

Unity

Winter 2005

The Magazine of Unity College

Birds of a Feather

Andrew Fleming '08 and his red-tailed hawk Belle join Unity

Good Will Hunting

Unity's diverse community

Wild Education

A partnership with Outward Bound presents students with a unique opportunity



Message from the President



A number of very good things happened during the 2003-2004 year to make it one of the best that the college has seen. I'd like to touch upon a few highlights.

First, student enrollment reversed its downward direction. It is not possible to attribute this good news to any one--or even a few--causes, because the College has made many changes, all of which were designed to make us more attractive to new and returning students. For instance, we put a more student-centered class schedule in place. We made significant changes in the structure of the curriculum that maintain educational quality but increase flexibility. We have improved our recruiting efforts, and we have worked hard to increase the visibility of the College. The enrollment increase seen in 2003-2004 has continued into the current year: the fall 2004 enrollment being a healthy 525 students.

During the year, Unity College and Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, headquartered in Rockland and known around campus as "HIOBS," negotiated a new partnership. There are two main features to the agreement. Students who enroll in the college for four regular academic years may have three summer internships at HIOBS, such that at the time of graduation from college the student will also be certified as an Outward Bound instructor (including a Coast Guard certification track for waterborne instruction, if the student wishes it). The second part is cooperative delivery between the College and HIOBS of a "total immersion" outdoor activities semester that replaces several individual skills courses at the college. The first of these cooperative semesters began in fall 2004, with 22 students.

We are also continuously expanding our commitment to environmental sustainability. One-hundred percent of our electrical power is now generated from renewable resources. We established an eco-cottage, which has a wind generator and a solar panel, and the students in the cottage are monitoring the performance of the systems with an eye toward future installations if these tests prove successful. We now compost our kitchen wastes, largely due to student efforts. Also because of student involvement, the college's recycling efforts have been increased by the development of the Comprehensive Recycling Activities Program, otherwise known as the CRAP Crew, who now sport new tee shirts identifying members of this important club.

It's not possible to list all of our students' accomplishments, so a couple of examples will serve to illustrate: Scott Morrison had his research paper, based on his work using geographical information systems to study the distribution of nesting kestrels, accepted by, and published in, the annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Also, several UC students combined with students at Yale and other universities and colleges to organize a conference at Harvard University about reducing greenhouse gas emissions on college campuses. Our students constituted the largest group from any single institution, and they made presentations about Unity's environmental sustainability program.

Let me close with a note about our alumni. We held two alumni receptions, one in Hartford, Conn., and one on campus. These events proved to be successful and we plan to hold four per year. The receptions and personal visits to alumni reveal an impressive range of alumni accomplishments. Some of these include Unity College appointments: Gary Zane was made Dean of Student Affairs; Tim Peabody left his position as Chief Warden for the State of Maine to join our faculty in conservation law enforcement; Jennifer Stone came back to join the Admissions Department; and Aimee Dorval became the administrative assistant in the Maintenance Department. Finally, to serve our alumni better, we have created a new Alumni Liaison position at the college. Kate Grenier was recently appointed to this role, and she will lead several new alumni initiatives in the coming years.

David Glenn-Lewin
President



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INSIDE Unity

volume 18 no. 3

America's Environmental College

The New Unity

For 18 years Unity College has published *Northeaster* magazine. With this issue we are pleased to announce that we have changed the name of our magazine to *Unity*. Our mission—to tell the story of Unity College, its people, plans and programs—remains as strong as ever.

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Good Will Hunting

*America's Environmental College is, itself,
a diverse cultural, political and academic eco-system*

By Martha Nordstrom

As part of their Unity Experience course, new students are asked a series of questions designed to establish their individual views of the environment. For example: Do they prefer garden or park, park or wilderness? What are their feelings about hunting? About conservation? About preservation?

The next step is to pair up opposites. And then the assignment comes: They each have to take their opposite into nature. According to Associate Professor John Zavodny, who teaches this course, this exercise can be excruciatingly uncomfortable. It also can be eye opening. "A hunter took a non-hunter stalking. The non-hunter, who had originally passed the hunters off as barbarians, was amazed at how much the hunter knew."





Unity, America's Environmental College, embodies the extraordinary diversity of environmental opinion. Or, as one professor put it, Unity College travels 360 degrees around the word "environment." Young men and women might come to Unity to study outdoor recreation, conservation law enforcement, wildlife management, aquaculture, forestry or environmental science. Each of these disciplines attracts a different kind of person.

According to Professor Zavodny, who has a Ph.D. in philosophy, Unity students usually represent an extreme in their high schools. "They often stick out and are used to people who don't think like they do." When they come to Unity they expect to find like-minded souls. But it's not nearly that simple. "At first, when they show up, they're surprised there aren't more people like them."

Jason Reynolds '06 is Student Government president. "I had no idea the kinds of people I'd meet at Unity. My preconceptions were anything but correct. What I thought would be a group of tree-hugging earth lovers were in fact a group of people who exhibited extremely diverse environmental ethics."

Reynolds, who is originally from Skowhegan, Maine, did not come directly to Unity from high school. He tried a few other col-

leges first and traveled some. He says that while in high school he skipped classes. He never skips now. "As a student here I have more freedom to adapt what I'm learning with what I'm interested in." Reynolds' particular interest these days is purple loosestrife. "Everyone knows purple loosestrife is invasive but there is little quantitative research that it has negative impact on native plants." Reynolds is working on a study designed to measure the impact of loosestrife on native cattail.

Although focused now, it took Reynolds some time to decide his course of study. Eric Rudolph '06, who grew up in Sullivan, Maine, has always known. Rudolph heads up the Conservation Law Enforcement Club on campus and has always wanted to be a Maine game warden. The College has an extraordinary record of placing its graduates in the Warden Service and Rudolph knew Unity was the place for him. But, like Reynolds, he was surprised at what he found when he arrived on campus. "I didn't think there would be so much of a line." Indeed, he says that at one point there was a serious divide between Student Government and the Con-Law Club.

"I used to think Jason Reynolds was the biggest hippie on the planet," says Rudolph. "That's changed. We see eye to eye on a lot

of things.” Since he and Reynolds have taken their respective roles, they worked together to bridge that divide.

The divide is understandable when you consider how the two organizations function. According to Associate Professor G. Patrick Stevens, who teaches law enforcement and advises the Con-Law Club, the club is set up like the Warden Service itself. It is hierarchical. The rest of the college is run with the kind of egalitarian ethic common in most liberal arts colleges. Professor Stevens says, “My students have to operate within our hierarchy with individuals who don’t have a clue about hierarchy.”

Professor Stevens has many years experience as a law enforce-

vey with their eyes conviction and determination. But whereas Rudolph has an almost military bearing, Reynolds wears his hair long and his cotton shirts wrinkled. According to Reynolds, when he came to Unity, “What I found was a distinct split of right wing conservatives vs. left wing liberals. But we all have one thing in common. We all cherish the place where we developed a sense of place. Part of our mission in life is to protect the environmental integrity of that place.”

Reynolds isn’t sure where his path leads. Science perhaps or politics. “Maine, being a small state, has the capacity to initiate a third party.” According to Reynolds, “Part of me wants to teach

“What I thought would be a group of tree-hugging earth lovers were in fact a group of people who exhibited extremely diverse environmental ethics.”

ment officer. He notes that his program is the leader of its type in the country. But to be at Unity, he too has had to learn to adapt to a campus lifestyle. “The faculty are an outstanding bunch of professionals. Some of them are so left of center they fall off the end.”

His own students, those who hope to enter the Warden Service or other branches of law enforcement, tend to be conservative in their politics and in their environmental vision. “My students are historically a little more conservative,” Professor Stevens said, “They come from blue-collar families that made their lot better by hard work.” According to Professor Stevens, their exposure to the full spectrum of Unity College students is an important part of their education. “I tell them you have to get out there and learn about other people,” he says.

Rudolph has done just that. “I have friends in other majors. My best friend’s girlfriend is a tree-hugger. We took her hunting a few times and she liked it. Now she’s an environmental policy/con-law double major.”

Both Rudolph and Reynolds are direct young men who con-

at Unity and hide in the woods. The part of me that’s blossomed since I came to Unity tells me that by doing that I’d be turning my back on more prominent issues in the world today.”

For his part, Rudolph’s determination has only deepened since coming to Unity. It’s at the point where he might have to leave Unity before he graduates to fulfill his dream. The Maine Game Warden Service accepts applications only every four to six years. That time is coming up and, if Rudolph were accepted, he would not be able to finish his final semester.

Whether he is at Unity for three and a half or four years, the experience is not wasted on him. He has learned about leadership. He has learned about friendship. He has learned the extraordinary breadth of knowledge—from biology to law—necessary to be a Maine Game Warden. And he’s learned more deeply about himself. Although he’s con-law all the way, Rudolph admits, “You have to be a little bit of a bunny hugger to do what I want to do. Think of it. You have to put your life on the line for a deer.” 🐇



A Wild Semester

Unity's partnership with Outward Bound gives new meaning to immersion education

By Kathy Glenn-Lewin

It's not the first time that Unity College has taken academic tradition and turned it on its head, but it could be the most successful.

In September, collegians from other campuses across the country were packing foreign dictionaries and voltage adaptors for junior year abroad. Study abroad is the traditional form of immersion education through which students experience other cultures and ways of seeing the world. At the same time, 22 students, mostly sophomores, were packing their duffels for Unity's own brand of immersion education: let's call it the wilderness America semester.

Actually, and more prosaically, this new semester is part of the Unity College and Hurricane Island Outward Bound School (HIOBS) "Field Semester and Instructor Development Program." It's the first ongoing collaboration between any college and Outward Bound, the people who created the national outdoor education industry.

For the lover of the outdoors, this fall term is a dream come true: a semester's college credits for eight weeks of hiking and canoeing, sailing or sea kayaking, rock climbing and backpacking. Because it's an Outward Bound program, there is opportunity to increase self-esteem, to discover innate abilities and a sense of responsibility toward others. And because it's a Unity College term, it offers content such as master expedition planning, group management, skills teaching, and risk and hazard evaluation. Experience in wilderness leadership and education is the goal.

The field semester, combined with Outward Bound summer internships, will expand career horizons for Unity graduates. From the students each year who complete the fall term, a handful will apply for the instructor development program. Through three or more summer internships with Hurricane Island Outward Bound, they'll acquire advanced skills, experience and certifications. Upon graduation from Unity College and the successful completion of all OB requirements, these students will have the opportunity to begin a career as a lead instructor with Outward Bound.

Imagine the doors this program will open for graduates in adventure education

leadership and in adventure therapy—even in environmental education and in parks, recreation, and ecotourism. It's an opportunity for Unity students unlike any other.

But that's getting ahead of the story. First picture the students as they packed their bags this fall. Tent and sleeping bag: check. The 56-day course requires living where they're learning—in the great outdoors. Food: check. Never mind military-style rations; they're carrying basic, tasty ingredients that can be cooked on the camp stove. Warm, breathable clothing and sturdy footwear: check. This is fall in New England, after all. Towels and toilet paper: check. Most of their campsites have privies, but not showers. All the right gear for outdoor adventures: check and double-check.

Sue Lowley, college director of adventure

which is standard for Unity but a new twist for Outward Bound. Some students will continue for nine more days to gain certification as a wilderness first responder.

Those who go on with summer internships in the instructor development program will have a choice of program location and focus. Traditional wilderness expedition programs, outreach wilderness therapy programs for at-risk and adjudicated youth, and school- and community-based programs are all part of Outward Bound. Work sites stretch from the Florida Keys to the top of Katahdin encompassing the best east coast wilderness areas.

Unity College's affiliation with Outward Bound has proven to be mutually beneficial. HIOBS offers trained instructors, an extended, very real experience in the field



HIOBS students prepare food for their "wilderness America" semester.

experiences and coordinator of the new program, describes the fall course as a sequence of multi-day sections. Students are divided into two groups, with two instructors per group. Reed Kennard '03, outdoor recreation and Outward Bound instructor, is one of those working with students this semester. The course began at the college and then moved to the mountains, rivers, cliffs and coastal islands of Maine and New Hampshire.

At semester's end, the final exam will entail small groups of students planning and making their own five-day expeditions. Each student will receive a letter grade for the course,

and work with group dynamics. Unity, "America's Environmental College," offers a strong environmental education and students who are committed to working with the outdoors.

Like participants in junior year abroad, those in Unity's wilderness America semester will return to college changed in subtle, decisive ways. Perhaps they will even appreciate residence hall life and cafeteria food. Look for young adults to come out of the wild with greater experience, understanding and maturity, and you'll know the immersion experience was education at its best. ♣

BUNNY HUNTERS AN



AND BUNNY HUGGERS

SOME UNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS CALL THEMSELVES VEGETARIANS. OTHERS SAY THEY ARE “FISHETARIANS.” STILL OTHERS FALL INTO THE “HAPPY CARNIVORE” CATEGORY. WHATEVER THEIR PREFERENCE IN CUISINE, THE DINING SERVICE AT UNITY AIMS TO APPEAL TO ALL PALATES, WHICH ISN’T ALWAYS EASY.

Balancing overall nutrition with something for all tastes, addressing philosophical and, in rare cases, even religious preferences among all the individuals served, is a daily challenge facing dining services. It is a challenge accepted and even relished by Dining Center Director Sandy Donahue, Assistant Director of Dining Services Charlie Krause, and their small but productive staff.

By Mark Tardif



Second-year student Justin Merrill, a Maine native and avid hunter, is an unabashed fan of dining services. Often Merrill eats offerings from the student activities center kitchen run by Krause. He finds himself usually choosing healthy, meatless wraps and other meatless fare completely by choice, even though he defines himself as a devoted carnivore. Like many students, Merrill pulls no punches about why he frequently leans towards the meatless offerings: because at Unity, meatless is delicious.

Not only do Donahue and Krause pull off the difficult feat of appealing to the diverse masses, they even approach the selection of ingredients in a way that is in keeping with the sustainable, recyclable, “buy local” and “waste not” philosophy of the College. Everything that can be composted is, meeting with the approval of students who share the common bond of environmental concern whatever their culinary leanings.

Much of the produce is local ... very local. During the school year students oversee the community vegetable garden near the maintenance building on campus, producing onions, garlic, basil and spinach as the main crops that find their way to the tables in the dining center.

Associate Professor Doug Fox noted that during the summer months, a work study student is assigned to oversee the community garden. During the fall semester, Fox and his students completed a “hoop house” adjacent to Koons Hall. He describes the hoop house as being similar to a greenhouse except that the crops, usually vegetables but sometimes flowers and small fruits, are planted directly in the ground. The hoop house provides a layer of plastic that increases the plant and soil temperature equivalent to about one cold-hardiness zone, thus allowing an extended gardening season at both the spring and fall ends of the growing season.

During the fall semester Fox expects to harvest about 40 pounds of kale and salad greens, all destined for the cafeteria. Sharing in the maintenance of the hoop house are students taking various courses such as Plant Health Care, Sustainable Land-



Cafeteria Staff are Clockwise left to right from front: Lorey Duprey, Charlie Krause, John Crosby, Dusty Duncan, Carol Richards, Kim Bowen, Jackie Almeida.

scape Horticulture, Soil Fertility, Herbaceous Ornamental and Produce Gardening. What Fox thinks, and Donahue and Krause confirm, is that such student involvement tends to heighten interest in what is grown and served. The message is when you grow a good item, it becomes less a passing choice in the dining line than an ingredient worthy of notice, enjoyment, and sometimes pride. Both bunny hunters and bunny huggers take courses involving agriculture, thus Donahue and Krause may have the perfect entrée to present broader vegetarian offerings than is common at other colleges.

“I used the first harvest of spinach from the hoop house here at the student activities center to make spinach-stuffed portabella mushrooms,” Krause said. “Because the spinach was no cost to me, the price of the special was low and we sold out immediately. That’s some impact!” Going meatless is, at times, not only good for the body but according to Krause, good for the wallet.

For Donahue and Krause, there are no smoke and mirrors available, but there are creative ways to surprise diners each day. Many devoted meat lovers are enticed by delectable vegetarian dishes that are both healthy and delicious. They might even enjoy a dish that they thought had meat in it, but did not. Gar-



den burgers from the Unity kitchen are sizzling, not dry, and decidedly “un-vegetarian.” The meat lovers might never join the ranks of vegetarians, but at Unity, everyone at some point participates in the joy of eating healthy by choice in a meatless way.

Feedback is an important aspect of the service that Donahue and Krause provide.

“We are an independent system with caring employees,” noted Donahue. “All of our kitchen employees work well as a team, and accomplish an enormous amount of work within their shift. Work-study students are dispersed among the full-time staff and help to pull up the loose ends during busy periods. Despite all the intensity, we have many laughs and truly appreciate each other.”

As for her yearly goals, Donahue works within a budget but still provides a varied menu with multiple entrees and theme dinners once a month. “It is also very important to mingle with students,” she noted. “We make most of our entrées from scratch and receive direct feedback from students.”

Just as Unity students, faculty and staff are passionate about earth-friendly approaches to living and working, so too is Donahue passionate about being true to Unity ideals. “Food should be exciting, nutritious and able to satisfy more than one type of palate,” she explained. “Charlie’s philosophy is always doing your best with whatever you are given. If it’s not good, don’t make it!”

Eating healthy and feeling good about college cuisine never seemed so effortless ... or inclusive. 🐾

Enchilada Casserole

Yield: serves 6

- 1 cup
- 1 can (15 ounce) refried beans
- 4 Corn Tortillas, 6"
- 1 can (4 ounce) chopped green chilis
- 12 ounces shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup

1. Spray Pan. Put half of salsa on the bottom.
2. Cut tortillas into quarters and place over salsa.
3. Layer refried beans, green chilis and half of the grated cheese.
4. Repeat until ingredients are used up leaving enough cheese for top layer.
5. Spread **UNDILUTED** cream of mushroom soup to cover the layers. Top with remaining cheese.
6. Bake at 375° for one hour.

Spinach Ricotta Pie

Yield: serves 8

- Ricotta Cheese16 ozs.
- Fresh eggs2
- Chopped spinach7 ozs.
- Onions1 (small)
- Cheddar cheese, extra sharp3.5 ozs.
- Provolone cheese3.5 ozs.
- Shredded pizza cheese1 OZS
- Granulated saltto taste
- Dried basilto taste
- Pepper dash
- Nutmeg dash
- Unbaked 10" pie shells1 each

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Mix together all ingredients, except mozzarella.
3. Divide into unbaked pie shells.
4. Bake for 25 minutes
5. Remove from oven, spread shredded mozzarella cheese over pie to edges.
6. Return pie to oven and bake an additional 20 minutes.
7. Cut pie into eight slices.

Solving the **Composting Conundrum**

Big to small and in-between, Unity works to find the right solution

By Aimee Phillippi

Goldilocks would have known about compost: not too big, not too small—the middle ground is just right. At least this is what Associate Professor Doug Fox thinks about Unity College's composting needs. In the past, hard-working students have processed the campus' organic waste by hand, turning it over with a pitchfork the same way families do in their small, backyard compost piles. But for the three cubic yards of waste a week generated by the cafeteria and student center, this method is too small and inefficient.

On the other end of the spectrum are industrial composters, investing millions of dollars in infrastructure and equipment. Unity College could send its organic waste to one of these facilities, but Fox believes the campus' composting should be done on-site because it "eliminates two transportation costs" (the waste from moving the compost product from and to the college). A campus site also provides numerous educational opportunities.

Fox's goal is to construct a building with a modest footprint that can accommodate at least eight weeks of the college's compostable waste as well as the equipment needed to manage it.

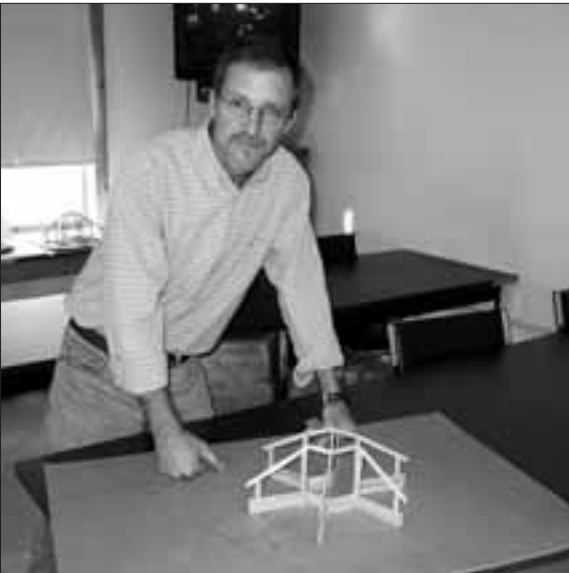
To access a broad range of experience, Fox has teamed up with two Maine companies that know compost. Woods End Research Laboratory in Mt. Vernon consults on compost design and analysis. Will Brinton, President of Woods End, believes in "modern, effective, but low-tech approaches to composting" and has already



designed a facility that has been managing the cafeteria waste of Cape Cod Hill elementary school in New Sharon, Maine for six years. His work on The Cape Cod Hill project resulted in the completion of a 20' x 10' barn design that is completely enclosed, which avoids the problem of rodents. This design does not provide enough room for a skid steer, necessary equipment to turn and move Unity's larger volumes of compost. Brinton says he likes the idea of challenging his sense of design to accommodate Unity's needs.

There are two possible solutions to the need for space. The building could simply be made larger, but the cost for construction would also increase. Alternatively, the bins holding the compost could have one side open externally so that the skid steer can navigate around the outside of the building instead of through it. Open bins may solve one problem, but they create another: wildlife. Animals, especially rodents, are attracted to compost and their access must be controlled.

Rodents have not been an issue for



Left, Doug Fox, associate professor of landscape horticulture inspects Unity's compost through its initial phase. Above, Fox shows a model for the proposed compost facility.

other colleges that Jamie Ecker has helped with food scrap composting. Ecker, Vice President of New England Organics in Falmouth, says other colleges often choose to transport their organic wastes off campus to avoid pest problems. But, “high-tech, centralized composting often doesn’t make sense,” particularly on a college campus, says Ecker.

Ecker’s assessment comes from years of experience. His company operates the Hawk Ridge compost facility in Unity

Township, which composts most of the state’s municipal waste along with other organic wastes. Hawk Ridge was awarded the 2000 Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence and the 2001 EPA National Biosolids Exemplary Management Award.

But, as Ecker explains, the Hawk Ridge model is not the answer for all compost needs. “Full cycle economics need to be considered,” Ecker says.

The near elimination of transport issues makes Unity College’s plan unique and is one of the reasons New England Organics is assisting in the college’s design.

While Ecker’s main concern for Unity’s design is the economic aspect, Brinton is focused on making an attractive and hygienic composting center that people will want to visit. Building it to look like a barn or a stable, Brinton thinks, will make the design more marketable to other groups.

Doug Fox’s preliminary design is less conventional, with bins arranged in a hexagon, radiating from a center area, instead of the traditional rectangular barn shape with bins oriented side by side.

In addition to the actual layout of the building, the type of composting is also being considered. All consultants agree that static piles should be used, but whether or not the piles are aerated is still being debated.

Ultimately, Fox, Brinton, and Ecker all agree that whatever the design, it must be low-tech and focus on biology. Unity College’s design is envisioned to be a model for other mid-sized groups, such as

Why Compost?

Compost is a sustainable method of dealing with much of our organic waste. It is an example of the environmental stewardship ethic Unity College strive to develop in our students. Composting is a biological process where organic wastes (e.g., food scraps, yard trimmings, many paper products) are decomposed into a rich organic humus.

The United States generates about 200 million tons of municipal solid waste yearly. Much of the plastic, metal, glass, and high-grade paper is recycled, but nearly 60% of what remains is compostable. Therefore, composting reduces our landfill input. In addition, the end result of composting is a soil amendment that can be used for gardening and agriculture.

Compost improves overall soil quality, increasing crop yields and resistance to disease while decreasing the need for chemical fertilizers. For Unity College, composting also provides numerous educational opportunities for students interested in the science of composting.

schools, colleges, densely-populated communities, hospitals and prisons who want to recycle their organic waste.

Aimee Phillippi is an adjunct professor in environmental science specializing in marine biology. ✂

BULKING UP

One of the problems yet to be resolved is the bulking agent for the compost. Food scraps high in nitrogen need a high-carbon, low-nitrogen feedstock (e.g., straw, dry leaves, wood chips) to create the right mix. Doug Fox would like the carbon source to be easy

to transport and store, reliable, and something that would otherwise be wasted. Waste hay seems to be a good option, but most of it is in large round bales that need to be chopped. Do you know of the perfect bulking agent? Send your ideas to compost@unity.ed.

in our ELEMENT





A Passion for Falconry

Andrew Fleming '08 brings his bird of prey, national attention to Unity

By Mark Tardif

It is difficult to say exactly when 18-year-old first-year student and Wildlife Biology major Andrew Fleming of Virginia developed his passion for falconry. Growing up, he had always been interested in nature studies and the sciences. During his early teen years, that interest began to focus on the sport of falconry. Since that time and with the support of his father, Michael, Andrew has cultivated his interest in birds of prey. Although he knew this was not a typical teenage hobby, he never expected to make headlines across the United States.

In September, the story of Fleming and his red tailed hawk, Belle, reached a national audience when Associated Press (AP) Correspondent Glenn Adams of the State House office in Augusta, Maine, and AP photographer Robert F. Bukaty, joined Andrew at the site where he is boarding Belle.

Fleming told the reporter that, early on, he learned the sport of falconry was a good deal more complicated than adopting and training a puppy.

The process of becoming a licensed falconer is a multi-year endeavor, whereby experienced falconers accept and guide those who are interested in the sport. The falconry community in the United States is not large by any means; however, falconry associations are common, and those who participate in the sport are licensed at the state and federal level. Fleming is a member of the Virginia Falconry Association, and he joins Maine's 20 licensed falconers.

In October of 2003, after he had completed his training, Andrew joined his father and an expert in the sport of falconry as they set out to gently capture a young bird of prey. They did so atop an isolated hill in the Virginia countryside where hawks were known to hunt. A pigeon served as the bait, and a spring net snared Belle, Andrew's one-and-a-half-year-old red tailed hawk. Belle was healthy, and the capture process went smoothly, except for the fact that Belle managed to claw the falconry expert who'd joined Andrew and his father.

Since her capture, Belle has adapted to life with Andrew, hunting several times a week and always returning to Fleming. "I feed her and she sees me as the constant source of food, so she keeps coming back," he explained.

The bond between falconers and select birds of prey is ancient. The birds depend upon their falconers for their food—often rodents and other small game. Birds with additional dietary needs, such as live fish, are unsuitable since it is difficult for falconers to provide them with a constant food source.

In the middle ages, falconry was considered a sport of kings. Although Fleming is a good deal more down-to-earth than royals, moving to Unity College was a bit more complex for him than most students. First, he and his father traveled in August to the Unity area to scout an area near campus where Belle could live. During that same visit they arranged for a large shelter to be constructed at a lumber yard and then transported to the site several miles from campus and assembled. The second and final trip to Unity included not only all of Andrew Fleming's personal effects, but everything Belle needed as well, which included her perch, water tub, freezer and other creature comforts. Fleming notes that Belle traveled calmly in a special well-ventilated box.

Both Andrew and Belle have settled into their new homes-away-from-home nicely. Fleming has a full life of classes, new friends, the pursuit of new interests and the personal exploration common to the college experience. Belle has molted and is now near her adult weight of 2 ½ pounds. She is visited frequently by Andrew and his friends, and often hunts for rodents and other small game around Unity. She also enjoys a diet of quail that her handler obtains from an out-of-state supplier and meat provided by some of Fleming's hunter-classmates.

The AP story about Belle was picked up by subscriber newspapers nationally, a testament to the power of one young man's connection to a hawk and his commitment to nature. ❧

What to do with a Piece of History

Former White House solar panels have reached their limit. What now?

By Mark Tardif

They were once the centerpiece of a United States energy policy spearheaded in response to a global crisis, now they are the center of a question mark on campus. Since 1992, the Unity College community has admired the array of 16 solar panels atop the dining center. Twelve years after the installation of the solar panels that reliably heated water in the cafeteria, many on campus are unaware that the panels once resided atop the White House and are a part of American history.

During the fall semester, Assistant Professor Mick Womersley, a sustainability expert, confirmed that the solar panels have reached the end of their useful life. The question that Womersley and others on campus are facing is how best to proceed? Adding a layer of complexity is a United States government contract specifying that the panels cannot be sold, confirms Roger Jolin, vice president for finance.

The panels became a part of American history during the oil embargo, when President Jimmy Carter delivered a speech to commemorate their installation atop the White House. Preceding the installation of the solar panels by several years was a groundbreaking energy policy

speech that Carter delivered on April 18, 1977, in which he outlined a new direction for United States energy policy.

Carter frequently spoke of his vision that America invent, discover and use alternative forms of energy to lessen the country's enormous dependence on oil and gas. The panels were affixed to the White House with fanfare in 1979. Within a year President Ronald Regan took the oath of office and suddenly, energy consumption and policy issues were far less important than the "cold war," supporting the Contra rebels in South America, and new military defense systems such as "star wars."

In 1986, the 32 solar panels were removed from the White House. Who ordered them taken down and why remains the stuff of myth. There are rumors on the internet that Attorney General Edwin Meese ordered them taken down because they were not befitting a superpower. Other rumors cite different reasons for the removal of the panels.

The panels were sent to General Services Administration (GSA) warehouse No. 202 in Franconia, Virginia. There they stayed until 1991, when former Unity College Director of Development Peter

Marbach read a magazine article that referred to the warehoused panels.

Marbach contacted former President Carter, who wrote a hand written letter expressing his delight that the panels would once again be used. Though the environmental group Greenpeace, a nemesis of the Reagan administration, had tried to legally obtain the panels for use atop a homeless shelter and been turned down, Marbach set about obtaining the panels and putting them to good use at Unity College.

He wrote the GSA and Maine Bureau of Purchase seeking to obtain the panels. The GSA told Marbach that he could have the panels for a \$500 administrative fee. Funds to restore the panels were obtained from the award-winning screen and stage actress Glenn Close, Maine's Margaret Chase Smith, along with nearly a dozen individuals and corporations.

With final approval came an odyssey during which Marbach removed seats from a former Unity College "school bus" and drove down to pick up the panels in Virginia. By the fall of 1991, the panels were affixed in their current location.

"We would like to retire these panels from active use and instead preserve them as



The Jimmy Carter panels atop the cafeteria heated water for the facility from 1992 until the fall of 2004.

historical artifacts,” Womersley explained. Ideally, Womersley would like to see them raise money to support Unity undergraduate environmental degree programs, and to purchase replacement renewable power systems in wind, modern solar photovoltaic, and modern solar heating.

Womersley knows that many students and other members of the Unity community have a great degree of affection for the panels. Some students recall that seeing the panels atop the cafeteria during a campus tour informed their decision to attend Unity College. Clearly, whatever becomes of the panels, it will be a fate that has taken this affection and representative importance into account.

“With recent improvements in marketing and technology for renewable energy, the Jimmy Carter panels are no longer capable of contributing to energy efficiency on campus, but they are capable of continuing to provide education, memory, and inspiration both here and elsewhere in the nation,” noted Womersley.

Though no final decisions have been made, Womersley is proposing that Unity provide at least one panel, set up as a display with historical information, to the Smithsonian Institution. Other panels would be offered to the Carter Center or Carter Library, distributed to important centers for sustainability and energy education, given as gifts to major donors, or

sold to collectors to raise money for student projects.

While questions still remain regarding what the College can legally do with the panels to benefit sustainability projects, programs, and historical concerns, what is not in question is the important link that the panels provide to a time when America’s energy policy took a front-and-center place in the Oval Office. One has to wonder when such a time of environmental concern and policy leadership at the Presidential level will return.

If you are interested in the Jimmy Carter Solar Panels, please call the Office of College Advancement at (207) 948-3131 ext. 302 or email mwomersley@unity.edu. ❧

More than **a Big Fish Story**

Event offers students, parents a chance to get to know Unity and each other.

By Kathy Glenn-Lewin

Dads were fishing. Moms were fishing. Kid brothers were fishing, too. They were all participating in the second annual Unity College “Fishing for Scholarships” tournament on August 1. It was a day of stormy weather and high spirits, a day of fishing with one’s favorite student in hopes of hauling in a “scholarship fish.”

There was Mike Bradford ’07 and his dad, William, from Bear, Delaware. Mike caught two scholarship fish in the tourney last year. This year it was Dad who landed the tagged fish for a Unity College scholarship of \$1,100.

There was Glen Lucas ’07 and his dad, also Glen, from Bridgewater, New Hampshire. For the second year running, the two of them fished from an incredibly beautiful cedar-strip canoe built by father and son.

There was All-American cross-country runner Stephanie Aten ’07 and her mom, Ruth, from Ashland, Ohio. Steph’s participation landed her a \$250 scholarship from Webber Energy Fuels, won in a drawing at tourney’s end.

There was Tyler Evans ’07, fishing with his little brother, Jim, from Dummerston, Vermont. Tyler, known as a major outdoorsman, even gave Jim his personal 2004 Fishing for Scholarships T-shirt.

And there were scores of incoming freshmen. Fully three-fourths of the incoming 190-member class cast their line. When they weren’t casting, they were meeting and choosing college roommates, beginning friendships, establishing reputations, and taking measure of their college professors. Parents who brought books, intending to sit and read lakeside, never turned a page. Instead they shared stories and interests with other parents.

Fishing for Scholarships is the only event of its kind in the country. It gives Unity students the chance to win tuition scholarships worth hundreds and thousands of dollars, either by catching tagged fish or through drawings and raffles.

Last year, competitors were allowed to take a relative or a friend out on the water, but only to provide paddle power. This time

students were encouraged to bring someone to fish with and for them, and most did. About 300 people (161 students, plus fishing partners) came from 15 states to ply the waters of Unity Pond. They came from near—all the Northeastern states—and as far as Florida, Alabama, Virginia and Ohio.

Joe Saltalamachia, tournament creator/coordinator and associate director of admissions, says that the change to allowing family members to fish wasn’t planned; it evolved. It was a way to increase the odds of tagged fish being caught. And, as Saltalamachia says, “sharing the outdoors with anybody is a great thing.”

And it was a neat way for families to log some quality time together before the kids headed off to school. “This weekend was one of the best times my daughter and I have had together in a long time,” said James Robertson of Bozrah, Connecticut, who fished with his incoming daughter, Jessica ’08. “We had a great time creating memories that will last a lifetime.”

Peter Chornyak of Greenfield, Massachusetts, concurred. “I want to let you know that my son Josh, wife Suzanne and I had a great time at this event. It allowed us the opportunity to meet fellow Unity parents, Josh to meet classmates, and to get a general feeling of life at Unity—all very positive. The event was well-organized and was lots of fun.”

Although there were few tagged catches this year, more than 70 prizes were distributed by day’s end, including 15 scholarships ranging in size from \$75 to \$1,100. Seven of the scholarships were sponsored by mid-Maine businesses. Other prizes won in raffles and drawings included fly rods and reels, cross-country skis, outdoor adventure packages, books, gift certificates, and outdoor apparel. These, too, were donated by area businesses and college departments.

In all, the tourney was a striking example of the college’s commitment to supporting and enriching students’ lives. More than 45 volunteers from Unity College, the town of Unity, and beyond worked to make it happen. ❧



Despite some inclement weather, about 300 people participated in this year's Fishing for Scholarships tournament.

Second Annual Unity College Fishing for Scholarships Tournament

Tagged Fish

\$1,100 scholarship

Mike Bradford '07, Bear, Del.

\$250 scholarship

A.J. Ludden '08, Jackson, Maine

Bass Catches

\$450 scholarship, biggest bass (20 inches)

Gordon MacKay '08, Indian Springs, Ala.

\$225 scholarship, five largest bass (78 inches total)

Nathan Olson '08, Brownfield, Maine

\$75 scholarship, smallest bass (5.5 inches)

Linda Snow '06, Amston, Conn.

Drawings Awards

\$1,000 scholarship

Bruce Currie '08, Hodgdon, Maine

\$1,000 scholarship

Matt Pawlikowski '06, Rome, N.Y.

\$500 scholarship

Charlie Alves '08, Marshfield, Mass.

(No winners in 4-yr, 1-yr, or \$5,000 scholarship drawings)

Sponsored Scholarships

\$250 from Webber Energy Fuels (Bangor)

Stephanie Aten '07, Ashland, Ohio

\$100 from Central Maine Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation (Waterville)

Ben Giroux '08, Brunswick, Maine

\$100 from Crosstrax (Unity)

William Calkins '08, Plainville, N.Y.

\$100 from Maroon Insurance Agency (Waterville)

Steven Guilmette '05, Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.

\$100 from Ridgetop Restaurant (Knox)

Adam Ruff '05, Windsor Locks, Conn.

\$100 from St. Croix Credit Union (Unity)

Michelle Gates '08, Rockville, Md.

\$100 from Town & Country, REALTORS (Unity/Pittsfield)

Charlie Alves '08, Marshfield, Mass.

New & Noteworthy

Twenty faculty members are currently serving as sponsors of student interns all over the country. Many faculty are also conducting scholarly research, developing new courses, and participating community service work. Here's some of what they've been up to.

New faces at Unity

In August, Waterville, Maine resident **Mark Tardif** and Albion, Maine native **Kate Grenier**, were appointed to posts



within the offices of college advancement. Tardif will serve as associate director of college communications and

Grenier as alumni officer. Previously Tardif served as public relations officer at Thomas College. He holds a bachelor of science in English from Northeastern University, a master of arts in teaching and english education from Boston University and a master of science in computer technology education from Thomas College. Grenier holds a bachelor of arts degree in international affairs from the University of Maine in Orono. While at the University of Maine, she worked for the alumni association with primary duties in the area of phonathon planning and implementation.

Noteworthy Work

Professor **Chris Marshall** is interviewing residents of the Unity wetlands area to document local places considered worthy of preservation.

Assistant Professor **Mac McInnes** has been administering the new immersion semester for the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School.

Associate Professor **Robin Lowe** is completing a 40-piece exhibit of her artwork for shows in Indiana.

Nancy Ross submitted a paper to the *Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior* based on her advocacy course and the research students did to bring local food into the cafeteria. She is also writing a paper on the community-based marketing strategies of Maine farmers.

Associate Professor **Amy Arnett** and Associate Professor **Emma Creaser** just returned from the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. Arnett is working with students on research: **Jason Reynolds '05** (purple loosestrife competition) and **Laura Plourde '05** (ant diversity). Arnett had a paper accepted by the *Journal of Biological Control* and is writing two papers, one about biological control of thistles for the ecology journal *Oikos* and one about fly behavior to be submitted to the *Journal of Insect Behavior*.

Associate Professor **Pat Stevens** is working on two minors for the Conservation Law Enforcement (CLE) Program: Marine LE and Environmental LE.

Professor **Dave Potter** participated in a panel at the Maine Congress of Lake Association's annual meeting.

Assistant Professor **Mick Womersley**

just returned from a meeting of the International Society for Ecological Economics, where he gave a presentation on sustainability and international security issues and sought out support and funding leads for our sustainability program.

Associate Professor **Amy Arnett** and Assistant Professor **Doug Van Horn** attended a workshop on project-based service learning. They are adding a service component to their already interdisciplinary algebra-biology course. Their assessment data show student satisfaction with this integrated approach. Arnett and Van Horn also attended a workshop on using technology for lab data collection and analysis.

Associate Professor **Pat Clark** established a very well-received *Speaker Up!* program locally (SAD #3), which taught junior high students the basics of persuasive speech.



Associate Professors **Chris Beach, Pam Proulx-Curry, John Zavodny**, and Assistant Professor **Nancy Ross** attended the Maine Campus Compact's Engaged Department Conference. They hope to further integrate service learning into the core curriculum.



Associate Professor **Mick Womersley** is developing a program for team-teaching in the core curriculum. They have worked out a way to team teach that does not increase teaching credit loads.

Assistant Professor **Tom Mullin** is developing a new course in ecotourism development.

Associate Professor **Pat Clark**, Professor **Jim Horan**, Professor **Chris Marshall**, Associate Professor **Pam Proulx-Curry**, Associate Professor **Jim Reed**, and Associate Professor **John Zavodny** held a planning workshop on campus to refine The Unity Experience course. UE is designed to orient students to college life in general and Unity College in particular. Its major themes are personal development, community engagement and environmental stewardship. This fall, the course will include academic advising.

Associate Professor **Chris Beach** and Assistant Professor **Tom Mullin** are developing a new course in “non-formal education methods.”

Associate Professor **Pam Poulx-Curry** is restructuring the organic chemistry labs to include a green chemistry approach, which uses reagents that are either non-toxic or of the lowest possible toxicity and that produce little to no toxic waste. They will create a lab manual.



Quimby Leads

On November 19, the WE Lead Program, a women’s environmental leadership organization at Unity College, hosted a distinguished speaker series presentation by Burt’s Bees Co-Founder Roxanne Quimby. Quimby, head of the newly founded Keep ME (Maine) Beautiful land trust, gave a presentation discussing her story of personal growth as a woman concerned with the wise stewardship of environmental resources. Quimby set forth a bold vision for preserving Maine’s environment through the acquisition of significant natural, agricultural, and scenic areas in order to allow diverse ecosystems an opportunity to return to natural patterns of diversity. She is also currently working on a system of trails in Maine’s wilderness named the Thoreau Trails.

Assistant Professor, **Mick Womersley** is developing on-campus renewable power demonstrations.

Assistant Professor **Kate Miles** served as director of the first annual Unity College Environmental Writing Retreat, which drew participants from across the country.

Tom Mullin was on the awards committee for the National Association for Interpretation’s 2004 awards program. He also is serving on the media awards committee for the Association as a judge for the poster and audio programs categories. ❧

UNITY COLLEGE ANNUAL REPORT

2003-2004

The college's fiscal year ends in June of each year, and June 2004 ended with the college being in the best financial condition it has ever seen. We ended the year with a balanced budget; we invested in the plant and endowment; the net worth of the college grew by about 10%; and our endowment grew to approximately 2.4 million dollars. These results were due to a combination of strong enrollment, careful financial management of the college and significant private gifts. Private support for the college is critical to its success and growth.

During the 2003-2004 year, the college received \$735,000 in private gifts and pledges, a 46% increase over the prior year. Among these gifts, the settlement of the Barbara Piel estate placed \$457,000 into the college's endowment. Gifts totaling about \$40,000 have been made for a new climbing wall, including a gift of \$35,000 from Henry and Lois Willard, in memory of their son Steven, who was an alumnus of the college. Gifts amounting to about \$80,000, including a major donation of \$75,000 from Charlie and Arlene Schaefer, have enabled the college to renovate Constable Hall.

The Unity Foundation provided \$40,000 so that the college could install a "smart card" system for student purchases, which allows students now to choose from multiple meal plans, and which will serve as a purchasing card for the book store, student center, and other places on campus. The Unity Foundation also made an award of \$12,500 to aid the college's conversion to a wireless computing system. The momentum of private giving has continued into the beginning of the new 2004-2005 year.

The college's physical plant also saw some important improvements during 2003-2004. We undertook a major renovation of Constable Hall, the original farmhouse that served as the home for the Constable family at the time that the family donated the farm to become the campus of the college. Wood Hall was refurbished with new lighting and a new look inside. The lower level of the Dorothy Quimby Library was completely remodeled to house the Learning Resource Center. We also expanded the fitness space in the Activities Building.

It is obvious that the year 2003-2004 was a very good one for Unity College. At the end of June 2004, the college found itself in its best condition ever. Taking off from the momentum, the new 2004-2005 year promises similar strides.

David Glenn-Lewin
President

NORTH WOODS SOCIETY

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