delighted to announce that our biennial conference has a new name: The Lear-Conant Symposium, and the inaugural symposium will continue our focus on the prescient warnings of Rachel Carson with the selected topic for the Inaugural Lear-Conant Symposium being: *Sustaining Pollinators*. In selecting this topic, we wanted to not only highlight the myriad of threats to pollinators, particularly honey bees, but also focus on what can be done to help sustain these important members of our eco-system, as they in turn sustain us with food, eco-system services, and beauty. The speaker line-up for the symposium is superb and we're planning events and workshops to go along with the conference topic - both on the symposium day and throughout the year. So - Save The Date - February, 25, 2017 - for an eye-opening and inspiring day delving into the challenges and possibilities for protecting pollinators.

As always, we are deeply grateful to those who have supported the Center over the past year - whether through donations or attendance at our events - and we welcome all our alums and friends to join us for our many activities and, if moved, support our work through tagged annual giving as well. To keep up with all we're doing - and what our amazing students are up to - like us on Facebook! We're looking forward to another thought-provoking year of exploration, scholarship, and commitment to further the environmental sustainability goals so central to our mission.

Jane I. Dawson

WELCOME to the CLASS of 2018!

Lauren Baretta

Government major

Environmental Interest: Sustainable agriculture, genetically modified organisms, agricultural policy and law

Katherine Carey

Environmental Studies major

Environmental Interest: degradation of coral reefs and their ecosystems; as well as associated economic decline due to shoreline infrastructure and sediment runoff

Madeline Fenderson

Environmental Studies major

Environmental Interest: analyzing sustainability in Maine fisheries at ecological and economic levels

Josh Lee

Government major

Environmental Interest: conflicting and hypocritical environmental policy, carbon emissions and acid rain

Juliette Lee

Environmental Studies major

Environmental Interest: marine and environmental policy in Europe

Clare Loughlin

Environmental Studies major

Environmental Interest: threats to environmental and public health that cosmetics pose, lack of federal regulation and the new environmental movement surrounding cosmetics

Phoebe Masterson-Ekart

Botany and Mathematics majors

Environmental Interest: modeling plant, water and drought for climate and water resource management

Saskia Stark-Ewing

Government major, Environmental Studies minor

Environmental Interest: patterns of changing food consumption habits in Vietnam and their environmental implications

Jessica Sullivan

Environmental Studies major, English minor

Environmental Interest: the rise of "Frankenfood" and how media tactics shape our perception of genetically modified and organic food

Maya Sutton-Smith

History major

Environmental Interest: historical exploration of nuclear waste and issues

Back row, l-r: Maya Sutton-Smith, Josh Lee and Maddy Fenderson.

Middle row, l-r: Katherine Carey, Saskia Stark-Ewing, Phoebe Masterson-Ekart, Clare Loughlin and Juliette Lee

Front row, l-r: Jessica Sullivan and Lauren Baretta



FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT

A NATIVE OF CALIFORNIA, Maggie Redfern landed in Boston, Massachusetts for work



Maggie Redfern, Assistant Director of the Arboretum

before coming to Connecticut College as the Assistant Director of the Arboretum. Maggie previously worked at the Arnold Arboretum, MIT, and NEH. With such fine institutions under her belt, Maggie was first drawn to Connecticut College by the beauty of the campus, and then by the emphasis on native and natural areas that the position would allow for. Now

that she's here and has distinguished herself on campus as an active, and contributing member of the staff, what she enjoys most is the sense of community that Connecticut College affords. "I feel like there's a dynamic community here on campus and I like to see how involved everyone is in many different areas around campus." Her commitment to this community is what

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SUMMER INTERNSHIPS CLASS of 2017

KATIE ALDERMAN

Major: *English*; **Minor:** *Computer Science*
Internship: EARTHlab, U.C. Santa Cruz

NIKKI CASPERS

Major: *Environmental Studies*
Internship: REEF Environmental Education Foundation, Key Largo, FL

MARISSA GILDEA

Major: *Behavioral Neuroscience*; **Minor:** *Environmental Studies*
Internship: US EPA, Research & Development Washington, D.C.

NAKO KOBAYASHI

Major: *Anthropology*; **Minor:** *Environmental Studies minor*
Internship: Toyooka, City Hall, Toyooka, Japan

MORIAH MCKENNA

Majors: *Biological Sciences & Anthropology*
ConnSSHARP, Connecticut College

MEI REFFSIN

Major: *Art*
Internship: The Seed Farm, Emmaus, PA

LANA RICHARDS

Major: *Theater*
Internship: We Players, San Francisco, CA



Lana, enjoying the outdoors during her internship

JULIA SERAFIN

Majors: *Economics*
Internship: Stowaway Cosmetics, New York, NY



Julia hard at work, manning customer service communications

SARAH SPOUND

Major: *Environmental Studies*; **Minors:** *Mathematics and Art*
Internship: Vineyard Power, Tisbury, MA

APRIL ZHAO

Majors: *Environmental Studies and Economics*
Internship: ConnSSHARP, Connecticut College

GNCE ALUMNI MAKING STRIDES

PUBLIC FUNDING for land protection is critical for conserving ecosystems and healthy communities, but clear data on such funding can be hard to find, particularly at a regional scale. Since fall 2014, GNCE alum Mary Buchanan '14 has been conducting research to help fill this knowledge gap, working at the Highstead Foundation in Redding, CT. The results of this research were released in May 2016 as a joint Highstead-Harvard Forest publication available on the Wildlands & Woodlands website. The report, "Public Conservation Funding in New England: Recent Trends in Government Spending on Land Protection" pulls together data on federal, state, and local funding for land protection in the New England states, and provides reference material for all those seeking to advance conservation in our region.

This research was carried out in support of the Wildlands & Woodlands vision for land conservation in New England. Highstead's board president, Dr. David Foster -- Connecticut College Class of '77 -- was the lead author of the original Wildlands & Woodlands vision, and is also a Goodwin-Niering fellow and a recipient of the GNCE Alumni

Environmental Achievement Award. The intergenerational alumni collaboration behind this new report is a testament to the lasting conservation legacy inspired by Goodwin and Niering that lives on among the college's alumni today.

The full report can be found at <http://www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org/public-funding-report> and includes a regional overview, state-by-state summaries, and per capita conservation spending calculations for the 2004-2014 period.



Mary Buchanan '14

GNCE ALUMNI

We're always eager to hear what you're up to! Drop us a line & we may share your news in the next newsletter.

Email Jen Pagach:
jpgach@conncoll.edu

GET SOCIAL!



@GNCEConnColl



www.facebook.com/GoodwinNieringCenterForTheEnvironment

We're always looking for interesting environmental news to post to our page. Email us anything you'd like us to share: goodwin-nieringcenter@conncoll.edu

SOPHOMORE SERVICE LEARNING

THIS SPRING MARKED the fourth year of the service learning partnership and course with Avalonia Land Conservancy, and the third year it has been taught by Jen Pagach. The course kicked off with some background on the Center namesakes, and some land conservation and management talks by Glenn Dreyer, Arboretum Director. Sophomores received mentoring from Juniors, Seniors and Avalonia about effective project selection and



Clare Loughlin aka "Indiana Jane" posed with the glass button she excavated on the field day

really heeded the advice to keep it meaningful and manageable. Students had to learn pro-

ject management basics, receive targeted feedback from Jen, Avalonia and their peers, then quickly dive into development and deliverables. In addition to valuable repeat projects such as field work and contributing blog posts (avaloniaetrails.blogspot.com), new projects were proposed and undertaken with vigor. An Avalonia booth was done at two Stonington Farmers Market events complete with Arbor day trees, a Mocktail Mixer fundraising raffle was held on campus to let others know about Avalonia, and a new partnership was forged with Stonington High School when class and gardening time was dedicated to interacting by playing ecological card games and learning more about the organizations. An all hands field day was held at Perry Natural Area to clear areas around a foundation at the historic Stonington site that was also a student history and family tree project this semester. In addition to Avalonia, guest speakers included a

lawyer from a local land trust high profile legal case that set national precedence, and



GNCE class of 2018 gathers at foundation they cleared on their field day at Perry Natural Area, one of Avalonia Land Conservancy's many properties in Stonington. Maya Sutton-Smith, bottom left, did her service learning project on the long history and family tree of this parcel

the three climate ladies including GNCE alum Jess LeClair. Avalonia "earth mothers" Beth Sullivan, Michele Fitzpatrick, Binti Ackley and Anne Narwalk were all impressed by the culminating presentations and creative "storybook ending" to the semester!

The amazing climate ladies came to speak to Jen Pagach's GNCE Sophomore service learning course in Spring 2016. From left to right, Lynn Stoddard, Director of Eastern CT State University's Institute for Sustainable Energy, Dr. Anji Seth, climate modeler at UCONN Storrs Department of Geography, and Jessica LeClair, GNCE alum and Project Manager at CIRCA at Uconn Avery Point. GNCE student Maddy Fenderson listens to Jess speak about the challenges of community adaptation in Connecticut.



FELLOWS SPOTLIGHT

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fostered her involvement in the Goodwin-Niering Center (GNCE).

"I'm interested in finding ways to connect students with the arboretum through the GNCE. You have to have a little bit of knowledge to appreciate a place and understand its value, and I hope that I can personally foster that connection." To help foster these connections,

Redfern hopes that encouraging students to take advantage of the many Arboretum programs that are offered. Some favorites include painting in the Arbo, Full Moon Walks, and Bolles Wood walks. Outside the scope of her professional duties, Maggie is a New London resident, and very much enjoys delving into New London

community. She commutes to work daily on her trusty bicycle, allowing her to become intimately acquainted with a city she has come to love. "I really enjoy the culture, live music, and art scene that is the heart of the city," she said "and I love how well connected New London is to the rest of New England: fer

ries, trains, buses – even the interstate, it's all right here." We're happy that Redfern has made New London her home, as she continually proves to be a valuable asset to the College, the Arbo, and the GNCE.

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Save the Date! ↓



What can we do to sustain the pollinators that sustain us?

Integral to both our food systems and natural ecosystems, the dramatic decline of our insect pollinators is cause for grave concern.

Our symposium will explore:

- ⚡ Threats to pollinators, including: pesticides, colony collapse disorder, habitat loss & climate change
- ⚡ The value of pollinators, both to human agriculture & natural systems
- ⚡ Policy measures and small steps that ordinary citizens can take to counteract the pollinator decline

Saturday, February 25th
9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Ernst Common Room, Blaustein Humanities Center
Connecticut College

For the full schedule of events, speaker bio's & talk descriptions, visit us on the web:
www.goodwin-nieringcenter.conncoll.edu

Photo credit: Sam Droege, USGS Native Bee Laboratory

