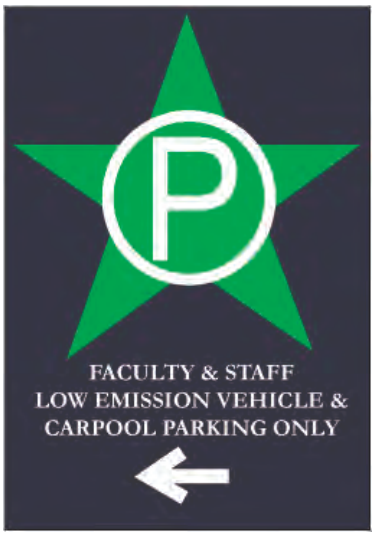
Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment at Connecticut College

FALL 2010

NEWSLETTER

ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTIONS

GOING GREEN



Left: Bikes without racks at Olin Science Center
Above: Preliminary sign for Green Star parking program

ANY STUDENT in the Goodwin-Niering Center certificate program can tell you that automobiles release a good deal of greenhouse gases, among other contaminants. They will also be glad to tell you that experts suggest looming decreases in oil supply and hefty increases in price for the petroleum that fuels our travel. Many members of our society recognize the problem and the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels because of concerns over rising costs and pollution. A quick look in any parking lot is sure to reveal a hybrid vehicle or two, and electric vehicles are already in showrooms. In my own bike commuting, I frequently pass other pedal-powering people on their way to work. Everywhere you look, people are going green. The College is well aware of both the public trend and the need to address its own sustainable future. Fittingly, environmentally sustainable transportation planning for our campus is leading the way.

The year-old Sustainability Steering Committee (SSC) is working to draft a new Sustainability Strategic Plan with considerable input from the Environmental Model Committee (EMC). The Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment is well represented with four members on both committees. The plan will cover many areas of the College and its environmental impact on the globe. As a first step, the Transportation Action Committee of the EMC was asked to develop a template for the new Sustainability Strategic Plan. One potential view of Connecticut College's green transportation future is already circulating in electronic draft form. Meanwhile, the SSC recently submitted proposals to the College's Priorities, Planning and Budget Committee, where many requests vie for limited funds, to support new transportation initiatives.

The idea behind the two SSC proposals is to provide better infrastructure to handle the increased student use of bicycles on campus, and to provide an incentive program to carpoolers and owners of high-fuel-efficiency vehicles. First let's review the bike rack suggestion. Over the last two years, it has become common to see students pedaling their way to class. Unfortunately, the trips end in a bit of chaos because few of the academic buildings offer bicycle racks. So it has been equally common to see bikes randomly chained to posts and leaning against buildings. Furthermore, first-year students will not be allowed to have cars on campus next year, so bike usage is sure to skyrocket. In response, the SSC is trying to purchase several new bike racks for placement at academic buildings to encourage bike usage and ensure that bicycles are parked in a safe and attractive

continued on page 3

Connecticut College
Box 5293
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320-4196
Phone: 860-439-5417
Fax: 860-439-2418
E-mail: goodwin-nieringcenter@conncoll.edu
http://goodwin-nieringcenter.conncoll.edu

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.

Printed on recycled paper

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE IS AN INSTITUTION FOUNDED ON LIFELONG LEARNING. Faculty and staff work to foster an environment that encourages pursuit of knowledge for personal growth, not simply for individual profit. Those ideals apply just as fittingly to the alumni, faculty and staff as they do to the students. The center plays its part to promote education with events that include the upcoming Elizabeth Babbott Conant Symposium. Meanwhile, other opportunities to learn originate from students themselves. For example, the Student Government Association (SGA) taught the members of the Goodwin-Niering Center, the Sustainability Steering Committee and the Environmental Model Committee something about environmental sustainability on campus. This symbiosis is one of the true pleasures of working on a campus like ours, so let me explain.

Last year, SGA decided to reduce student use of cars on campus. Months later a plan was in place. This semester the first phase began, and next year the last part comes into play. The program was entirely devised by students, requested no special concessions from the administration, was funded by new student fees and voluntarily gave up student privileges. SGA conducted research to compare conditions at other campuses and broadly vetted the idea. How is that for encouraging environmental sustainability with well-conceived, selfless actions? Perhaps I should further elucidate these good deeds so that you can properly congratulate the next Connecticut College student you meet.

As is common with American society, car use on campus is widespread. Parking spaces are hard to find and rules are often ignored. SGA decided that reduced student car use would benefit the College community. They adopted a plan that was proposed to the administration, accepted for adoption, and highlights both democracy in action and the best in shared governance.

In the plan, a doubling of parking registration fees for student vehicles serves as a slight disincentive. However, the new fee is still lower than many peer institutions, and SGA hopes it will not be prohibitively expensive for anyone. The fees generate income to support new transportation infrastructure improvements for students. A bike share program looks to be moving forward. The students are asking for more bike racks and a more pedestrian- and bike-friendly campus. There is interest in improved use of public transportation through our own CamelVan and ZipCar programs. The final piece of the puzzle will kick in next year when first-year students will be required to leave cars at home. SGA did its homework and showed that many schools have similar restrictions without problems, and the Admission office was on board with the idea. Ideally, new improvements will kick in before the students arrive. The proposed actions were well researched, sought to be fairly implemented and they clearly benefit the campus.

The SGA undertook this initiative not because it was looking for credit, but because it cares. Of course as a professor, I would gladly give them an A. This example of intelligent planning for a more environmentally sustainable campus is both refreshing and the perfect introduction to the center's conference, "Smart Growth? Environmental and Social Implications." Although transportation is just one of the topics covered in the Smart Growth topic, the idea that significant progress toward environmental sustainability can be made with clever planning is at the core of the conference. If you are interested in furthering your own lifelong learning, you should consider visiting campus March 4-5 to attend the Goodwin-Niering Center conference on smart growth. What could be more valuable to the development of your intellect than that?

Douglas Thompson
Karla Heurich Harrison '28 Director

Please Help Us Conserve You can help the College conserve paper and energy by reading our newsletters online at http://goodwin-nieringcenter.conncoll.edu
To be removed from our paper mailing list, contact us at goodwin-nieringcenter@conncoll.edu

CERTIFICATE SEMINAR THEME FOR FALL 2010: ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

THIS PAST FALL was a busy one for the Goodwin-Niering Center certificate students. It started with presentations by all of our seniors on their internship experiences over the summer, then moved on to the selected semester-long theme: an investigation of alternative energies — from technical, environmental, economic and social perspectives. We covered a lot of ground in a very short time, and we hope all have a much better sense of the existing and evolving alternative energy sources that are possible options for supplying energy in the United States, our own households and the College as well. We concluded the semester with our now annual sustainable potluck and were lucky to have President Higdon in attendance, listening to our very impressive and persuasive students.

Dave Cohen of Alteris speaks about solar and wind energy technology

After a series of engaging and informative internship presentations by the seniors, we dove into the topic of alternative energies with a look at the existing balance of energy sources in the United States. This proved to be a very depressing and dismaying session as we came to the conclusion that almost nothing the U.S. is doing in the energy sector is even remotely sustainable. However, this knowledge made us even more eager to really understand the alternatives out there, and we quickly turned to the leading renewables: wind and solar. From this point onward, each topic brought with it a local expert to share their knowledge and practical experience in that sector.

Over the next two months, we heard from Dave Cohen of Alteris Renewables (on wind and solar); Richard Desrosiers of GZA Environmental (on geothermal, an option that really engaged the students and has been successful at a number of schools in Connecticut); Rachel Spicer, a new faculty member of the botany department and our center (on biofuels); Jim Daylor of AMERESCO (an energy conservation and the firm's recent energy conservation study of the College's infrastructure); Bill Leahy from Eastern Connecticut State University (on the U.S. electrical grid and its limits); and finally Anthony Rish of Gateway Community College (on the latest vehicle technology advances). Rather than following a formal lecture structure, each of these sessions was a highly interactive discussion, with the students rarely allowing the speaker to get in more than a few minutes of lecture before being flooded with questions and commentary. By the end of the semester, our knowledge of the options was infinitely greater than before. As the students' final papers indicated, however, no one solution emerged from these discussions and there is still a great deal of uncertainty and debate on which alternative energies will be most important as we move into the second decade of the 21st century.

It was a lively and productive semester for the certificate seminar. President Higdon's positive response to our invitation to attend the closing event of the year, and his willingness to really delve into the issues with the students and listen to their suggestions, was the icing on the cake. His agreement to fund building sub-metering — which all students agreed was a critical step for the College to accurately track its energy use and move forward with any kind of sustainable energy plan — was greeted with delight by students and faculty alike. I am happy to report that the meters will be installed in at least three campus buildings in the spring semester. All in all, a very successful semester for the certificate seminar students!
— Jane Dawson, Associate Director

GOING GREEN

continued from page 1

manner for years to come. With time, a well-planned bicycle infrastructure can fulfill the longstanding College Master Plan goal of reducing the negative impacts of cars on campus.

The second idea is a pilot parking program that promotes both carpooling and the use of high-fuel-efficiency vehicles. The cost of the program we call "Green Star" is small and centers on the need to purchase new signs, emblazoned with a green star, to mark select parking spaces near academic buildings. These spots would be reserved for people who carpool or drive high-fuel-efficiency vehicles. The voluntary program is based on LEED green building certification standards and would help obtain certification points for new construction projects, in addition to helping the College reduce its environmental footprint.

These initiatives are just two of the many ideas in the transportation section of the Sustainability Strategic Plan beginning to take shape. The plan will eventually include short-term actions that might be implemented in the next few years, and longer-term ideas that may help the College achieve a competitive advantage as the country moves toward lower net-emission requirements. Introduction of a designated bikeway along Williams Street to the downtown, enhanced public transportation options through our own CamelVan and the county's bus system, added funding support for the student club Spokespeople's bike share program, improvements to the College's fleet of vehicles, additional ZipCars for rent on campus and covered bike racks at dorms are just a few of the ideas that might be included in a final plan. A good deal of work remains to be done, and input and funding will be needed. The Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment promises to be an involved party and a generator of progressive ideas. The center is actively working to help Connecticut College take the first important steps in Going Green, both figuratively and literally.
— Douglas Thompson, Karla Huerich Harrison '28 Director

FREE BIKES FOR COMMUNITY USE

GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER Associate Director Diana Whitelaw had some used children's bicycles and was looking for an opportunity to donate them. She heard about Bikes for Kids, a local organization that has repaired more than 12,000 gently used bicycles over the last 20 years for families who could otherwise not afford to purchase new bicycles. Diana contacted Dave Fowler, who now runs the charity, and offered her bicycles.

Diana Whitelaw, fourth from right, with representatives of OVCS, Spokespeople, Physical Plant and Bikes for Kids' Dave Fowler and his wife (far left).

Dave told Diana that his group had collected and shipped more than 100 adult bicycles to Haiti for earthquake relief, but by the fall, it became impossible to get more supplies into the country. Bikes for Kids was now left with more than 40 refitted adult bicycles and was looking for an opportunity to gift them locally. Spokespeople, Connecticut College's student-run bicycle collective, immediately came to Diana's mind. Here was a way to support the campus transportation initiative described in Doug Thompson's "Going Green" newsletter article (see page 1) and outfit the bike share program.

Soon Diana and volunteers from OVCS, Spokespeople and Physical Plant were driving a campus van to Old Saybrook to collect 48 bicycles. And this happened none too soon, as there is a long list of students waiting to borrow bikes from the collective. The demand is expected to grow with the new initiatives intended to decrease cars on campus.

CAMPUS ENERGY ASSESSMENTS

THE FIRST STEPS in decreasing campus energy use are energy conservation and energy efficiency improvements in buildings and energy systems. In May 2010, the College began the process of implementing a comprehensive program of energy management services to reduce energy consumption, cost and the College's carbon footprint. AMERESCO, an "energy solutions company," was hired to conduct an energy conservation assessment through a performance contract. An evaluation of 29 conservation measures on campus translated into 267 potential projects, a list that Physical Plant is whittling down and ranking by project importance, cost and payback time. Capturing "low-hanging fruit" could provide payback in one to three years, while other projects would have much longer payback periods.

A report detailing the conservation projects was submitted to the College by AMERESCO this fall. The report will provide useful data for two additional projects, a Renewable Energy Assessment and a Climate Action Plan. The latter is a requirement of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which President Higdon signed along with 677 other U.S. college and university presidents.

Generating renewable energy on campus has been a long-standing goal supported by the Environmental Model Committee, the Student Government Association and other campus groups. A 10 kW array of solar panels was mounted on Park House in 1999, and in 2006 a firm was hired to undertake a wind energy feasibility study. Through independent studies and honors theses, students are further investigating wind and other renewable energy options for our campus.

A consulting firm is being hired to undertake a comprehensive renewable energy assessment that will be funded through the student renewable energy fee account. The assessment of the technical and economic feasibility of various renewable energy technologies on campus dovetails with the Presidents Climate Commitment and Climate Action Plan goal to reduce the College's greenhouse gas emissions in order to eventually achieve "climate neutrality."— *Amy Cabaniss, Campus Environmental Coordinator*

BILL MCKIBBEN: "Global and Local: Organizing for a Planet that Works"

ON NOV. 19, there were few empty seats in Evans Hall when world-renowned environmental journalist and activist Bill McKibben took the stage. In his hour-long speech, the founder of the nonprofit 350.org outlined the scientific and societal facts and projections around global climate change and then went on to describe his personal experience as a climate change activist.

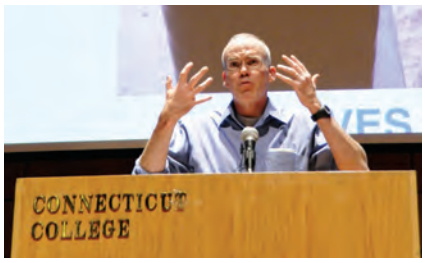
McKibben did not try to bolster an optimistic perspective of the climate issue; he was straightforward and realistic about the immensity of the obstacles before us, and was pragmatic about our chances of overcoming them and the chance for failure. Nonetheless, he promised that "there are a lot of people out there who will fight to the very last minute to save their places and save the planet." He helped validate this by dispelling the myth that all environmentalists are "rich white people who have taken care of their other problems."

As he displayed a slideshow of more than 100 incredible photographs of climate awareness and action events organized by 350.org, McKibben explained that people from all over the world and all walks of life are concerned about the environment and are anxious to help protect it. The images he displayed and stories he told came from Auckland, New Zealand, where 200 bike mechanics spent a day fixing up thousands of bicycles for people to ride to work, to the streets of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where 10,000 people gathered to march for climate action. He showed pictures of people in the Namib Desert putting up solar panels and people on the Congo River holding up a sign in support of the global climate change effort. McKibben explained that "most of the people we work with are poor, black, brown, Asian and young because that is what most of the world is made up of. And what do you know, they are just as interested in the future as anybody else."

One of the most moving photographs that McKibben showed was of an orphanage in Bangladesh. The young children there had collected hundreds of plastic bottles to spell out *350* in honor of the climate action day that 350.org organized on 10/10/10. McKibben explained that with the picture, the children had sent a note that read, "Even though no one cares about us, we care about the Earth."

McKibben said that although many of the poorest countries in the world will be hit the hardest by climate change effects, it is us in the United States and other wealthy countries that are mainly responsible. He mentioned that there are political scientists who think making the changes we need are simply impossible; the power of the fossil fuels industry is simply too great. "They may be right that we are going to lose in the end, but all I know is our only real hope lies in building a movement that is big enough to matter." He acknowledged that "we are never going to have enough money to compete with Exxon Mobil dollar for dollar. We are going to have to find different currency to work in. It is going to have to be bodies, spirits and creativity."

McKibben urged the audience to take action in their local communities, but also to put time and energy into connecting into large national and international efforts. These large-scale, unifying efforts are essential, he said, because climate change is a global problem that needs a global solution. — *Emily Conrad '11 and Katie Surrey-Bergman '14, Renewable Energy Club*



Author and activist Bill McKibben

SPROUT! INVITES the BEEHIVE DESIGN COLLECTIVE to CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

ON NOV. 30, Sprout!, the College's organic gardening club and sustainable food initiative, sponsored a workshop and "picture-lecture" by the Beehive Design Collective. The collective consists of volunteer artists who live communally in Maine and work together on art that makes a statement about the harm of, and resistance to, globalization. Huge, intricately drawn banners tell fable-like stories depicting animals, insects and plants — but no humans. The Beehive Collective does this because animals have no noticeable national affiliation, race or gender, allowing the artists to avoid perpetuating human stereotypes. Their lecture, "Disabling Monoculture," is a sampling of graphic campaigns that are the culmination of 10 years of stories collected from communities worldwide and characterize the homogenization not just of agriculture, but of our society as a whole — the result of globalization.

The Beehive Collective representatives described the process behind creating their latest banner, "The Real Cost of Coal," which took two and half years to complete. The collective undertook a massive research project on the subject, traveling to communities that have been affected by mountain top removal and conducting interviews. In Appalachia, 470 named mountains have been flattened, destroying the natural environment for the extraction of a resource. Two thousand miles of rivers and streams have been filled in and everything that lived in them has died.

The coal banner shows an Appalachian community banding together to work toward dismantling monoculture. The animals gather together as a community to decide what to do. Later, they physically place themselves in front of coal equipment, using direct action to keep coal miners out of their communities. The banners focus on resistance to coal companies where animals put their paw prints on petitions to stop coal mining. Animals parachuting in represent outsiders helping mountain top removal communities.

When the collective completes a banner, they give it to the community to be used as an educational and organizing tool. The banners are a different and exciting way of educating the public about environmental issues as the Beehive Design Collective representatives travel across the country sharing their "picture-lectures." — *Sarah Berkley '11, Goodwin-Niering Center Certificate Student*

CLASS OF 2011: ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIPS AND SENIOR PROJECTS

SARAH BERKLEY, a history and environmental studies double major, interned summer 2010 at IslandWood, an outdoor school on Bainbridge Island in Puget Sound. "My IslandWood internship may be the most valuable learning experience I have ever had. I learned more than I could ever have hoped to in that period of time about environmental education, environmental justice, experiential education, inquiry-based learning, child development and child management. My naturalist skills have improved and I feel confident in the role of environmental educator. I discovered that working with disadvantaged groups of students in nature is what I want to do for graduate school and for my career." In her thesis, "Environmental Justice: A Historical Perspective," Sarah plans to explore the current view that environmental education is a powerful tool to combat environmental injustice through outdoor school experiences for inner-city children.

CATHARINE BROOKES, a double major in economics and environmental studies, learned firsthand how small, startup companies can forge new opportunities to "go green." Catharine interned in Trenton, N.J., at TerraCycle Inc., a company that has found innovative uses for non-recyclable packaging materials such as backpacks or tote bags made from plastic drink pouches. For her senior integrative project Catharine will argue that landfills are no longer an environmentally viable way to deal with non-recyclable waste and that creative alternatives, like those brainstormed at TerraCycle, can provide more possibilities to address this issue.

As an international relations major with minors in religion and dance, **NITA CONTRERAS** chose to spend her summer interning with Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation in Ranikhet, India. Nita's rich experiences spanned the spectrum of water resource and forestry programs, quality of life issues impacted by modern technologies, along with community self-empowerment opportunities realized through locally made, regionally sold products. Contrary to her preconceived notion, Nita learned that in the particular region where she lived, "rather than seeing reverence for the environment as a principle taught to them through religion, most people's experience with their surroundings stemmed from the close connection to it and concern for maintaining it, as it was a part of their lives on a daily basis." Her senior integrative project will examine how religion intersects with ecology and how varied approaches to solving pollution problems are accepted by different religious peoples.

FLORA DRURY, a biological sciences and environmental studies double major, interned at the Environmental Protection Agency's Region I office in Boston. There her expectations were more than met — gaining an inside view of how the EPA works, increasing her knowledge about efficient energy options for local communities and leaning how they can lessen their energy dependence. This internship also provided the opportunity to enhance Flora's public speaking skills, as she made individual presentations to Maine towns participating in the Community Energy Challenge. Flora had collected towns' energy use data and created an energy portfolio that assisted each town to make educated decisions about energy-efficiency projects. As an outgrowth of her work with the EPA, Flora will focus her senior integrative project on the concept of community-owned wind-energy programs; the personal contacts she made during her internship will be invaluable to this study.

Environmental studies major **JANAN EVANS-WILENT** spent the summer observing, videorecording and swimming with dolphins. Janan's internship

began in nearby Stonington, Conn., at the Dolphin Communication Project (DCP), developing the skills needed to participate in the research program later conducted in Bimini, Bahamas. The DCP is a nonprofit scientific organization that studies dolphin-to-dolphin communication in several wild and captive populations. "The experience of swimming a foot away from live dolphins was awe-inspiring. The trust and curiosity of the dolphins can only be understood entirely through firsthand experience. My experience with DCP this summer has been a wonderful opportunity and left me with many memories, photos and, most importantly, future research questions!" Janan will write a thesis characterizing the acoustics of a captive Atlantic bottlenose dolphin population associated with pectoral fin contact.

CHRISTOPHER HAIGHT, an environmental studies major, was a field science research intern on the TIDE project in the Plum Island Sound Estuary in Massachusetts. TIDE stands for Trophic cascades and Interacting processes in a Detritus-based aquatic Ecosystem. In addition to participating on a team project to understand the effects of increased nutrients in salt marshes due to anthropogenic sewage and runoff, Christopher conducted his own research into the degradation of plastics in the salt marsh environment. "Having the freedom to conduct my own research allowed me to discover my own capabilities for developing and implementing my own ideas. I learned the steps behind designing an experiment and how to resolve any issues that may arise during that process." Christopher will continue this work for his senior

integrative project examining the effects of the toxin bisphenol A released in the marine environment as well as current legislation aimed at reducing the use of BPA in plastics.

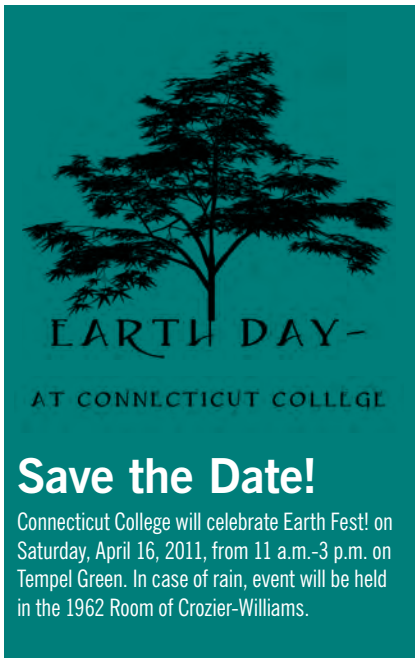
Government and environmental studies double major **KRISTIANE HUBER** interned in New York City at the Tribal Link Foundation, a nonprofit organization working to build business and cultural connections between indigenous groups and organizations and companies with common objectives. Kristiane learned that "while there have been many improvements in indigenous rights, new threats including biopiracy, language extinction and climate change are impediments to achieving a balance between tradition and modernity." Kristiane was encouraged to find that non-governmental organizations as small as Tribal Link, with its two-member staff, can have a voice in international politics. Kristiane expects that the United Nations contacts made through her internship will provide her even more insight into issues of cultural diversity and climate change, the topic of her senior integrative project.

Government and Hispanic studies double major **FIONA JENSEN** gained insight into how humans impact wilderness areas through her internship with the Appalachian Mountain Club Trails Department. In addition to monitoring trails under the guidelines of the U.S. Forest Service, Fiona had the opportunity to assume a leadership position in leading volunteer teen trail groups in the woods. "As a teenager I was a participant in the programs that I was leading now and they had a profound impact on my life. One of the most rewarding parts was working with obstinate teenagers and seeing them change; it was extremely rewarding to work with a teen who went from angry to never wanting to leave in one week." Fiona's senior integrative project is a comparison of U.S. Forest Service and Chilean Forest Service practices, examining preservation and conservation strategies. Her internship over the summer with the Appalachian Mountain Club will certainly bring a personal side to this academic study.

CHRISTOPHER KRUPENYE, a biological sciences major with a minor in French, traveled to Uganda to study chimpanzee tool use and feeding ecology at the Budungo Conservation Field Station. He worked as part of a team from the University of St. Andrews School of Psychology, which focuses on the "Origins of the Mind," applying evolutionary theory to the study of psychology. The experience puts Christopher in an excellent position to write an honors thesis on primate social cognition and conservation and preservation of genetic and cultural diversity in the sophisticated species rhesus monkeys. Equal to the academic experience of the internship was the cultural immersion and challenges of adjusting to life in an impoverished, rural village, all of which Christopher embraced wholeheartedly. And quite by chance, he had the good fortune to meet the world-renowned primatologist Jane Goodall at the field station!

ERIC LEFLORE, a biological sciences and environmental studies double major and music minor, also interned at a wildlife preserve in Africa. At the Global White Lion Protection Trust (WLT) in Hoedspruit, South Africa, Eric monitored the activities of lions using radio telemetry and GIS software and collected belly full and lion roar data. Such studies support the trust's commitment to maintain the genetic pool of white lions. WLT is also committed to alleviating poverty in surrounding communities through education. As an extension of his internship, Eric's senior honors thesis will seek to answer the question of how to conserve biodiversity in the savanna ecosystems of eastern and southern Africa in an ecologically and socially responsible fashion. Eric has discovered through his internship that after Connecticut College, he would like to enter graduate school and conduct wildlife research.

SCOTT SIEDOR, an economics and environmental studies double major, spent an exciting summer at the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Justice Department in Washington, D.C. Within his first week, Scott was welcomed by first lady Michelle Obama and U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. It was not all glamour, though — there were consent decrees to be drafted and quality and assurance checks to be performed. Scott plans to look at the intersection of economics and environmental law in his senior integrative project, a case study of the decade-long battle in Old Saybrook, Conn., between developers, the town's Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, and local citizens over a 1,000-acre tract of coastal forest called The Preserve.



WELCOME TO THE CERTIFICATE CLASS OF 2013!

THE GOODWIN-NIERING CENTER is pleased to welcome 11 new sophomores into the certificate program. Students, their proposed majors and areas of interest are listed below:

Rebecca Conner
Proposed Major: *Biological Sciences*
Environmental interest: Western influence on Inuit resource management and sustainability practices

Rhea Corson-Higgs
Proposed Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental interest: Exploitation of indigenous peoples in Latin America by U.S. pharmaceutical companies

Rebecca Horan
Proposed Major: *Environmental Studies*
Environmental interest: Impacts of various energy sources on ecosystems and conservation of local biodiversity

Katherine Lynch
Proposed Majors: *Government and Environmental Studies*
Environmental interest: Open space conservation and protection of small farms internationally

Clare Murphy-Hagan
Proposed Major: *Physics*
Environmental interest: Generation of hydroelectricity, efficiency of dams and their impact on river ecosystems

Raymond Palmer
Proposed Major: *International Relations*
Environmental interest: International water management with a focus on China

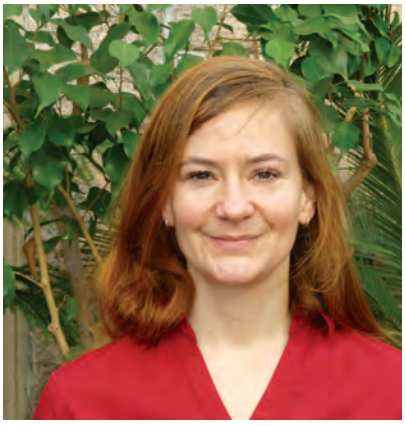
Wynndee Reese
Proposed Major: *Anthropology*
Environmental interest: Impact of environmental education on adolescents and their communities

Mark Roberto
Proposed Majors: *History and Environmental Studies*
Environmental interest: American attitudes to pesticides before and after Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring"

Mitchell Serota
Proposed Major: *Biological Sciences*
Environmental interest: Effect of environmental change on emerging infectious diseases on wildlife

Seana Siekman
Proposed Majors: *Environmental Studies and Government*
Environmental interest: International solutions for protection of coral reef ecosystems

Max Weigert
Proposed Majors: *International Relations and Economics*
Environmental interest: Water privatization systems in developing countries that allow impoverished populations to live sustainably



NEW CENTER FACULTY PROFILE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BOTANY RACHEL SPICER joined the Goodwin-Niering Center in the fall of 2010. Dr. Spicer comes to us from Harvard University, where she held a prestigious Rowland Junior Fellowship upon completion of her Ph.D. Her research focuses on how woody plant stems develop, age and transport water to the leaves. Dr. Spicer introduced a new course on plant-derived sources of fuel, BOT 496 Biofuels, which culminated in a poster session that provided her students with an opportunity to present their findings. She also delivered a well-received guest lecture on biofuels this fall as part of the Goodwin-Niering Center Certificate Seminar.

SUN HILL FOUNDATION GRANT FOR ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY

LATE LAST YEAR the Goodwin-Niering Center received a five-year, $25,000 grant to support environmental sustainability projects on campus. The funds will be used to both enhance the campus environmental coordinator's budget and to make small grants available for campus sustainability projects.

Campus Environmental Coordinator Amy Cabaniss (left) with Summer Sustainability Assistant Courtney Dwyer '12

In 2010, the Sun Hill funds were used to sponsor a sustainable dinner at Harris Refectory on Feb. 11 after the successful, campus-wide Sustainability Teach-In. In addition to serving 1,118 meals, the student organic gardening club Sprout! set up an information table and some local farmers attended the meal to talk about their products. Last summer, the grant supported the salary of a student sustainability assistant, Courtney Dwyer '12, who worked with Campus Environmental Coordinator Amy Cabaniss to assemble data to track the College's annual trash, recycling and greenhouse gas emissions totals.

This fall, grant requests were evaluated from a variety of student clubs and campus offices. The following projects, fully or partially funded by the Sun Hill gift, are expected to commence early in 2011:

- An installation to harvest rainwater to be used on the Sprout! garden
- Reprinting of the College's "Green Living Guide"
- A recycling awareness program
- A small "green roof" installation above the Cro Bar at the College Center

A Conference presented by the Goodwin-Niering Center for the Environment

This two-day conference will provide a broad overview of our current understanding of the impact of development patterns and suggestions for thoughtful approaches to planning. We will highlight the critical importance that environmental concerns play in establishing intelligent parameters for growth.

This conference is co-sponsored by

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The program will include:

PRECONFERENCE EVENT
March 3, 2011

"From Famine and Froot Loops to Food Democracy: Turning Crisis into Liberating Action"
Frances Moore Lappé, *Author and Cofounder of the Small Planet Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

LAMBERT KEYNOTE ADDRESS I

"A Field Guide to Sprawl"
Dolores Hayden, *Professor of Architecture and Urbanism, and of American Studies, Yale University*

LAMBERT KEYNOTE ADDRESS II

"Evolving from Sprawl: The Way Forward"
Anthony Flint, *Fellow and Director of Public Affairs at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts*

SESSION I
Defining Environmental and Societal Problems with Current Growth Systems

SESSION II
Environmental and Social Impacts of Smart Growth: Is Smart Growth Smart?

SESSION III
Promising Environmental Directions for Smarter Growth

The conference will be characterized by broadly interdisciplinary perspectives provided by planners, economists, natural and social scientists, historians, conservationists, and architects. The mix of speakers and topics should appeal to a wide audience of college students and faculty, concerned citizens, NGO representatives, and policymakers.

For more information on the program, speakers and how to register go to: http://www.conncoll.edu/centers/goodwin-niering/10662.htm or call 860.469.5417.

Will you consider receiving a full-color electronic copy of *Environmental Connections*?

Please help us conserve paper and energy by reading our newsletters online at http://goodwin-nieringcenter.conncoll.edu

To be removed from our paper mailing list, contact us at goodwin-nieringcenter@conncoll.edu

Connecticut College
GNCE Box 5293
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
New London, CT
Permit No. 35