

Unity

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The Magazine of Unity College

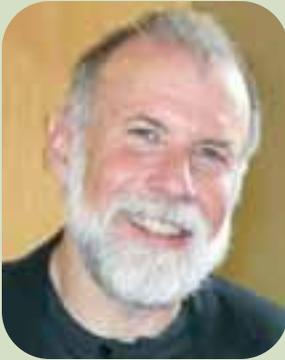
A New Era Begins

Inauguration of Dr. Mitchell Thomashow

Unity Signs Climate Commitment

Brand New Brookies!

Message from the President



“There’s Something Happening Here...”

Last March, I did a significant amount of traveling. I spent more time than anyone would like in our nation’s airports. When I travel, I enjoy browsing the periodicals at newsstands. This time, I noticed something remarkable. Several dozen magazines had special issues on some theme related to sustainability and/or climate change. Mainstream business magazines like *The Economist*, *Business Week*, and *Fortune* had special sections on the business of sustainability. Even *Sports Illustrated* had an essay on how climate change will impact the future of sports, with an accompanying article on how sports stadiums of the future could be more sustainable!

Meanwhile the Bank of America Corporation announced “a \$20 billion initiative to support the growth of environmentally sustainable business activity to address global climate change. Bank of America’s ten-year initiative encourages development of environmentally sustainable business practices through lending, investing, philanthropy and the creation of new products and services.”

Goldman Sachs launched a new environmental initiative “requiring its 24,000 employees to promote eco-friendly practices and would encourage its own clients -- which include paper companies, refineries and auto manufacturers -- to use “appropriate safeguards” to protect the environment.”

Other multinational corporations announced programs as well, including United Technologies, which has already visited the Unity College campus.

I’ve been a student and a practitioner in the Environmental Studies field since 1969 when I first discovered the *Whole Earth Catalog* on the shelves of the 8th Street Bookstore in Greenwich Village. I’m old enough to remember the publication of *Silent Spring* (1962). I’ve studied conservation and environmental issues since I’ve been old enough to read and write.

Guess what? In all those years (almost fifty now if you allow me to go back all the way to 1957) I’ve never seen anything quite like this. The public awareness of sustainability is at an all time high and it’s not just a grassroots phenomenon. You’ve got businesses, insurance companies, state governments (like California and Maine), college and university leaders, and some very prominent politicians (both Democrat and Republican) who are starting to grasp an essential point. Climate change is real. It threatens the economic security of our children and grandchildren. There is great business opportunity in crafting solutions, mitigations, and remediations of this problem.

In June, I was in Washington at the first meeting of The President’s Climate Commitment Challenge. Unity College is a charter signatory of a document pledging campuses to carbon neutrality. Indeed, I am on the Steering Committee of this organization. I urge you to read our charter statement (page 22). Please do visit the website and check out all of the other colleges and universities that are behind this effort.

Unity College is a small environmental college in rural Maine. But we can have a big regional impact in promoting “frugal sustainability,” in broadening the constituency for conservation, and in making our campus and community a living laboratory for environmental learning. Our mission statement boldly claims that “Unity College graduates are prepared to be environmental stewards, effective leaders, and responsible citizens through active learning experiences within a supportive community.”

Perhaps I reveal too much of my sixties roots in referring to a Buffalo Springfield song. But there is something happening here, and I’ll change the lyric and suggest “what it is” is exactly clear. The door is opening. It’s time for everyone associated with Unity College and everyone who cares about the future of the planet to walk through it.

Mitchell Thomashow
President, Unity College

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90 Quaker Hill Road
Unity, Maine 04988
207-948-3131 (all departments)
www.unity.edu

Editors

Mark Tardif

Graphic Design

Pica Design, LLC

Editorial Assistants

Kate Grenier
Cynthia Schaub
Reeta Oun
Susan Fedoush

Photography

Mark Tardif
Jim Evans, Chief Photographer, Central Maine Newspapers
John David Learning '78, Central Maine Newspapers
Peter Finger Photography
Travis Barrett

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Cover Photo

A new era at Unity College officially began with the Inauguration of President Mitchell Thomashow on April 15 at the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts.

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There is More to a Carbon Footprint than the Size of the Shoe

By Amy Knisley, *Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor*
Emma Creaser

We enjoyed reading our colleague Associate Professor John Zavodny's commentary entitled "The Good News and the Bad News of Environmentalism" in the Spring issue of the magazine. Like all good philosophy professors, he raised provocative and important questions, and this one in particular caught our attention: Is there a place for children in environmentalism? Zavodny explained why choosing *not* to have children may be the right environmental choice. As two professors ourselves—a biologist and a philosopher—who are both moms with environmental outlooks, we appreciate the chance to explain why having kids is not only OK from an environmental point of view, it might be one of the best environmental decisions a person can make.

Many Factors Involved

Zavodny pointed out, quite rightly, that having a child increases one's ecological footprint by adding a tiny new pair of feet to the picture. But determination of ecological footprint is based on many variables, and choosing to have, or not have, a child is just one among many choices affecting the size of one's footprint. Consider, for instance, choices of transportation. Nearly all of us have to get from one place to another on a daily basis—do we walk, bike, ride the bus, drive a car,

take a plane? Based on one popular footprint calculator, hosted by www.footprintnetwork.org out of California, we learned that a person in a household of three and traveling by airplane 10 hours per year, has a considerably smaller footprint than a person in a household of two, traveling by plane 25 hours per year. In other words, the footprint impact of that additional person is more than offset by the impact of 15 hours per year of flying. And transportation is only one variable to consider—housing, diet, and purchasing habits are three other important aspects of the footprint over which many of us have some degree of control. Based on a British government footprint calculator the cost of a child can be offset by recycling glass bottles or not going on holiday every year. All of this helps to explain why large families living in most parts of the world outside the U.S. and Canada tend to have smaller footprints than small families, or even individuals, living inside those two countries.

This leads to another point to consider. Choosing not to have children tends to increase the number of individuals or couples living by themselves, which probably is not the best way to minimize our impact on the environment. The same number of people living together in large groups, in one building or complex of buildings, will tend to result in a much more efficient use of resources. This suggests that a return to the social norm of a few decades ago, of having extended families living together, would be a good environmental move. In fact, it is still a normal social structure in many countries, countries whose per capita footprint tends to be much smaller than ours in America.

Beyond "Footprints"

Moving beyond the footprint question, from a biological angle not reproducing defeats the purpose of life. Natural selection only functions up and through reproduction. We exist to pass on our genes to our offspring. This is why such genetic

dominant conditions such as Huntington's disease are not weeded out by natural selection. That is to say that even though Huntington's disease can destroy your nervous system, which is of course bad; symptoms typically appear in your 30's and 40's. Given that until not too long ago the average life expectancy was 30 – 40 years of age (and still is not much more than that in some countries), you might well have married, had children, fought and died before any symptoms appeared. Of course we have much more to offer than this: wisdom, knowledge, care and affection to name but a few of our gifts. But, few studies document cases of altruism among animal species. Altruism appears to be a mainly human condition and even there we take advantage of each other's wisdom far less often than we could and should.

In addition to the scientifically-grounded points concerning ecological footprints and evolutionary theory, there are important qualitative (why and how of decision making) benefits of having children. Human children are programmed to learn, and so constantly inquire and question. Emma's 5-year-old daughter Alex demands to know "why?" about everything. Amy's not-quite one-year old Phoebe wants to reach, touch, and so "understand" every new object in her path. Their constant inquiry and discovery leads us to reexamine our understanding of things we've taken for granted. Alex wants to know why she can't "replant" a flower by sticking it back into the ground after she's picked it? Why her tomato plants haven't made tomatoes yet? Does that chicken on her dinner plate really come from the "chicken bird"? And when Phoebe reaches for the raspberry bush every time we walk past, gibbering excitedly, it's a reminder about the precious value of good, local food, especially food a person can gather fresh for herself. Because we make the major decisions for daughters—about what they eat and wear, where they go and how they spend their time, we have constant opportunities to educate them and

ourselves about environmentally friendly options. Cloth, disposable, or no diapers at all? Walk, drive, or bicycle with the baby in a bike trailer?

Doing the Right Thing

A natural outcome of this questioning and learning is motivation to do the right thing environmentally. It's just more fun to ride your bike or learn about local wildlife habitat with a very excited young companion. Motivation is also strengthened by a renewed interest in the future, as a parent considers not only her own lifetime, but her child's as well. The meaning of "future generations" is made direct and palpable in a new way. When we were children, "global warming" wasn't a general topic of conversation—the big worry for us was "the bomb." Every now and again a peace group would move the second hand of the clock counting down to nuclear Armageddon a second closer to midnight. But now "global climate change," "loss of the rainforests," and "melting of the polar icecaps" are familiar phrases. While the threat of nuclear war remains, great progress was made during the latter part of the 20th century to come to terms with it, and to contain it. Will our daughters be able to look back on the first half of the 21st century as a time of coming to terms with environmental challenges, and take comfort in successful efforts to meet those challenges? We can all ask this question, whether or not we're parents—and it certainly packs a punch when you ask it with your own young child squarely in mind.

When Zavodny asked his provocative question about the place of children in environmentalism, it was as an example of a broader question—is there a place for hope, for optimism, in environmentalism? He did not claim to answer that question, just to raise it, and we're glad that he did. Our answer is a definitive "Yes!" It's a platitude that "in children is hope for the future," but like many platitudes this one contains a kernel of truth. That kernel is not the

anticipation that our children will solve today's problems tomorrow. Rather, in our children we find wellsprings of hope for our own lives, our own dreams and dogged efforts to make those dreams come true. The "bad news" of environmentalism is to say "no" to things we enjoy and are accustomed to, from coffee in Styrofoam cups to children. This is a powerful pessimism, based usually in worry and fear, and although hard it sometimes is true. But the "good news," at least as true as the bad, is that we can—and perhaps should—say "yes" to those things in life that revive our excitement about life itself. In fact, there's more than "room" for optimism and hope, there's a need for it, and having children is one way to meet that need. Environmentalism has many faces, and comes in many shapes and sizes, including the shape and size of tiny new footprints.



Exploring the "New Math" of Consumer Energy: An Open Mind and Commitment to Change Holds Promise for Easing Oil Dependence

By Mick Womersley,
*Associate Professor and
Director of Sustainability*

Now that the sustainability / climate change movement has begun to capture the American public's imagination and interest, how many people have really realized that what it means is reducing climate emissions

by reducing fossil fuel usage, and how simple and straightforward and on-the-shelf doing that really is? There's no real need to wait for Congress to pass a law or raise a gas tax, or for someone to come up with a new technology. The time is right to take a bite out of the fuel economy.

Don't get me wrong. I like laws. After all, I teach environmental policy, and I have been waiting for this moment in time for something like twenty years. I like technology and believe it holds great promise for providing long-term energy solutions. The various and competing new laws on carbon taxation and carbon trading slowly working their way through Congress will help. But they will do so indirectly, in the same way that Sputnik helped put a man on the moon, or that automobiles enabled the American suburb.

Oil at the current (and steady) \$70 a barrel is no bargain. It means high-priced home heating oil, upwards of \$2.50 a gallon likely this winter. Gas is already pretty steady at three bucks a pop in Maine. It won't take much to make it \$3.50 this fall, most likely right around Thanksgiving when we are all rushing to go see Grandma.

At that price, you can't afford NOT to put in that new woodstove, or consider buying that fuel-efficient car.

As I write this the State of Maine Governor's office and the Town of Belfast, among other worthy organizations, are promoting a new Maine business: a dealership for electric cars. It's sad that folks are so math-phobic that this business needs to be promoted at public expense, but hopefully that penny is starting to drop. Do the math.

It's Easier to Conserve than You Think

If you are paying, say, \$3 a gallon to get 15 miles per gallon highway mileage in your good old piece of Detroit iron, then how many miles do you need to do before you've made the payment on that Prius (hybrid)?

If you drive the national average of

(very roughly) fifteen thousand miles a year, at 15 miles a gallon, that's 1,000 gallons of gas, which costs \$3,000 or \$250 a month. If you can double your gas mileage by adding a small car to your fleet and using it regularly, then you've saved \$125-a-month. That's easily the payment on a small, fuel-efficient, secondhand car. You don't even have to get the oh-so-fashionable Prius, which is almost impossible to find secondhand. You can buy a Hyundai, or a Mini, or even buy, brand new, one of the smart new electric cars, which will retail for between \$8 and \$10K. Keep Detroit for when you need it, taking those six dogs to the vet, or running the soccer team around. You don't need it just to get yourself to work.

Or sell the piece of iron, and you can buy the Prius.

A similar economy exists in home heating. How many inflated home heating bills does it take to pay for an insulation retrofit, or a new heating system, or both?

If you are sitting in a drafty old Maine house, with the typically poor doors, windows, and insulation that all drafty old Maine houses have, your money is literally leaking out into the cold winter night, ten-dollar bills at a time.

Do yourself a big favor and get a contractor to come look at it. Or go to a box store and buy a few big bags of insulation and have fun installing it yourself. Your efforts will likely pay for themselves in three years or less. The return on this investment in terms of heating bills defrayed will likely be a good deal more than the interest payments needed to finance it, if you don't happen to have the loose change lying around and need to put it on your plastic. If you do have the savings, it will work harder for you as new insulation or windows in the house than it will in the savings bank at five percent interest. And right now there's a hefty federal tax credit for these kinds of improvements.

In combination, your overall lifestyle might be leaking money to the four winds, from the car AND the house. My partner and I were able to pay for a good part of the mortgage on our house with the combined vehicle fuel and home heating economy we achieved when we bought the place (fifteen miles closer to work) and renovated it. We're almost, but not quite, getting the place for free, in the economic sense.

If you can't do the energy savings math yourself, try to find someone who can, a buddy, or one of the emerging professionals in this field.

New "Sustainability" Graduates Will Help

Pretty soon, pending trustee and faculty approval, Unity College will offer a degree program designed to train general sustainability professionals. Individuals who earn this new Bachelor of Science degree in Sustainability Design and Technology will have the comprehensive skill set to address complex (and easy) energy savings problems. These graduates will offer their skills to benefit households, city and state government, small business and probably even big business too.

Economists like to say that you don't leave hundred dollar bills lying on the ground because someone will always come by and pick them up. You don't need to be a convinced green to begin to realize how economically silly it is to keep paying to waste energy, when you can pay less to conserve it.

By insulating and sealing, along with switching to wood (the best biofuel) and Maine-made green power, my partner and I reduced the climate emissions from our farmhouse to only 20% of what the previous occupants produced. Our own vehicle emissions dropped 50% since we moved closer to work. Big results often result from small, fairly easy steps.

Our journey to energy efficiency improvement was just that simple.

Continuing Down the Road to Energy Efficiency

We still have plans to improve on our energy consumption. We could easily commute to work in an electric car, if one were available that was legal for regular Maine roads. That car will be available in 2008, according to Governor John Baldacci's office.

There is also a new wind turbine available that will offset up to four hundred kilowatt hours a month of electricity, if you have the wind. On our breezy farm in rural Maine, we may indeed have the wind. I plan to take measurements this coming year and find out.

So the penny must drop soon. It's easy and fun to get out your pencil and calculator to start figuring out how you can finally afford that green lifestyle you have always (or recently) wanted. There is no need to wait for Congress to pass a law.

But what will Al Gore do for a gig when the public finally realizes that much of what we need to do in terms of sustainability and climate change mitigation can be implemented by plumbers, electricians, building contractors and car salesmen today? Everyone can take important steps to conserve energy by becoming educated consumers. As more people start educating themselves about ways to conserve energy all of a sudden sustainability becomes a bit more workaday, a bit more prosaic, a little less daunting.

Americans shouldn't be afraid of doing a little math and embracing steps to conserve energy.

Given that some may still be afraid of these simple changes, I think Al might still have a job to do for a while yet. Still, the future is now for those who want to stop scattering so much of our treasure to the winds with each barrel of oil purchased ... or tank of gas filled.



Toxic chemicals inside us are a nightmare we can end. Hazardous substances found in Mainers should arouse government to remove the health threats.

(Portland Press Herald / Maine Sunday Telegram, July 22, 2007)

Nancy Ross,
Associate Professor of
Environmental Policy at
Unity College

Toxic chemicals lurk within innocent people. This isn't the tagline of a horror movie or summer science fiction.

It's "Body of Evidence," an analysis by the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine of pollution in the bodies of 13 Mainers who generously consented to publicize the results.

The 71 chemicals the study measured don't come from terrorist poisonings or toxic spills. Much worse. They're in everyday household products and in our food, air and water.

Phthalates in perfume and baby toys: Phthalates are used to soften plastics, including baby toys. They also permeate personal care products, labeled as "fragrance" in perfume, hair spray, deodorant, nail polish and soap. Minute levels of phthalates have been statistically linked to sperm damage in men and genital changes in fetuses.

"Body of Evidence" found that frequent perfume users Vi Raymond of Winthrop,

Hannah Pingree of North Haven and Paulette Dingley of Auburn had twice the national median level of phthalates.

Brominated flame retardants in dust: These retardants, called PBDEs, are added to TV and other electronic casings and to upholstery, curtains and other fabrics. From there they leach into air, food and household dust -- and into people and wildlife. Studies in lab animals show harm to memory, learning and behavior from low levels of PBDEs.

Lauralee Raymond, Vi's daughter, also from Winthrop, and Bette Kettell of Durham had total PBDE levels above the median found in 62 women from California and Indiana.

Mercury in fish: Mercury comes in products like fluorescent bulbs and thermostats, but most mercury in Maine arrives airborne from coal-fired power plants. It's washed into streams and lakes and builds in the food chain -- with exposures highest for people who eat lots of fish such as tuna.

Mercury hurts brains, particularly developing brains of fetuses and children. Even at low levels, exposure in the womb leads to deficits in memory, attention and motor control.

Pingree, Lauralee Raymond and Elise Roux of Windham, all of childbearing age and frequent eaters of fish high on the food chain, had mercury levels twice the national median.

WHAT TO DO?

In the environmental policy classes I teach, the first question students ask when we look at toxics in everyday products is "How can I lower my risk?"

It's a teachable moment. Sure, you can search the Internet for deodorant without phthalates and stop eating big fish, but how do you avoid household dust?

After reflection, students usually argue for an approach known as the precautionary principle: We don't know for sure the effects of toxic chemicals in our bodies. But we do know that what we don't know can

hurt us. And we shouldn't have to live in a world any more dangerous than it has to be.

Maine families have thousands of chemicals to worry about aside from those sampled in "Body of Evidence" -- chemicals whose effects on human health are suspect or unknown. The solution to toxic chemicals in our bodies and our children's bodies isn't careful consumption. This is the time and place for government action to protect us.

FEDERAL FAILURE, STATE PROMISE

Unfortunately, the federal regulatory system treats chemicals as innocent until proven guilty. In 30 years, only six chemicals have been banned of the 80,000 in use in homes and workplaces. Only 10 percent have been tested for safety.

If the feds can't do it, you may ask, how can the states?

Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis said the states are laboratories of democracy. That was good advice 75 years ago and it's good policy today.

California requires labeling of carcinogens. Washington State has phase-out plans for chemicals with long lives in the environment and humans.

Maine's record on toxic-chemical reduction to date is good. We've banned many products containing mercury, lead and arsenic. A new law requires safer alternatives to PBDEs. A Governor's Task Force on Safer Chemicals will make recommendations this fall on a comprehensive chemical policy.

Your support of a solution can make it happen. Call on your state legislators (federal, too):

- *To require safety of all chemicals;*
- *To require full health and safety information for all chemicals;*
- *To support research and development of safer alternatives.*

These policies will not only end our toxic nightmare but provide incentives for a "green chemistry" marketplace to flourish.



Medicine man

WITH A MISSION

By Craig Crosby,

Staff Writer, Central Maine Newspapers

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Unity - Leslie Wood's personal vision quest took her from Kentucky to Pleasant Point to learn the traditional medicines of the Passamaquoddy Indians, but after receiving a sub-zero reception, Wood was ready to leave empty handed.

While standing in a museum, however, Wood felt the tap on her shoulder that would change her life. Within weeks she would be working side by side with Passamaquoddy medicine man Fredda Paul and would soon be his wife.

Paul, a Passamaquoddy elder from the Pleasant Point reservation, and Wood, an artist and writer from Kentucky, have worked together since that meeting in 2002, preserving the tribe's vanishing knowledge of healing with native plants.

"My previous engagement to marry an oncologist was superseded by finding a real medicine man," Wood told a gathering of students and faculty at last week's seminar on Passamaquoddy medicine plants.

Wood, a former art teacher, discovered natural healing in the course of a revolt against the side effects of Western medicine she took for a series of illnesses. Wood had already written a book on the natural medicines of Kentucky when she felt an unexplained compulsion to repeat the effort for Maine's Passamaquoddy.

"I had an epiphany to go and write down the Passamaquoddy (traditions)," Wood said. "I was possessed."

That possession found an outlet in Paul, whose drive to keep the

knowledge alive is fueled by the memory of his dead grandmother, who taught Paul much of what he knows of the ancient medicine practices.

"It's my grandmother's request," he said. "I have to follow that request. If I don't, I dishonor her. Before she died, she said, 'Well, grandson, it is up to you now to pass this on.'"

SHARING HIS CONVICTION

Paul has traveled all over the country telling others what he knows -- he has even spoken at Harvard Medical School -- but in Wood he found a companion who not only shares his conviction, but who has the talent to put the knowledge in writing.

"Fredda has some gifts that are amazing," Wood said.

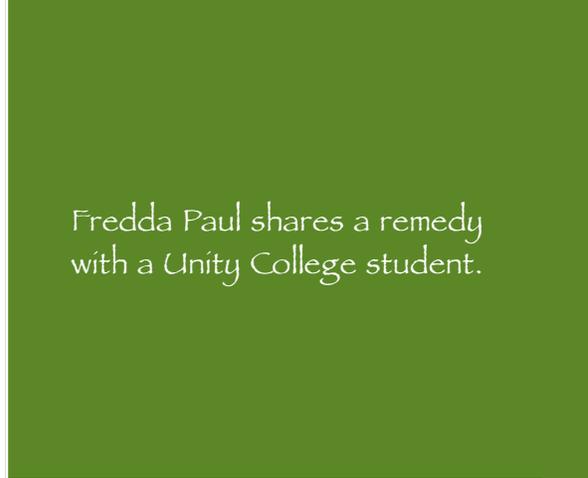
Paul had expected Wood's arrival for years. A shaman spirit had told him of her long before she ever arrived at Pleasant Point, Paul said. He knew, as he walked into the museum that day, that he would ask her to be his apprentice.

Wood was not so sure.

"I said no because I didn't want people to think I was stealing the ancient ways," she said.

Paul's gift of healing, and the continued encouragement of other elders in the tribe, soon changed Wood's mind.

Paul, now in his 60's, said he was kidnapped as a toddler and spent most of his first 13 years in Indian Residential School in Canada.



Freda Paul shares a remedy with a Unity College student.

When he was found and returned home, he longed to learn the language and traditions of the Passamaquoddy to define his place in the world.

His grandmother, who had learned plant medicine during a time when native ways were despised or forbidden, was eager to be the teacher. She would sketch plants for Paul and send him into the woods to find them.

But she did more than provide the knowledge, she passed along her spirit, Paul said. Ideas for medicines come to him in his dreams. In a gathering, Paul said he often knows if someone is sick before he meets them. He described a detailed vision of a man coming to him for help with colon cancer. Years later, such a man appeared.

"It scares me sometimes when these things happen," Paul said.

PRESERVING THE HERITAGE

Some of the knowledge passed down to Paul dates back 12,000 years, Wood said, but now the stories and traditions are being pushed aside and the knowledge of native medicine is on the verge of being lost forever. Natural medicines are being ignored in favor of Western science.

"That's the tragedy," Wood said. "They're losing this part of their culture."

Unwilling to let them die quietly, Wood and Paul are on a mission to document and pass along the traditions and knowledge. They

have created a newsletter, Npisun Harvest News, which is dedicated to preserving the heritage of traditional medicine through words, pictures, and interviews with other tribal members.

Paul and Wood speak at dozens of venues each year, often including a nature walk, and first came to Unity College last year -- the college will award him an honorary doctorate in botany during this spring's graduation. While stressing that the plants they talk about should never be used without qualified supervision, the couple shares qualities of the plants and Paul shares memories of their use.

"They want to teach people in their own tribe and in other tribes," said Julie Johnson, counselor at Unity College, who helped arrange last week's session with college students and faculty.

"They want to keep it alive for young people, but they also think it's time to share it with other people as well because the knowledge dies with the elders," Johnson said.

Not everyone is so understanding, however. The cold reception that almost made Wood give up her quest to document Passamaquoddy medicine came from a few members who did not want Wood spreading tribal traditions.

"Any person that calls or knocks on my door, no matter what color they are, they are welcome in my house," Paul said. "I treat anybody."

Colleges set

green

By **CRAIG CROSBY,**

Staff Writer, Central Maine Newspapers

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

As Kermit the Frog famously observed, it's not easy being green.

But nearly 300 college and university presidents around the country have committed to becoming 100 percent environmentally green by eliminating their schools' contributions to global warming.

And Maine schools will play an integral role in the effort to enact the sweeping reforms in how colleges and universities around the country operate in their quest to reverse climate change.

"I think signing the commitment is going to make us live up to the commitment," said University of Maine at Farmington President Theodora Kalikow, one of the leaders for The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment. "We're going to have to learn how to do it. Global warming is real and everyone has to do their part."

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which was officially unveiled Tuesday, is an attempt to get colleges and universities to eliminate their greenhouse gas emissions.

The commitment also requires each school to compile an inventory of its carbon emissions and make the results publicly available. Schools have two years to create a plan and set a timeline for becoming "carbon-neutral."

More than 284 colleges and institutes in 45 states have joined the initiative since the fall. Before it was officially launched on Tuesday the signatories represented about 15 percent of higher education institutions in the country, according to ecoAmerica's Bob Perkowitz, one of the initiative's organizers. The list of participants includes the entire University of Maine system, except for the Augusta campus, as well as Unity, Bates and Bowdoin Colleges and College of the Atlantic.

"These presidents and chancellors are not waiting," Perkowitz said. "They are not telling someone else to take action. They are, in the true spirit of American leadership, stepping forward and taking steps themselves."

Unity College President Mitch Thomashow, one of 17 steering committee members -- David Hales, president of College of the Atlantic, is the only other Maine representative on the steering committee -- believes colleges and universities need to lead the way toward sustainability because, he says, climate change is one of the biggest problems today's youth will face.

"From a political point of view it's a no-brainer to (sign the commitment)," Thomashow said. "It's the implementation that's going to be a challenge."

Eliminating greenhouse gas emissions is just one of those challenges, Thomashow said. The commitment also forces institutions to give every student instruction in sustainability practices.

"That's going to be the most difficult thing to accomplish," he said. "Moving the curriculum so that every engineering student, every medical student, takes these types of classes -- that's a much bigger challenge, but that ultimately will need to happen."

The commitment is the latest example of the quest to be green on college campuses. All the Maine schools that have signed the commitment already have sustainability programs in place.

Colby College started a sustainability program about 10 years ago when it began using waste steam from its heating system to turn electricity-generating turbines, said Thomas Tietenberg, professor of economics. The school is committed to building super-efficient Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design buildings and taking other steps to reduce carbon emissions, he said.

Colby has not signed the president's commitment because the school favors programs that have hard targets, such as the Governors Carbon Challenge, Tietenberg said.

"We have started with the ones that have firm targets and are orientated toward those," he said.

Becoming carbon neutral is not without some controversy, even for those who work toward it. Regardless of how efficient buildings

to go for climate

become, or how much students and faculty use public transportation, there is realistically no way for schools to produce zero emissions, Tietenberg said.

"My own view, when you're really thinking about carbon neutrality -- carbon offsets will play a role, but right now the market is shaky," he said. "There are good solid credits out there and there are some that are less solid."

Carbon credits, or offsets, are a means to countering emissions by paying for such things as tree planting or renewable energy producers like wind turbines. There are not currently any federal regulations to verify the legitimacy of the credits, however.

"We try to reduce as much as we can without purchasing credits," Tietenberg said.

"Instead of building a flagship green building on campus we've built relatively modest, but still relatively green, buildings, but also insulated, and paid attention to efficiency in every other building," Womersley said.

For most major colleges and universities, however, credits are a major component in their environmental initiatives. And those credits can muddy the waters when it comes to determining just how much colleges and universities are doing to promote sustainability, said Mick Womersley, professor at Unity College.

"If everyone in the world who wanted to reduce emissions bought offsets, there'd be no offsets to buy because no one would have any emissions reductions to sell as offsets," Womersley said. "Offsets are a zero-sum game in terms of emissions and they cost money while actual emissions reductions are actual emissions reductions and money in the bank if you know how to calculate payback and interest rates."

Instead of purchasing offsets, Unity spent its money on increasing building efficiency, reducing electrical consumption and less

polluting heating, he said.

The University of Maine at Farmington has taken similar measures and discovered the savings, Kalikow said.

"We'd be stupid not to," she said. "When we have the knowledge and the technology and the material and the smart architects who can do this, it's part of our job to demonstrate how to do this."

Some of the most prestigious universities, however, have failed in their stated mission of improving sustainability. According to its own report, Harvard University produced an average of 17.8 metric tons of emissions per student in 2006. Duke University averaged more than 29 metric tons per student in 2003. Yale and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology both averaged more than 20 metric tons of emissions per student in recent years.

Unity College, however, averaged just over 2 metric tons per student in 2006 and did so without the benefit of offsets.

While Womersley believes heating research facilities contribute to bloated figures at places like Harvard and Yale, it cannot all be explained away so easily.

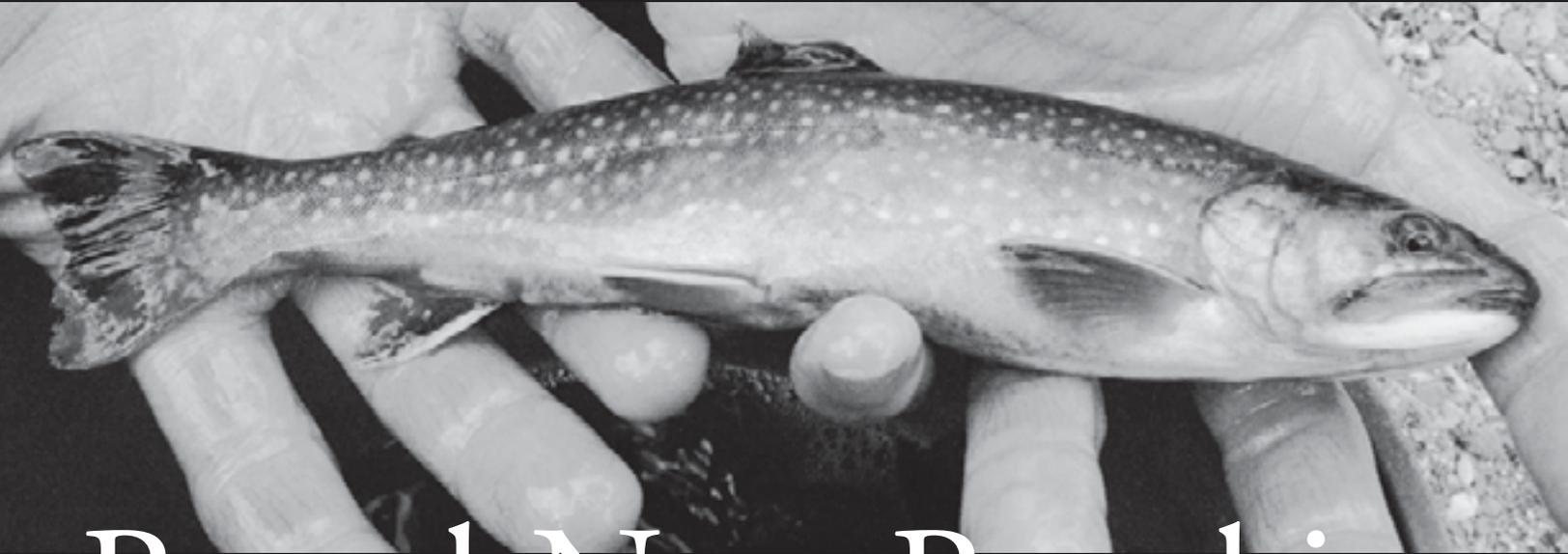
According to Harvard's Green Campus Initiative, the university's emissions increased 100,000 metric tons between 1992 and 2003.

"College campuses are competing for sustainability and this represents a very embarrassing failure for Harvard as an institution," Womersley said.

Ultimately, reducing emissions means saved energy and money, Womersley said. The common sense approach Unity College has taken is one that can be applied everywhere as colleges commit to becoming carbon neutral, he said.

"Instead of building a flagship green building on campus we've built relatively modest, but still relatively green, buildings, but also insulated, and paid attention to efficiency in every other building," Womersley said. "The technology is there. The understanding is there. The payback is there. You don't need to be a crusader to want to save a dollar."

Coming soon to a water near you ...



Brand New Brookies

By **Travis Barrett,**

Outdoors Writer, Central Maine Newspapers

SPECKLED BEAUTY: Jamie Bray of the state's Palermo rearing station holds a spring yearling brook trout in his hands.

Palermo – Most of the time, you won't even see them coming and going. What you'll hear is the scream of an all-terrain vehicle engine as its echo rattles through the trees, bounces off rock ledges and races across open water. The only sign of life will be a pickup truck parked along a nearby road with an empty cargo trailer in tow. That truck likely won't even have a Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife logo on it anymore.

In fact, the only thing out of the ordinary will be the tremendous luck you had fishing for the state's angling calling card – the brook trout – on a picturesque pond that leaves you wondering how on earth so many quality little fish could end up in one hard-to-reach location.

That's where Scott Davis '89 comes in. The DIF&W fisheries biologist dons orange rain gear, straps a couple of coolers loaded with fish to his state owned ATV and drives over obstacles and through foot-deep mud to deliver spring yearly brook trout to the water.

In central Maine, there are only a few waters stocked with the use of ATV's. Savade Pond in Windsor, Peters Pond in Waldoboro and Tyler Pond in Manchester are the only three, while the rest are stocked through more traditional means – by boat, by truck or by airplane.

ATVs come under heavy fire from landowners when used as recreational vehicles. For Davis, however, the ATV is a work tool that turns what was once a day-long project into less than an hour's worth of work.

EASY AS 1-2-3

"The ease of using the ATV is amazing," Davis said after stocking Peters Pond in Waldoboro with 200 brookies on Wednesday (May 2, 2007) afternoon. "It used to be that we'd have to come here and carry in bucket after bucket of fish to be able to stock them. Now, it's one or two trips, and it's over just like that."

Maine's nine hatchery locations coordinate their spring schedules with the DIF&W biologists who oversee the fish stocking program. In this case, it was fish culturist Jamie Bray '98 of the rearing station in Palermo who met Davis early in the morning to complete brook trout stocking at Savade Pond and Peter's Pond.

Bray's 1-ton truck carrying tanks equipped with aerators in the back was loaded with



DRIVE TIME: DIF&W fisheries biologist Scott Davis '89 (Associate of Science) of Benton, Maine, maneuvers his ATV loaded with brook trout through mud and moss in Waldoboro on Wednesday. Davis is responsible for stocking the three ponds in central Maine that require an ATV for access.

Countdown: Palermo hatchery fish culturist Jamie Bray '98 (Wildlife major) of Palermo, Maine, counts out brook trout to be stocked in Savade Pond in Windsor this week. The fish were transported to the water via all-terrain vehicle.

300 spring yearling brook trout – 200 for Peters and 100 for Savade. Bray and Davis drove first to Savade, where Davis unloaded his 4-wheel work vehicle off the trailer on his truck and suited up in rain gear from head to toe.

Two coolers were strapped to the ATV – one in front and one in back – and Bray and Davis took little time to count out the needed number of fish and move them with nets from Bray's tanks to Davis' coolers.

Davis fastened the covers of the coolers, hopped on and fired the engine.

"I'd offer you a ride down on the back of this," Davis said, "but I don't think you'd want to without rain gear."

It soon became obvious why.

What would barely pass for a dirt path in the middle of an August drought looked more like a muddy river last week. Savade sits more than a quarter of a mile from Greeley Road in Windsor, and no 4-wheel drive pickup would succeed in making the trip through valleys filled with mud, especially not when weighed down further by large tanks holding water and fish.

An ATV was the only choice, and it was the same way at Peters Pond. A twisting loop through woods and over small hills formed a vaguely defined path littered with fallen trees and deep mud. Even with the ATV, Davis had to pull up more than 15 yards from the pond's edge and run netfuls of the squirming 10-inch fish to the water by hand.

Still, it was better than having to have two- or three-man crews carry buckets in succession nearly a half-mile to complete the task.

"Even (with the mud), there's a lot less stress on the fish doing it this way," Davis said. "They're not bouncing around as much in the buckets, and they're not spending as much time in them. What are they in there for, a couple of minutes now?"

That stands in stark contrast to what could take 30 minutes or more doing it in a more conventional fashion.

"Ideally, you want to do it with a boat when you can spread out certain species a little better," Davis said. "But, obviously, that's not always possible. When you can't do it that way, it's nice just to get (the fish) out there however you can."

STOCKING UP

The rearing station in Palermo, which raises both brook trout and brown trout, is responsible for meeting the stocking needs of more than 100 of Maine's waters, some of which are stocked more than once. The Medomak River, for example, is stocked at six different locations.

Jamie Bray, Palermo's fish culturist supervisor, coordinates with Scott Davis to put brook trout in Savade, Peters and Tyler ponds – all of which require the use of an ATV for their spring stocking because of their remote natures.

"It's a lot more than just going to a boat

launch and uploading the fish," Bray said. "All (the biologists) put together their orders. They know how many fish they want, and how many they want to put in each of the waters."

That means it's up to the hatchery sites to keep up the inventory, so to speak. The Palermo station receives the fry when they are approximately four months old – and all of 2 inches long. They'll keep them on the site for between 12 and 16 months. The year-old fish are the spring yearlings to be stocked annually during the months of April and May, while the older fish are the more mature fall yearlings which go out each autumn.

Coordinating stocking schedules is one of the most time consuming aspects of the job, aside from the daily maintenance of feeding the trout and keeping the more than 30 tanks in working order.

"It's always subject to change," Bray said. "It's all about biologist schedules, equipment availability and, of course, Mother Nature."

Still, Bray said, half of the state's entire spring stocking schedule was expected to be completed by this weekend.

And some of those fish were lucky enough to be stocked after an exhilarating ride through the woods on an ATV, one most anglers never saw coming.

Presidential **Inaugural Address**

By Dr. Mitchell S. Thomashow (April 15, 2007)

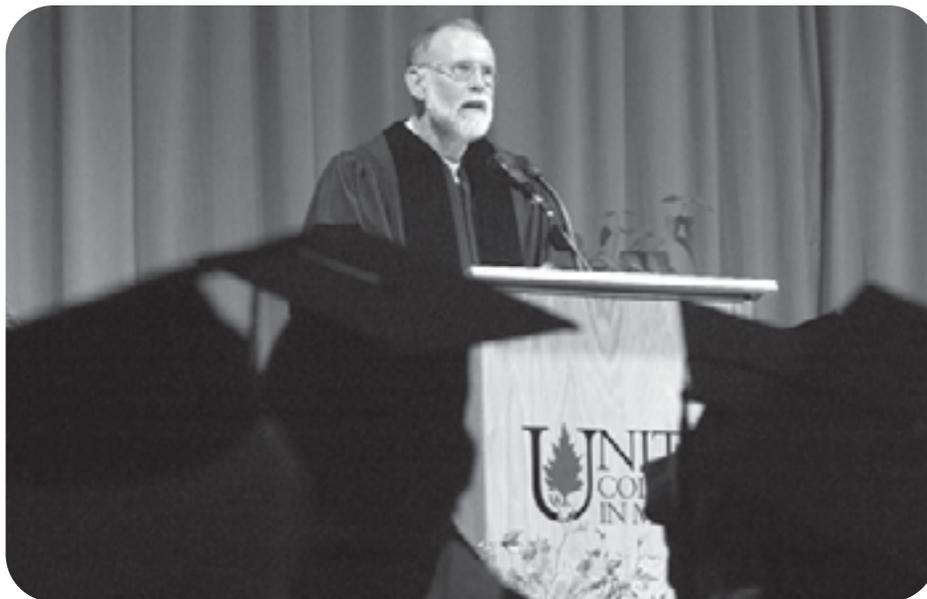
This is a great time to be alive. Unity, Maine is a great place to live. And I am honored, delighted, and humbled to be the president of Unity College.

We live in a remarkably beautiful place. On any given day you might notice the rolling hills, the patchy forest, the glistening light, the wind-swept prospects, the hidden paths and trails, or the reassuring presence of the Gulf of Maine just over the eastern horizon. This is a diverse landscape of shifting patterns.

How about the weather? On any given day, depending on the season, you might experience howling winds and frigid Arctic blasts; humid, moist air from the Gulf of Mexico; moist, cool air that drifts down from the Maritimes. There are some days when you experience so many weather changes that you feel you have lived all four seasons in twenty-four hours. The daily changes in the weather remind us that the landscapes of our lives are always changing too.

As good observers, as people who spend so much time outdoors, we're exposed to the fragility of life and landscape. In the midst of environmental change, we seek balance, flexibility and resilience. People who earn a living by working on the land or sea know that they must pay attention to all these subtle changes. Otherwise their very livelihood is threatened.

What is true for this landscape that we have grown to know and love is also true for the entire planet. That is why we are gathered together in this place and time. We are jointly engaged in building, sustaining, and growing



and environmental college, a place of learning that supports ecological appreciation and awareness. This is our common ground. This is why we are here today.

Anyone associated with Unity College, whether student, staff, faculty, trustee, or good friend, in his or her own way is an educator. As educators, we wish to perpetuate a deeper understanding of the ecological circumstances of our lives. Why? Deep down inside you know that such understanding breeds appreciation. You have faith that appreciation cultivates gratitude. You sense that gratitude conveys a response. And you hope that response prompts action.

In essence, that chain of thinking is the fundamental mission of an environmental college. We strive to present learning

experiences that inspire appreciation. We develop learning communities that change people's lives by bringing them closer to life. We accomplish unity in this purpose by emphasizing awareness, inquiry, service, and commitment. Such is the measure of a deep, authentic community.

Unity College has a crucial role to play in educating a new generation of ecological citizens. Although we are deeply rooted in the regional community of agricultural, mid-coast Maine, by proclaiming ourselves America's environmental college we become linked to a global community of environmental awareness. We are engaged in an educational process that is mission-driven, compelling, urgent, and vital.

Ask yourself why you are here. If you are a student, what is the value above all others



that inspires you to attend an environmental college? If you are a faculty member, what is it that you most want your teaching to convey? If you are a staff member, how are you contributing to the vitality of the college's environmental mission? If you are alumni, what connects your experience to the legacy of Unity College? If you are a trustee, friend or supporter of the college, why are you attracted to being with us? And if you are new to Unity College, what is it that compels you to learn more about us?

These questions should prompt some moments of self-reflection. But I intend them to be a rhetorical device leading you to

I encourage all of us to think of the Unity College campus as a sustainability field of dreams, an architect's exploratorium, a place where we can truly live our values.

a common place. I know why you are here. You understand the importance of environmental learning. You know that a college education is one of the best ways to achieve that. And I am here to remind you, both today and in the years to come, that you are on the right path.

The world desperately needs your wisdom, knowledge, leadership, and guidance. It needs your resilience and flexibility. It needs your gratitude and response.

I wish to say more about Unity College and what it stands for. In so doing, I reiterate my commitment as your president, I challenge you to remember why you are here, and I convey our common dreams and aspirations.

Unity College may be Distinguished by Virtue of Five Unique Qualities

Unity College Broadens the Constituency for Conservation

We attract students of diverse backgrounds, including hunters, farmers, foresters, gardeners, backpackers, rockclimbers, naturalists, educators, artists, writers, policymakers, back-to-the-landers, and people who combine these interests in all kinds of unpredictable ways. They come from a

variety of socio-economic backgrounds. Many of our students are the first members of their family to attend college. Our students come from all walks of life and hold many different points of view.

To serve these students, now and in the future, Unity College will promote multiple orbits of environmental learning. We will attract a national student constituency and a regional community of practitioners. Building on our inherent strengths and values, we will have ongoing learning, research, and consultation services in fields such as conservation law and environmental policy, conservation biology and ecology,

sustainability and climate change, environmental education and wildlife care, outdoor adventure and ecotourism, environmental science teaching, and environmental writing and the arts. Each of these "nodes in a network" will serve diverse constituencies, developing uniquely interesting curriculum, preparing students for fulfilling and important careers. These learning centers will take many shapes and forms, reflecting our academic vision and our external constituencies. They will be coherent enough to offer a core vision, but flexible enough to shift with the dynamic changes in the environmental field.

Unity College Serves the Underserved

American higher education is remarkable in the diversity of its colleges and universities. Yet increasingly there are young people who are left out of this picture. In some cases they just can't afford the cost of an education. There are some students who have a particular approach to learning that is not well served by more traditional institutions. Also, there are students who can't find the right combination of academic programs.

By suggesting that Unity College serves the underserved, I reaffirm that our mission is to provide affordable, accessible education for students who thrive in the milieu of experiential learning. We will strive to provide academic programs that launch students into fulfilling, service-oriented environmental careers.

We will also continue to develop programs that you may not find at other institutions. Are there other non-traditional students who would find a Unity College education just right for their career goals and learning styles? Are their interesting new programs that can meet those needs—summer-based Masters programs in sustainability education, for example?

Unity College Models Frugal Sustainability

The future of environmental studies is linked to sustainability, an emphasis on conserving energy, food, water, and materials. Unity College aspires to build a truly sustainable campus, serving as a regional leader in such efforts, demonstrating green building practices, an integrated landscape, and hands-on, campus-based sustainability initiatives.

Our new Master Planning Process, to begin in September of 2007, will envision a Unity College legacy, with the common themes of endurance and resilience. Let's build a college that will be here for hundreds of years to come. Let's conceive of Unity as an intergenerational college and community.

I encourage all of us to think of the Unity College campus as a sustainability field of dreams, an architect's Exploratorium, a place where we can truly live our values. Sustainability is about more than academic programs, energy infrastructure, and local food. It must entail a way of life, including participatory governance, fiscal responsibility, long-range planning, health and wellness, and wholesome community, a place where you forge respectful and long-lasting relationships. How might we use sustainability as a means to broaden the constituency for conservation, to bring businesses, NGO's,

and other academic institutions into our community orbits?

That's why a sustainable campus is so important. There is no more practical, effective, tangible statement of conviction than making the campus a living educational laboratory for our values. Such conviction is what attracts investors, builds coherence, promotes vision, and signifies endurance. Is there a better way to assert a notion of legacy than actually living your life as if you believe in a long-term future?

Unity College Emphasizes the Outdoor, Hands-on, Ecological Learning Experience

We are experiential, developmental, and practitioner oriented. By experiential we emphasize the importance of field-based, hands-on learning. Whether it's a rigorous, empirical approach to natural history and ecology, a wilderness expedition experience, or an experiment in sustainable living, it's the quality of the field experience that matters. What's more exciting than watching a group of Unity students take off on a NOVA adventure?

By developmental, we emphasize our understanding that learning is linked to cognitive awareness, perceptual readiness, lifecycle changes, and issues of personal

identity. We care about the whole learner.

By practitioner oriented, we emphasize the importance of real world, career-based learning. Whether it's a search and rescue missions, working in local schools, helping low income housing residents retrofit their homes, developing sustainability initiatives for the state of Maine, you will always find Unity students right in the middle of the mix, and often leading the way. This is environmental studies for the real world.

Above all, we promote the outdoor experience. There is no greater learning laboratory than the great outdoors. At Unity, we encourage adventure, exploration, and full immersion in outdoor learning and living.

Unity College Engages the Regional Community in Intellectual, Artistic, and Recreational Opportunities

The college is intimately linked to its ecological and community setting. Whether its contemporary issues in environmental policy, promotion of the arts, or recreational opportunities, the college provides regional leadership as a gathering place for community events and functions.

At the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts, we'll offer a full palette of interesting musical performances, gallery displays, and

riveting lectures and seminars. They will always be open to the whole community,

At the Unity Field of Dreams, we'll develop recreational facilities from nature walks to Frisbee Golf, a commons for students and community members alike. It will be a place for local families, or for people just passing through.

Our campus will be a place to visit for anyone who wants to learn about frugal sustainability. Campus tours will be learning experiences for their own sake. My hope is that we build a student/community center that is designed with the whole community in mind. Finally our centers of environmental learning will integrate well-connected regional learning networks, providing consulting services that reflect the expertise of our students, staff and faculty. Unity College will be known as a home of community environmental learning.

Closing Remarks

It is my pleasure, honor, and challenge to sustain, promote, and coordinate this vision. Accomplishing these dreams is a collaborative work effort. We must galvanize and inspire every member of the Unity community. We must all be networkers and fundraisers. We must all be educators. We

Welcome, Mitchell Thomashow

Kennebec Journal/Morning Sentinel Editorial, April 18, 2007 (The world is catching up with Unity College.)

What was once the country's only self-proclaimed "environmental college" now finds itself closer to the mainstream as the ecological consciousness of everyone else grows.

And this weekend, Unity College inaugurated a new president, Mitchell S. Thomashow, who has the skills and background to lead this young and edgy institution into the next phase of its development.

"As educators," said Thomashow in his inaugural speech, "we wish to perpetuate a deeper understanding of the

ecological circumstances of our lives. Why? Deep down inside you know that such understanding breeds appreciation. You have faith that appreciation cultivates gratitude. You sense that gratitude conveys a response. And you hope that response prompts action."

From learning through appreciation and gratitude to action - that just about sums up a good college education. For what we learn should help us all make the world a better place. Congratulations to Unity College, its new president, its faculty and students as they embark, together, in pursuit of this noble goal. We will all benefit from what they accomplish.



Thomashow accepts warm applause from the audience at the conclusion of his inaugural address

call attention to our efforts not just for the sake of Unity College, as important as we perceive our mission to be. But we must do so for the sake of the planet, for our children's future, and to advance the vitality and urgency of environmental learning.

When you awake in the morning, what prompts you to gather the energy to participate in life? What inspires you? What motivates you to stretch beyond your capacity? If you are concerned about our ecological future, if you wish to devote your life to service, if you want to celebrate life, then you have arrived at Unity College.

Not every morning starts that way. So often we are overwhelmed with the prospects of the day. Our tasks are

daunting. Our energy is muffled by the sheer inertia of everyday trials and tribulations. We overcome this inertia through fortitude and perseverance. We choose to participate in life, to awaken to the day, because we cherish the great gift of human awareness.

As President of Unity College, perhaps my most important challenge is to remind you of what's important, to remind you again and again that you are on the right path and that you are in the right place, to support your efforts, and to help you understand that you are contributing to something that requires an entire community of collaborators.

And if I can also remind you that the

task of the educator is a sacred one and that it is filled with joy and celebration, and that your work is vitally important, then I will contribute in my own way to the future of Unity College.

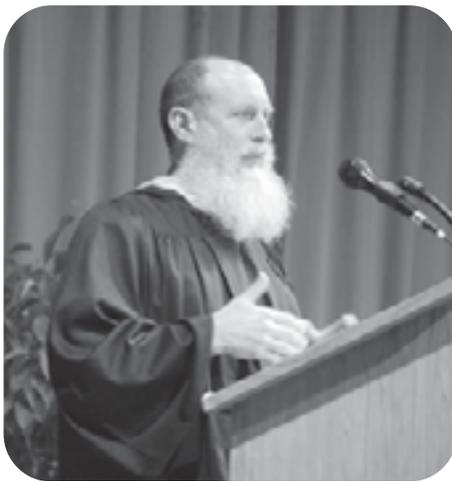
Unity College is on the threshold of finding its path and insuring its legacy. It will do this by understanding its place in the community and how it must contribute to planetary well-being. It will do this by providing a challenging educational experience to all who deserve it. In this way, Unity College will insure its legacy. It will sow the seeds of its own future, and it will build a vital learning community for generations to come.

Inaugural Keynote Address

By Dr. Tom Wessels (April 15, 2007)

This is quite an honor and a pleasure to be here. Some of you might not know, but Mitch and I have been colleagues at Antioch for almost 30 years, we've taught classes together, and after our first books came out, we shared many speaking engagements. I remember one of those engagements at Bates College. Mitch and I were joking about the fact that we were pretty good environmentalists. Based on the adage to reduce, reuse, and then recycle, we have reused our talks many times. That was my original plan for today, to reuse a talk I had given recently, but when it rains it pours. I have only participated in two inaugurations. The first one was just two days ago for our new president at Antioch University New England. I realized that day what an important occasion this is, especially for someone like Mitch. This is his first inauguration, and I am guessing it will also be his last. So in honor of the occasion I have developed a new address based on a comment I heard this past week about the word restore.

This is also a very important day for a mutual friend of ours—another writer and environmentalist—Bill McKibben. If you have been following the news, you have probably heard about Bill's Step It Up '07 campaign that came to fruition yesterday. I first heard about Step It Up '07 last October while I was giving a talk at Middlebury College. Bill and six Middlebury students had just formulated the idea to start a website to foster an array of rallies across the country on April 14, the start of Earth



Dr. Tom Wessels

Week. The rallies were to push congress to create meaningful legislation to stem green house gas emission. After hearing his plan I asked Bill with only six months what would be a sign of success? He said, if we can get 100 rallies across the country that would be huge. Well yesterday there were more than 1400 rallies in all 50 states with 37 right here in Maine! It occurs to me that Step It Up '07 is probably the biggest environmental action since the inception of Earth Day 37 years ago.

I clearly remember that first Earth day. Reflecting back on that era now makes me realize what a remarkable time it was in this country. Back in 1962 the word environment wasn't even in the American lexicon, and I am quite confident in his last year as vice president that Richard Millhouse Nixon never used the word either. Then in 1962, Rachael Carson published her incredible

book *Silent Spring*. That book became a catalyst for a complete change in consciousness—not only in this country but throughout the world. Within eight years Earth Day was spawned and Richard Nixon became our most pro-environmental president by signing the clean air act, the clean water act, and starting the EPA. All through the 70's a key criterion for gaining political office was being pro-environment. I remember what a hopeful time it was in the 70's, but I have to admit that hope faded.

Although the movement raised consciousness in this country about the importance of the environment, it didn't go far enough in systemic ways to significantly change cultural values or the political process. So the factors that fostered environmental degradation continued to function. Through the 80's, the 90's, and into the new millennium, we witnessed ever increasing environmental degradation. During the past 25 years, the work of environmentalists became akin to triage, battling to save this old growth forest here or that wetland there. A different story also started to emerge pitting jobs versus the environment, people versus nature. The environmental movement started to lose traction. That's why what Bill and his students have accomplished in just 6 months gives great hope.

Today environmentalists continue to fight for protection, conservation, and to restore degraded ecosystems and brownfields. That word restore is an interesting one in that it means to bring back.



In terms of the environmental movement today, we have got to go much further than fights simply to conserve, protect, and restore. I believe what we need to do as an environmental community is to change the story of our culture—we need to *restory* America.

Our current story is about the individual, individual wants, and consumption. This is the story that hits us through all aspects of our media and advertising. If we reflect on it, we see that this is not a good story for any culture. But we don't have to find a new story; we need only to bring back critical stories from our cultural past.

Our species, modern *Homo-sapiens*, has been on this planet for about 100,000 years. For at least 95% of that time, a story people told was that we are a part of nature—that we share it with all the other creatures. This is in fact completely correct. All of our sustenance comes from nature. With every breath we suckle a nature's breast. We even share a large portion of our genes with the maple trees standing outside of this auditorium. They, like all other organisms, are a part of our family tree. But sometime in the development of western agriculture a few thousand years ago the story changed. A new story, as expressed in Genesis, emerged that proclaimed that we were apart from nature. We need to bring back the story that we are a part of nature. As long as we see ourselves as apart from it, we will never curtail environmental degradation on this planet.

The other story I think we need to bring back is the story told by the founding fathers as stated right at the start of the Declaration of the Independence—We the people, We the people. This is a very different story from our current one focused on the individual. When we hear about freedom and liberty in the country today it is often couched in terms of rugged individualism, but the founding fathers saw freedom as an attribute of the people, not of individuals. The founders of

Vermont clearly emphasize this in the state's motto. I think you'll like this. Vermont's motto is, *Freedom in Unity*. I hope Vermonters don't take that literally because we don't have a Unity, Vermont. If they start thinking, gee there's a lot of freedom in Unity then many Vermonters might start settling here.

Freedom in Unity is about We the people. We have lost that story in our culture. Look at the media, look at advertising, you will rarely see anything about We. It is all about you and me. Verizon will give YOU the world. Have it YOUR way. It is even creeping into Antioch—a very progressive university. We

I believe what we need to do as an environmental community is to change the story of our culture—we need to restory America.

are moving to online registration for our courses. For access the portal is labeled as MY Antioch. It's my Antioch—all mine. That's the message we keep getting in this culture—it's all about me, it's all about my entitlements. Our political leaders have followed this trend by shifting the way they address the public. We used to be addressed as the citizens. This legislation is good for the citizens of this country: It's very rare to hear that anymore. Today we are more likely to hear, this legislation is good for THE consumer. We have even been told by our president that it is patriotic to shop. Last weekend saw the high holy days of the Christian faith ushered in with Good Friday. Now one could say we have high holy days of consumption, beginning with the day right after Thanksgiving labeled as Black Friday.

This story about the individual, about consumption, has been a very powerful one. An example of its power is that it has overwhelmed a traditional American value—frugality. I don't know when the last time I heard the word frugal was; it seems to have been dropped from our language. In less than a century a new story,

focused on the individual, took a populace that believed in frugality and turned it into the most consumptive people in the world.

Even worse, a large part of that consumption is frivolous, an example being phantom electricity. Phantom electricity is the power that all our electrical contrivances use when we are not using them. Turn off your television set, but when you do that you are actually putting it on stand by. Electricity runs through that television set the whole time while it is in the "off" position. Any electrical equipment that has little lights on when not in use is sucking up electricity—this is phantom electricity. Calculations for the

United States show that our use of phantom electricity is equal to all of Argentina's electrical needs!

We need to go back to talking about We the people as a part of nature. That is the story we have to bring back, not to simply help the environment, but to help the family, to help the community, to create social justice, and even to help the individual.

There are now numerous studies that confirm what religious and spiritual teachers have been telling us for millennia—guard against unwarranted consumption. Once a populace has adequate food, clothing, and shelter, increasing affluence brings increasing rates of anxiety and depression. Every year we see increasing rates of these emotional problems in our country. At current rates of increase it is predicted by the year 2020 that depression will be the second leading cause for disability in this country. As people become more focused on making money, protecting wealth, buying and consuming products, the result is increasing isolation from community, from family, even from oneself. I believe we are

hard wired to need meaningful contact with community, our place, and ourselves through reflective practice. These are critical connections that people relied on for fulfillment through tens of thousands of years. It only makes sense that as people become more isolated from these connections they will experience declines in their emotional health.

Restorying our culture will demand some sacrifice. The word sacrifice is derived from the word sacred. As such sacrifice is a path toward the sacred. Whenever we sacrifice for family, community, or place, we will get back

more than we give up. By sacrificing unneeded consumption we will make stronger connections to community, to place, and to ourselves through greater time for reflective practice.

In closing I would like you to contemplate two words, unity and individuality. Interestingly they are both words about oneness. Individuality is about one, isolated and separated. Unity is one that brings the collective together. Unity is a very important part of the story we need to tell. You are perfectly positioned to do just that. You have already been branded

with the name. You can't deny it. Now with Mitch coming on as your new President, someone who has reflected on these ideas for decades, you are poised to do some amazing work. I know you will continue to graduate people who will do the real work of conservation, protection, and restoration. But I also hope you will embrace an expansion of our environmental work to restory our culture. Until we do that, we will continue to fight the same battles, losing ground all along. Truly to save our environment, we first need to save our culture by bringing it back to its essential origins.



President Mitchell Thomashow, Student Government President William Hafford '08, and Cindy Thomashow, who was the Co-Chair of the Inaugural Planning Committee.



Thomashow relaxed prior to donning his robe for the inauguration ceremony by playing the piano at the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts.



(Left to right) Unity College Trustee Bill Zoellick of Winter Harbor, Maine, chats with Kaitlin Biggs and Mac McCabe both of Portland, Maine.



Assistant Professor Amy Darcangelo



Thomashow is joined prior to the inauguration by (left to right facing) former Unity College Interim President Mark Lapping, Joyce Lapping, and Cindy Thomashow.



University of Maine Fort Kent President Richard Cost and his wife Helen chat with Thomashow.



Former Trustee Madeline Stevenson of Unity, Maine, and Lapping



(facing left to right) David Hales, President of College of the Atlantic, Thomashow and Unity College Trustee Sharon Bloome of Seattle, Washington



Lapping chats with Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert Pollis and Alice Pollis of Bowdoinham, Maine.



(left to right facing) Vice President for Finance and Administration Roger Jolin, Administrative Assistant to the Dorothy W. Quimby Library Lisa Nason, and Director of Residence Life / Assistant Dean for Student Affairs Stephen Nason



Participants pause for a photo prior to lining up for the procession.



Ready for Inauguration.



Strategic Projects Coordinator and Staff Moderator Alisa Gray



Distinguished guests came from near and far.



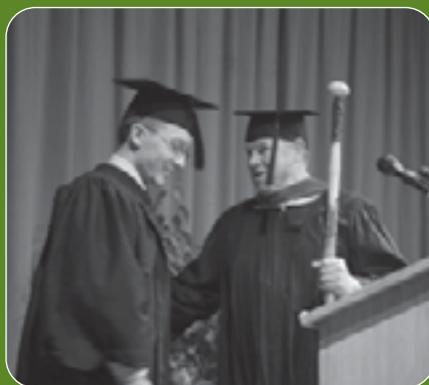
Tess Woods '95 (Environmental Education), Executive Director of the Unity Barn Raisers



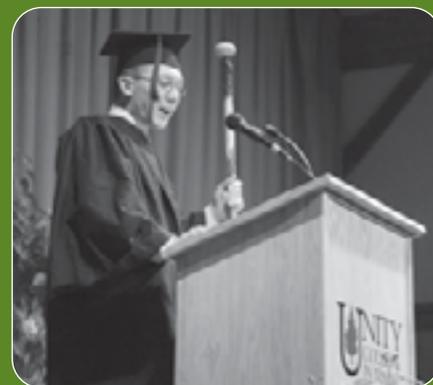
Associate Professor Lois Ongley



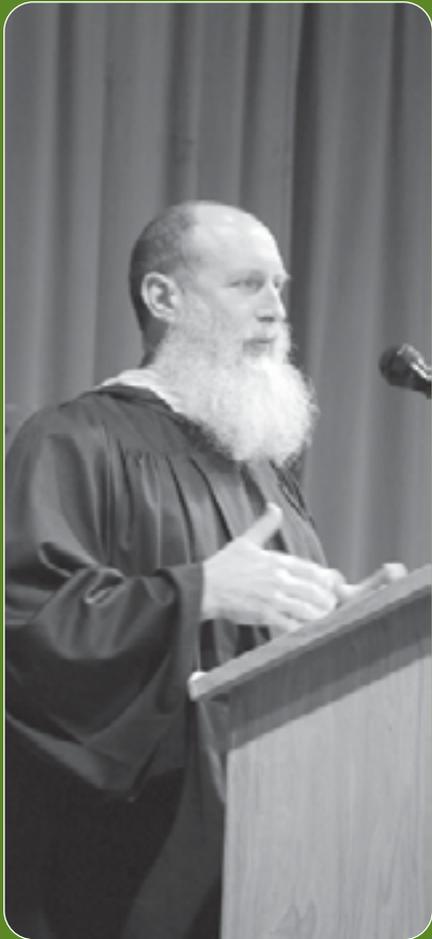
A central theme throughout was Unity's future.



Chairman of the Board of Trustees Robert Pollis welcomes President of the Student Government William Hafford '08 to the podium.



Student Government President William Hafford '08



Dr. Tom Wessels



Lapping and Thomashow share a hug.



Associate Professor, Planning and Inaugural Committee Co-Chair, Kathryn Miles



Guests in colorful academic regalia mingle after the inaugural ceremony.



Guests mingle after the ceremony.



Thomashow and Zoellick during the reception.



Thomashow is congratulated by Student Affairs Administrative Assistant / Secretary Heidi Brugger.



Thomashow was interviewed after the inauguration for a WABI-TV Channel 5 report on the inauguration.

Unity College Joins with Other Colleges and Universities Across the United States in **Signing Climate Commitment**

American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, (July 13, 2007)

We, the undersigned presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities, are deeply concerned about the unprecedented scale and speed of global warming and its potential for large-scale, adverse health, social, economic and ecological effects. We recognize the scientific consensus that global warming is real and is largely being caused by humans. We further recognize the need to reduce the global emissions of greenhouse gases by 80% by mid-century at the latest, in order to avert the worst impacts of global warming and to reestablish the more stable climatic conditions that have made human progress over the last 10,000 years possible.

While we understand that there might be short-term challenges associated with this effort, we believe that there will be great short-, medium-, and long-term economic, health, social and environmental benefits, including achieving energy independence for the U.S. as quickly as possible.

We believe colleges and universities must exercise leadership in their communities and throughout society by modeling ways to minimize global warming emissions, and by providing the knowledge and the educated graduates to achieve climate neutrality. Campuses that address the climate challenge by reducing global warming emissions and by integrating sustainability into their curriculum will better serve their students and meet their social mandate to help create a thriving, ethical and civil society. These colleges and universities will be providing students with the knowledge and skills needed to address the critical, systemic challenges faced by the world in this new century and enable them to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.

We further believe that colleges and universities that exert leadership in addressing climate change will stabilize and reduce their long-term energy costs, attract excellent students and faculty, attract new sources of funding, and increase the support of alumni and local communities. **Accordingly, we commit our institutions to taking the following steps in pursuit of climate neutrality:**

1. Initiate the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality as soon as possible.
 - a. Within two months of signing this document, create institutional structures to guide the development and implementation of the plan.
 - b. Within one year of signing this document, complete a comprehensive inventory of all greenhouse gas emissions (including emissions from electricity, heating, commuting, and air travel) and update the inventory every other year thereafter.
 - c. Within two years of signing this document, develop an institutional action plan for becoming climate neutral, which will include:
 - i. A target date for achieving climate neutrality as soon as possible.
 - ii. Interim targets for goals and actions that will lead to climate neutrality.
 - iii. Actions to make climate neutrality and sustainability a part of the curriculum and other educational experience for all students.
 - iv. Actions to expand research or other efforts necessary to achieve climate neutrality.
 - v. Mechanisms for tracking progress on goals and actions.
2. Initiate two or more of the following tangible actions to reduce greenhouse gases while the more comprehensive plan is being developed.
 - a. Establish a policy that all new campus construction will be built to at least the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Silver standard or equivalent.



Amanda Hardaswick '07 tends to a sheep on the farm at Unity College. The farm and organic gardens at the College are part of its sustainability efforts. Meat from the farm and organic produce grown in the gardens are served in the cafeteria,

while fertilizer from the farm is used in gardens. The idea is to close the energy "loop" by using as much locally raised meat and produce as possible, reducing reliance on fossil fuel consuming transportation of food for consumption at the College.

- b. Adopt an energy-efficient appliance purchasing policy requiring purchase of ENERGY STAR certified products in all areas for which such ratings exist.
 - c. Establish a policy of offsetting all greenhouse gas emissions generated by air travel paid for by our institution.
 - d. Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students and visitors at our institution.
 - e. Within one year of signing this document, begin purchasing or producing at least 15 % of our institution's electricity consumption from renewable sources.
 - f. Establish a policy or a committee that supports climate and sustainability shareholder proposals at companies where our institution's endowment is invested.
 - g. Participate in the Waste Minimization component of the national RecycleMania competition, and adopt 3 or more associated measures to reduce waste.
3. Make the action plan, inventory, and periodic progress reports publicly available by providing them to the Association for the

Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) for posting and dissemination.

In recognition of the need to build support for this effort among college and university administrations across America, we will encourage other presidents to join this effort and become signatories to this commitment.

Signed,

The Signatories of the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment

How to Sign the Commitment

To sign the Commitment, please mail, fax, or email the signed Commitment document to:
 Mary Reilly, Second Nature
 18 Tremont St., Ste. 1120
 Boston, MA 02108
 Fax: (320) 451-1612
 Tel: (617) 224-1612
mreilly@secondnature.org

New & Noteworthy

Unity College to Join with Acadia Partners in Experiential Learning Activities

A recent \$106,640 grant awarded to Acadia Partners for Science and Learning of Winter Harbor, Maine, to provide professional development for Maine math and science teachers at its Schoodic Peninsula campus adjacent to Acadia National Park, will include partnership activities with Unity College, Nokomis and Mount View High Schools, and the Waldo County and Tri-County technical centers and the University of Maine Center for Environmental and Watershed Research. In its successful grant proposal Acadia Partners took full advantage of its location adjacent to Acadia National Park by proposing experiential activities to deepen and enliven high school math and science curriculum. "A key element of the success of the grant application was Unity's new teacher certification program," explained Professor Gerry Saunders. "Without that, the partnership would not be possible."



Alisa Gray and John Zavodny Present at 20th International Conference on the First-Year Experience

Two years ago when the MELMAC Education Foundation in Maine invited Maine-based colleges to participate in a grant process designed to improve student retention, neither Strategic Projects Coordinator Alisa Gray nor Associate Professor / Chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services John Zavodny could have known that they were

about to embark on an odyssey of professional discovery. Through their involvement in the extensive grant process that led to a six-year \$224,589 grant from the MELMAC Foundation in 2006, along with their hands-on, ongoing efforts to continually improve retention at Unity College, Gray and Zavodny have developed a wellspring of knowledge in the growing field of student retention. Their reputations and retention success at Unity College led to an invitation extended to Gray and Zavodny to be presenters at the 20th International Conference on the First-Year Experience, sponsored by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina. The conference was held from July 9-12 in Hawaii. The joint presentation by Gray and Zavodny was entitled "Developing a Service Based Leadership Institute for First Year Students: Strategies for Retaining the Under Challenged Student."



Alumni Gathering a Success

On Friday, July 20, alumni enjoyed the 4th Annual Maine Alumni Gathering Cookout. The threat of rain didn't dampen the fun atmosphere, with the event being moved from the Field of Dreams in Unity to the newly renovated cafeteria. *(Left to right facing) Vice President for College Advancement Robert Constantine, Former Unity College Librarian and namesake of its library Dorothy Quimby, and Alumni Association President Neil Ward '00.*



Emma Creaser Appointed Chair of National Scientific Research Society Committee

Associate Professor Emma Creaser has been appointed Chair of the Grants in Aid of Research Committee of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society for a three year term. Creaser has served on the Grants in Aid of Research Committee for seven years. From its beginning in 1886, Sigma Xi has sought to foster and encourage research among investigators from all scientific disciplines. The Grants-in-Aid of Research program has been a tangible expression of this purpose for several generations of scientists and engineers. Since 1922, the program has invested in the future of science by awarding grants to more than 25,000 researchers, grants that in many cases have helped to launch careers.

The Hand of Fate May Have Played a Role in Fishing for Scholarships Tournament

The hand of fate may have played a role in one of the more unusual coincidences ever to occur since the Unity College Fishing for Scholarships Tournament began in 2003. On Sunday, July 22, incoming first-year student Drew Houser of Northborough, Massachusetts, competed in his first fishing for scholarships tournament. The tournament brought back many memories for Houser whose father, Gary, a 1978 graduate of Unity College, died in 1992 when his small plane crashed into Unity Pond in Unity, Maine, site of the fishing for scholarships tournament. Fishing with



Houser on July 22 was Joe Bellerose of Troy, Maine, a 1977 graduate of Unity College and best friend of Gary Houser. Best friends while at Unity College, Gary and Joe continued their friendship after they graduated. Often they vacationed



Chris Eklund of Ellsworth, the fishing partner of Unity College student Brad Eklund '09, also of Ellsworth, proudly displays a large black crappie he just caught during the Unity College Fishing for Scholarships Tournament.

together with their families, flying to locations like the Bahamas in Gary's small plane. So when Gary passed away tragically in 1992, Joe stepped in and became a mentor to Gary's young son Drew. When Drew applied to Unity College for entry as a first year student beginning in the Fall semester of 2007, he wrote in his application essay about how Joe had opened his eyes to the wonders of nature.

It was only natural that Drew chose Joe as his fishing partner during the tournament on Sunday. Though neither Drew nor Joe were very lucky during the tournament, they had a great time. Drew's mother, Andrea Houser of Northborough, Massachusetts, enjoyed the day as well, helping out as a tournament volunteer on the boat devoted for use by members of the media covering the tournament.

As the horn signaling the end of the tournament blew at 2:30 p.m., tournament organizer Joe Saltalamachia, the Associate Director of Admissions at Unity College,

was excited because he knew that for the first time in the five year history of the tournament, one student would be receiving a full year tuition waiver valued in excess of \$18,000.

The fish tagged with the one year tuition waiver was caught by tournament volunteer Nelson Beaudry of Windsor, Maine, as he was working on the motorized safety boat for the tournament. Beaudry is the father of James Beaudry, also of Windsor, Maine, a third-year student who was competing in another boat. Because Nelson caught the fish tagged while working in the motorized safety boat, the tournament rules prohibited him from giving the tuition waiver to his son James. Instead, the one year tuition waiver went into a drawing held immediately after the tournament at the outdoor amphitheater a few miles away on the campus of Unity College. Every student participant in the tournament was eligible to win the drawing for the full year tuition waiver. The one year tuition waiver was won by Drew Houser, who was joined



(Left to Right facing) Josh Whalen '01, a Wildlife Management major from Exeter, Maine, who caught a fish with a \$2,500 tag, Associate Director of Admissions and tournament organizer Joe Saltalamachia '95, and Drew Houser, who won a one year tuition waiver valued in excess of \$18,000.

on the amphitheater stage by Joe and his mother Andrea. Soon Drew made a point to find James Beaudry, son of the man who caught the tagged fish that led to his good fortune, and thank him. Beaudry said he was glad that Drew won the drawing for the one year tuition waiver. "What a way to begin your college career, winning a waiver for your first year," Saltalamachia said. "I think people feel like maybe Drew's father Gary helped guide the hand in that drawing." The drawing was picked by 2 year old Ella Sawyer of Monroe, Maine, daughter of Assistant Director of Admissions Jonathan Sawyer and Administrative Assistant to Facilities and Public Safety Aimee Sawyer.

Over 400 students, invited guest participants and volunteers took part in the tournament. There was \$320,000 in scholarship money available in tagged fish. Over \$25,000 in scholarships and prizes were won. The catch-and-release tournament is the largest one-day, non-mechanized fresh water fishing derby in the United States. It is also the only collegiate fishing for scholarships tournament held in the United States

Unity College Sportsmen Make a Difference with Conference and Wild Game Dinner

Hunting and fishing enthusiasts at Unity College helped to make a positive difference for a variety of philanthropic and community organizations with their first annual Sportsmen's Conference and Wild Game Dinner, held at the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts on April 19. The event attracted a capacity crowd and raised over \$3,000. Senior Associate Director of Admissions Joe Saltalamachia '95, (Wildlife major), who organized the event, said that all of the money raised was distributed between Operation Game

New & Noteworthy

Thief, Catch-A-Dream, the Unity Food Pantry, and The Justin Chonko Foundation to benefit a Unity College student who is waging a courageous battle with cancer. "I am so proud of all the Unity students who volunteered to help organize and hold this event," Saltalamachia said. "The community of hunters at Unity is always ready and willing to work hard to help others. This segment of our College deserves to be praised for this event, which we hope will be even more successful next year."



Gary Zane Leads Family of Soccer Stars, Attracts Attention to Unity College

In July, Dean for Student Affairs and Men's Soccer Coach Gary Zane attended the US Youth Soccer Championships in southern Maine, held at both Bowdoin College and in Falmouth. Both of Zane's sons, Cody, 17, and Matty, 16, play for the Coastal Soccer Club in Brunswick. The tournament brings 16 state champions together. Over 15,000 players and families attended, adding over \$9 million to Maine's economy. Over 240 college coaches attended. Cody plays for the U17 team, which advanced to the championship game for his age bracket. Over 1,000 spectators watched the championship featuring Coastal v. DelCo, the Pennsylvania state champion. DelCo won the exciting match, 1-0. Zane's presence and the star play of his sons attracted attention to Unity College, known among New England small colleges as home to perennially competitive soccer teams. Zane's son Matty will be an entering Unity

College student beginning in the Fall 2007 semester. Cody is being recruited by Division I college soccer programs.



Unity College Attracts Interest from Top United Technologies Executives

During the Spring semester executives from United Technologies Corporation visited Unity College. Left to right facing are Board of Trustee member Beau Doherty, President Mitch Thomashow, Jan van Dokkum, President of United Technologies Corporation (UTC), and Jim Van Hoof, Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer of UTC. The UTC executives were interested to learn about Unity's approach to sustainability. They also met with students, faculty and staff.



Associate Professor Lois Ongley Explores Mysteries of Pattee's Pond, Helps Chemists Without Borders

Associate Professor Lois Ongley spent the summer examining water quality at Pattee's Pond in Winslow, Maine. Local resident and conservationist Maurice Plante served as a volunteer. Students Erik Larson '10 and Raymond Stuart '08 also helped on the project.

In June, Ongley facilitated the donation of chemistry lab equipment being replaced at Unity College to the University of Gambia in Africa. The donation was made through the philanthropic group Chemists Without Borders. Ongley is a member of that group.

Four new Trustees have been elected to four year terms on the board.

"These accomplished individuals are uniquely qualified to help Unity College face the particular challenges of this stage in its development," said President Mitchell Thomashow. "I have great confidence that each will contribute in a variety of ways to help the College chart its course and develop in service to its strong environmental mission."



Sharon Bloome pursued a 20 year career in the dental industry beginning in 1962 as a dental assistant and ending as Vice President of American Dental Practice Sales, a division of the Penwalt Corporation which she created. In 1987 Bloome founded Heart of America Northwest, a 16,000 member non-profit quality of life organization based in Washington. The organization is the leading citizens' watchdog group for the cleanup of the 540-square mile Hanford Nuclear Reservation located in eastern Washington along the banks of the Columbia River.



Jaymie Durnan is the Managing Partner of Woodbury Hill Partners, LLC. The firm is devoted to assisting management in developing and executing strategies for change and growth. The firm also helps clients to identify firms that can deliver transformation capabilities to the defense and homeland security sectors. From 2001 to 2004, Durnan served as The Special Assistant to Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. Among his duties, he provided management oversight and advice on a myriad of issues including environmental issues.



William Zoellick is currently Development Director and Program Director at Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, a non-profit corporation that works closely with Acadia National Park to support scientific research and science education related to conservation and the National Park Service. He has previously served as Partner with Faswater LLP, which provided consulting assistance to firms entering new markets. He also served as Director for CAP Ventures (now InfoTrends), which provided market information services to firms developing and buying document management and electronic publishing software.



Unity College Shares Special Relationship with Old Orchard Beach Police Department

For a number of years Unity College has successfully placed interns most often from its Conservation Law Enforcement program with the Old Orchard Beach Police Department (OOBPD). In turn the department has hired Unity College graduates at a high rate. During the summer once again the OOBPD turned out a large number of full-time and training officers. Conservation Law Enforcement major Andrew Durgin counts the experience he has received at the department as formative, giving him a leg up on a career in law enforcement. "So many Unity students want to work at OOBPD because they know that they will gain a great deal of experience," Durgin said. "Students from all over New England work at OOBPD as summer reserve officers. Unity students work here because of the success that former students have had there and continue to have in their careers after graduation.

(Photo ID facing: back row left to right Unity College students and alumni) Chris St. Pierre '05; Dave Williams '06; Eric Fluette '09; Andrew Durgin '09; Ryan Dinsmore '09; Jon Hewitt '04 (Front row left to right) Andrew Smart '09; Evan Franklin '07; Casey Smith '09; Matt Weller '09 Not pictured Chris Hilton '07; Kevin Blanchette '07; Nate Webb '05



Arlene Schaefer has a strong history with Unity College and the Unity area. Her family owned the land that was donated in 1965 to use as the campus for newly founded Unity College, and her childhood home is now Constable Hall, an administrative building on campus. In 2005, Schaefer's generosity helped to make the complete interior and exterior renovation of Constable Hall possible. Schaefer was an educator at schools in East Orange, New Jersey, Fairfax County, Virginia, Stuttgart, Germany, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Unity, Maine.



Caruso and NOVA to be Profiled in Republican Journal

During the late summer and Fall semester, the Republican Journal of Belfast, Maine, will be publishing a series of articles spotlighting the outdoor adventures of Unity College students as they participate in NOVA program trips. The trips were organized by Director of Adventure Experiences Nicole Caruso, who also assisted reporters and photographers working on the project.

New & Noteworthy

Four Familiar Figures Retire

Four well-known figures in the Unity College community announced their retirement in the Spring Semester. Each individual made significant contributions to the College and will be missed.



*Pat Stevens
at the retirement party*

In 1999 **Associate Professor Pat Stevens** began teaching skills to Unity's Conservation Law Enforcement students that would serve them well in careers at both the state and local level. He drew from a distinguished career in law enforcement and in the United States military. Stevens quickly gained the loyalty of his students. Since retiring Stevens has kept in contact with his former students, in several cases offering advice and encouragement to those currently involved in rigorous federal training programs.

During a May 3 reception at the Student Center to honor retiring faculty and staff members, President Mitchell Thomashow credited Stevens with helping to establish the Unity College Conservation Law Enforcement program as among the most well-respected in the United States.

From the moment she arrived on campus in 1993, **Associate Professor Sari Hou** established high expectations for students and an absolute commitment to personal attention in equal measure. Her relationships with students were enduring, with many saying they were delighted to develop a significant range of computer skills thanks to her high standards and exceptional teaching.



*Sari Hou:
A computer whiz
with a green thumb*

Hou delighted in the successes of her students, and could be counted to zealously promote published papers and awards won by her students. One of Hou's students, the late Angie (Stokes) Mahoney '05, won an award for her efforts on the Growth Area Mapping Project while working as an intern with the Maine State Governor's Internship Program in May of 2004. The project used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to view and analyze data from a geographic perspective. Mahoney's award was counted by Hou as among her best moments in a storied teaching career. In addition to her ceaselessly optimistic personality, teaching skill and infectious enthusiasm, she will also be remembered for her green thumb. Hou retires to indulge her passion for growing flowers and cultivating gardens that are the envy of many.

During his 20-year-career at Unity College, **Librarian Bob Doan** helped guide the Dorothy W. Quimby Library to its current place as among the finest small college libraries in the state of Maine. Doan also guided the library to serve several area towns as their local public library. He did it all with an ease and grace that drew many to the library simply to visit him to seek guidance on research or share a friendly conversation. The range of topics that Doan kept up with and personal interests he pursued were enormous by any measure, validating the belief among some that the best librarians are avid consumers

of their product. President Thomashow described Doan one of the most relaxing individuals he has ever met, a testament to Doan's ability to multi-task so seamlessly



*Bob Doan shares
a smile at his
retirement gathering*

and keep all matters large and small on dry ground. Challenges that might have made other librarians wilt were met with Doan's characteristic "can-do" spirit. Doan chose many of the library's new books with skilled eye for keeping up with the especially fast-moving field of environmental studies.

During his 25-year-career as a custodian **Jimmy Hubbard** established himself as one of the most beloved figures at Unity College. A man of simple tastes who stressed that people, not money, were what is most important in life, Hubbard never



*Jimmy Hubbard:
The Walking Man*

held a driver's license. He preferred to walk the 5 mile round trip to work at the College. During his years at Unity, he marked the birthdays of faculty and staff members by leaving cakes, balloons and gifts for individuals to find. In recent years his remarkable story reached a national audience in several high-profile newspaper articles. Only weeks before commencement Hubbard was met outside his home by over a hundred



faculty, staff and students who joined him for his daily walk to work. The procession in honor of Hubbard was covered by local media and carried on Good Morning America. He was honored with a citation for his service and spirit at commencement.



Stephen Nason is Promoted to Director of Residence Life / Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Twelve year veteran Director of Residence Life Stephen Nason has been promoted to Director of Residence Life / Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. A native of Blue Hill, Maine, Nason is a 1989 graduate of Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He is best known for Unity's smooth running, student centered residence life program and campus judicial process. Residing with his wife, Lisa, Administrative Assistant at the Dorothy W. Quimby Library, in a Unity owned home on the edge of campus, Nason is known to be on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. In recent years Nason indulged his competitive side by serving as driver for Team Green Monster, the faculty and staff four-person sled that competes at the U.S. National Toboggan Championships at the Camden Snow Bowl in Camden, Maine. In February of 2007, Nason's team sled to a fourth place finish among over 140 four-person teams from across the United States that were competing at the championships.



Unity College Wins Gold Award at 22nd Annual Advertising Awards Competition

The 2006-2007 Unity College catalog was named the Gold Award Winner at the 22nd Annual Advertising Awards Competition sponsored by the Admissions Marketing Report. **Associate Director of Publications Susan Fedoush** entered the catalog into the category of colleges under 2,000 students. "This was an especially rewarding recognition because the catalog underwent a major redesign just prior to it being submitted. The redesign incorporates some of the new graphic design elements like the new logo, official college green, and typographic fonts." Fedoush said that the most visual impact comes directly from the photos that clearly reflect Unity's mission as an environmental college offering experiential learning opportunities. The majority of the photos were taken by Unity students, faculty, and staff, as well as by a few alumni. "The College has a high level of commitment towards brand marketing efforts and through the development of an integrated marketing plan, this is one of the many print projects that will continue to enhance the public's general awareness of Unity's distinctive image," said Fedoush. The catalog was printed locally using recycled paper. (Susan Fedoush: Concept development / art direction; Metaville Design, Waterville, Maine: Creative design / production; Lincoln County Publishing, Newcastle, Maine: Printer).

Unity College Clears Final Hurdle from Maine Department of Education, Receives Full Science Teacher Certification

July 13 was a lucky day for Unity College, but when an entire team of people has worked so hard and long for the good news, it could hardly be called less than the fortunate result of outstanding preparation. That was the day when the Maine State Department of Education issued its final approval for Unity College to train 7th to 12th grade science teachers. For the first time in its history, Unity College is fully accredited to train and accredit science teachers. The accreditation is for secondary sciences, which includes chemistry, biology and physics. Among the most deeply involved in the years of work it took to reach this milestone for the College were Strategic Projects Coordinator Alisa Gray, Professor Gerry Saunders, and Associate Professor / Chair of the Department of Instruction and Advising Services. Saunders said that Unity students who earn this certification will not just focus on content but make a positive impact on society. "Students participating in this program will develop as well-rounded individuals who make good decisions," said Saunders. "In an average class, 12 percent will go into careers in science, but 100 percent are going to be citizens. We want teachers to be developing those citizens." The five-year accreditation completes a three-year process that included review by the Maine State Board of Education. "I think this certification will bring in more students who are committed to teaching and life service," said Zavodny. "We already attract a lot of students who have that mentality, so it was a natural fit."

New & Noteworthy

Award Winning Fundraiser Robert Constantine Named Vice President for College Advancement at Unity College

As Unity College continues to pursue its strong environmental mission and vision to become a model sustainable community, President Mitchell Thomashow recently announced the appointment of Robert Constantine as Vice President for College Advancement. Constantine will help the College achieve a national presence among small environmental colleges, further developing the support necessary to achieve the comprehensive needs of a growing campus with the concepts of sustainability (utility and efficiency) defining all initiatives.

Constantine comes to Unity College from Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire, where he served as Associate Director of Development and Director of Annual Giving & Alumni Affairs. While at Kimball Union Academy, an independent boarding school with 325 students in grades 9-12, Constantine doubled the total annual operating support for the academy and significantly improved the unrestricted annual fund growth. Among his many successful initiatives at Kimball Union Academy was increasing annual faculty giving participation from 20% to 80%.

In 2005, Constantine was recognized by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education with a District I "Rising Star" Award.

Prior to serving Kimball Union Academy, Constantine served as the Director of Research and Prospect Management at Colby-Sawyer College of New London, New Hampshire. Among his accomplishments at Colby-Sawyer was identifying and researching top prospects for a \$40 million capital campaign, working with the major gifts team in

developing individual prospect strategy, and overseeing prospect management.

Other professional experiences gained by Constantine include Research Assistant and Instructor at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and Assistant Center Director with the Northern Rhode Island Private Industry Council of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.



A strong believer in the importance of participating in community service activities, Constantine currently serves as a founding member and chapter leader of the White Mountain Rams, the University of Rhode Island New Hampshire chapter; is the University of Rhode Island alumni in admissions representative for New Hampshire chapter; serves on the Board of Trustees as the Campaign Steering Committee Chair and Treasurer of the Meriden Congregational Church; and on the National Development Committee of the United Church of Christ. Previously he has served on the Annual Giving Committee for the Upper Valley Support Group.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Sociology and Organizational Analysis from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, summa cum laude, and recipient of the President's Award for Student Excellence. He also holds a Master of Arts in Sociology from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

He is married to Audra Bucklin, the Director of Summer Programs at Kimball Union Academy. They have two children, Tori and Sawyer.

2006-2007 Annual Report

North Woods Society

(contributors who have given \$1,000 or more to Unity College in the past year)

Daniel and Joan Amory
Anonymous
Donald A. and Kathryn E. Foster
Kenneth M. and Doris M. Hall
James and Lillian Haversat
Jon Hinck and Juliet Browne
Howard C. and Gail A. Johnson
Estate of Margaret Messer
Mark and Bonnie Miller
Evelyn S. Offutt
Michael J. Perry and Christine Wolfe
Edwin H. Pert
Jane Pinnette-Jennie Libby Frost Trust
Robert F. and Alice A. Pollis
Margaret B. Prior
David M. Purdy
Dorothy W. Quimby
W. Tom and Bonnie Sawyer Jr.
Charles A. and Arlene C. Schaefer
James and Marian Schmidt
John and Gloria Tewhey
Mitchell and Cynthia Thomashow
Robert M. and Muriel Tonge
Barry and Theresa Woods
Bangor Savings Bank Foundation
Bartlett Tree Foundation, Inc.
Bellerose Construction
Bristol Myers Squibb
Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust
Charles River Publishing
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As the commencement procession concluded, retiring Associate Professor Pat Stevens shared a hug with graduate Stephanie Aten of Ashland, Ohio. Aten received her Bachelor's degree in Conservation Law Enforcement.



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