I just finished reading an extraordinary book. In The Age of Wonder: How the Romantic Generation Discovered the Beauty and Terror of Science, Richard Holmes tells a series of riveting stories profiling the eighteenth century pioneers of chemistry, biology, and astronomy. Holmes portrays the close interconnection between science and art as intrinsic to the creative process. At the source of scientific discovery is the remarkable quality of wonder—the deep and resilient desire to better understand the origins of life and the cosmos, not just to quench an unrelenting curiosity, but also to learn how to reside well on our remarkable planet.

Perhaps this is the holy grail of science education—the inevitable intersection of creativity and analysis. Wonder requires both a poetic sensibility and a rigorous empiricism. This is the heart of environmental learning as well. At Unity College we strive to provide our students with an empirically-based, methodologically rich approach to field biology and ecology. Our students know that they belong in the field. Indeed, they thrive there. But that is merely the starting point. What questions emerge from their experiences? How might they explore those questions and turn them into sound research? Or interesting works of art? When you spend your time in the field, creative inspiration is directly encountered.

The Unity faculty is currently engaged in a thorough curricular review. The outcome will provide us with a suite of pertinent and visionary majors, supported by robust learning objectives. These programs will do more than prepare a new generation of environmental professionals. At their core we hope to cultivate the very best of romantic science, linking discovery and vocation, creativity and research, and engagement with action.

Mitchell Thomashow
President, Unity College
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On the Cover
Jill Easterday ’12 of Emeryville, Calif., holds a drive rod while drilling for lake sediment on Unity Pond. Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel led the research gathering activity as part of an Environmental Citizen course for first year students. Photo taken by Olivia Hanson ’11.
From the Lab to Field Work, Science Connects All Aspects of Unity College

The greatest challenge with each issue of Unity, the magazine of Unity College, is to find space for everything that ought to be expressed. There is an enormous volume of material that is available for each issue. Every person who works on the magazine understands that Unity College is truly on the move. A clear, central goal expressed by President Mitchell Thomashow is for the College to attain a place alongside the very best small environmental colleges in the United States. In many ways the magazine is a place to express why such an aspiration is not only realistic, but to serve as a repository for vistas along the journey.

What will Unity receive in return by achieving its lofty goals? The College will regularly use its national presence to weigh in on environmental issues of the day, while also attracting the best and brightest students from across the country and abroad.

Science in all of its forms at Unity serves as the central theme for this issue. The tremendous range of faculty and student science projects may surprise some who are new to this community and even some within.

The core values and mission of the College are also showcased in stories about student internships, community service and service-learning projects. Often science and a connection to the curriculum is also present.

From its humble beginnings to the present, it is talented, committed and insightful individuals who serve as the beating heart of all the College aspires to achieve and has achieved. There are few borders to contain members of the community from the upper reaches of their scientific research, as is evident in the narrative by Associate Professor Amy Arnett about her Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Maribor in Slovenia. A story about the sustainability of Unity College buildings explains the ongoing work of Associate Professor Mick Womersley, Sustainability Coordinator Jessie Pyles, and other facility, staff and students.

The link between research and cutting-edge technology is explained in a story about the affiliation between Professor Dave Potter and Unity students, and researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. It is but one more bit of evidence that the affiliation between Professor Dave Potter and Unity students, and researchers and other faculty, staff and students.

In the few years since the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts became a part of Unity College, also changing its name to the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts (UCCPA), the vision of Bent and Coral Clifford for a vibrat place for the arts in Unity has been honored. Through collaborative efforts and our own enhanced programming the UCCPA has brought top flight, nationally known musical talent to Unity. This year we will stage nearly fifty performances, a significant achievement in a rural location and a huge opportunity for area residents. Far from being merely a musical venue, the UCCPA has also continued to serve as community meeting place, art gallery, performance space, community kitchen, movie theater, and ideal location for special events.

Next year the UCCPA will celebrate its ten year anniversary. There is every reason to believe that the commitment of Unity College employees, friends and community partners that has made the UCCPA so special will ensure that its achievements in a rural location and a huge opportunity for area residents.

Considering the Far Reaching Impact of a Unity College Education

Unity made a tremendous difference in my life. In the summer of 1986, I was an intern studying wildlife corridors in the north Maine woods. My classmate and friend, Diane Borden ’87, and I spent the summer collecting data to assist our Professor, Dr. Christine Magazine. I only wish I was able to present my work as current students did in the Student Conference. My time at Unity College changed the direction of my life and provided wonderful experiences.

Thanks to the internship opportunity that I pursued while a student at Unity College, I developed leadership, interpersonal and professional skills that have served me extraordinarily well. My Unity education gave me the tools and confidence to aim high. Today, I use my education each day as the chief executive officer of an agricultural development corporation. As a director on several boards, I find that I frequently use skills that I developed at Unity. Believe it or not, I also draw upon my Unity education as host of a weekly talk radio show. My time at Unity College changed and shaped my life more than I could ever have imagined while a student.

Thank you, Unity College for the wonderful experiences.

Jay Matteson ’90
Adams, New York

Remembering a Dearly Missed Friend

Dave “Fly” Champine passed away in March of 2009. He was one of my best buddies from my time at Unity College. Those were the best four years of my life. I made some incredible, lifelong friends there and Dave was my best friend among great friends. Just as the experience of being a Unity student brings back fond memories, sharing a friendship with Dave is inextricably linked to my college years.

Anyone who got to know Dave was a lucky person. He was my personal hero and a true friend. We were all very fortunate to have known Dave and to have known others as well. I was lucky enough to be his friend and will always remember our times at Unity and there-after. God Bless you “Fly”.

Tammy Cire ‘91
Windor, MA
Traveling has always been a passion of mine. As an under-graduate student I set off on my own from small-town Michigan to explore the Pacific Northwest, Wyoming, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii, and Guatemala — typically with the positive results of new friendships, skills, and environmental and cultural experiences.

As a professor at Unity, I still long to travel, but these days it is often to visit family or to attend a conference, not for the experience of traveling itself. So during 2008 as I was reviewing articles for a Slovenian colleague, Dr. Dušan Devetak (the organizer of the Tenth International Symposium on Nep-turopetology, being held in Slovenia) it occurred to me that Slovenia would be a great place to visit, and a Fulbright Award might be the best way to get there. The Fulbright Program, the U.S. Government’s flagship international exchange program, has always been at the back of my mind as a way to teach and conduct research, plus helping with general ecology labs.

I applied for a Fulbright Lecture Award in August 2007 and received the announcement in June 2008 that I had been awarded a Fulbright to teach at the University of Maribor in Slovenia. After a lot of packing and logistics, in February 2009 my family and I were on our way to Europe.

Slovenia is a small country, approximately the size of New Jersey, positioned between Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Italy. Maribor is located in the northeast portion of Slovenia, very close to Austria, and is Slovenia’s second largest city with approximately 130,000 people. We found Maribor to be an appealing city with many outdoor cafés and old red-tiled buildings. The beautiful mountain and ski-hill of Pohorje is located on one side of the city and vineyards on the other, with the river Drava wending its way through it. Overall, we were struck by the charming culture of the city and the beauty of the natural environment.

The University of Maribor was established in 1961, and has many different “faculties” (departments) housed around the city. I was part of the faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science, along with a handful of other biologists. My teaching responsibilities were a course in insect ecology to third year biology students, a graduate student field methodology seminar, plus helping with general ecology labs.

“I think teaching in Slovenia has helped me appreciate the freedom of pedagogy and individual attention to students that is encouraged at Unity College.”

The Slovenian students in my class were at first very shy with me. I had them conduct several active discussions about articles and by the second class they were much more open and eager, but commented on how they were not used to any teaching style besides lectures. Despite this, I received several very nice notes from students at the end of the semester explaining how much they had learned and enjoyed my teaching style. I think teaching in Slovenia has helped me appreciate the freedom of pedagogy and individual attention to students that is encouraged at Unity College.

Because my teaching schedule was fairly low-key, I found that I spent much more time discussing and conducting research than I had anticipated. This pleasant turn of events led me into the hills around Maribor searching for ant lion larvae (lace-winged Neopte-rraen whose larave dig pits in sand) for an experiment with my colleague Dr. Dušan Devetak. Dušan and I are interested in the connection between the types of soil substrate that larvae are found in nature and the type of substrate (based on particle size) that larvae choose in the lab. After collect- ing approximately 50 larvae and feed- ing them ants in the lab for two weeks, we placed them into “cakes” that con- tained eight different sand particle sizes, from fine powder to fairly large pieces. The project went well, with the larvae responding in the way that we had predicted, and during the 2009-2010 academic year we will be writing the results for publication.

Another unexpected but pleasant research collaboration occurred with a professor of speleology, Dr. Tonč Novak. The karst (limestone) region of Slovenia has some of the most impres- sive caves in the world. Tonč has studied the biodiversity of invertebrates in caves for many years now, and prior to leaving Slovenia we began collaborating on a study regarding the ecologi- cal differences among approxi- mately 50 caves in northeastern Slovenia. I am excited about con- tinuing this conversation and work regarding biodiversity in such an extraordinary and rare habitat.

By no means was my Fulbright experience all about work though. My family and I traveled almost every weekend. We had wonderful trips to the mountains of Austria, visited Salzburg and Graz, explored the coast of Croatia down to Dubrovnik, traveled around Venice, and extensively through Slovenia itself. Overall my Fulbright semester was rich with teaching, trav- eling, meeting new people and learning new things. I gained new perspective and experience teaching in another academic institution and returned home happy about my adventures and grateful to have been given the opportunity to explore a new corner of the world.
A Nicaraguan Adventure Creates Bridges to Understanding

By Assistant Professor Aimee Phillippi

The trip didn’t begin well. After battling a snowstorm on the way to Boston, we discovered our flight had been canceled. Some quick work by Delta airlines staff had us in Managua, Nicaragua, on time. The sixteen of us (fourteen Unity College students and two faculty members) headed to the Miskito coast of Nicaragua early the next day.

We were here to work with Sustainable Harvest International (SHI) promoting sustainable agriculture practices that both increase productivity for subsistence farmers as well as reduce ecological destruction from slash-and-burn.

We all had to be weighed before boarding the questionable looking Soviet-era plane to Bluefields. In Bluefields we met some of the Nicaraguan farmers as well as reduce ecological destruction from slash-and-burn.

The demonstration farm is where they try out new crops and techniques, but the real work of SHI is in el campo, the countryside, working with individual families.

The next morning we were loaded into small boats to head up the Kukra River, into the jungle. We were told the water was so polluted from sewage that when it splashed onto our faces we should wipe it off with our clothing. The four hour ride up the river was incredible. There was lush vegetation spilling into the river, strange and beautiful birds and animals that wander everywhere.

Upon return to Unity, we hosted a fundraiser where we served typical Nicaraguan food and showed a movie the students made about the trip. More than $400 was raised and sent back to the community water supply, but the rain and mud made it feel like we were running in place.

Despite the initial rough start, the trip was a great success. Our host families and the SHI staff were incredibly welcoming. We all learned a tremendous amount about Nicaraguan culture and the environmental issues impacting and impacted by the people.

While in Nicaragua, Unity College students pursued a wide range of activities, from helping to improve structures to planting crops. The emphasis was on service and forging strong personal bonds. Students gained an appreciation for the optimism of Nicaraguan villagers, who are open, hard-working, and highly optimistic despite facing political, economic and social challenges that are virtually unknown in comparatively affluent American communities like Unity, Maine.
Finding a Passion for Science in the Jungle

It is late afternoon in the Indonesian jungle. The heat and humidity are stifling. Patrick O’Roark ’10, a captive wildlife care and education major, has been trying to keep hydrated, a tough task in this demanding environment. The dense jungle poses a different set of challenges. One wrong step might bring a nasty fall or a snake bite. Usually he spends the evening at the base camp in a village of Labundo Bundo, though he occasionally camps in the jungle. For some such a demanding environment would be considered hardship duty, but the experiences O’Roark is gathering will, in the end, solidify his career choice.

O’Roark spent the summer of 2009 pursuing an internship as a biodiversity researcher for Operation Wallacea, based in the United Kingdom. He was based on the Indonesian Island of Sulawesi, where he tracked three troops of Bouton Macaques, a species of monkey. Upon graduation O’Roark hopes to work for a zoo and eventually earn a graduate degree in primatology.

Science Plays Out in Big Sky Country

If Susan Bard ’10, a wildlife biology major from Plainville, Connecticut, couldn’t wait to finish final exams and hit the road, who could blame her? Bard spent the summer of 2009 as a Biological Technician working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge in Lakeview, Montana. The project to which Bard was assigned focused on determining how body condition affects breeding propensity of Lesser Scaup, Aythya affinis, a diving duck.

Bard explained. The tracking was a daily aspect of Bard’s job. “I would take a kayak out on the lake with a yagi (antenna) to find them,” said Bard. “Our goal was to locate nests from these scaup and monitor them until they hatched.” Another project she worked on was nest searching, mainly for scaup. Of the nests located, they were monitored on average once every seven days until they hatched.

“Once the ducklings started pipping I would go out and poke a hole in the side of the egg, pull the foot out, put a tag on their webbing, and then place the foot back in and tape the hole. The purpose of this was to determine duckling success.” In mid-September of 2009 that data was gathered by biologists using a diving duck trap.

Building the Ideal Unity Student, No One Size Fits All

Each year on Move-in Day, the Unity campus is brimming with hopeful first year students and their families. The students are stepping into a new world with justifiable jitters, hopes and expectations. The vast majority have already begun to make friends, having taken a Nova trip over the summer. Within the months to come, they will begin to connect with their intended major programs while building a strong base of general skills. College is said to be among the best investments any person could make in their lifetime. There are many statistics that bare witness to issues like personal fulfillment and earning power over a lifetime that increase with a four year degree, and change further with the attainment of a graduate degree. What is less widely known outside the community of higher education professionals is the process put in place to help students develop from move-in day to the receipt of their degree.

That process can vary greatly from institution to institution. Life at Unity College is filled with daily opportunities for academic challenge, civic engagement, exploration, adventure, fun and creativity. The range of activities includes travelling to Washington, D.C. to lobby members of Congress on environmental issues, participating in national conferences, and performing community service in tornado-ravaged Tennessee. Students pursue a wide range of nature oriented activities, from impromptu canoeing excursions on Maine lakes to rock climbing in Camden Hills State Park.

A common but complex question pondered by parents, administrators, faculty and students themselves is whether there is an “ideal” Unity student. The short answer is a firm “no.” The long answer is much more involved and related to adolescent development, personal proclivities and preferences, along with the academic and social support systems in place at Unity. Individual student choices also play an enormous part in interpersonal development that occurs over the course of a Unity education.

Some changes simply relate to the fact that the average college age range of 18-22 is a period of enormous psychological transition regardless of whether a person is attending college or not. Attending Unity College with its particular curriculum, community and emphasis on hands-on learning, arguably plays the largest role in shaping the individual who steps to the stage to receive his or her degree.

The most important element of a Unity College education is the change from being a passive to an active learner. Unity students learn to become advocates for their own academic and interpersonal development. Being an active, lifelong learner is the single greatest skill that a Unity experience should impart to all students regardless of major. The “ideal” student is the one who goes on to lead an engaged, deliberate, reflective and self-aware life that involves service to profession (often related to the environment), community and family.
A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY

During the fall semester of 2009, Professor Amy Arnett and Assistant Professor Alysa Remsburg collaborated in this way. Arnett’s students conducted research on invertebrate biodiversity and abundance in relation to environmental variables. This involved collaborative research in the campus woodlot with all roads leading back to laboratory analysis. Students from several courses including ecology, biology I and II, and field ecology worked on permanent plots in the college woodlot. The students learned how to collect and identify (to an extent) earthworms, ants, and beetles. They also collected information about the plot regarding light, leaf litter depth, soil characteristics, and woody debris.

Arnett also had her field ecology class work on macroinvertebrate monitoring of stream quality, along with conducting observational surveys. She incorporated some of her research on the ant lion conducted in the spring and summer of 2009 at the University of Moribor in Slovenia, where she pursued a Fulbright Fellowship. This involved lab-based behavioral studies.

A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH

Associate Professor Emma Creaser says laboratory research sharpens thinking skills and is valuable far beyond beakers and pitre dishes.

“If you go to the grocery store and buy a somewhat suspect lettuce and make a salad out of it and get sick, you might return to buy the same kind of suspect lettuce to see if you get sick again,” said Creaser.

“If you keep getting the same results you will know that slimy lettuces are bad and make you sick.”

“In a basic way that is applying the scientific method,” she continued. “You learn from prior experience, you extrapolate meaningful situations and that is logical thinking and the scientific method. You can do it with no technical skills or you can add technical skills as you go along.”

Some Unity students pursue laboratory projects that gain notice beyond the campus and even shape their future plans. Shawn Devlin ’03 is in a Ph.D. program at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. For his senior thesis project at Unity, Devlin collected snails from seven different islands off the coast of Maine. He assembled his collection while working every month of the year, even during breaks and the summer. Unity College faculty are pursuing research. For some faculty like Associate Professor Emma Creaser, a single research project unfolds with a combination of field research and lab work over the span of years. She involves students in different aspects of this complex, sprawling research as appropriate to their skills, interests and even their career goals.

Professor Jerry Cinnamon focuses on real world lab projects.

“We work with environmental applications important to the state of Maine,” said Cinnamon. He designs his lab oriented research projects to teach analytical thought and mathematic skills. Students learn to observe the world in ways that a scientist does rather than observing a preconceived concept of the world.

Associate Professor Amy Arnett, a Fulbright Scholar, has often involved Unity students in her research.

“In the curriculum we stress the process of science and how to arrive at a hypothesis to test,” said Associate Professor Emma Creaser, who has involved students in her ongoing research project at Moosehead Lake in Greenville, Maine.

In 1972, a little species of shrimp, Mysis relicta, was introduced to the lake. “Somebody thought it would be a good source of fish food for the fisheries,” Creaser explained.

“In other lakes it has actually eaten the preferred food of the fish, Daphnia,” noted Creaser. She and her student research assistants are seeking answers as to the impact of Mysis relicta.

Faculty and Student Research Pay Dividends

Every month of the year, even during breaks and the summer, Unity College faculty are pursuing research. For some faculty like Associate Professor Emma Creaser, a single research project unfolds with a combination of field research and lab work over the span of years. Students learn to observe the world in ways that a scientist does rather than observing a preconceived concept of the world.

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The choice of which research project to pursue and approach used in each class can be critically important to overall success in reaching learning goals.

The THEORETICAL basis for the National Audubon Seabird Restoration Project (Project Puffin), of which Scott Hall, husband of Arnett, is the research supervisor. Five students from Unity have worked on the Puffin Project in the past.

“The question that Shawn (Devlin) was interested in is whether the populations of snails on the islands differ in body size,” Arnett explained. “We considered the mechanisms that might be driving any differences. Shawn found a significant increase in body size and latitude.”

“I thought his study was publishable, but we needed more data,” said Arnett. “In 2007 I asked Scott’s interns to recollect snails for me and I measured them, then added them to Shawn’s data.”

Arnett is currently in the process of writing the findings.

THE PROCESS OF SCIENCE

“In the curriculum we stress thinking and the process of science,” said Creaser. “Students arrive at a hypothesis to test and design how to test it.” The considerations extend to the number of times a hypothesis should be tested, and how to analyze the data to get meaningful results.

Creaser says that students learn to consider both the implications of sloppiness and rewards of careful reasoning. For example, a ecological research might require the researcher to go out to collect field data every two weeks for six months. What happens if when it comes time to analyze data the researcher realizes an extra measurement or data point should have been taken? The answer is not pretty - start over.

“We work with our students to think about that (the cost of mistakes),” said Creaser. “Math is a very powerful tool but it is more important as to what it means. There are people who will tell you math can tell you anything, because it’s how you interpret the data. You can use it to tell you the sky is red when it is blue. But you need to understand what you have done with the statistics and relate the results to the real world.”

Developing New Technology for Animal Research

Why did a top engineering researcher from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) choose owls as a subject for research? Because owls are out at night and cell phone minutes are often cheaper or free during late evening hours.

There is both utility and inspiration in scientific research along with an occasional dash of luck. As the latter part of the research equation would have it, a Unity College professor crossed paths with an MIT researcher in need of boots on the ground. The result has been an association that several times a year gives Unity students the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research.

The flourishing association between Unity College and Dale Joachim of the MIT Media Lab, a world class technological research center, came together thanks to the involvement of Professor Dave Potter and Unity students in the Maine Owl Monitoring Program.

Joachim needed reliable volunteers with expertise. The manpower and organization that Unity is able to provide made for a perfect match.

“Dale is interested in using simple, ubiquitous, off the shelf technology to survey wildlife,” explained Professor Dave Potter.

“A cell phone is something that most of us have, and with manipulating the cell phone technology minimally you can record wildlife sounds. The wildlife sounds that are cheapest to record are owls because owls call at night, and you don’t necessarily have to pay for minutes at night.”

Several times a year Joachim and other researchers from MIT visit Unity College to work with Potter and student volunteers to record owl calls. The researchers train the Unity volunteers on accessing the MIT server with cell phones, playing the recorded owl calls from the server while in the field, and using those same cell phones to record the owl responses on the server. This information in turn contributes to engineering research, helping researchers refine communication technology. This arrangement has worked extremely well.

“Here was a whole group of people in Maine that were willing to go out at night and do these crazy things, this has worked well,” Potter said.

Participation in the data gathering is open to all Unity College students who don’t mind losing sleep to gain a firsthand perspective on world class research. Potter estimates that up to 60 Unity students have participated.

A Bangor Daily News story with photos about the project is online at www.unity.edu/NewsEvents/News/BDN4609.aspx.

Also, visit The Owl Project www.owlproject.media.mit.edu and Maine Audubon at www.maineaudubon.org.

Creaser offered an example of how work in the laboratory is intrinsically linked to field work.

“A student might be in a lab staining a cross section of the arm of a very small animal,” Creaser continued. “From that they might learn that the animal has acid mucus. When they examine animals in the literature and real life, they might see that the animal is a burrowing animal.” Further inquiry might reveal that the animal uses the mucus to glue the sides of its sandy burrow together so that the burrow does not collapse.

“Students go from this tiny focused thing that they did in the lab to a very large scale world picture,” Creaser stated. “You can’t design experiments to really answer everything at once, you have to break it down into small bite-sized, double pieces so that you get meaningful results.”

NO SHORTCUTS TO SUCCESS

Unity science faculty stress that when it comes to research, there are no shortcuts. Some faculty, like Assistant Professor Alysa Remsburg, draw pedagogical inspiration from personal epiphanies.

“I’ve done ecological research in many places on plants, turtles, logs, frogs, and bugs,” Remsburg noted. “I remember feeling pretty helpless as an undergraduate student researcher who hadn’t paid much attention in statistics class. My students groan at how I emphasize the role of statistics in science, but I think they’ll thank me someday.”

Students examining skull bones in a paleontology class laboratory. And a chemistry student searches for information to solve a lab problem.

“It really depends on the course,” Assistant Professor Erika Latty explained. “In an introductory course usually we start with guided research projects. I might pick the overall technique and idea. For example, there’s a lab we do where we look at stomata densities and I show students how we can measure stomata densities, and teach them the importance of regulation of gas exchange in leaves.”

“I give them the background material on the topic, some methods and I have them design a hypothesis, that’s guided research,” Latty continued. “Students are given a lot of support but there is some element of creativity that makes it their own project.”

Latty teaches students standard field and lab techniques, as do her science colleagues on the faculty.

“It’s hard for students to do research if they don’t understand methods,” said Latty. “They need to learn actual scientific technique in addition to the process of science. By the time they’re in upper level courses they can have a lot more control over their projects because they have a lot more experience to draw from.”

Assistant Professor Kevin Spiegel sees the laboratory as intrinsically linked to his teaching.

“It is inherent to the geosciences that you have a lab component,” said Spiegel. “It’s all an applied learning environment. Some things related to the geosciences require you to go outside to collect data and bring it back to the lab to process or analyze.”

“Being outside (for hands-on learning) and lab work go hand-in-hand in the geosciences.”

The same sentiment is echoed by many faculty focused on different topics across the science curriculum.
Most every day I try to get some exercise. Several times a week I do free weights, usually in the morning. There are always other physical activities to pursue, everything from ultimate Frisbee to spending time on the climbing wall. I actually get a fair amount of exercise in some classes. At Unity, a class might take you to the Unity Bog, a half hour walk each way from the nearest road.

Today I got up just after six, left my roommate sound asleep, and headed for the gym. Forty-five minutes later I was back for a shower and then breakfast in the cafeteria. I made it to my 8 a.m. composition class with a few minutes to spare.

Since it was a nice day we met at the fire circle. A lot of professors take advantage of the campus not just for field work, but for outdoor classes when the weather is right. There are times when you do find yourself in a lab or classroom, but the hands on approach keeps things interesting.

Aside from some study time and chem. lab, one of my favorite classes is Universal Programming, which meets at the ropes course by the soccer field. The class focuses on developing, planning and implementation skills to help disabled people pursue adventure activities.

I am able to sleep in a little later on Tuesday. No early classes. Today I met friends for brunch from the à la carte menu in the Student Center café. There are pool tables, couches, snacks all day, music and even instruments if you want to do a little jam.

My Bio II class covered about a chapter today. Some days a class will focus on discussion, on other days like today there will be an intensive review. This usually precedes a quiz. I feel solid with the material and concepts, but there is no question that courses like biology require a specific set of skills.

The social scene at Unity is surprising in more ways than I can count. What people find surprising initially is that you can hang out with friends in the cafeteria and tell stories about dissecting the brain stem of a white tailed deer in Bio 1 lab, then at the next table they’re talking about their Music and the Environment class taught by the President. That’s not to say every discussion is an academic one.

Living on the campus of an environmental college can be a transformative experience at a time of life when change is constant. There is a pulse to campus that shifts from hour-to-hour, day-to-day, and season-to-season.

The fall semester begins with a palpable feeling of nervous excitement. There is a pervasive optimism and ‘getting-to-known you’ openness present. New students seek to make their mark and develop an identity within the Unity community. Weeks pass quickly in a flurry of academic, club, athletic and social events. Friends are made and interests shared.

By late-fall there is a full and increasing pressure. Assignments are due, midterm grades given, adjustments made, help sought, and habits formed. The academic breaks come and go. The end point for the semester is in sight. Personal arrangements are made for winter break including work and trips. Students are ready for a change and a breather, however brief.

The campus slows for winter break, then quickly jumps to life with the start of the spring semester. A sense of joy envelops the culture with the melting snow. Seniors begin to anticipate commencement. Another year is winding to a close. There is a burst of excitement with the achievements celebrated at commencement, and sadness at the loss of each departing senior.

In short, a college campus is an ecosystem.
Sunday
I hung out with friends today. We signed out a college van and trailer, loaded up the trailer with three canoes, and went to Unity Pond for an excursion. The water was calm with just a hint of crisp air, a reminder that fall is on the way. By the time we stopped on one of the deserted islands in the middle of the pond, we were all ready for lunch. Good thing we picked up our boxed lunches from the cafeteria before we left. There is nothing better than a picnic under a big sky with the sounds of nature all around.
After making our way back to campus and unloading the canoes, we all went our separate ways. I went to the library for some study time. At about 10 p.m., I went down to the fire circle next to the South Coop where members of the Outing Club had a nice, warm fire going under the stars. We all swapped stories from the day. Now I’m in my room and drowsy. Sleep will be most welcome.

My week is over and now I’m really starting to imagine all the wonderful possibilities. Life at an environmental college will prepare me for a career and adventures, and there’s no doubt that my life at Unity will feature plenty of adventure.

Wednesday
Today my North American Wildlife class met outside Quimby Library for a comprehensive demonstration of different wildlife trapping techniques. We don’t trap wildlife, but this aspect does relate to legal activities and as such, we are learning about it.
One of my friends is on the student government association and this year they are taking on planning duties for the flannel formal ball, so today I went to the volunteer planning meeting in the cafeteria. What’s a “flannel formal”? It’s a Unity-style “formal” dinner and dance that takes place every semester. Since Unity ain’t the type of place that either encourages or discourages formal attire for its version of a “prom,” the difference is split and most everything regarding attire is welcome. You will see everything from flannel with sandals and torn jeans to, one of the best outfits from last year’s ball, a pink crushed velvet tuxedo. Where do you get one of those anyway?

Thursday
First thing before breakfast I was on the climbing wall with a few other people. The hours are flexible and there is a serious climbing community at Unity, so you can find people at the climbing wall at 8 a.m., that’s common.
I went over to the computer lab to work on a Global Positioning System (GPS), accessing information from the Maine GIS Data Catalog for my independent study project.
There is a network of trails adjacent to the Unity College campus and I am developing a map of those trails using GIS. This means a lot of trips up to the wood lot to take position readings, then back to the lab for data input. I’ve gotten so used to doing this that I actually consider these GIS data gathering hikes to be a fun escape.
After an early dinner at Crosstrax Restaurant in town with friends, we car pooled over to the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts. With its concert stage, art gallery, and meeting spaces, the centre is a great place for lectures, movies and concerts. My Environmental Policy class is meeting there, we have a guest speaker from Maine House of Representatives tonight. He shares his firsthand experiences working on conservation issues as a member of the legislature.

Friday
Two classes, one lab, work study shift turning compost and helping Assistant Professor Alysa Remsburg with her ongoing invertebrate biodiversity research project on the wood lot pretty much sums up today. Tonight I went to see the jam band The Brew at the UCCPA. What a day!

Saturday
I got up way too early for a van ride to participate in the First Annual Clifton Climbers Weekend Service Project. We joined climbers from across Maine to support an ongoing effort to maintain well-used climbing cliffs across Maine. On this day we addressed two cliffs, Big Chick and Parks Pond cliffs, in Clifton, Maine. We worked to maintain the trails, cleared back brush from the staging points adjacent to the cliffs, and cleaned up trash.
21st Century Environmental Education
THE NEW BASICS

By Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy Knisley

I was intrigued to learn this summer that, according to The New York Times, some of the best minds in venture capital have decided it's time for their business to “go back to basics.” During the dot-com boom and bust about a decade ago, and the recent high flight and crash landing in financial markets, venture capitalists found themselves awash in dollars demanding investment. Business start-ups that might in ordinary times warrant a half-million in investment, found more than twice as much pressed upon them. But in many cases underlying fundamentals weren’t up to snuff, and young enterprises were unable to convert the investment into a real asset—a strong-selling product, a patentable process, a service consumers suddenly realize they cannot live without.

Smaller and sounder is the ticket, or so argued many interviewed for the Times piece. This and countless other tales from the recession crypt remind us that there is “wealth,” and then there is wealth. When the number attached to one’s net worth is a cork afloat on market-made tides, a market as responsive to boasts as to real demonstrations of value, that cork and your “worth” are bound to bob and eventually vanish under the high seas of market corrections. But this is easy to say, and see, in hindsight. In the midst of all the apparent bounty—stock returns soaring, upper-middle-class burgeoning, multi-million dollar bonuses flying, 401(k) and (b) retirement accounts fattening—what does it take to see, right then, that the emperor’s naked, or at any rate scantily clad?

Well, to an extent it’s information—in this case, information about money and the markets. And yet, this and other types of information are abundant and available. More fundamentally, what’s required is a capacity of mind, certain skills of discernment. And cultivation of this capacity, these skills, is right at the heart of an environmental college’s work as we roll into the cascading complexities of the 21st century. This is not about understanding money, although money makes an illustrative case study. It is about understanding baseline elements of sustainability, of wealth properly understood: tangibles like potable water and intangibles like a peace of mind, over time and across forms of life. Which conditions are conducive to “sustainable wealth” if you will, and which are not? What exactly do we mean by “sustainable wealth”—what forms does it take, and for whom? Which conditions do we control, and which control us?

“Sounds like critical thinking,” you say, “what’s special about that? Don’t all colleges do that?” Well, yes and no.

Photos by Joyce Tenneson
At Unity and other places where “the environment” sets a stage for what we teach, a systems standpoint necessarily complements carefully focused analysis.

While we would be hard-pressed to find a college that does not claim to improve students’ critical thinking abilities, traditionally the emphasis is on analysis—sorting argumentative wheat from chaff, so as to accept the better and reject the worse. “Analysis” derives from Greek terms ana, meaning “up” or “back,” and lyein, meaning “loose” or “loosen.” To analyze is to loosen the strands one from another, to separate a thing into its parts. We do it to understand and rightly judge the thing. A critical thinking exercise might involve sifting through a passion- and presumption-laden class discussion on whether joining the military counts as worthy public service, plucking out grains of actual evidence, and setting them upon the scales of justice to determine the weightier, and winning, position. Critical thinking, so understood, is crucial. But it is also incomplete. So, let us analyze critical thinking for a moment. What, in addition to the ability (and inclination) to pull apart and assess do we seek to cultivate, in a 21st century collegiate environmental education? Remember the venture capitalists’ lesson: back to basics. What are the basics for students coming of age as global climate change, rapid increase of the human specie, rapid decline in others, and hard-shifting geopolitical relations all swell and spill into potent, intersected and unpredictable rings of consequence? What skills and habits of mind will serve as we gather our energies around cultivating the conditions for sustainability? The list is long, but this note is short, so I’ll discuss only one: Analyticity must be wed to systematicity. The Greek word systema meant an “organized whole, a body,” and combines syn, “together” and histanai, “cause to stand.” Analysis distinguishes this sugar maple from that red, and the distinction’s usefulness is readily apparent. But what are those two trees doing, standing together, in the first place? Beyond spatial proximity, what is the relationship? And what’s useful about understanding it? At Unity and other places where “the environment” sets a stage for what we teach, a systems standpoint necessarily complements carefully focused analysis.

Study from the vantage of systematicity can be elusive. Shifting the focus of inquiry is one way to develop the skill. In law enforcement, for instance, the most compelling questions home in on individual actions and cases. Person A traffics in protected species X; person B hunts species Y out of season. The action and the rule—the violation in short—leaps into the foreground, and our focus snaps around the case to be made. But the background is replete with opportunities for a more thorough, college-level, understanding. Who is the person—a Congolese mother? a Maine high school student? What is the rule’s history, what purposes does it serve? Are there some it disserves? What is the species in question, why is its presence important and for whom? And we ask these questions not to test a rule’s validity (although we could), but to experience the fact that when it comes to matters environmental, it’s all of a piece. Tug on a policy thread, and a biodiversity issue twines out; raise a question of aesthetics, and suddenly the history of land use planning is in play. In a 21st century collegiate environmental education, we and our students must deftly negotiate the landscape of this modern world.

The new basics include a broadened and deepened understanding of critical thinking, for starts. What else should be on the list? As it happens the Unity faculty is asking itself that question, as it revises the college’s learning outcomes. And as we do, we keep our end in view—the graduate who is undaunted, but not naively so, by the scale and pace of environmental change and who can, even in its midst, ask the right questions and chart a right course. As we’ve learned in this most recent recession, hindsight gives a clear view, but cold comfort. A graduate who can understand, and effectively advance, the underlying conditions for genuine sustainability. The graduate who can comprehend the notion that the unprecedented collective power homo sapiens exercises over those baseline conditions requires that we ask new questions, and develop new answers, about collective responsibility and action.

As an environmental college that is younger than 50 years, Unity College has some interesting challenges related to the sustainability of its buildings. Most community members know that this campus was a regionally important industrial poultry hatchery until 1965. The founders recycled the hatchery into a college. From those humble beginnings Unity has been thrifty, recycling buildings many times over the years to meet changing needs and serve new programs.

The campus architecture runs the gamut. The campus includes buildings that were once hatchery warehouses, new high-end modern suite-style residence halls, an early 19th century farmhouse, a sweep of boxy 1960s buildings that may have used off-the-shelf plans from military architects, the chalet style Quimby Library, and the Alison M. Hall Welcome Center. Every building has an interesting and unique story.

Sustainability Coordinator Jesse Pyles and Associate Professor Mick Womersley, a sustainability expert, are intimately involved with the sustainability of campus buildings.

During a walking tour of the campus, Womersley and Pyles shared their insights about the history and sustainability of Unity College buildings.

“It is important for every college to consider sustainability in buildings,” said Pyles. “We’re equipping students to deal with pressing environmental issues. At an environmental college like Unity, we are uniquely focused on hands-on environmental learning. The campus itself becomes a sustainability laboratory, and buildings become educational as well as operational assets.”

The newest campus building, Unity House, home of President Mitchell Thomashow and his wife, Cindy, is also by far the most sustainable, and most exemplary. It uses no fossil fuel at all beyond what is embedded in the steel, aluminum, hi-tech wood composites, and other über-modern materials of its construction. Named LEED Platinum and less than a year old, this space-age home has attracted national attention. Several versions of Unity House are now being marketed by Bensonwood Homes of New Hampshire, which helped design and build the house as part of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Open Prototype Initiative.

“Blueprints for Unity House are free and available for download on the web,” said Womersley. “That’s what Open Prototype is all about, having an open source for construction plans which is intended to drive innovation in the construction industry.”
“We’re in the business of sustainability education and we want our campus and its buildings to reflect our sustainability values...”

“Finances have certainly been a challenge,” Pyles stated. “The upfront cost for sustainability in construction and design can sometimes prove to be cost-prohibitive, even when the payoff from operations down the road could make the investment a wise choice. Of course, the campus Master Plan, Unity 2020, has been drafted with sustainability criteria in mind, and the Master Planning Committee has addressed sustainability in a first-class way.”

Pyles highlighted one theme as key to continuing progress: heating. “We must consider renewable fuels for heating campus buildings if we hope to decrease emissions,” noted Pyles. “Replacing oil boilers with wood pellet boilers where appropriate is one approach being considered now.”

Analysis is the livelihood of sustainability, a fact that often shapes his priorities.

“We intend to do a more thorough energy analysis soon, supported in part by grant funding through our involvement with the Rocky Mountain Institute’s Accelerating Campus Climate Change Initiatives program,” Pyles explained. “That analysis should better help us to identify priorities from an energy perspective with specific emphasis on the return of investment for any improvements made to multiple campus buildings.”

Unity College is carefully considering its building options through an unfolding master planning process. Regardless of the shape the new master plan will take, campus building renovation projects will balance sustainability with functionality, aesthetic appeal and historical context.

Unity’s greenhouse gas inventory report is online at acupcc.aashe.org. Comprehensive information about sustainability achievements at Unity College is online at www.unity.edu.

SUSTAINABILITY PRIORITIES FOR CAMPUS BUILDINGS

• Constable Hall could benefit from a renewable heat supply such as a heat pump or pellet boiler.
• Westview and Eastview would benefit from new windows and more exterior wall insulation, likely foam board under new siding.
• The North and South Coops would benefit from a plethora of improvements, including adding insulation and replacing failing siding. A complicating factor adding cost and complexity is asbestos board insulations within the structure.
• Among the least sustainable buildings on campus is the Student Activities Building which houses the gym, student affairs, classrooms and the student center, and the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC). Womersley feels that the OAC has few redeeming qualities from a sustainability perspective, while occupying a key site that could be home to a larger building that might use less energy.
• The cottages are the very least sustainable of all campus buildings and most degraded. They must be replaced and Womersley urges their replacement take priority. One possibility is to remove them one-by-one, and place new buildings on the old lots, using the same services.
• Maplewood is new and highly efficient, as is Cianchetta.
• The health center is also new and efficient.
• Maintenance at the North and South coops needs to be improved.
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Bensonwood Homes is also marketing three versions of Unity House in the United States. The homes run in or around the $200K range. "That's not a bad price when you consider that you'll never have a heat or power bill," said Womersley.

Pyles and Womersley are frequently seen about campus with spreadsheets in their hands. When they look at buildings, they quote numbers like the annual kilowatt-hours they consume, or the oil they use. This gets confusing for the lay listener, but the numbers look good. Greenhouse gas emissions from campus energy use have decreased over 20% from 2001 levels despite adding new buildings and research facilities.

In 2007-2008, the most recent year with available data, Unity College emitted 1,091 tons of carbon-dioxide equivalent climate pollution. Reductions are attributed to efficiency upgrades in older buildings (new insulation in Constable Hall, Eastview and Westview several years ago), and efficiency focus in new construction (eg, the recent construction of Maplewood, a residence hall, features super-insulated ceilings and walls, and low-e windows).

“We will eventually need to knock the old buildings down,” said Womersley. “Some of them are, they will add climate emissions if you don’t also retire some inefficient windows and insulation, you’re decreasing energy use, and therefore increasing the economic efficiency of building operations,” said Pyles. Both Womersley and Pyles feel there is much that was done well in recent years. They credit Director of Facilities and Public Safety Roger Duvall and his staff as the unsung heroes of college sustainability.

“Not many employees and students know of the insulation projects in Eastview, Westview, Koons, along with the North Coop and South Coop,” said Womersley. He also praised the efficiency data compiled by Roger Duvall.

All of our more recent construction projects, including Maplewood Residence Hall, the Health and Wellness Center, Cianchetta Residence Hall, and the Allison M. Hall Welcome Center, integrate sustainability design and function well,” said Pyles. They’re not Unity House, but these buildings were constructed with thermal efficiency in mind. “As we pursue new construction on campus, these buildings will be the model that we work from.”

Womersley praises the workmanship of Joe Bellerose ‘77, the general contractor on many recent building projects, with the exception of Unity House which was built by Bensonwood Homes of New Hampshire.

“One day when you’re walking around campus, just walk up and look at the siding and windows (of most buildings like the Allison M. Hall Welcome Center), and notice how well they are sealed,” Womersley urged.

The challenges that Unity College has addressed have been many and varied. “Finances have certainly been a challenge,” Pyles stated. “The upfront cost for sustainability in construction and design can sometimes prove to be cost-prohibitive, even when the payoff from operations down the road could make the investment a wise choice. Of course, the campus Master Plan, Unity 2020, has been drafted with sustainability criteria in mind, and the Master Planning Committee has addressed sustainability in a first-class way.”

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Quimby Project Dedicated to Stephen and Tabitha King

On Friday, June 12, Quimby Webb Library at Unity College dedicated a renovated space to Stephen and Tabitha King. Through the Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation, Inc. the Kings have generously supported the library. Funding to enhance the public function of the library was used to create the new space serving as a children’s section. “The renovations included the relocation of children’s books to a more centralized location on the first floor,” noted Unity College Librarian Melora Norman. “Child friendly and attractive whimsical book shelves and furnishings were part of the renovation. A coloring table, play square, storytime seating, and brightly colored carpet were also added.”

Norman added that a second floor balcony area reading corner was established as part of the renovation. Quimby Library is open to the general public.

Events Celebrated at Unity

A Happy 44th Founders’ Day

On September 7, Unity College celebrated Founders’ Day with a cake social at the office of Vice President for College Advancement Rob Constantine in Constable Hall. A large group of students, faculty and staff stopped by to mark the occasion. Founders’ Day, September 7, 1965, marks the day when the college was founded. The first class arrived a year later for the first fall semester in 1966. College founders included: John A. Burrwell, Bert G. Clifford, Donald S. Constable, Maxwell O. Fortier, Donald Higgins Jr., Gordon S. Parsons, Christian O. Smart, Kenneth Tozier Jr., W. T. Vickery and Robert G. Wyman.

Making Friends...One Lobster at a Time

Each summer the Office of Admissions takes full advantage of Unity’s rural location to entice guidance counselors to campus. On July 10, Admissions hosted 17 guidance counselors for the 3rd Annual Guidance Counselor Lobster Dinner. Counselors were invited to spend one or two nights on campus to learn more about the Unity College curriculum, hands-on approach to learning, approach to sustainability and environmental mission. “Our goal is to expose guidance counselors to the ‘Best Value’ education available at Unity,” said President Mitchell Thomashow, who attended the lobster bake. Counselors in attendance hailed from New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Maryland.

Earth Activists Train at Unity

The training provided a full permaculture and ecological design certification program combined with earth based spirituality and practical know-how. Two Bangor-based television stations, WABI-TV Channel 5 and WVII-TV Channel 7, filmed stories about the training which aired on their respective stations.

Detailed information about Earth Activist Training and Starhawk, an internationally recognized environmental and social justice activist, author, and facilitator of the training at Unity College, is available online at www.earthactivist-training.org. Unity College Professor Doug Fox also led several sessions during the training.

Earth Activist Training is held several times a year in Northern California, Oregon, and North Carolina. This is the first time that this training was held in the Northeast. The course was taught by Starhawk, author of nine books including The Spiral Dance, The Fifth Sacred Thing, and most recently The Earth Path: Grounding Your Spirit in the Rhythms of Nature.

The training was a rigorous permaculture design program that combined class-room lecture with small-group project design time and hands-on experiential learning. Students learned how to heal soil, clean water, and design human systems that mimic natural systems using a minimum of energy and resources. This is the cornerstone approach of permaculture.

Students studied a variety of nature-based solution challenges such as urban gardening, organic farming, natural building, bio remediation, greywater systems, ecolforestry, soil building, and watershed restoration. Hands-on learning approaches enabled students to design and install one or more permaculture projects during the two-week course.

The training approach recognized that the bio remediation which happens with permaculture systems often must be accompanied by ‘socio-remediation,’ creating communities, along with social and political systems, that support sustainable ecological design. The course explored the strategies and organizing tools that may be needed to make a place for permaculture in the community.

College Hosts Belfast Chamber

On Thursday, September 10, Unity College hosted a Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts. Members of the chamber enjoyed networking with refreshments from local area restaurants in Unity. A drawing for donated prizes was held. Vice President for College Advancement Rob Constantine serves as board member of the chamber.

From left, Unity College Vice President for College Advancement Rob Constantine, Glenn Burgess of the Belfast Area Chamber of Commerce, and Jenny Marden of Marden, Mailoux, Marden and Bastedo Attorneys at Law.


**Landscape at Unity House**

**a Triumph of Careful Planning**

In the Unity College landscape we can see back into a time when the campus was merely a base camp from which students would leave to study nature that mattered—a remote bog, mountaintop or virgin forest relatively untouched by humans.

We can also see the emergence of another ethic on our campus, one that complements our historical emphasis on wilderness. In this more recent “garden” ethic, humans are not a blight on the land but have a place in nature, co-existing and seeking opportunities for reciprocity. In these landscapes, natural guilds—associations of interdependent plants, animals and humans—are developed that provide food and shelter to various life forms from nesting birds to professors grabbing a handful of blueberries on the way to a meeting, to students seeking a cozy place out of the wind for their study group.

The landscape around the Unity House is developing into a model of the garden ethic, a place where nature and culture can thrive together. Landscaper Brian Gaudet of Moon-tone Groowe, mountaintop or virgin forest relatively untouched by humans.

The landscape contributed essential LEED points to the Unity House Platinum Award. Features include low maintenance, noninvasive plants to supply food to wildlife and people; swales to direct and retain water, and low albedo paving on the patio that reflects rather than absorbs sunlight. The passive solar design required careful placement of plants including a trellis system that provides summer shade and allows winter sun. Throughout the landscape there are spaces for gatherings of people, quiet study, new gardens and, as designer and writer Christopher Alexander puts it, “places where real stories can be made…places to experience the measure of the freedom, difficulty, and incongruity of being human.” —Professor Doug Fox

**Wellness Fair**

The Unity College Wellness Fair, sponsored by Inland Hospital of Waterville and organized by Unity College Director of Student Health Services Anna McGalliard and the Unity Barn Raisers during the spring semester 2009, was an unqualified success. Among those participating was Jake Harr ’09, who helped to fix a bike owned by Samuel Eldridge, age 9, of Troy. Harr helped to organize a Unity area organization that advocates bicycle use for fun, fitness and sustainability.

**Education in a Changing Climate**

Education in a Changing Climate is an annual event jointly sponsored by The Orion Society (publishers of Orion Magazine) and Unity College. Twelve educators from across the country and as far away as Australia gathered at Unity College this past summer to work with poet and author Alison Deming, Middlebury College Professor John Elder, a specialist in nature writing, and Unity faculty using field-based nature study, the humanities and the arts to better understand and educate about climate change. “I found my time at Unity to be both re-affirming and intellectually stimulating. You managed to integrate just the right amount of art, humanities, science (who will forget our march to the peat bog), and passion. Powerful environmental thinkers and educators surrounded us each day. I am grateful to have had the chance to listen and learn from [them] all,” said Dan Shipp from College of the Pacific. —Cindy Thomashow

**Unity College Centre for Performing Arts**

**Lives Up to Hype**

The Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts (UCCPA) lived up to its reputation for attracting top notch talent during the summer and fall seasons of 2009. Among the talented performers and bands that took to the stage were John Eddie, Irish violinist Niamh Ni Charra, and Maine’s own Rustic Overtones.

The Rustic Overtones (left), a well-established rock band from Portland, Maine, that has worked with artists like David Bowie, surprised and delighted fans with an acoustic performance of their best known songs backed by three violinists and a cellist. Award-winning Niamh Ni Charra (center) displayed the talent and range that made her a mainstay of the Riverdance orchestra for nearly a decade. During the Get Hooked on Unity weekend concert John Eddie (right) seized the audience from the first note, showing why he is frequently mentioned alongside Bon Jovi and Bruce Springsteen as among the finest performers ever to hail from New Jersey.
A Life in Service to the Environment

Every Unity College student values role models. Chairman of the Board of Trustees Tim Glidden is a role model who, like President Mitchell Thomason, embodies what a life spent in-service to the environment means.

Now in his second term as Chairman, Glidden is Director of the Land for Maine’s Future Program, the primary source of state funding for land conservation activities across Maine. Working with an eleven-member board, Glidden manages $8 to $10 million annually in conservation projects including parks, trails, ecological reserves, farms, working forests and waterfronts.

To date Land for Maine’s Future Program has helped in the conservation of more than half a million acres, ensuring the sustainability of some very special places.

While Glidden’s achievements to benefit the environment are readily apparent to Unity students, what is less apparent are the details of how his contributions to the wise fiscal oversight of the College helped it reach solid footing in a challenging higher education marketplace.

“As a trustee, I feel a deep responsibility for the fiscal health of the College and for the integrity of its strategic direction,” said Glidden. “The most important thing we do as trustees is to keep our eye on the future, looking for challenges and opportunities Unity will face.”

“My political awakening in the late 60’s and early 70’s was an excellent team member in her service as interim CFO (Chief Financial Officer),” wrote Driscoll.

The position, including serving in various positions with Price Waterhouse, Soft Key Software Products, Visibility, Inc., and Foundry and Principal of Business Advisory and Financial Services, Driscoll holds a B.S. in Accountancy from Bentley College.

When she was hired as Unity’s new Vice President for Finance and Administration in September, EILEEN DRISCOLL already knew her way around campus. She first came to Unity in July as the interim VP for Finance and Administration, working closely with her predecessor Roger Join. “Eileen has been an excellent team member in her service as interim CFO (Chief Financial Officer),” wrote President Mitch Thomason in a campus-wide announcement. “All of her references speak glowingly about her intelligence, experience, versatility, collaborative style, integrity, and mentoring qualities.”

Driscoll brings a varied financial background to the position, including serving in various positions with Price Waterhouse, Soft Key Software Products, Visibility, Inc., and Founder and Principal of Business Advisory and Financial Services. Driscoll holds a B.S. in Accountancy from Bentley College.

Over the summer of 2009, KRISTINA WILLIAMS began her new duties as Events Coordinator/Admissions Counselor. The events aspect of her position will focus specifically on admissions events such as fall open house and the new student experience program. In 2007, Williams was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing Communications from Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts. Her professional experiences include serving as a media planner specializing in travel and tourism for ISM, Strategic Marketing in

FULL-TIME STAFF

Kathleen Dunkel joins the faculty as an instructor in Computers. Dunkel earned a M.S. in Environmental Science from Alaska Pacific University, and a B.A. in Environmental Science from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. Dunkel comes to Unity College from Cape Cod Community College, where she has been providing leadership in GIS instruction, and brings a blend of computer instruction and environmental education background. Dunkel is a member of the Center for Natural Resource Management and Protection.

Craig McLaughlin joined the faculty as an Associate Professor in Wildlife. McLaughlin earned his Ph.D. in Wildlife Ecology from University of Maine, Orono, his M.S. in Wildlife from Pennsylvania State University, and his B.S. in Wildlife Conservation and Management from the University of Wyoming, Laramie. McLaughlin comes to Unity College from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, where he served as Wildlife Program Chief, capping many years in state fish and wildlife programs in Maine, Vermont and Utah. Craig is a member of the Center for Natural Resource Management and Protection.

Janet Preston joined the faculty as an Instructor in Mathematics in the fall. Preston earned an M.S. in Mathematics from Northeastern University, and a B.S. in Mathematics and teacher certification from Wesleyan University. She is a long-time resident of Maine with a significant teaching background, including serving as an adjunct at Unity College for several semesters. She is a member of the Center for Biodiversity; she and her family reside in China, Maine.
Maine Senator Addresses Global Climate Change

During her commencement address on May 9, United States Senator Susan Collins left no doubt where she stands on the issue of climate change. In a stirring and highly personal speech, Collins said that climate change is a problem that she has witnessed firsthand.

“I have observed firsthand the dramatic effects of climate change and have been briefed by the preeminent experts in this field,” Collins told graduates. “In 2006, on a trip to Antarctica and New Zealand, for example, I saw sites in New Zealand that had been buried by massive glaciers at the beginning of the 20th century, but are now ice free. Fifty percent of the glaciers in New Zealand have melted since 1860—an event unprecedented in the last 5,000 years.”

“It was remarkable to stand in a place where some 140 years ago, I would have been covered in tens of hundreds of feet of ice, and then to look far up the mountainside and see how distant the edge of the ice is today.”

Senator Collins praised Unity College and its environmental mission.

“For 44 years, Unity College has produced graduates ready to meet the demands of today,” Collins stated. “Unity graduates have a reverence for the past, but more important, they have a vision for the future. The Great Law of the Iroquois—that we must assess every action we take in terms of its impact on the seventh generation—is the guiding spirit of this great school. The people of Maine are proud to be home to America’s Environmental College.”

The entire text of the commencement address by Senator Collins is online at www.unity.edu/NewsEvents/News/UC-Com1509.aspx.

Maine Representative Michaud Tours Unity House

On October 5, Congressman Mike Michaud of Maine’s 2nd District visited Unity College. He briefed members of the Leadership Council on health care reform and green issues. After the meeting he toured Unity House with President Mitchell Thomashow. Congressman Michaud learned about the performance of Unity House to date, which is on track to be carbon neutral in its first calendar year.

Renewable Energy in Maine

A diverse group of supporters witnessed Governor John Baldacci’s ceremonial signing of the Community-Based Renewable Energy Act on June 24, 2009. Pictured supporters include lead sponsors Bruce MacDonald and Herbert Adams, representatives from the Peninsula Power Coop Initiative, Mary Ann Hayes of Maine Rural Partners and Mick Womersley from Unity College (second from right).

Fishing for Scholarships Breaks Record

The seventh annual Unity College Fishing for Scholarships Tournament, part of Get Hooked on Unity Weekend, featured a record number of tagged fish caught.

“The fishing conditions were great and among the countless fish caught, nine had fishing tournament tags,” said Unity College Vice President for College Advancement Rob Constantine. “The previous record was four.”

The catch-and-release fishing tournament, the only one of its kind in the United States, was held on Sunday, July 26 on Unity Pond, a stone’s throw from the Unity College campus in Unity, Maine.

Among the awards for tagged fish and prize drawings were the crown jewel of the weekend, a one-year tuition scholarship valued at $20,000. The fish tagged for the one-year tuition scholarship was landed by Jacob Hastings ’13 of Farmington, Maine. A $5,000 scholarship was won by Josh Wade ’11 of Alstead, New Hampshire. There were eleven additional students who won scholarships and prizes, bringing the value of all scholarships and prizes awarded to $25,000.

Bringing Local Options to Downtown Waterville

There’s a new market on the block in downtown Waterville: Barrels Community Market, which is dedicated to selling locally grown food and locally crafted products, held a Grand Opening Celebration on September 12, 2009.

The launch of this non-profit market was a collaborative effort, said Shannon Haines, Executive Director of Waterville Main Street, a downtown revitalization organization that oversees Barrels Community Market.

“We have received considerable support from Colby College, Unity College, the Waterville Rotary Club, Inland Hospital and many other individuals, businesses, and organizations to get the market up and running,” said Haines.

Unity College contributed to the development of the project by conducting market research with students. Dr. Nancy Ross, associate professor of environmental policy and agriculture, food, and sustainability, lead her students in researching local food trends and non-profit business models as a means of identifying best practices in the emerging field of local food economies.
Bucking the Trend of Employee Melt in Higher Education

At a time when colleges and universities across the United States are trimming jobs, Unity College is boldly bucking the belt tightening trend.

The creation of new positions is in response to a historically large pool of applicants, strong retention of students, new and ongoing public/private partnerships, and an increase in giving to this fall,” said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy Knisley. “The Academic profile of the incoming class of 2013, Dean for Enrollment Management Alisa Johnson reports that the academic profile of the incoming class is outstanding. “The class of 2013 has the highest grade point average and best SAT scores of any class in the history of Unity College,” Johnson confirmed. “This adds to our already strong curriculum with national reach.”

The popularity of Unity’s environmental curriculum has led to the hiring of three new faculty members to replace three who retired.

“We’re very excited to welcome three new members to our full-time faculty this fall,” said Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy Knisley. “The news in higher education has been full of layoffs and cutbacks—entire programs being cut along with their faculty, including tenured faculty in some cases. There is nothing more important, for a small college like ours, than a strong faculty, and I’m so pleased we’ve been able to maintain our faculty workforce in full for this upcoming year.”

Kathleen Hale, Director of Human Resources, is pleased that the College has been able to keep a handle on employment despite the economic turmoil shaking businesses.

“In a time when many institutions of higher education are laying people off and freezing hiring, retaining people in their jobs and maintaining the quality of our staff and faculty workforce is one of our highest priorities at Unity College,” said Hale. “Our staff and faculty are very committed to our students, believe wholeheartedly in our mission, and we place a high value on our workers who make us what we are.”

In addition to the historically high number of applications received for the incoming class of 2013, Dean for Enrollment Management Alisa Johnson reports that the academic profile of the incoming class is outstanding. “The class of 2013 has the highest grade point average and best SAT scores of any class in the history of Unity College,” Johnson confirmed. “This adds to our already strong curriculum with national reach.”

Who is Jesse Pyles and What is He Doing in a Boiler Room Anyway?

If you are strolling the Unity College campus and happen to see a lanky West Virginian exit a door you never noticed before, and you peer in and see that there are all kinds of pipes and equipment in the room beyond, well, you have just encountered the emerging profession of Sustainability Coordinator, and Unity College’s very own, Jesse Pyles.

Unity College is a pioneer of the sustainability coordinator position and role, and in fact we get regular requests from all around the country for information on how to set up such a position and make it work. Jesse’s new job is the product of our trial and error in moving towards campus sustainability, and his own life pathway towards this work.

Jesse hails from the mountain country of West Virginia, but he traveled to New York City to earn an undergraduate degree in environmental studies at the prestigious Pace University. For his graduate degree he attended the Audubon Expedition Institute field-study program, touring the Pacific Northwest and Canyons and on the famous AEI bus, and getting a master’s in environmental education along the way. If that doesn’t sound idiomatic enough, what follows surely is. He married a New Englander, Laura, who has significant experience in agriculture and sustainability education in her own right, having been the resident farmer at Sterling College. Both Laura and Jesse were looking for ways to further develop their sustainability careers in the context of a rural lifestyle when the Unity College job came open, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Jesse’s job is to coordinate all campus sustainability efforts. Each department head with significant responsibility and budget, especially those who have responsibility for purchasing materials and energy, has a clause in their job description saying that each year they must prepare a Sustainability report and roll three-year plan to submit to the President for approval. Jesse’s primary job is to help develop those reports and to help each department be as sustainable as they can be.

The data in those reports is then compiled and used to make several campus sustainability reports that are due to external oversight agencies each year, particularly the Maine Governor’s Carbon Challenge (www.maine.gov/dep/innovation/gcc/) and the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment (www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/), both of which require to know what our campus carbon emissions were in the preceding year. And of course, both require different formats, and even different units. Like all sustainability coordinators, Jesse has to be a whiz with numbers.

The other big part of his job is internal and external outreach. There’s not much point being (we believe) the greenest campus in America if you don’t tell anyone about it. Students often don’t realize what goes into our sustainability efforts, and the outside world needs to hear it too. Jesse necessarily spends a lot of time writing, telephoning, and emailing to get the message out to external constituencies. Internally, there’s nothing like face-to-face, and so Jesse goes into the classrooms and residence halls regularly to meet the students and tell them what’s up.

All in all there isn’t enough time in the day to do all this as completely or as well as it could be done, so prioritizing is fairly important. The sustainability coordinator position is key to the increasingly high-profile reputation of Unity College, and Jesse is key to the position. Please join me in welcoming him to our community. — Associate Professor Mick Womersley

Faculty and Staff Service Honored

On April 28, Unity College faculty and staff gathered in Quinby Library for the 2009 Length of Service Awards. Given annually, the awards recognize milestones reached by faculty and staff. Organized by Director of Human Resources, Kathleen Hale, and the Assistant to the Director of Human Resources, Mary-Cay Pittre, the awards feature a narrative about each recipient. The narratives are often written by supervisors with sometimes humorous or heart warming thoughts contributed by co-workers. President Mitchell Thomashow (center front) was on hand to make the presentations to (clockwise from left) Adjunct Instructor/Director of the Writing Center Judy Williams (5 years of service); Chief Public Safety Officer Dean Bessey (10 years); Executive Assistant to the President/Secretary to the Board of Trustees Chris Melanson (10 years); Advancement and Prospect Research Coordinator Cindy Schaub (5 years); Administrative Assistant to the Business Office Beth Safford (5 years); Accountant Cheryl Gould (10 years); Associate Professor James Reed (20 years); Professor Dave Potter (20 years); and Professor Jerry Cinnamon (35 years).

Not pictured are Clinical Counselor Julie Johnson (5 years); Director of Information Technology William Morgan (5 years); Assistant Professor of Biology Aimee Phillippi (5 years); Maintenance II William Veilleux (5 years); Associate Professor J. Andrew McNunes (10 years); and Maintenance II Bruce Cook (15 years).
HURRICANE SEASON AT UNITY

During the fall semester the critically acclaimed multi-media production of Hurricane Season offered a well-received performance at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts (UCCPA). Through a tapestry of spoken-word poetry, video projection, dance, shadow art, and a sound collage of personal testimonies, Hurricane Season connects the issues that surfaced in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to the “unnatural disasters” our communities are experiencing nationwide and around the world on a daily basis. Aikia and Narma are the soul-sister co-conspiracy of arts activists known as Climbing Poetree. With roots in Haiti and Colombia, Alixa and naima reside nationwide and around the world on a daily basis. Alixa and naima are the soul-sister co-conspiracy of arts activists known as Climbing Poetree. With roots in Haiti and Colombia, Alixa and naima reside

UNITY College Welcomes Four New Trustees

Four new Trustees were welcomed to the Board of Trustees at the annual fall meeting at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts on October 23. “Unity College is delighted to welcome these four new Trustees to the Board,” noted President Michel Thomashow. “They bring valuable creativity, insights, and networks into our midst. They join us because Unity College is in the forefront of educating a new generation of sustainability leaders.”

New to the Board are Jeff Wahlstrom, Managing Director of Starboard Leadership consulting of Bangor, Maine. He possesses more than 25 years of hands-on nonprofit leadership experience. John Bierenberg of C2 and Project M with locations in Portland and Belfast, Maine, has won over 250 design awards. He has served on national boards and teaches at California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

Margent Kelley is an artist and author who works with the Photography Department at the Art Institute of Boston in Boston, Massachusetts. She has offered readings and lectures across the United States, won grants and awards, and displayed collections at the Portland (Maine) Museum of Art, Berman Museum of Art, and American Newspaper Repository at Duke University.

Nadine Mort is an author and special educator with over thirty years experience in the public and private sector. She has an extensive background and specialization in specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbance and autism in young adults.

Spigel and Larson were together to present a paper entitled Investigations of Wildfire Activity During Periods of Rapid Climate Change: An example from the Younger Dryas Chronzone. The presentation marked the end of research conducted during the fall and spring semesters at Unity College. The work entailed processing lake sediments recovered from Emrick Lake in southern Wisconsin to isolate small fragments of charcoal in Petri dishes and subsequently counted under a dissecting microscope.

Charcoal counts were subjected to statistical analysis in order to determine the relative frequency of wildfire during a prominent climatic event that started at the end of the Wisconsin Glacial Period approximately 12,800 years ago. Spigel organized two thematic paper sessions with a colleague from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point entitled Sedimentary Analysis major, headed west to the Nevada desert for the AAG meeting was attended by nearly 7,000 people, spread between two venues located on Las Vegas Boulevard, and consisted of hundreds of concurrent sessions on each of the six days. All disciplines, in addition to physical geography (e.g. geomorphology, soils, climate, and biogeography) were well represented including historical, medical, economical, political geography, geographic information science (GIS), cartography, and many more.

Spigel and Larson spent several days attending presentations on other aspects of paleoenvironmental change, human impacts on geomorphology and hydrology, soils and geosurveillance, and many more, as well as dining with old (and new) friends and colleagues, and browsing through exhibits. In addition to enjoying the glitter and glamour of Las Vegas, Spigel and Larson ventured beyond the bustle of downtown to explore Hoover Dam, Valley of Fire State Park, and Lake Mead National Recreation Area on a much needed “tourist” day. —Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel

Unity College Trustees pictured are Dr. Mitchell Thomashow, President; Mr. William Goldstein, Chair; Mr. William Zoellick, Vice-Chair; Mr. Donald Foster, Treasurer; Ms. Juliet Browne,Secretary; Mrs. Joan Amory, Mr. John Bierenberg, Mr. Pete Didisheim, Mrs. Martha Dolben, Mrs. Margaret Kelley, Mr. Mark Miller, Mr. Robert Pollis, Mrs. Arlene Schlafer, Mr. Matthew Sheejan ’00, Mr. Robert Tonge, Dr. Paul Wade, Mr. Jeffrey Wahlstrom, Mr. James Aran, Faculty; Ms. Hannia Candela ’11, Student. Not pictured are Ms. Sharon Bloom, Ms. Eleanor Briggs, Mr. Mac McCabe, Mrs. Nadine Mort, Ms. Gloria Soza ’80, and Mr. Kenneth Winters.
In Our Element  Faculty Notes

Inaugural Center Directors Announced by Vice President for Academic Affairs Amy Knisley

The inaugural set of Center Directors has been nominated from their Centers and appointed. Professor Doug Fox has accepted a four-year appointment to lead the Center for Sustainability and Global Change. Doug began on the full-time faculty in spring 1991. Assistant Director of Teacher Education/Full-time faculty in spring 1991. As-
Acadia Partners Research Fellows

The first three recipients of faculty- research fellowships through a partnership between the College and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning were announced in September. Acadia Partners is the non-profit organization that manages the New- wood Education and Research Center at Acadia National Park. This fellowship program supports Unity faculty in pursuing research into the park, to the benefit of both the College and the park. The program is the brainchild of Bill Zoldick, Director of Pro- gram Development at Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, and Vice Chair of the Unity College Board of Trustees. In her project on “Effects of exanthemous diseases on Maine forests,” Assistant Professor Erika Latty will complement similar work she has done elsewhere in the United States by sampling forested transects in the park to investigate entomological relationships between invasive earthworms and plant species variety. In addition to improving the park’s own ecological datasets, the project will also become part of the high school science curriculum in Bel- fast. Assistant Professor Alyssa Rems- burg, in her project entitled “Odonata breeding assemblage and vehicle collision surveys,” will be conducting ecological studies intended to better inform the park on population and habitat details of certain species of damselfly and dragonfly. She is hopeful that her work will provide needed information about the presence and absence of sev- eral species of special concern for the Maine Department of Inland Fisher- ies and Wildlife. Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel will bring his work us- ing lake sediment cores to understand environmental change to the park, in his project entitled “Environmental responses to rapid climate change dur- ing the Younger Dryas Chronozone in Acadia National Park, Maine (Phase II).” Rapid environmental change is understood to have occurred dur- ing the Younger Dryas, and will use samples from higher-altitude ponds in the park to begin a process of adding to existing sedimentary records from Maine for this period.

Lessons Learned: New Faculty Reflect

After a year or more on the job, several of Unity’s newest and brightest faculty reflected on the transition and discoveries they made joining the College.

In the fall of 2007, Assistant Professor Alyssa Remsburg began teaching at Unity College. “It was refreshing to meet students who really were excited about the work of their time and money in college,” said Remsburg. “Most of these students aren’t just go- ing through the motions they were told to do.” Assistant Professor Erika Latty joined the faculty with a good idea about the key strengths of Unity College: “I had known about Unity College for some time,” said Latty. “Unity is known for experiential, hands- on learning. It is a good fit for the type of research that I do.”

Latty researches the effects of introduced earthworm specie- s on plant diversity. She researches beech bark disease which is quite rampant in Maine, so Unity’s location was the time and money- setting for Latty to further her research. There was more to the ap- peal than a job and a location. “Unity College values research and hands-on learning,” she said. “Just fit with my ideas about pedagogy (teaching).” Assistant Professor Kevin Spigel felt a kinship with the Unity student perspective. “I felt there would be students who want- ed to be engaged in the geosciences,” Spigel said. He was not disappointed and led students to hearty adventures on Unity Pond coring for lake sediment during sub-zero days. None of the students flinched and most were elated with the research gathering.”My students have had no problem going outside in the rain, sleet, and cold to experience firsthand the physical land- scape,” Remsburg said. Remsburg describes her teaching as ‘hands-on’ with a twist that is sometimes overlooked.

“My teaching is ‘hands-on’ quite often, although students sometimes forget that this can take place in a lab setting. In problem solving groups, or in drawing a diagram,” she explained. “Hands-on learning really means learning through experi- ence and practicing the skills that will be needed in the future.”I believe the purpose of college is to prepare our graduates for ‘hands-on’ work in their careers, that they have more options than working only with their hands,” Remsburg said.

The ‘minds-on’ reference is about diversity of skills and adapt- ability over time, learning to acquire new skills over a career. All three feel comfortable as members of the Unity community. “I have students who want to be engaged with the physical landscape, which makes my job better and the classes as a whole better,” Spigel said.

David and Peggy (Kelther) Latty are consid- ering retirement next year. David farms with his brother and nephew in Clinton, Maine, and Peggy is a case manager for a mental health agency in Newport. They have five grandchildren.

Antony Lambert retired from his position at Versum and now enjoys volunteering in his community. He keeps in contact with Billy Childs, Tom ‘70 and Pat (Valeriano) Blanchard and Gary Rascal ‘70.

Pat Pehan is a sales/marketing manager for a snow contracting and commercial landscaping company in Islip, N.Y. He and Mary have three children: Patrick, a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in R.I. with a degree in architecture; Susanne, who graduated from SUNY New Paltz with honors in psychol- ogy, and Jack, 12, enjoys playing soccer and baseball.

Rich Sidell is semi-retired from a company and has two sons, Keith, 27, graduated from Sycracuse University, and Tyler, 23, has a master’s in computer science/graphic design from George Washington University.

Jim Allen works on computer 3D modeling, rendering and architectural work in Chino Valley, Ariz.

Tim Biggs is an employee at Hidden Valley Camp in Montmorency, Maine. Pam (Pull) ‘74 is an attorney who really enjoys the work of her two sons, three children, a son, Gino, and two daugh- ters, Caitlin, who attends Prescott College in Ariz. and Rachel, who graduated from Mar- boro College in Vt.

Pamela (Hume) Partridge has been teaching fourth grade at the Garret Schenck School in North Anson, Maine for 21 years. After Unity, she received her bachelor of science in education from the University of Maine at Farmington and her master’s in education from the University of Maine in Orono.

George and Lois (Brown) Cozzi both work for Mandant. Lois is a quality assurance engineer and George is in sales. They have two grown children, George III Lives in N.H. and Seven works on Broadway as a costumer.

Pat Busche is vice president and owner of Trinity Transportation Services in Orange Park, Fla. She has resided in Fla. for the past 20 years with her father and daughter.

Mary Guariglia owns a business that offers mentoring and coaching for network market- ers. She is the mother of twin girls.

Tom Shelley retired from his position as su- premecourtment of the Hamilton JN Water Pollution Control. He and his wife have gone to Austria in April to visit their son, Christopher, who is teaching under a Ful- bright Scholarship.

David Symes has been a rural mail carrier at the U.S. Postal Office in Gardner, Maine, since 1985. He worked this past summer as a fishing and caribou hunting guide for Ungara Adventures in Alaska. Dave has been mar- ried to Becky for 28 years, and they have two daughters—Laura, who graduated from North Carolina State University, and Karen, who graduated from Unity College in 2008.

Beth Cady-Grezisk is a certified hospice reg- istered nurse for the Concord N.H. Regional Visiting Nurse Association. She graduated from Quinnipiac University’s 4-year nursing program with a bachelor’s degree in 1996. She has been married for 13 years, and her hus- band, John, is the IT director for a charter school in Conn.

Charlie Davis is the president of Davis Builders Inc. in Belgrade, Maine. He has been building and remodeling homes for 27 years. He and his wife, Jodi, have three children: a son, Gino, and two daugh- ters, Caitlin, who attends Prescott College in Ariz. and Rachel, who graduated from Mar- boro College in Vt.

Mike Leighton is a state park regional manager for the Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands. He is married and has four kids.

James “JC” Harris was in the U.S. Air Force for 21 years on active duty and in the reserve. He is now a pilot for UPS. He is married and has two sons, ages 22 and 18.

Pam Roberts is manager of CN Brown Oil Company in Lancaster, N.H. She is the widow of Don Roberts, who passed away in 2000. She has a daughter, Samantha, 20.
81 John Berger is an environmental consultant for Miller Environmental Consulting Engineering and the City of Allentown Water Resources in Allentown, Pa.

82 Stephen Goullette is a production supervisor for VHA Cheese in Swanton, Vt. He and Terry (Rustic) have two children: Daniel, 25, and Rachel, 23.

83 Keith Hough is starting his 24th year as a member of the Assumption College Campus Police Department in Worcester, Mass., where his current position is lieutenant. He and his wife, Heather, have two twins, ages 3.

84 Leo Paquette is the owner of a weekly paper, The Employment Times. He, Dave Dargie, Craig Aronson, and Jay Minier ’84 enjoyed an ice fishing trip to Moosehead, Maine in February.

85 Mark Anato is a state trooper, a corporal in the Bureau of Training and Education, and a supervisor for the Advanced Training In-Service Unit in Pa. He works part-time teaching rock climbing at the local gym. He married Rachael, an oral surgical assistant. They have five children: Reiley, 13, Samantha, 14, Jacob, 14, Jessica, 15 and Corina, 16.

86 Jeanne (Brown) Allen is a personnel specialist at Waterville, Maine.

87 Kevin Firmin is a geopolitical analyst for the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency in Bethesda, Md. He received a degree in cartography from the University of Connecticut in 1985. He and his wife, Cindy, have one daughter, ages 18.

88 Jim Morrissey has been in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security working on a Health Security Intelligence Enterprise initiative, which was the subject of his master’s thesis.

89 Roland Perry is pursuing a degree in golf management. In his spare time, he performs comedy magic shows. His three children, Shane, Todd, and Meghan attend college.

90 Amy Kent is a special education teacher in Juneau, Alaska. Her daughter, Jenna, graduated from high school in Bellingham, Wash. Amy’s son, Eli, is 14, and Alex is with her.

91 Doug Sallab is employed at the Maine DFP as an environmental consultant. He specializes in air toxics emissions and arsa emissions.

92 John Letendre is the owner of Beaux Stockbower, a photo business, Fishstick Photo. He enjoys photography, fraternities and sororities.

93 Beaux Stockbower is a graduate of the University of Connecticut and received a master’s in wildlife in 1991 from Texas A&M. He also received his Ph.D. in wildlife at the University of Vermont in 1998. He married and has two children, ages 18 and 15.

94 Wayne and Deb Berger’s daughter, Jordan, graduated from high school in Essex, Mass. Wayne is the director of course challenge design and installation for Project Adventure in Hamilton, Mass.

95 Dennis Downor is in his 21st year with UPS as a supervisor. He and his wife have four chil- dren: Ashley, 20, is an art major at Manchster Community College; Chelsea, 18, attends Southern Connecticut State University while McNeney, 12, and Courtney, 10, are both active in soccer and softball.

96 Barbara (Hall) Krause is the owner of Growing Like a Weed in Tilton, N.H. She and David have three children: Tucker, 18, at Castleton State College in Vermont, Alyssa, 16, a junior in high school, and Logan, 10.

97 Patti Holt-Barbell is a personal trainer, a certified trainer for cancer patients, and a cer- tified wellness coach at Synergy Health and Fitness Center in Exeter, N.H. She is married and has two daughters, ages 19 and 16, and two step-daughters, ages 18 and 15.

98 Ann (Lewis) Tommi is a medical coder in a local hospital’s outpatient department. Andy is an account executive for a construction company in the New Hampshire division. They have two sons: Alex, 19, is a freshman at SUNY Genes- see, and Drew, 17, is a junior in high school.

99 Tom St. Germain owns Chore Store, a home improvement store, and renovating business in Waterville, Maine. He and his wife, Beverly, have four daughters: Melissa, 23, recently married; Rachel, 22, a nurse at Maine Med; Joanna, 20, a junior at the University of Maine at Augusta, and Samantha, 19, whose passion is cooking.

100 Ross Beaure special teacher education at the middle school in Springfield, Mass. He teaches the YMCA swim team in Holyoke, Mass. His wife, Carmen, has a daughter, Monique, 11.

101 Sigge (Dolito) Kling is a cardophographer at Brev- wick Hospital in Pa. She received her degree in medical imaging from Bloomsburg Univer- sity of Pennsylvania in 2007.

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103 Travis Wagner was awarded tenure and pro- moted to associate professor of environmental science and policy at the University of Southern Maine. He was awarded a sabbatical for fall 2009 to co-author a new environmental science textbook and to complete his research projects on household CFL recycling behavior and electronic waste management.

104 Wayne and Deb Berger’s daughter, Jordan, graduated from high school in Essex, Mass. Wayne is the director of course challenge design and installation for Project Adventure in Hamilton, Mass.

105 Buffalo Bills is a portrait photographer for Vantine Studies in Hamilton, N.Y., which specializes in composite portraits of college fraternities and sororities.

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Jeff Nichols ‘92

A love of the outdoors, hunting, fishing and related activities drew Jeff Nichols ’92 to Unity College. These personal interests defined his professional career and eventually led him to Alaska, a virtual nirvana for outdoor enthusiasts and environmental professionals.

Nichols has thrived as a Habitat Biologist and Lead Biologist employed by the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Division.

After graduation Nichols worked on various bird projects in Idaho and Alabama. He pursued further education to advance his career.

In 1996, Nichols was awarded a Master of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia. He then followed his passion for the outdoors to Alaska. Nichols credits his time at Unity College as among the most formative and important periods in his life.

From his first visit to campus Nichols was drawn to Unity College because of its close-knit community. The small college atmosphere focused on applied learning, getting outside and respecting the environment, all qualities that Nichols values.

"Unity College provides students with the opportunity to learn within a supportive community of diverse individuals who share an interest in the environment," Nichols said.

"An important period in his life," Nichols said. "The small college atmosphere focused on applied learning, getting outside and respecting the environment, all qualities that Nichols values."

"My love of the outdoors, hunting, fishing and related activities drew Jeff Nichols to Unity College. These personal interests defined his professional career and eventually led him to Alaska, a virtual nirvana for outdoor enthusiasts and environmental professionals."
Jason Seiders is a fisheries biologist at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Augusta, Maine. He and his wife, Heather, have two sons, Everett, 4, and Wyatt, 18 months.

Wayne Simmons is a concreteiller at Luni-form in Sullivan, Maine, a company that specializes in concrete garden vessels. He and his wife, Cathy, have a son, Wyatt, 3¾.

Jody Simes is completing his master’s in sci- ence within the department of fisheries and wildlife from Michigan State University. He is expecting his first child.

Shane Welch received his Ph.D. in wildlife biology with an emphasis in conservation bi- ology from Clemson University in 2006. He currently holds a post doctoral fellowship at the University of South Carolina focusing on land- scape ecology and historical ecology, in partic- ular, broad-scale temporal and spatial patterns.

Char-lin Williams is an insurance account manager for Northeast Bank Insurance Divi- sion in Anson, Maine. She has two daughter: Catherine, 13, and Lyndsay, 12, and two sons: John, 14, and Madelynn, 20. She and her husband, David, have three children: Kedar, 9, Kameryn, 6, and Cameron, 4.

Jenna Harnett is a wildlife biologist for the State of Minnesota. She has a son, Carter, 9, and a daughter, Olivia, 6. She and her husband, Michael, have two children: Grayson, 4, and Avery, 2.

Michelle Thomas had the lead position into the gymnasium for commencement exercises on May 9, 2009. Senator Collins served as the commencement speaker.

Steve Sherman is a forest ranger for the State of New Hampshire and Jessica (Ruggles) is director of the public library in Monson, N.H. They have a daughter, Emily, 7.

Neal Sleeper is the programming director for Caribou Radio East in Caribou, Maine. He also teaches Nordic skiing and ice skating. He and his wife, Gillian, have two sons: Eliott, 4, and Edison, 2.

Andy Weaver took a sabbatical from the Land Trust Alliance this past summer to bike from Unity, Maine to Wisconsin, Montana to visit land trusts. www.unitowntidom.org

Steve Young operates a sailing school and yacht charter business on the Chesapeake Bay in Md. His job takes him to the British Virgin Islands, U.S. Virgin Islands and Belize. He and his wife, Kristina, have two daughters: Saria, 10, and Sydney, 7.

Eric Guimond is the manager of Stan phosphate Auto Parts in Maine. He is married Rhonda.

Collin Landry is job forum for SUIR Construc- tion in Rochester, N.H. He and his wife, Shelly, have a daughter, 2, and are expecting another child.

Sarah (Norway) Lelbiati has been promoted to senior administrative assistant at Liberty Mu- nicipal, and Mike ‘01 is a quality control officer at the regional water authority. Their son, Lucas, 6.

Kevin Gienaburg is a national park ranger at Roosevelt-Vanderbilt National Historic Site in Hyde Park, N.Y. He is also a wildland fire- fighter, having fought fires in the west for seven years.

Kyle Rosenberg is the production manager of Well Tree in Brunswick, Maine. He and his wife, Sarah, have a daughter, Madelyn, 9, and are expecting a baby. Kyle is a volunteer- tree warden for the town of Topsham.

Brian Tierney is a project manager for Time Warner Cable in Hiram, Ga. He and his wife, Jody, have two children: Logan, 3, and Allyson, 2.

Ben Heavey is a safety, health and environ- mental manager at DSM NeoResins in East Providence, R.I. He and his wife, Jessica, have two sons, Travis, 5, and Mason, 1.

Beth (Daggett) Bernier is a jewelry designer in Searsport, Maine. She has two daughters and two grandchildren.

Ron Dalphone is a state police officer in N.H. He and his wife, Angela, have three children: McKaya, 10, and twins Mason and Madison, 8. Ron was in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1988 to 1992.

Brian Lippy is producer/director/photog- rapher of Blippy Productions and works for www.gz21.com. He produces and hosts cas- es of sports events all over the world.

Jennifer Porter graduated last year from John- son & Wales with a degree in baking and pas- tery arts. She has a son, Garrett Holder, 8½.

Howard Powell is the director of plant operations at Genesis Health Care in Falmouth, Maine. Andrea also is a kayaking guide during summer.

Steve Emerson is a licensed breeder/ dealer of small animals and pets, specializing in rodents.

Pacifice "Tom" Flores is a police officer in New Britain, Conn. He and his wife, Mary, have three children: Adam, 11, Devan, 7, and Jaxon, 7.

Peté Gregoire is a project manager for Time Warner Cable in Milwaukee, Wis. He and his wife, Judy, have two children: Logan, 3, and Alyson, 2.

Eric Guimond is a jewelry designer in Searsport, Maine. She has two daughters and two grandchildren.

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Brian Lippy is producer/director/photog- rapher of Blippy Productions and works for www.gz21.com. He produces and hosts cas- es of sports events all over the world.
Melissa Powers is an office manager at the Custom House Maritime Museum in New-
port, R.I. She is also a graduate research as-
sistant in the health and emergency medical fields.

Diana Gregson is an environmental specialist
for the U.S. Department of Fish & Wildlife at the
Audubon working on wind power development
and bat movements.

Megan (Bogi) McHatten attended Unity College
for a short time, in 2005. She is an administrative assistant for a
new business, iSupportU, that she started.

Deirdre Magnan is a police officer with the police
department in Wilton, Conn. He received a master's in criminal justice from Boston Uni-
versity in 2005. She is an administrative assistant for a
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worry School in Vt. and is enrolled in their apprentice program for homebirth midwifery.

Amy Fitzherbert is an environmental scientist at Hillier & Associates in Augusta, Maine working with a group of geologists supervising fieldwork and analyzing data.

Shannon Heath is a research/training specialist in social sciences at the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine in Portland.

Patty Marcum is a ski and skateboard instructor at Plush Burnout in Great Barrington, Mass., and travels throughout the country with the Great Maine Lumberjack Show/ Timber Tims’ World Champion Lumberjills.

Brian Meyers works with troubled youth at the Mountain Home Youth Ranch in Ruidoso, N.M.

Kai Medeiros is the assistant programs coordinator for the University of Rhode Island’s W. Alton Jones Environmental Education Center in West Greenwich, R.I.

Jake Overlock is a fisheries biologist for the Maine Department of Marine Resources specializing in Maine Atlantic salmon restoration.

Jane Pacheco teaches science and wildlife classes at Durker High School in Fall River, Mass.

Cary Rhodes works as an outdoor education instructor in a summer wilderness program near Yosemite National Park.

Kris Samborn is a clinical social worker/family therapist for the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston and is on the faculty of the Family Institute of Cambridge in Watertown, Mass. He married Sarah Oppen- heimer who has her master’s degree in public health from Harvard University.

Corree Seward is employed as a park ranger interpreter at Capitol Reef National Park in Utah.

Lyndsey Smith is a lakeside classroom coordinator at Bryce Pond 4-H Camp and Learning Center in Maine.

Steve Sutton is employed as a conservation officer for the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife. He married Casey Dingman in February 2009.

Kristen Wendling is a conservation biologist working with rare reptiles.

Matt Zabawa is currently working at a golf course in Burlington, Vt.

Nate Webb is a customs and border protection officer for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Haynes, Ala.

Ian Yates is a licensed turf technician and is employed with Scott’s Lawn Service in South Portland, Maine.

Christine Blakeley was a preschool teacher in Iowa and recently returned back to Mass.

Bugs Bursey is a naturalist/environmental educator for the Beaver Lake Nature Center in N.Y.

Phil Catanasone is employed as an outdoor recreation instructor at the University of Maine’s 4-H Camp and Learning Center at Bryant Pond, Maine.

Ryan Cauldie is a park ranger supervisor at the Osbornedale State Park in Derby, Conn.

Warren O’Hara is an engineering technician for the Parotech Public Works in Va.

Beth O’Neill works at Earth Corps, a non-profit environmental restoration program in St. Atle, and on an organic educational farm in Dorchester, N.H.

Matt Pawlikowski is employed as a lead forestry technician with the U.S. Forest Service at Lassen National Forest in northern Calif.

Dan Rinnell is a seaman in the U.S. Coast Guard stationed in Portsmouth, Va. He recently returned from a scuba diving mission in Mexico where 48 bales of coke were steved.

Erika Roderick is employed at Backyard Farms in Maine and is responsible for greenhouse pest management.

Bob Sterling is a larvac rearing technician and an algal nutrition technician at Taylor Seafarms in Kona, Hawaii. He cultivates five different species of phytoplankton in the lab to feed clams and oysters, and he also runs a shellfish larviculture hatchery.

Josh Teel is employed as a lead environmental scientist for transmission lines companies throughout New England.

Sandra VanderHeid is a volunteer firefighter, greenhouse worker and was hired by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Emily Voit is an outdoor science teacher in the San Gabriel Mountains which is part of Los Angeles County, Calif.

Caitie Davis ’06 and Mike Merritt were recently married.

David and Lindsey (Snow) Redlin have a son, Da- vid Joseph III, born on May 6, 2009.

Noah Bourassa is employed as a staff member of the construction crew for the Appalachian Mountain Club in Gorham, N.H.

Scott Burton is a park ranger supervisor at the Osbornedale State Park in Derby, Conn.

Lindsey Cook is an outdoor science teacher in the South County Veterinarian Hospital in South Portland, Maine.

Donnell ’00, Chris Wiebusch ’89, Mike Dahms is employed as a trade development manager for Avesta, a sales and marketing company based in Jacksonville, Fl.

Nicole French is a volunteer field biologist for the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program and the Reptile and Amphibian Reporting Program. She said Chris McRath ’08, were married in summer 2009.

Chad Gadsby is a seasonal forest technician in Mass. and is responsible for greenhouse pest management.

Robert Gheuer is a naturalist/environmental educator for the Beaver Lake Nature Center in N.Y.

Peter Newcomb was employed as a direct support professional at Initech in Dallas, Texas. He received his master’s degree in public health from the University of Southern Maine, covering several central Maine towns.

Laura Craver ’08 was the kind of student for whom the phrase “diverse talents” seemed invented. The engaging personality and wide-ranging skills that so distinguished her as an exceptional student have served her well since venturing forth for the next chapter in her life.

With degrees in wildlife and environmental writing in hand, Craver quickly landed a high profile internship at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

“it was a really intense, competitive internship in the park," Craver said of her role in the Animal Kingdom. Her internship required her to juggle a range of tasks.

Crazer took the next step in her blossoming career, serving as a WaterFowl Technician in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in the Mottled Duck radio telemetry project.

“in the environmental field you must have a strong science background," said Craver. “i have benefited and been empowered to create a career path thanks to the comprehensive skills gained at Unity College.”

Her environmental writing skills have also been invaluable. “A good environmental writer must be flexible, evocative, accurate and well read,” she explained. “Again, I credit the opportunities | have been a good assistant with superior preparation. My environmental writing skills have also served me well.”
tice in Avalon, Calif. Scott Cunfer works for the Douglas Island Pink and Chum, a non-profit salmon release hatchery, located in a remote facility 40 miles south of Juneau, Alaska.

Will Davis was a seasonal wildlife biologist aide for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and is pursuing work as a police officer. He graduated from the police academy in 2008.

Thomas Frezza is working on his master’s degree in applied history at Shippensburg University, Pa. He is employed as a national park service education ranger at Harpers Ferry National Historical Park. He also works at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine.

Ben Gillis is employed as a field instructor at the Stone Mountain School in Black Mountain, N.C., a therapeutic school for boys.

Amanda Gonzales works as an intern at Sea Turtle, Inc. in South Padre Island, Texas. She collects turtle eggs and works at the turtle hospital where she is responsible for rehabilitation and conservation education.

Clayton Kern works as a marine science instructor at the Catalina Island Marine Institute in Avalon, Calif.

Julius Koenig is a fisheries technician for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources on the Copper River, conducting mark and recapture surveys and radio telemetry.

Julie Ladd graduated from the College of the Great Smoky Mountains in 2009 and gained employment as a national park service law enforcement ranger at the Indiana Dunes National Seashore outside of Chicago, Ill.

Chris McGrath works as a fish culturist III for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in Twin Mountain, N.H. He and Nicole French ’07 were married in July.

Kelly Meyers is a customer service representative for Lender Services, Inc., a quality assurance department which reviews appraisals.

Nicole Monkiewicz is a zookeeper/animal trainer at Lionshare Zoological Center, a small private facility in Conn.

Mark Mullen is an animal keeper and presenter of reptiles and amphibians. He works at the Boston Museum of Science.

Nichole Nageotte is a seasonal staff member at the Maui Conservation Center in Makawao, Hawaii.

Jeremy Pelletier has a new job as an adventure based counselor for a juvenile rehabilitation center in Grove City, Pa. He works with male youths, ages 7 to 19.

Liz Pierson is a full-time instructor at the Poko-O-MacCreary Outdoors Education Center in Hillsboro, N.Y.

Krystal Reddy spent five months after graduation working as a chainsaw crew leader for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Colo. and is currently the horticulture crew leader for the Elk Grove Park District in Ill.

Travis Runnals works for Vermont Castings, a wood and gas stove manufacturing plant in Randolph, Vt. He is taking an EMT course and plans to train bloodhounds for search and rescue.

Kenyon Twitchell is employed at the Enfield Fish Hatchery, a part of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Linwood Vaughan graduated first in his class from the Park Ranger Training Program at Northern Arizona University in 2008 and currently working as a park ranger at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Mo.

Larry Mitch ’71 died June 30, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Denise, his daughter, Alexandra, and his son, Nicholas.

Danny Linehan ’72 died May 28, 2009 in Bayside, N.Y. His wife, Barbara (Nicholas) Linehan ’74, died in 2008. They are survived by three children; Shannon, Daniel, and Kyle.

David “Fly” Champine ’90 died after heart surgery on March 6, 2009. A memorial service was held in East Montpelier, Vt.

Kellee (Wilson) Smith Landry ’95 of Albion, Maine, died May 20, 2009. She was a certified nurses aide and caregiver. She is survived by her parents, her husband, Peter and her daughter, Elaine.

Rosemary Cameron, former senior administrator from the 1980’s, died May 1, 2009 after a long siege with cancer. She lived in Thorndike, Maine and was a local elementary school teacher. She is survived by her husband, two sons, and a grandson.

Dennis Haggerty, long-time director of administrative affairs in the early years of Unity College, died March 15, 2009. He was 99. He had been a member of the Board of Trustees, and when he retired he received an honorary degree from Unity and was named outstanding educator.
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