

Unity

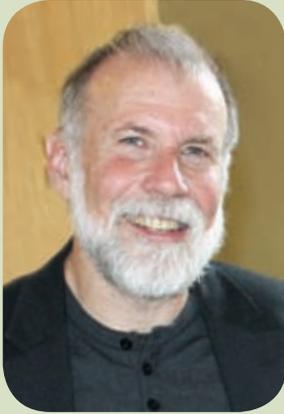
Fall 2008

The Magazine of Unity College



UNITY HOUSE
Revolutionizing Green Architecture

Message from the President



Unity College and the Solar Age

I was sitting in my office yesterday with the windows wide open. It was the first day of school. The morning was warm and fragrant. Students pass by my office and I often overhear their conversations.

I heard one student say to another: “Do you see the solar panels on the president’s residence? They are really cool.” The other responded: “Yeah and the house is much smaller than I thought it would be.”

The Unity House is creating a lot of buzz and really positive energy. Everyone wants to see it. The entire campus is going to be very proud and excited about what is going to be (or already is) a magnificent and interesting home.

By the time you read this, Cindy Thomashow and I will have moved in. We are excited about this house for three reasons. First, it will be wonderful to live on campus. We are looking forward to the opportunities to spend more time with the Unity community, to host events, and to build enduring relationships.

Second, the house is an exceptional educational opportunity. Yes we will as they say “walk the talk,” but more importantly the house will raise interesting questions about how we choose to live, and what it really means to live sustainably. We hope that every visitor to the house will leave with interesting ideas about sustainability.

Third, the house represents the vitality of a new solar age. There is something optimistic, visionary, and undeniably appealing about seeing solar panels. It represents a positive outlook on the future. That’s exactly right for Unity College!

Many years ago Unity College had the foresight to transport the solar panels from the White House to the college. For years they sat active—and then dormant—on the roof of the cafeteria. Recently, Swiss filmmakers Christina Hemauer and Roman Keller made an excellent film about those solar panels. “The Road Not Taken” links Unity College (and its vision) to an unfulfilled national promise.

The Unity House represents the resurrection of that vision. We believe that solar energy is a crucial aspect of a sustainable future. It is a road that must be taken. Cindy and I fervently hope that a new solar age is upon us and Unity House represents the educational vision supporting that future.

The Unity House represents both the future of Unity College and the future of sustainability. Our aspiration is that Unity College becomes a campus that embodies a “sustainability field of dreams.” The solar panels will become the architectural/energy icon that leads the way.

Mitchell Thomashow
President, Unity College

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Cover: Unity House during the final phase of construction in August.
(Photo by Mark Tardif)

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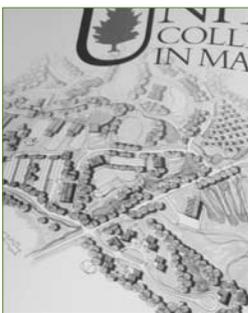
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Q & A with Rob Beranek, Sustainability Coordinator

On a balmy summer day in July, Unity's new full-time Sustainability Coordinator Rob Beranek answered questions about sustainability, his new position, background, and opinions about where Unity places at the present time its sustainability

efforts. Beranek's position is a new one at Unity College, one of the few small colleges in the United States to employ a full-time Sustainability Coordinator. He began his new job in July. Prior to this new position, Beranek was the Managing Director of the Center for Environmental Education Online at Unity College. He is a graduate of Antioch New England Graduate School, where he worked closely with Cindy Thomashow, wife of President Mitch Thomashow and herself an environmental educator.

He holds a Master's degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Environmental Education from Antioch New England Graduate School, where he met his wife, Jaime, niece of Roger Duval, Director of Facilities and Public Safety. The couple were married in August. His teaching experience includes a stint in the graduate program at Teton Science School in Jackson, Wyoming, where he specialized in natural history interpretation. During the 2007-2008 Academic year, Beranek taught a physics class as an Adjunct Instructor at Unity College.

Beranek grew up in the upper peninsula of Michigan in the small town of Gladstone. He graduated from Gladstone High School in 1998 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Physics from Michigan Technological University. He also received a certification for teaching math and physics at the secondary level.

Q: What is your view of sustainability at Unity College?

A: I started at Unity in October of 2007 and have been telecommuting, so it has been tough to get a sense of the community. Mostly I feel like I've gotten a sliver of the College. In regards to sustainability, there is a lot of momentum (Associate Professor Mick Womersley served as the previous Sustainability Coordinator on a part-time basis) and enthusiasm on campus. There are a lot of staff and faculty who have existing initiatives and maybe projects they would like to do in the future. They might have a willingness to participate in sustainability initiatives but might not know how. In this new role I will encourage people to start new initiatives or keep existing ones going. I will also provide guidance for people who want to become involved in sustainability.

Q: What do you think about the academics of Unity College?

A: It's fascinating to learn that all degrees are environmentally focused. My personal educational background and training is using sustainability or the environment as the integrating context for learning. It's place-based education. An example of that approach at Unity College is that you may have a writing course, for instance, that uses the environment as a context for learning. The topic of the writing course might be something along the lines of exploring what it means to be a steward of the environment while developing good writing skills. So I see my personal educational philosophy aligned with the academics of Unity College.

Q: Are there aspects of the Unity College community that you find particularly appealing?

A: I'd say as a new member that the most striking aspect of the community so far has been how welcoming it is. I've felt invited and encouraged to become a member. It's very comfortable here. As far as sustainability is concerned, right now there is a lot of really good work that needs to be done using "state of the shelf" technology, meaning off the shelf (as opposed to "state of the art", which is next generation). This means coming to the realization that we have technology today that allows us to use 20-40% less energy and material resources than we do. Luckily, we have a great facilities and maintenance team that know this and are willing to be leaders in the implementation.

Q: What do you think of the direction of Unity and its leadership?

A: First and foremost I'm just learning. I haven't been here too long. I do think that the charge of being an environmental leader is very powerful and very enabling. Leadership at all levels here is strong and well-intentioned. There is a very strong spirit of progressive thought that is encouraged here.

Q: From a sustainability standpoint, what are the strengths and weaknesses of the Unity College location, overall campus, and budget constraints?

A: I don't yet have a complete picture of these issues. I would say that my first impression is that Unity's small size is a great advantage. The metaphor that is used sometimes is the big ship moving through the ocean doesn't turn quickly, but when you're small like Unity, you're maneuverable and able to change, adapt, and be cutting-edge.

Q: What experiences have you had that prepared you for this position?

A: My academic background with formal training in physics, as well as my background in environmental studies, work to my advantage. I have rounded off my skills with a firm grounding in educational theory, and this is a mix of skills that are well suited for what a Sustainability Coordinator has to do on a day-to-day basis. At all times you have to understand the science of what you're trying to change or promote, and the environmental ramifications of everything you do. Also, you need to understand how people will deal with change, or how to help them to be proponents of change through their own initiative. I also have several years of experience managing staff and projects. I think those skills will be essential to ensure that sustainability initiatives at Unity College continue to see the success they have in the past.

Q: What is sustainability?

A: The accepted definition of sustainability is meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future people to meet their own needs. How I usually boil it down is that for the first time in the record of human existence we're actually poised on the cusp of deciding if future generations of humans will have the ability to have a quality life. So some of the choices we have to make today need to be made in that context. For example, it might not seem like a big deal when you ask someone to print double sided, but when you can change an entire organization, the sheer volume of trees, water and energy saved is enormous. Change always involves a culture shift as well. People will still have the choice to print single sided, but it won't be the default. We've made an institutional commitment to sustainability and hope that will have a positive effect on the majority of behaviors. The actuality is that sustainability is not just abstract, it is something affected by most of the decisions we make everyday.

Q: What attracted you to pursuing an environmental career?

A: It had a lot to do with my upbringing. My father, Steve, was always taking us fishing and up to our cabin in the Northwoods. My childhood memories are mostly full of ramblings outdoors such as playing in sand pits, four wheeling, building forts, and countless canoeing and hiking trips. I know these experiences are the foundation of my environmental ethic and the source of my deep sense of stewardship for everything that brought me so much happiness growing up and continues to be an important part of my life.

Q: What do people need to understand about sustainability at Unity College that they may not know?

A: I think people haven't fully internalized the immediacy of what needs to happen, and most of the leading scientists are now calling for 80-90% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This is in the next 30-40 years. We're going to be here to see this. Unity College can identify its sphere of influence and we have to make sure that we do whatever we can to come as close to climate neutrality as quickly as possible. Even if Global Warming is a statistical fluke that we're experiencing and not anthropogenic (human cause) right now lowering your greenhouse gas emission and embracing renewable energy sources makes sense with rising fossil fuel cost. Although you may not see eye-to-eye with someone who does not believe in climate change, a lot of these decisions still make sense from a purely fiscal standpoint.

Q: What is the purpose of sustainability at Unity College?

A: A college's major sphere of influence is its students. Colleges across the country are only responsible for about 1% of our national greenhouse gas emissions, but colleges are responsible for 100% of anyone receiving a higher education. So the example that we can give to our students, the skills that we can impart to them, the foundation of an environmental ethic and ecological literacy, are major components of the purpose of sustainability at Unity College. Some additional considerations that a college might have is 'how do you make an alternative technology like a wood chip boiler practical from a financial and renewable energy point-of-view', and additionally make it educational for our students so that they are exposed to an alternative fuel source and alternative technology. So what I will be doing will involve both education and nuts-and-bolts.

Q: What is your personal environmental philosophy?

A: My general philosophy is to live as lightly as possible. My fiancé (now wife) and I are committed to being food independent in three more years, and our original goal was within five years. It was about two years ago when we set our five year goal. So this year we have a garden started and we're going to be canning as much food as we can, and we're going to build a root cellar for potatoes, onions and carrots. We also want to raise chickens. I hunt and fish to supplement our meat consumption. For the remainder of the summer I'm going to bike to work, seven miles each way. I have a road bike and live in Burnham. It's a new log cabin, ultra-insulated with in-floor radiant heat, which is also very efficient. We're renting with the hopes of winning the lottery.



Familiar Professional With Diverse Skills is Named Dean for Enrollment Management

Alisa Gray, Dean for Enrollment Management

By Mark Tardif

One of the most well-heeled professionals at Unity College has stepped into the newly created position of Dean for Enrollment Management.

Alisa Gray, who has held a succession of high profile and transformative positions at Unity College in recent years, began her new position in July. From serving as Chair of the Budget Committee to writing the Staff Governance document, Gray's hand has been involved in a large sweep of Unity's transformative initiatives since her arrival in 2001.

Gray began her time at Unity College in 2001 as an Admissions Counselor. Her interview was surreal because it was on September 11. Director of Admissions Kay Fiedler interviewed Gray, now Fiedler reports to Gray.

"As the world turns," said Gray.

"The dean for enrollment management will provide campus-wide leadership in student recruitment and financial aid," explained Vice President for College Advancement Rob Constantine. "In the increasingly competitive world of higher education admissions, this position allows the college to strategically recruit academically talented students committed to our mission from a more national pool."

"Alisa will play an important role in shaping the student body, and the college, over the coming years," Constantine said. "We ran a national search for this position and were excited to see so many outstanding candidates express an interest. We were even more excited to find such a strong candidate right here on campus!"

Fiedler and Associate Director of Admissions Joe Saltalamachia '95, are the only two remaining employees in Admissions from when Gray started as a Counselor. After several years assigned to recruiting students from eastern Massachusetts, the greater Boston, Massachusetts area, Rhode Island and western Maine, Gray was hired as Assistant Dean to Deborah Walters, former Senior Vice President and Dean of the College.

"It was definitely a different pace of work," noted Gray of the change from Admissions to Academic Affairs. "This was a brand new position. I had to adjust from working primarily with external constituents as an Admissions Counselor, to working with primarily internal constituents. I transitioned from planning a lot

of events to doing much more institutional research."

The transition was an easy one for Gray, who earned a B.S. in Biology from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, had a strong research background and was well versed in both qualitative and quantitative techniques.

Gray also holds a Master of Arts in Teaching, Secondary Education, from the University of Maine, Orono, and a Master of Science in Enrollment Management from Capella University.

Born and raised in Winslow, Maine and a 1993 graduate of Winslow High School, Gray understands the full sweep of changes at Unity College not only from the perspective of a seasoned employee, but as a Maine native.

Gray has witnessed some of the biggest setbacks, challenges, initiatives and triumphs of this decade at Unity College. In her role as Dean for Enrollment Management, she will no doubt help to shape its long-term future.

In 2005, Gray's star continued to rise as she was named Special Projects Assistant under Interim President Mark Lapping. In 2006, her position shifted to that of Strategic projects Coordinator under President Mitchell Thomashow.

Among her exemplary list of achievements is leading the implementation of a new campus-wide budget process, conducting a capacity study as part of the initial phase of the master planning process to evaluate campus needs, starting the first high school articulation agreements and 4+1 programs with graduate schools (Husson College) in the history of Unity College. When she was Assistant Dean to Deborah Walters, Gray wrote the first college Fact Book, a year compilation of facts and figures ranging from admissions information statistics, to tracking retention rates of students and enrollment in majors. This Fact Book has been updated each year since and provides important data for strategic decision making.

Gray also concurrently served as Director of Teacher Education from 2004-2007, squiring Unity through the complex maze of requirements that ultimately led to its certification by the State of Maine Department of Education to offer Science Teacher Education certification for Grades 7-12.

In the newly created position of Dean for Enrollment Management, Gray will be moving to the Welcome Center from her office in the North Coop and manage 10 full time employees, including the Director of Admissions Kay Fiedler and Director of Financial Aid Rand Newell. Both Fiedler and Newell are highly seasoned professionals with many years of combined service to Unity College, and each has worked previously with Gray.

"I look forward to working with both department directors in my new role," said Gray. "Their wealth of knowledge will certainly help in moving the college forward."

This year has shaped up to be a great one for Gray. Not only has she stepped into this newly created position of significant responsibility, but in October she will be married to Eric Johnson of Vassalboro, Maine. The couple purchased his childhood home in Vassalboro. They are remodeling it.

The central question facing Gray and top leadership is what Unity wishes to become, and how it will achieve key goals.

“Unity is a college of many strengths,” said Gray. “One of Unity’s strengths is its environmental focus. This gives us a competitive edge. Many of our peer institutions offer a more general liberal arts curriculum, but all of our majors offer an environmental component. Our students also do more interdisciplinary and community service projects.”

In her view there is no doubt that Unity’s majors are geared towards students going directly into the work force. With that in mind, Unity is doing a great job of succeeding in what it is intending to do.

“One thing I know that the College would like to see is perhaps our number of students going into graduate school increase

“I would like the campus itself to reflect a more global environment,” Gray said. “That’s what students will face when they graduate and it is important for their educational experience to have contact with diversity during their undergraduate years.”

slightly,” Gray said. The overall job placement rate is consistently close to 95%, and that speaks to Unity’s ability to train its students to be gainfully employed upon graduation, Gray says.

The focus stated by President Thomashow is not one of growth, it is one of quality. Gray’s charge is not to facilitate growth to a particular level, it is to ensure each class assembled to ever stronger academic credentials. It does not, however, mean the College will turn its back on its show promise students. The question facing Unity will be to define what overall progress means, and then decide how best to achieve it.

A challenge facing Unity College from an Admissions standpoint remains its location, which Gray sees as both curse and blessing.

“We sort of have a double edge sword with our (rural) location,” said Gray. “For our curriculum, Unity is the perfect place. For some students being in rural Maine can be a challenge. It does take the right kind of student to want to attend school in a rural location.”

There is a two pronged approach to this issue.

“One is we really stress the benefit of going to a small school no matter where it is located,” said Gray. “The other is that we stress Unity’s strong community, the personal relationships that students develop with faculty and staff. We get questions from prospective students like ‘what do you do out there?’ In response, we tell them

the College has close to 30 different clubs, a speaker and movie series at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts, outing trips, athletics, and intramural activities.”

“It really depends on what students want to do,” Gray continued. “Students can do as much or as little as they want. Another thing we stress with parents is the safety aspect of our campus.”

Gray is busy examining the near term and says the number one objective will be to develop a 3 to 5 year strategic enrollment plan for the College.

“Included in the plan will be efforts to increase campus diversity,” Gray stated. “Diversity can mean everything – geographic, gender, and ethnic. The gender split for the incoming class is 50% male and 50% female, the first time that has been achieved in the history of Unity College. The 1:1 ratio is positively influenced by the number of women enrolling in the Captive Wildlife Care and Education and Marine Biology programs.”

The value of gender equity goes to the issue of comfort on campus and in learning situations, says Gray.

“In the past, out of 20 students in a class you might only have 3

females. Now, you’re going to see a more even gender distribution and that changes the atmosphere,” Gray explained.

Female students have increasingly turned to Unity College because on the whole, females are becoming more attracted to environmental careers, Gray says.

“That’s a big boost because a lot of environmental careers are science based, and women have always been a minority in the sciences,” Gray said. “Hopefully the sciences will continue to become more attractive to women into the future.”

Nothing is off the table. While it is not a current goal to increase enrollment presently, it may be in the future, says Gray.

“I think there are two strong parallel tracks that we have to look at over the next five years that reflect the success of each other,” said Gray. “Our facilities are aging and we do need to update a lot of them. That interfaces with Unity’s ability to increase its enrollment by another 100 or so students. Something like this may be required to improve our diversity, increase our academic standards and rankings of students.”

If Unity College is to take its place alongside the very best small environmental colleges in the United States and achieve a national voice on the environmental and sustainability issues of the day, Gray feels it will need to attract ever more qualified students.

“In order to attract better students we need better facilities,” said Gray. “Say you have an A student with a 4.0 Grade Point Average, college is wide open. That student will be offered scholarships and will have a much larger range of choices than the average. What I need to do as part of my job is look at what Unity College can offer that student compared to what other colleges are offering. Value and opportunity per tuition dollar spent are serious considerations for the ‘A’ student.”

“We would love to increase our scholarships,” she continued. “That will take work on our end to evaluate what we’re already offering. We’ll need to find donors to supplement our scholarship program.”

Another goal for Gray is to attract more international students.

“I would like the campus itself to reflect a more global environment,” Gray said. “That’s what students will face when they graduate and it is important for their educational development to have experience with diversity during their undergraduate years.”

Gray says she will immediately use the marketing analysis that was started last year by the Marketing Committee as a guide for identifying target areas for recruitment. She will also do a more in depth marketing analysis to determine regions across the United States where a large percentage of high school students have expressed an interest in pursuing environmental careers.

Recruitment will remain both art and science, says Gray.

“Recruitment is different now than ten years ago,” said Gray. “With all of the advancements in the use of the internet, it’s almost like a new ballgame with recruiting students. This year Unity is participating in recruitment through use of social networking web sites. Students are accustomed to instantaneous response. We are working with Admissions and Financial Aid to make our response rate a lot faster than it is now.”

Gray added that the Unity College web site is an enormously important recruitment tool. There is a new phenomena of the “hidden shopper,” applicants who are completely unknown to Admissions staffers until they actually apply. Currently 25% of Unity applicants are hidden shoppers, which is within the national average.

The bottom line for Gray is that Unity is a college on the move.

“It is becoming better known and I know that because even my grandmother talks about how much she’s seen Unity in the news over the past few years,” said Gray. “You can’t escape us. We’re contacted by professionals who want to improve their natural national resources programs, we receive local and national press, our web site is excellent and improving all the time, our branding efforts have been consistent and carried forth with skill.”

It seems to be Gray’s year and Unity’s time to blossom.

Gray’s profile is on the web at: www.unity.edu/AboutUnity/MeetOurStaff/AGray/AGray.aspx.



Understanding the Diversity of Ants Around Us

Dr. Amy Arnett Wins Prestigious Fulbright Scholar Award

By Mark Tardif

For just the second time in the 43 year history of Unity College a faculty member has been awarded a coveted Fulbright Scholar Award, commonly called a Fulbright Fellowship, an honor bestowed on some of the most accomplished faculty and researchers in the world. Recently, Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Amy Arnett, Ph.D., received the news from the Fulbright Selection Committee.

As a Fulbright Scholar Award recipient, Dr. Arnett is among faculty and professionals from the United States chosen to participate in the Fulbright Scholar Program. The program's purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

From February to June of 2009, Arnett will be teaching and conducting research at the University of Maribor in Slovenia. This eastern European university is a good match for Arnett because a colleague in Maribor and some of his graduate students study an insect called an ant lion. During her graduate studies at the University of Vermont, Arnett studied ant lion evolution and behavior. The Fulbright Fellowship will allow Arnett to continue her research concerning ant lions, plus teach as a member of the Biology Department at the University of Maribor.

The Fulbright announcement drew immediate praise from President Mitchell Thomashow, Senior Vice President Amy Knisley, the faculty and entire college community.

"Amy has provided leadership among the faculty in a variety of ways since her arrival in 1999," said Knisley. "While I am delighted, I can honestly say that I am not surprised that she has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. Hard on the heels of Dr. Jim Chacko's Fulbright award in the Spring of 2006, this should remind all Unity students, alumni and employees of what we're capable of at this little college in Maine."

The ant lion is often called a doodle-bug in the southern United States, says Arnett. "The ant lion larvae dig a pit in the soil and they sit and wait at the bottom of the pit," explained Arnett. "Ants slide down the slope and are eaten by the ant lion. The ant lion larvae are sit-and-wait predators."

In 1997, Arnett gathered latitudinal ant biodiversity data the results of which were announced in the journal *Science*. During the



Dr. Arnett chats with Associate Professor Tom Mullin during opening convocation in August.

summer of that year while working towards her Ph.D, Arnett traveled from northern Florida to northern New York collecting ants in different habitats.

"We showed that the introduced fire ant in the south was having a negative impact on native ant biodiversity, it was published in the journal *Ecology Letters*, and as a note in *Science*," Arnett said.

Dr. Arnett conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, on the impacts of a biological control insect (insects deliberately introduced to control weeds) on native prairie plants. However, when she came to Unity College she wanted to find a local study system, so she started to work on purple loosestrife, a highly invasive plant of European origin. There have been several biological control insects introduced to control the spread of purple loosestrife and Arnett was interested in the evolution of these introduced insects and changes in community structure based on these introductions. She worked with several Unity College students to address these questions, commuting frequently to large, established purple loosestrife populations at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The down-side to this research was that it required frequent travel to southern Maine, which is a long commute.

Her switch to ants was an easy one. "Basically (the switch) was a combination of not wanting to drive to southern Maine, and wanting to weave my research into my courses more," noted Arnett. "I was looking for a system closer to home and enjoyed the ant work I did for my Ph.D. So in the summers of 2006 and 2007, I had Unity College students help me collect ants on the woodlot and meadow adjacent to campus. They were collected in pitfall traps (vial in the ground, soapy water, ants will fall in and die, then are collected and preserved in alcohol)."

The bottleneck is finding the time to identify the ants collected in hundreds of vials. It takes a lot of time to pursue this painstaking research.

What does this research accomplish? It points to the scope of biodiversity in a variety of environments, responses of species to environmental changes, and offers a baseline from which to study the effects of climate change.

“I am interested in where species are found relative to certain environmental characteristics like vegetation, soil characteristics and leaf litter depth,” Arnett explained. She pursued a sabbatical during spring 2008 in which she had time to sort through vials, pin the ants, and get the identification down to species, and develop more projects for ant biodiversity.

Unity College students were involved with Arnett’s sabbatical ant biodiversity research. She also worked with Nicholas Gotelli, a Professor of Biology at the University of Vermont, and Stefan Cover, the Assistant Curator at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University.

“They’re excited about my collection because Maine has not been extensively sampled,” Arnett said. “I have already documented 14 species that are new to Waldo County, two of which have never been documented in Maine, and they were found in our wood lot.” She hopes to do more hand collection this summer, trying to find nests and doing more Global Positioning System work, documenting the proximity of ant nests in relation to one another.

The Islands off the coast of Maine have also attracted Arnett’s attention. She is involved in an ongoing survey of ants on eight islands off the coast of Maine for National Audubon and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The ants were collected during the summer of 2007. Arnett gave both organizations instructions on pitfall trapping of ants and the staff conducted the ant survey, giving her the ants for identification and analysis.

It is time consuming, detailed, painstaking work, but Arnett wouldn’t trade it for anything.

“I am interested in what species got out to the islands, are they representative of ant diversity on the mainland, and they evolve over time in isolation,” said Arnett.

The success of her research both before and since becoming a member of the Unity College community pointed to her likely ascension to the Fulbright ranks. Arnett had been optimistic about her Fulbright application, but no applicant ever counts on being selected. The odds seemed greater for Arnett, a faculty member dedicated to the hands-on, student-centered curriculum of small Unity College. The additional wrinkle is that it is well-established that Fulbright Fellowships in the sciences are overwhelmingly awarded to professors at large universities.

The advantage for Fulbright Fellowship applicants from large institutions particularly in the sciences is clear, with such applicants having fewer classes to teach and more time to pursue scholarship. Arnett’s selection is testament to her professional stature among the very best of her colleagues and the effectiveness of her research. It also reflects very well on academics overall at Unity College, where students have daily contact with award-winning faculty such as Arnett.

Since its inaugural in the late 1940s, the Fulbright Program has been an integral part of U.S. foreign relations. Indeed, face-to-face exchanges have proven to be the single most effective means of engaging foreign publics while broadening dialogue between U.S. citizens and institutions and their counterparts abroad. In doing so, the Fulbright Program creates a context to provide a better understanding of U.S. views and values, promotes more effective binational cooperation and nurtures open-minded, thoughtful leaders, both in the U.S. and abroad, who can work together to address common concerns.

Arnett has pursued Post-Doctoral Research at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Vermont, and a B.S. in Biology from the University of Michigan. Currently she lists her comprehensive research areas of interest as community and population ecology, evolutionary ecology, insect ecology, life-history theory, patterns of biodiversity, and plant-animal interactions.

While a self-effacing individual, Arnett is pleased to bring a Fulbright to Unity College. “It’s exceptional for a small college to have two Fulbright scholars,” Arnett noted. “Parents will look at this school and realize that their students will have the opportunity to take classes taught by Fulbright scholars. My classes are small and in first year biology labs I have information to pass on to my students that I have gathered directly from scholars across the world. That is exciting and has an important positive impact in the classroom.”

The Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Maribor in Slovenia will be a family affair for Arnett. She will be joined by her husband Scott Hall, a biologist for the National Audubon Seabird Restoration Project, Caleb, 6, and Phoebe, 3.

Arnett’s profile is on the web at: www.unity.edu/AboutUnity/MeetOurFaculty/AArnett/AArnett.aspx. She plans to set up a blog while in residence that will allow Unity College students to have access to students and faculty at the University of Maribor.

More information on the Fulbright program is available online at: www.fulbright.state.gov.

Curator starts work with Little Rock Zoo's hoofed stock, birds

By L. LAMOR WILLIAMS
(Arkansas Democrat and Gazette)

The elephants almost seemed to be eavesdropping.

They'd seen Little Rock Zoo's new curator for hoof stock and birds, Joseph Darcangelo, passing their enclosure. He was explaining renovations of the elephant house, expected to double in size by spring 2009.

As if they knew he was talking about them and their home — the renovation also includes a new pool, kitchen and corral area to keep the elephants from moving around during examinations — the two female Asian elephants, named Ellen and Mary, moved to the farthest corner of their yard, as close to Darcangelo as they could get.

They watched him intently.

"I'm someone new in their life right now," Darcangelo said. "Whenever I walk by, they're checking me out. They're very intelligent. They pay very, very close attention to me."

Darcangelo said he visits all the animals under his care daily, starting his rounds between 7 and 8 a.m.

Besides the birds and elephants, he oversees rhinos, giraffes, kudu, black buck, and other hoofed animals.

He arrived at the zoo with 12 years of experience, having worked at such other zoos as the Miami Metro Zoo, Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Georgia, and Disney's Animal Kingdom and Animal Kingdom Lodge. All are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, according to Little Rock Zoo officials.

Originally from New Jersey, Darcangelo, 34, lives in Alexander with his wife, Amy, and their dog, Jayda. He has a degree in zoo animal technology from the Santa Fe, N. M., Teaching Zoo and a bachelor of arts in environmental writing from Unity College in Unity, Maine.

It took nearly a year to find and hire a qualified candidate to replace Bill Baker, who left to become the director of the Abilene Zoo in Texas, zoo Director Michael Blakely said.

"We are just so pleased to have him here," Blakely said. "He's a really qualified individual. He's been here just a few weeks and has already been a real good contribution to the zoo."

Susan Altrui, zoo spokesman, said hiring qualified employees is especially important for zoos. Altrui said the salary range for the position is between \$ 31,022 and \$ 39,359.



Joe Darcangelo and his red tailed hawk.

"They also have to have a special knowledge of how to handle the animals, like the elephants and rhinos, for example. When mistakes are made, it puts the employees in danger. People can be hurt," she said. "We take great care in hiring for that reason."

Leaving the elephant enclosure, Darcangelo heads for the giraffe barn, where the two males—Mesi (pronounced Macy) and Jigsaw —are strolling around their yard outside. One of Darcangelo's duties is training the animals and providing enrichment exercises to keep them active and challenged mentally.

In the training, the animals learn to come when called, go to specific areas on cue and perform tasks that make veterinary examinations easier and more thorough.

After feeding the giraffes a few handfuls of grain pellets to demonstrate how they use their long prehensile tongues, Darcangelo goes back into the barn and shares his plans for creating a "tongue puzzle" for the animals.

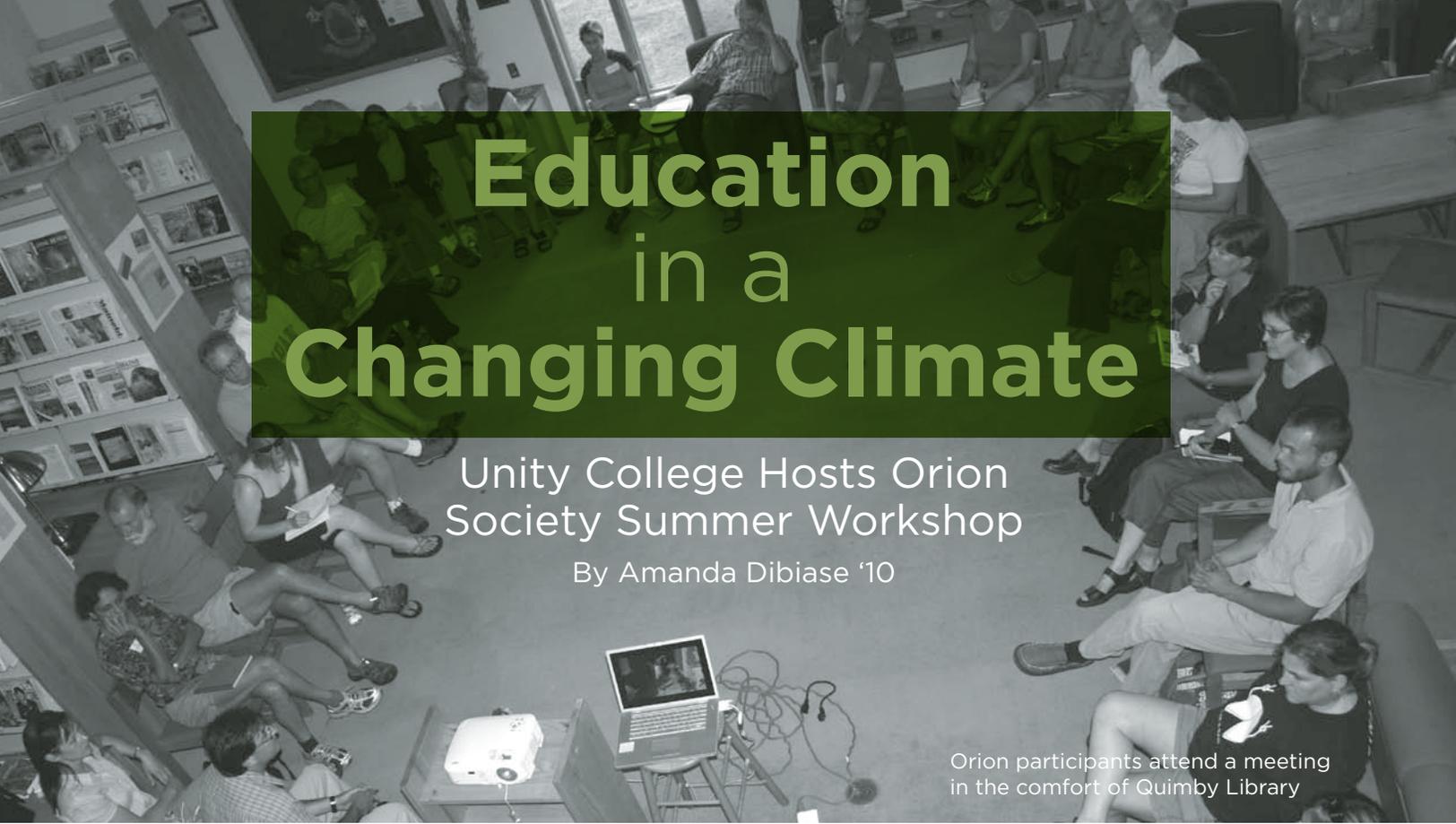
The puzzle is a piece of PVC pipe 6 inches in diameter, with ledges inside. Food is put in from the top and the giraffes must use their tongues to navigate the cylindrical maze and get the food to fall to the bottom.

"In the wild they would use their tongues to avoid the thorns on the acacia trees and pick off the shoots," he said. "This would simulate how they'd eat in their natural habitat."

With a goodbye to the giraffes, it's off to the lorikeet aviary. There zoo patrons can use small cups of nectar to coax the birds close. Sometimes, if a visitor has steady hands and patience, the birds even perch will perch on that visitor's hands, arms or shoulders and, in the case of Darcangelo, on top of his head.

A falconer and handler at mixed-species exhibits, Darcangelo is as comfortable and confident with the tiny colorful birds as he is with the giants Ellen and Mary.

As he talks, the bird begins to preen Darcangelo, using its beak to comb through his hair for insects as it would in the wild for itself or other members of its flock.



Education in a Changing Climate

Unity College Hosts Orion Society Summer Workshop

By Amanda Dibiase '10

Orion participants attend a meeting
in the comfort of Quimby Library

When Chip Blake asked Mitch Thomashow to help him prepare his master's thesis, it is unlikely that either one of them thought the relationship would eventually lead Orion Magazine and Unity College to form a partnership.

The initial partnership between Blake and Thomashow eventually included Kathryn Miles, the director of the environmental writing program at Unity College. It was then that the concept for what would eventually become Education in a Changing Climate, a week-long workshop at Unity College, came to blossom.

The workshop was intended to give educators fresh ideas about how to educate their audiences about climate change. An exciting and dynamic cast of faculty joined participants in making this possible. The cast included: Chip Blake, Director of the Orion Society and Editor of Orion Magazine, Mitchell Thomashow, President of Unity College, Kathryn Miles, Associate Professor and Director of the writing program at Unity College, Nalini Nadkarni, forest canopy ecologist, Lowell Monke, Associate Professor of education at Wittenburg University, Carey Stanton, Senior Director of education at the National Wildlife Federation, and Janisse Ray, author and environmental activist.

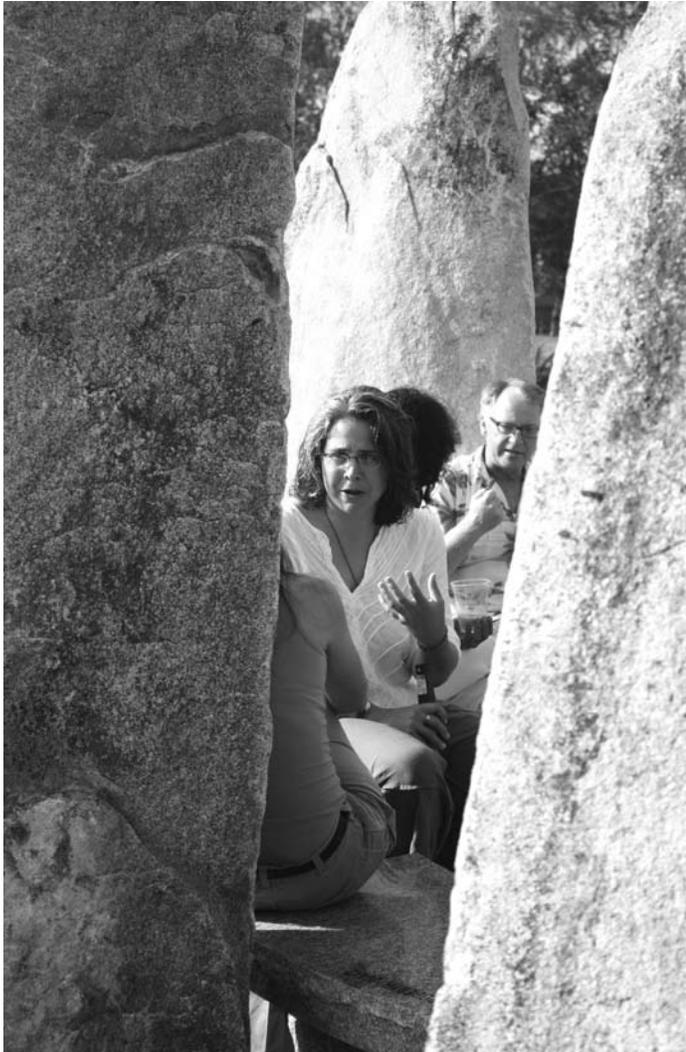
The cast of participants came from a wide variety of places and backgrounds. From California to Germany, from aquariums to the Audubon society, the participants brought a unique addition to the conference. Despite their differences, all participants came with two common linking factors: a passion for education and the environment.

The workshop was designed to engage and give participants new ways to think about old problems. Workshops, special sessions, and field trips were all a part of the process, but it was by no means a standard experience. Nalini Nadkarni, forest canopy ecologist, had participants scaling the trees.

"I don't understand why people go looking at lions in the zoo. Trees are incredible. There's predation, sex going on all the time..." said Nadkarni, passing on her appreciation to a group of participants.

Other workshops emotionally challenged participants as they recounted experiences with climate change. Many struggled to retell their stories and read their writings in Janisse Ray's workshop. "I remember when I was a little girl growing up in Colorado. We had these thunderstorms you could set your watch to. Every day at two o'clock. They just don't do that anymore," said Christie Saunders, Gifted and Talented teacher for SAD 34 in Maine.

One of the problems addressed throughout the conference was the need to get the word out regarding climate change. Chip Blake spoke of Orion's role in this. "It's for people to discover a personal connection, to motivate them to discover what they expect from the world." He suggested that community and art could "become a vector for discussing the environment."



An Orion participant deep in conversation at Unity Rocks!

One of the most despairing things participants faced at the conference was a recognition of global warming. In a world like today, with the North Pole expected to ice out this summer, and constant bombardment of images of landfills, droughts, and floods, how can a person remain hopeful? The answer was that many simply are not optimistic.

“I may not have a lot of hope,” said Janisse Ray. “But I have a lot of fight.” She then went on to quote Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*. “Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find resources of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.”

“We must all be vigilant with the things we believe in. How do we insist it doesn’t slip off the radar?” said Blake. The answer was through education and activism. Janisse Ray recounted a story from a few years ago, when the Connecticut River failed to freeze. Ray, her husband, and a friend decided to make a point about it.

They dressed in wet suits, grabbed some inner tubes, and alerted the media.

Other participants suggested different means for expressing the message. “We felt that a much more powerful method of communication and more importantly transformation was storytelling because it retained the human experience...” said Ava Ferguson, senior exhibition director at Monterey Bay Aquarium in California. “There’s power in gathering stories, listening to stories, and sharing stories.”

Frances Stephan, a Florida native, activist and tour guide for Dragonfly Expeditions, told group participants how Florida began to quickly and drastically change once Disney built their theme park. She recalled how her family, once owners of a large orange growing farm, could not afford to continue as the taxes on the rezoned land had become too high. She watched the local economy change, and has seen the wetlands disappear.

“What I am most afraid of,” she wrote in Janisse Ray’s workshop, “[Is] that my children will not live the life of nature. Not because they won’t - I have taught and schooled and showed them well. But because they can’t... My children care, others do not. They are taking this world as is and letting it be. I am so afraid.”

At the end of the conference, participants spoke about the hope and inspiration they had found working with other individuals who shared the same frustrations, dreams, and goals. Many echoed that the coming times in the field of education and climate change

were not going to be easy, but that they knew they could make a difference.

“I may not have a lot of hope, but I have a lot of fight.” - Janisse Ray

Wendell Barry wrote, “It may be that when we no

longer know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings.” The conference created a network for individuals who were facing many of the same frustrations, hopes, and fears. It is now that their real journey has begun.

The workshop blog is on the Unity College website at: www.educationinachangingclimate.wordpress.com

Unity House:

Shifting the Balance of Power in Green Architecture

Revolutionary homebuilding project from the OPEN Prototype Initiative completed

Ushers in new era of mass-producible, customizable, sustainable, and adaptable green homes



Note from Editor: President Thomashow and his wife Cindy plan to create an online blog to share their observations about living in Unity House.

A moveable interior wall creates new space, adjustable for the inhabitants' changing uses and needs. The large south-facing windows let in ample sunlight. The flat roof is equipped with a protected membrane system to insulate and protect it.

But the most intriguing part of Unity House may be beyond the physical structure. Instead, how it performs makes it unique.

Unity House is the new living space for the president of Unity College, Mitch Thomashow, and his wife Cindy, and is built on the campus of the small environmental college in Unity, Maine. Unity House is the first home built by the OPEN Prototype Initiative (OPI) that is expected to earn a platinum-level certification from LEED, the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. Specifically, Unity House is designed for a net-zero lifestyle, producing as much energy as it consumes.

"OPI is a collaboration between Bensonwood Homes and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Open Source Building Alliance. Our goal is to change the way homes are built. We plan to achieve that goal by making homes adaptable to those who live in the home, making them as energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly as possible, and of course, affordable for the average homeowner to purchase," said Tedd Benson of Bensonwood Homes. "Unity House encompasses those goals and truly is a model for sustainable homes that can be mass produced right now."

Unity House has a number of elements that were added into the

design of the house to ensure sustainable living standards. For example, the windows provide passive solar heating and the photovoltaic (PV) solar panels convert sunlight directly into energy. The house, mostly

building a net-zero home is always the occupants. The people who live in the home will need to adjust their habits and become accustomed to ways to conserve energy, but at the same time, the house will adapt



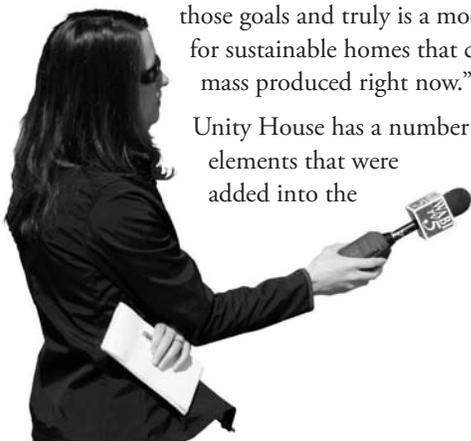
Bensonwood Builders have developed four homes based on the Unity House prototype to be marketed nationally beginning in September of 2008.

fabricated at Bensonwood in Walpole, NH, was constructed on a concrete pad that will retain heat in the winter and help keep the temperature in the house cool during the summer months. High-efficiency appliances and low-flow water fixtures were also added.

"The wildcard here when

with them," said Randall Walter, one of the architects/designers for Unity House, along with his colleague Hilary Harris, both of Bensonwood Homes. "At times, they will draw power from the electric grid, but since the house is constantly contributing to the grid, it balances out. The house is designed to be flexible."

"It'll be a bit of a trial and error process. I play instruments and have two synthesizers. I may just have to turn out all the lights and play in the dark," joked Thomashow.



“I will have to be a bit more frugal with my energy usage, that’s all.”

Not only will Mitch and Cindy Thomashow be living in the 1,930-square foot Unity House, the home will also be used as a classroom for environmental students at the College, as well as provide space for campus events.

“It was important to me that we could use the house as an educational tool as well as a living space. Here at Unity, America’s Environmental College, we have a deep commitment to collaborative, environmental education. Unity House reflects our values

ducting and other mechanical systems and separates them. The systems are easily layered into the home, keeping everything organized. Subsystems can be constructed off-site in a controlled environment. By using Open-Built® principles, homes can be built rapidly, as quickly as 20 working days, and with minimal waste. Because of these techniques and sustainable standards, Unity House will be featured on an upcoming episode of the PBS television home improvement series This Old House.

“The demand for cost-effective, sustainable homes is great. People’s lives are constantly

“People’s lives are constantly changing, and we need homes that can adapt with those changes.” - Kent Larson, Architect



Unity College President Mitch Thomashow (left) chats with Lawrence Biemiller, a Reporter from the Chronicle of Higher Education, while touring Unity House.

and we are honored that we are the recipients of such a remarkable structure,” said Thomashow. “We look forward to living and thriving here.”

Net-zero elements aside, a key feature to Unity House is the use of Open-Built® principles. Unlike traditional home building, Open-Building disentangles wires, piping,

changing, and we need homes that can adapt with those changes. With our collaborative efforts and affective process, we now know these types houses can be built anywhere, for any family,” said architect Kent Larson, director of MIT’s House_n Research Consortium and the Open Source Building Alliance.

ABOUT THE OPEN PROTOTYPE INITIATIVE:

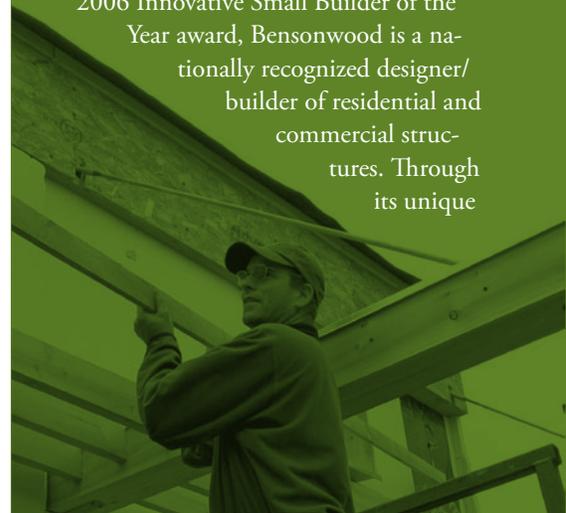
The OPEN Prototype Initiative is a program of the MIT House_n Research Consortium, Bensonwood Homes and other industry partners. The overarching goal of the initiative is to improve the way homes are built in America, making them more affordable, adaptable, and environmentally friendly while sharing these innovations with the entire industry. The OPI is developing a series of prototype homes to be designed and constructed every 18-24 months. The first prototype, OPEN_1, was completed in the fall of 2006 in Greenfield, New Hampshire. The second house, known as OPEN_2 or Unity House, was assembled on site at Unity, Maine, in the summer of 2008. For more information go to www.openprototype.com.

ABOUT MIT HOUSE_n:

House_n is a Department of Architecture research group at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which explores how new technologies, materials, and strategies for design can make possible dynamic, evolving places that respond to the complexities of life. Other major House_n initiatives include The PlaceLab and the Open Source Building Alliance. For more information, go to www.architecture.mit.edu/house_n.

ABOUT BENSONWOOD:

For more than thirty years, Bensonwood has delivered uncompromising quality and innovation in timberframe, hybrid, and high performance building. Winner of PATH’s 2006 Innovative Small Builder of the Year award, Bensonwood is a nationally recognized designer/builder of residential and commercial structures. Through its unique



Open-Built® system, Bensonwood has been incorporating advanced technologies and environmentally responsible practices in all its buildings. The entire upcoming season of PBS's This Old House will focus on a Bensonwood project. For more information, go to www.bensonwood.com.

ABOUT UNITY COLLEGE:

Known as "America's Environmental College," Unity College is a small private college in rural Maine that provides dedicated, engaged students with a liberal arts education that emphasizes the environment and natural resources. Unity College graduates are prepared to be environmental stewards, effective leaders, and responsible citizens through active learning experiences within a supportive community. For more information, go to www.unity.edu.

For more information about the open prototype initiative visit - www.openprototype.com

ABOUT THE INDUSTRY PARTNERS/SPONSORS

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Prototype Unites Green Building Techniques

By Ethan Andrews, Reporter, Village Soup/Waldo County Citizen (June 2008)

A prototype house is going up on the campus of Unity College that could be a model for sustainable residential construction.

If all goes according to plan, it will take less than a month to erect, will reconfigure itself in more ways than a Swiss Army knife, will burn no oil and may produce more energy than it consumes.

It's also far from perfect, but that may be the thing that makes it work.

Unity House is in its second week of construction. Site preparations consumed the first week. The house here took one week to erect and will take one more to complete.

"Unity House" sprung from a collaboration between Bensonwood Builders and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Open Source Building Alliance. The Open Prototype Initiative, as the collaborative effort is called, aims to complete four buildings, of which Unity House is the second. The first, a brain injury rehabilitation center at Crotched Mountain, Greenfield, N.H., was completed in 2006.

Unity College netted the project in part because of the longtime friendship between Unity President Mitchell Thomashow and Tedd Benson of Bensonwood, who met

when Thomashow was at Antioch New England in Keene, N.H.

When Thomashow came to Unity College in 2006, the school was looking to build a president's house and the "green" aspects appealed to the mission of "America's Environmental College."

The environmental focus of Unity College and the principles of "open building" both took shape in the 1970s, when progressive theories across all disciplines were converging on a single topic: The earth and the long-term survival of the human race.

Some people went "back to the land," but many have maintained that the question of "sustainability" in an already-industrialized world would have to be answered through industrial innovations.

John Harbraken pioneered "open building" with its strategy of "disentanglement" at

It (Unity House) will burn no oil and may produce more energy than it consumes.

MIT in the 1970s. OPI follows directly from Harbraken's work through his successor, Kent Larson, who advised the Unity House project.

Open building views any dwelling in terms



Adrienne Bennett of WABI-TV Channel 5 of Bangor, Maine, interviews Cindy Thomashow about the Unity House project.

of layers: the site, the structure, the skin, the space plan, the services and the "stuff" within the home. Keeping these layers separate allows for modifications to any of the layers during the life of the building, with minimal impact to the other layers.

Benson began working with open building principles in his timber-frame homes 15 years ago. As it turns out, the "point load" construction of barns and warehouses are inherently "disentangled." By contrast to stick-frame houses, which rely on their walls for strength, timber-frame houses can be stripped to a bare skeleton without weakening the building.

Unity House is, at its core, a timber-frame house. The structural beams that would historically have been a single piece of timber have been replaced with glue-laminated yellow pine in order to meet a higher environmental standard.

Beyond the skeleton, Unity House has a very contemporary look. An architect's rendering of the finished interior, with

only a grand piano for furnishings, looks like an advertisement for a high-end metropolitan condominium.

An uninterrupted sheathing of double-thick blue foam insulation wraps the house, and removable prefinished panels will replace drywall in the interior to facilitate easy access to electrical and plumbing.

Using three-dimensional modeling software and computerized numerically controlled machinery, Bensonwood was able to pre-cut and, in many cases, prefabricate the sections of the house at their Walpole, N.H., shop. As a result, waste at the site is almost nonexistent. Waste at the shop gets directly reused or fed to the shop's gas-augmented wood boiler.

Unity House uses some time-tested methods amid the new technologies. Southern exposure provides "passive solar" heat, while a raft of solar panels, suggesting a

peaked roof on the flat-roofed dwelling, provides the electricity for the home. When the sun shines less and it's colder outside, the house draws additional energy from the grid. Over the course of the year, Bensonwood expects the house, on balance, to produce more energy than it consumes.

Technically, Unity House is a prototype, but many of its most appealing features are already incorporated in Bensonwood's architectural practice.

According to Randall Walter, Bensonwood may be as close as three weeks away from being able to take orders for a "Unity House" or "Unity House-like" dwelling.

The 1,930-square-foot home cost around \$450,000 to build though future models would benefit from the research and development that went into the prototype. How much the next one will cost remains to be seen.

"If somebody will buy another one and will buy it for 'X,'" Walter said, "that's what it costs."

Where Conservation Begins

BY GEORGE MYERS JR.
Staff Writer, Morning Sentinel

One of the state's most unusual homes will be move-in ready by August.

The experimental Unity Home, at Unity College, will serve as an object lesson in environmental sustainability—classes will be held in the house, the structure's movable walls will be tested and adapted and its insulation marveled over by ecologists and architects.

But wait. A family inside will also scramble their breakfast eggs, play board games, wash their shorts and live as any Mainer does, but perhaps as more conscientious stewards of their environment.

"We want it to be a learning experience for us, and the college and for anyone who wants to live well on the earth," said Unity

At slightly under 2,000 square feet, Unity House will be an intimate space but also able to serve as an educational tool for the College and site for occasional events.



College President Mitchell Thomashow, one of the home's two future residents.

Thomashow and his wife, Cindy, soon will live the experiment daily.

"On a personal level," Thomashow said Friday, "what I'm most looking forward to is organizing my books. That's really fun for me."

"We want it to be a learning experience for us, and the college and for anyone who wants to live well on the earth"

Mitchell Thomashow, Unity College President

But the larger intent, he said, is to use Unity House "to build relationships and community. That's an important priority."

The house has its own work cut out for it: It is intended to demonstrate that it's possible to construct a home that uses no energy other than what it can generate, and therefore to revolutionize the way homes are built. Inside the plain-looking home are marvels:

- Structural components will last for hundreds of years.
- Parts of the building's wiring or mechanical systems can be easily replaced when they age or become outmoded.
- Because large central supports provide much of the structural strength, the exterior walls incorporate fewer wooden supports

and more insulation, and interior spaces can be easily reconfigured.

- Interior walls can be easily moved with hand tools to suit the changing needs of a homeowner or to convert a large space into smaller bedrooms for weekend guests, which at times will include the Thomashows' two adult children.

"From a public perspective," the college president said, "we're eager to explore what it's like to live in a place like this. And we're excited to see what winter brings

for us." He said a successful winter means a "self-contained one," meaning that the Thomashows would be able to derive all the energy they need from the sun.

Unity College hopes the house will draw attention to its environmental missions and spur the building of more homes like it nationally.

"We have to do something in order to build better homes," said Hans Porschitz, spokesman for the Bensonwood Company. The New Hampshire-based company is one of the founders of the "Open Prototype" design used within the Unity House.

Porschitz offered a tour of the house as it rapidly came together in Lego-block leaps in early June, showing off the new technology and innovative thinking behind the home's green label.

The 1,900-square-foot house cost about \$380,000 to build -- roughly \$200 per square foot, plus additional costs for site development, furnishing and landscape work, said Thomashow. The structure and its upkeep aren't part of the college's operat-

ing budget, he said.

The upfront cost for the building, or down payment, was subsidized by Unity College's plant and building fund. The monthly payment on the house is equivalent to the president's housing allowance. Thomashow declined to say what that amount is, but noted that it's "quite a bit less" than what college presidents are paid for their allowances in New England's larger towns and cities.

Thomashow said he and his wife are looking forward to hosting community functions in their home, mixing the philanthropic functions that are required of his post with board-game and musical-instrument nights.

"All the comforts of home," as the phrase goes, will mean something different to the Thomashows.

"You've got limitations," he said. "A house that focuses on high-performance will have a concrete slab for a floor, and there are only certain colors you can paint that. It will be artful and functional."

Even the plastic material used to wrap the components is recycled.

With the high price of heating oil and gasoline causing an environmental awakening of sorts, Bensonwood spokesman Rick Reynolds said the home is attracting a lot of interest.

"They want to buy a Unity or one similar to it," said Reynolds. "The more people buy them, the cheaper they will get."

Humani-Ram-Itarians Help with Tornado Relief

Featured in Documentary and Newspaper Article

A documentary film about a disaster relief trip to tornado ravaged Tennessee that was produced by Unity College Associate Professor John Zavodny was premiered on Monday, April 14 in the Student Activities Center on the College campus.

“This film tells the story of the Humani-Ram-Itarians, a group of Unity College students that participate in disaster relief efforts,” explained Zavodny. “The group was formed shortly after hurricane Katrina and twice visited New Orleans to aid in hurricane relief efforts.”

It was Zavodny’s first foray into documentary filmmaking. While there were some technical difficulties with the finished documentary, the photos and narrative provided a good overview of the effort.

The group takes its name from the Unity mascot, a Ram, and throws in a bit of community spirit, hard work and good cheer. Mix it up and you get the Humani-Ram-Itarians.

The efforts of the Humani-Ram-Itarians are in keeping with the core value of civic engagement that characterizes the spirit of Unity College.

A front page newspaper article published in the *Hickman County Times* on Monday, March 24, told the story of the Humani-Ram-Itarian relief effort to Tennessee.

Maine Students Help at Brushy; Spring Break Built Around Storm Relief (*Hickman County Times, TN*)

Word gets around, as rebuilding residents of the Brushy Community found out this month.

“We were in our kitchen and we saw on the news that the tornado hit,” says John Zavodny of Maine’s Unity College. “Anna and I had other plans – we were going to go skiing up in Baxter State Park. And we had that moment where you look at each other and say, ‘should we even think about this?’ Because we only had a month to plan it.”

Plenty of time

On March 11, vans carrying the insignia of the Maine institution rolled into Hickman County for a five-day stay. Thirteen students joined Zavodny, an associate professor in philosophy and humanities, and McGalliard, the school’s Students Health Services director, on a tent-based work detail.

Before you start worrying about wintertime camping, realize that Maine weather is about six weeks behind Tennessee’s, and no one was carping about the temperature. This group came prepared to cook their own food, and while staying behind the Brushy Church of Christ fellowship building they didn’t have to.

“I expected kind of like just hot dogs and mac and cheese every day,” said freshman Kayla Bubar, “but it’s been like really nice food.”

For two days, the Unity group joined in the slow task of picking up downed wood and throwing it into trucks, to be hauled off. Then they started going from house to house, helping individuals as they could.

“Even if we can’t fix somebody’s property or fix somebody’s house, we helped,” said Sara Trunzo, a senior with chain-saw skills. “Even though it’s not on the news every night, we didn’t forget about them.”

Unity is a college that focuses on environmental issues, and their two-week trip south that brought them to Brushy was not their first storm recovery mission. Indeed, the two Unity staff members took a group to Louisiana two years ago after Hurricane Katrina hit.

On this trip, the group spent time in DeKalb as well as Hickman counties, attended a food conference in Nashville (Sara’s doing) and camped in the Smokies on the way back north.

“We’re interested in the larger picture of climate and climate change, and how climate change sets the condition for these types of disasters,” Zavodny said. “So Katrina was very relevant with our students.”



Trunzo, a New Jersey resident who is interested in teaching food production and responsibility at the community level, was part of the Katrina group. She said the destruction they saw further south helped her deal with what she saw in Tennessee.

“The damage was so much more concentrated there because it was in a lot more urban area, and so a lot more people were affected in a concentrated way. And also specific communities were affected, whereas here a lot of the damage here is spread out all over different counties.”

“I think one of the real big similarities is the attitude of the community members. Really coming together, supporting each other. It’s been awesome to work with the church here and kind of see how they’re organizing their community to meet people’s every-day needs. A lot of similar stuff was going on in New Orleans. People really taking responsibility for their own and not waiting for the state or federal government to step in.”

As she talks, Brushy resident Bambi Moulton, whose house was destroyed by a tornado on February 5, steps in and hugs Sara, thanking her for her time.

“I probably didn’t want to work before you guys were there,” says Moulton.

Bubar, a Maine resident, hadn’t been farther south than New Jersey, so the two-week trip had an explorational edge for her, even if it was spring break of her first freshman year in college.

“I didn’t have any plans, and when I heard about doing relief work and helping people out ... I just felt like I have to go. I’m still amazed at the way that the tornado can hit and can destroy a house to the left but the house to the right is still standing. And so many trees are down.”



The HumaniRamltarians in Tennessee.

Kayla is a stick-picker and a rock-piler, with a college focus on environmental policy. What she’ll remember is something else.

“Probably, how when a disaster hits the community, they all come together,” she says. “I think whether you’re friends or

“I really think when you have this kind of thing – and we saw it in New Orleans – it breaks down barriers between people that would otherwise feel awkward around each other. Common work has a way of doing that.”

not, whether you know people or not, everybody’s really caring and wants to help everybody out as much as they can.”

Zavodny, who said the group is filming a documentary of their experiences, said his

students have learned about the South, experienced culinary delights such as okra and made acquaintances with folks whose life experiences are different.

“I really think when you have this kind of thing – and we saw it in New Orleans –

it breaks down barriers between people that would otherwise feel awkward around each other. Common work has a way of doing that.”

Environmentalism for the Real World

MaineHousing and Unity College Sign Contract for Sale of Carbon Emission Reductions, Program Will Benefit Environment, Low-Income People

This is the first such carbon emission reduction in Maine. Appropriately, the agreement was announced on Earth Day, Tuesday, April 22, at a ceremony at the College.

MaineHousing (Maine State Housing Authority) and Unity College have completed an historic agreement, with the college agreeing to purchase carbon emission reductions derived from MaineHousing's energy efficiency programs.

MaineHousing will use the funds it receives to create additional affordable, environmentally sound, energy efficient housing.

"This is a winning situation for everyone," said MaineHousing Director Dale McCormick. "It creates funds for more energy efficient affordable housing, it contributes to further reductions in carbon emissions, and it extends the benefits of the carbon market to low-income people."

Last year the college signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), which requires colleges and universities to eliminate their greenhouse gas emissions. As part of this effort Unity College will offset air travel of employees by purchasing carbon emission reductions.

Unity College Associate Professor and Director of Sustainability Mick Womersley wanted to keep dollars spent for carbon offsets in Maine to keep the multiplier



Unity College began to make sustainability a priority under President David Glenn-Lewin (pictured).

effect of spending in state. He approached MaineHousing and offered to purchase emission reductions derived from energy improvement programs if the housing agency had such reductions for sale before July.

Unity College Vice President for College Advancement Robert Constantine said the purchase connects Maine people with the nuts-and-bolts of environmentalism.

"Environmentalism often is seen in abstract terms, with carbon credit dollars going to benefit environmental projects in foreign countries," Constantine said. "Keeping carbon credit dollars within the state of Maine to benefit local communities is precisely the kind of 'real world' environmentalism that is a fundamental part of the Unity College approach."

MaineHousing is the first state housing finance agency in the country to develop a model program to quantify, verify, certify

and sell carbon emission reductions created by energy efficiency improvements in low-income housing.

Unity College, known as America's Environmental College, is a small private college in rural Maine that provides dedicated, engaged students with a liberal arts education which emphasizes the environment and natural resources. MaineHousing, Maine's housing finance agency, provides funding for affordable homes and apartments for Maine's low and moderate income households. The agency has applied for a Ford Foundation grant to support the development of a model program. The sale of carbon emission reductions to Unity College will be the first, and will set the stage for expansion of the program.

Both Unity College and MaineHousing participate in the Governor's Carbon Challenge and were recently recognized for their achievements at the Recognition and Awards Ceremony during the Governor's Carbon Challenge Networking and Expo Forum.

Dale McCormick's Remarks on Earth Day, April 22, 2008 at Unity College

Unity College planted a seed at MaineHousing that has grown into a project and a journey. I immediately said, "Yes, we will sell the carbon emission reductions (ERs) we create to you". I figured what with MaineHousing being



President Thomashow is pictured chatting with a new student during the first day of classes on Monday, August 25.

the first State Housing Authority in the US to require Green Building Standards for all the housing we finance; we must have tons of carbon lying around. For instance, weatherizing a home and replacing a pre-1976 mobile home each creates energy savings that translate to 1 ton of carbon/year.

As I delved more into the carbon markets, I soon realized that in order to sell the carbon, we have to measure it, have it certified by a third party verifier, and register each tonne. And so we have embarked on the journey I mentioned to create a program to measure the carbon reductions. We are the first State Housing Authority to do so and have enlisted the support of our sister agency in Pennsylvania. We are focusing on five areas of MaineHousing activity:

1. Affordable Energy Efficient Replacement Program for Pre-1976 Mobile Homes
Pre-1976 mobile homes owned by low income people receiving fuel assistance will be replaced with Energy Star qualified mobile homes.

2. Weatherizing homes
A federal program provides grants to low income homeowners and renters to improve home energy efficiency through improvements such as home insulation, caulking, weather stripping, furnace repair, and furnace replacement. Community action agencies screen people for eligibility

as part of the Low Income Heating and Energy Assistance Program application process and deliver the program.

3. Solar Thermal retrofit on affordable multi-family buildings

State housing finance agencies can provide below market loans to owners of multi-family housing with outstanding housing authority mortgages to purchase solar hot water systems that will replace volatile energy costs with a level debt payment; the owners will no longer need to heat water with electricity, gas, propane, or oil. The monthly debt payment will be less than the owners' current cost to heat hot water and will be locked in for the 20 year term of the loan. The ER revenue will provide the subsidy to sustain this program.

4. Home Energy Loan Program

Single Family Homeowners
Home energy loans provide very low interest rates to low and moderate income homeowners to finance energy audits and improvements to make their homes more energy efficient. MaineHousing's program allows income eligible homeowners to borrow up to \$15,000 at 2% interest. Home energy loan program loans are available through participating lenders. The sale of ERs will provide the funding to sustain the buy down of the interest rate.

Multi-family housing owners

The home energy loan program will provide loans with a below market interest rate of approximately 4.5% to owners of multi-family housing with outstanding state housing finance agency mortgages for energy improvements that save more than they cost. Refrigerators and light bulbs will also be replaced with Energy Star Models. The sale of ERs will provide the funding to sustain the buy down of the interest rate.

5. New Construction and Rehabilitation with Green Standards

New construction of affordable multi-family apartment buildings to energy

efficient standards (MaineHousing's Green Building Standards or LEED) will create ERs. These standards emphasize energy efficiency, good indoor air quality and additional site and building features, such as native vegetation, that reduce the negative environmental impact of development without adding to the cost.

MaineHousing has hired Cathy Lee of Lee International to help us develop methodologies for measuring, which are of the highest standard, and that will allow our carbon to be sold for a premium price in any market. We also know that investors in the carbon markets value the kind of ERs that MaineHousing is producing because it has social benefits beyond just the reduction of carbon in our atmosphere. It is clean carbon that represents a triple bottom line:

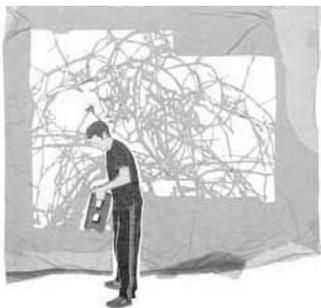
1. Carbon has been reduced so global warming is slowed;
2. Good things have been done for low income people via programs of MaineHousing;
3. The money derived from the sale of MaineHousing's carbon will make sustain programs that benefit low income Mainers.

Lastly, on Earth Day I am proud to say that MaineHousing not only promotes carbon emission reductions in its programs, but also in our own office ...we "walk the talk". We have created a Green Committee that has shepherded in many changes all producing a 16% carbon savings: solar photovoltaic panels produce 10% of our electricity; motion sensor switches for lights so they shut off when not in use; a new coffee system that eliminates Styrofoam cups and burners, duplex printers, flex time that saves employees 1 trip/week and saves 77 metric tons of carbon/year. Last week we did a waste characterization and weighed all the garbage we produced. We discovered that 75% of it could have been recycled. So we have more work to do.

New & Noteworthy



Associate Professor of Art Ben Potter chatted with Adjunct Instructor and alum Lisa Martin while on break from one of the Fall Convocation sessions. Potter's work has been widely displayed across the United States. His work was included in the 2008 Juried Biennial Exhibition at the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport, Maine.



Ben Potter, *Lift*, 2007

6th Annual Fishing for Scholarships is Largest Ever

In its sixth year, Fishing for Scholarships has become a unifying event during the summer for incoming students, parents, current students and alumni. The 2008 Fishing for Scholarships Tournament in July on Unity Pond was the largest ever, noted Tournament Coordinator and Associate Director of Admissions Joe Saltalamachia. The tournament is a labor of love for Saltalamachia, an avid

sportsman who stresses the transformative benefits of outdoor adventure. Each tournament takes months of planning from Saltalamachia and scores of volunteers.

More than \$300,000 in scholarships, including one four-year tuition waiver, as well as other prizes and gift certificates, were available - albeit underwater — during the sixth annual Unity College Fishing for Scholarships Tournament on Sunday, July 27, on Lake Winnecook (Unity Pond).



Photo by Jeanne Cameron



Photo by Aimee Sawyer '00

Organizers had tagged 200 bass, pickerel, perch and crappies and approximately 400 participants tried to snag them — hook, line and sinker.

The human-powered event commenced at 7:30 a.m. with a starting horn sounded by Unity College President Mitchell Thomashow; it concluded at 1:30 p.m. Scholarships and other awards were presented at 2 p.m. at the college outdoor amphitheater.

The tournament, the largest collegiate inland, nonmechanized, one-day, catch-and-release fishing tournament in United States, was open to current Unity College students and incoming students who had paid deposits.

A photo essay of the tournament is available online at: www.unity.edu/NewsEvents/News/UCFish08.aspx

(By Tina Shute, The Republican Journal Photographer)

On Friday, July 18, Swiss Directors Christina Hemauer and Roman Keller attended the final showing of their film, *A Road Not Taken*, during the 11th Annual Maine International Film Festival at Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville, Maine, one of the sites of the festival. Their



in-process film features the solar panels once atop the White House during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. The panels were obtained by Unity College in 1990 and heated water in the cafeteria until 1995. Two Unity College alums, Jason Reynolds '05 and Sara Trunzo '08, are featured in the documentary. Pictured



are Hemauer and Keller next to two of the solar panels that were once atop the White House. They are resting against a grease burning Dodge Ram pickup truck owned by Reynolds and Trunzo that was featured in *A Road Not Taken*.



Among the many subjects considered during Fall Convocation, a meeting for Faculty and Staff to pursue professional development activities and consider issues of importance to the College, was the master planning process. For a year, the master planning process has been advancing with input from all segments of the Unity College community. On Thursday, August 21, Sarah Marshall (right) of Terrence J. DeWan & Associates Landscape Architects of Yarmouth, Maine and Alan Kuniholm of PDT Architects of Portland, Maine offered a presentation on the campus master plan. In his introduction of the presentation by Marshall and Kuniholm, President Mitch Thomashow described the campus master plan as a living document that is intended to organize and guide efforts. He noted that over time, choices will be made about priorities when pursuing the plan. At turns the plan offers the unexpected, such as a faculty village and woodlot cabins.

During the Spring semester, Maine's Attorney General Stephen Rowe gave a talk on campus about male identity and behavior. He offered positive, non-aggressive ways to frame masculinity.



He was invited to campus by The Unity College Men-tours, a new student group that strives to encourage the men of the Unity community to confront gender stereotypes of both men and women, to develop moral courage to be themselves, and encourage healthy gender development and to promote peer respect through campus collaboration. Rowe's talk was well attended and covered by Adrienne Bennett, a reporter with Bangor-based WABI-TV Channel 5. After the talk Rowe chatted with Associate Professor Carol Blasi. The two were colleagues when Blasi was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maine focusing on environmental regulation and enforcement.

New Online Resource Offers Relevant Information
Unity College Educating Students on Personal Finance With Help from the National Endowment for Financial Education.

During the Fall semester students at Unity College are getting a leg up on a strong financial future. The College is working with CashCourse, an online resource from the National Endowment for Financial Education® (NEFE®), helping Unity students to be proactive when it comes to their financial education.

Unity College was among the first to offer CashCourse, an unbiased and noncommercial financial education solution for

students. Since the CashCourse pilot launch in Fall 2007, 146 schools across the country have signed up to use CashCourse.

With the new academic year now underway at Unity, new and returning students will face immediate challenges and choices concerning their finances.

Living away from the guidance of their parents during college is often a time when many students make unwise financial decisions due to lack of knowledge. They are confronted with easy access to credit cards, and spending decisions that go far beyond tuition, housing and food, including items such as spring break travel, and a variety of temptations. Students also need financial tools for their transition to adulthood, including saving, investing, taxes and evaluating the financial aspects of job offers. Increasing concern over this issue has led to the joint effort between NEFE, Unity College and other institutions of higher learning to fill in the missing gaps of financial knowledge that many college students have.

“CashCourse offers a reliable resource to help young adults develop financial know-how,” said Ted Beck, president and CEO of the Colorado-based National Endowment for Financial Education. “Through attention to the needs of today’s college students, this program will help young adults gain the financial savvy necessary for the real world.”

CashCourse offers unbiased content with no advertising and no connections to commercial entities. Unity College students access the site from the college’s financial aid website.

“Providing 24/7 access to financial assistance will be an indispensable tool,” said Dean for Enrollment Management Alisa Gray. “Cash course has great potential to effect

New & Noteworthy

positive change in how our students think about and manage their finances.”

“Based on our research, there are no other free, unaffiliated sites as comprehensive as ours,” explained Amy Bleakney Hartenstine, project manager for CashCourse. “It’s one of a kind.”



Spotlight on Excellence - Colleagues on a Mission Awards 2008

Director of Facilities and Public Safety Roger Duval (left) was congratulated during Fall Convocation by President Mitch Thomashow for his outstanding service to the College. In the past year Duval juggled a large array of projects, including the construction of Unity House. Duval was among those who received the Colleagues on a Mission Award, an annual award given for excellence in service to the College. Also receiving a Colleagues on a Mission award were Kate Miles, Associate Professor and Director of Writing; Custodians Teresa Smith, Bob Berry, Greta Madore, Joe Caruso, Jan Wright, Deborah Braley, Lead Custodian Keith Giles; and Lorey Duprey, Assistant Dining Services Manager.

During the Spring 2008 Semester, Time Warner Cable of Maine filmed a 10 minute segment focusing on the Grease Car Club at Unity College. Members of this student club are owners of cars that have been converted to burn primarily



discarded cooking grease, using fuel only to heat the grease. They also teach others how to convert their vehicles to burning grease. The segment was available to Time Warner Cable subscribers through the Spring and



Summer. Pictured is Ed Porter of Time Warner Cable and William Hafford '08, a member of the Grease Car Club.

Ready for Another Year

Faculty and Staff posed for a group photo in front of Quimby Library during Fall Convocation. In his State of the College

address on Thursday, August 21, President Thomashow stressed that this time in the history of Unity College is one of hope and opportunity. “By coming to Unity College our students are already making some important choices,” Thomashow said. “First, they are proclaiming their interest in pursuing an environmentally related career. That is a really good thing! Second, they are looking for an intimate, hands-on, meaningful educational experience. Third, they are putting their faith in us to demonstrate that choosing to attend a college is a worthwhile investment. Fourth, they are making a decision to spend some very important years of their life in rural Maine.” The full text of President Thomashow’s address is on his Presidential web page at: www.unity.edu/AboutUnity/PresidentWelcome/PresidentsWelcome.aspx

Among the many topics discussed

during Fall Convocation was student retention. For years Unity College has been developing effective means of



consistently improving retention. Speakers Dr. Jim Martin (right) and Jim Samuels, consultants from The Education Alliance, a Massachusetts based higher education consulting company, presented an overview of student retention efforts at colleges across the United States entitled “Retention at Small Colleges: A national Look at What Works and Does Not.”



During the Fall Convocation, Career Counselor / Internship Coordinator Nicole Collins '00 shared her experiences as a female student during a session on retention strategies. The incoming class of 2012 has the most even male to female gender ratio of any class in the history of Unity College.

Gardening at Unity College Blossoms
The garden program at the College blossomed this summer, with the addition of Roots Camp (a children’s organic gardening day camp), a community garden program, a partnership with the local food pantry, and collaborations with several volunteer groups.

Sara Trunzo, a 2008 graduate, facilitated the garden programs and managed the garden site. Trunzo says that, as of mid-August, the garden has provided over \$1000 worth of produce to Unity College



Sara Trunzo '08 working in the garden

Food Service and approximately \$400 worth of produce to the Regional Volunteer Food Pantry.

“We’re anticipating 1500 pounds of squash for use during the Fall semester,” she said. Growing crops, such as winter squash,

basil, onions, garlic, potatoes, lettuce, and tomatoes, on campus helps the College meet its environmental sustainability goals.

The College’s gardens are not only producing food, but are used as outdoor classrooms to engage students in hands-on learning.

“Gardens on campus improve quality of life for the whole community,” said Trunzo. “And they help the College to be better stewards of our piece of land.”

During the Spring semester Unity College hosted a West African fashion show in the Student Activities Center. The show was organized by Adjunct Instructor Vida Wilmot and her spouse, Assistant Professor Eric Wilmot. The Wilmot’s enlisted the help of faculty, staff and students to model fashions common to their native Ghana, a West African nation. Pictured is Vida Wilmot discussing a formal outfit modeled by Professor / Director of the Learning Resource Center Jim Horan.



Faculty Notes

Judy Williams Publishes Work

Adjunct Instructor / Director of the Writing Center Judy Williams poem, “On Searching for Sand Dollars,” was published in the January 2008 edition of *Off the Coast*, a poetry journal. Judy’s poem “Let Me Wonder” has been accepted for publication in the University of Maine’s 2007 edition of *Stolen Island Review*.

Gray and Zavodny Present at Conference

Dean for Enrollment Management Alisa Gray and Associate Professor / Chair of the Department of Advising and Instruction Services John Zavodny presented at the 15th International Workshop/Conference on The First Year Experience in Hawaii in July 2007. The session was devoted to a discussion of The Unity IDEaL: Institute for Developing Leaders, Unity’s leadership program for first year students. The Unity IDEaL is funded in part through the MELMAC student success and satisfaction grant.

Chris Marshall Project Supports Preservation

Professor Chris Marshall created a project called “Places that Matter,” a community-based action to identify and preserve important places and build social capital in the Unity Wetlands. Based on an earlier pilot ethnography supported by the College, Friends of Unity Wetlands collaborated with Chris under a grant from the Maine Community Foundation. He trained a research team, interviewed local people about their places, photographed the places, and mounted a display of photos and quotes displayed at the Unity College Centre for the Performing Arts in July 2007. The project will continue with more exhibits, a photo-book, and other community-building actions that build local capacity to identify and take action about locally valuable places.

Kate Miles Delivers Essay at ASLE Conference

Associate Professor Kathryn Miles delivered her essay, “Being Darwin’s Dog” on a featured panel at the 2007 International ASLE (Association for the Study of Literature of the Environment) Conference. An expanded version of the paper entitled “Dog is Our Co-Pilot” has been nominated for the ECOTONE Darwin award. She also gave a presentation entitled, “Get Up, Stand Up: Teaching Civil Disobedience in the Literature Classroom” at the Modern Language Association Convention in Chicago. This essay has been accepted by *PMLA*, the official journal of MLA. Most recently, she served as a contributing editor for the teacher’s guide to *The Future of Nature: Writing on a Human Ecology* for *Orion Magazine*, published by Milkweed Editions. She continues her role as editor of *ASLE News*, a scholar in residence for the Maine Humanities Council, and as a guest lecturer for Maine Audubon’s Fields Pond Writing Series.

Diana Murphy Presents at Middle Ages Conference

Professor Diana Murphy presented “Living History: Teaching The Middle Ages To Study Abroad Students” at the 8th Annual Teaching the Middle Ages Conference, sponsored by Kennesaw State University’s Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Among other things, the presentation highlights ways in which an experiential approach to teaching medieval history broadened students’ understanding of not only the Middle Ages, but of the traditions that still inform modern Italian culture.

Melora Norman Contributes to Management Guide

Director of Quimby Library Melora Norman contributed chapters on coaching and continuing education to *New Technical Services Supervisors: A Management Guide Using Checklists*, edited by Emily Bergman and Andrea Kappler, Chicago, Illinois, 2007. She co-presented a “Defending Access with Confidence” program at the New England Library Association conference in fall, 2007, addressing (among other topics) intellectual freedom, the American Library Association (ALA) Library Bill of Rights, and interpreting policies regarding patron conduct. Melora is also in her fourth year of chairing the American Library Association Committee on Organization, which oversees and makes recommendations concerning divisions and committees of the ALA.

Lois Ongley Publishes Work

Associate Professor Lois Ongley was primary author of “An Inexpensive Mercury Thermometer Alternative For Use In Older Melting Point Apparatuses,” co-authored with Barry Woods and Clayton Kern, and recently published in the *Journal of Chemical Education* Lois co-authored, with Mary Anne Holmes, Suzanne O’Connell, and Connie Frey, “Gender Imbalance In U.S. Geoscience Academia,” a feature article in the inaugural issue of *Nature: Geoscience*. She notes also that two of her students, Erik Larson and Mike Lewis, presented their research at the Maine Water Conference, and at the spring meeting of the Geological Society of Maine.

Works By Ben Potter Exhibited

Associate Professor Ben Potter’s drawings and paintings were selected for showing at the Aqua Art Miami Contemporary Art Fair in Miami, Florida, and for the upcoming Center For Maine Contemporary Art



Biennial Exhibition in Rockland, Maine. His work has also been selected for display at several galleries, including the June Fitzpatrick Gallery in Portland, Maine, the Waterfall Arts Center and Aarhus Gallery in Belfast, Maine, the Center for Maine Contemporary Art in Rockport, Maine, and the Kolok Gallery in North Adams, Massachusetts.

David Potter Publishes Research

David Potter's paper "What Is *Bolshecapnia Sasquatchi* Ricker? Plus A New Species Of *Bolshecapnia* From Montana (Plecoptera: Capniidae)," co-authored with Richard W. Baumann, appeared in the November 2007 issue of *Illiesia*. Among other things it finds that "*Bolshecapnia sasquatchi*" includes two different species, and describes the previously undescribed second species, *B. missiona*.

Works by Alysa Remsburg Slated for Publication

Assistant Professor Alysa Remsburg has two articles slated for publication. One, co-authored with Anders Olson and South African professor M.J. Samways, is entitled "Influence Of Invasive *Acacia* Tree Species On South African Odonata Distributions" and will appear in the *Journal of Insect Behavior*. The second, "Effects Of Lakeshore Vegetation Structure On Avian And Amphibian Abundance In Northern Wisconsin," was co-authored with B.M. Henning and will appear in the *American Midland Naturalist*.

Mick Womersley Contributes Chapters to Book Manuscript

Associate Professor Mick Womersley contributed two chapters to a book manuscript with the working title *Right Relationship: The Hands-On Guide to Building a Whole Earth Economy*, which is contracted for publication by Berrett-Koehler Publishers with publication anticipated in 2009.

A project of the Quaker Institute for the Future, the book's central message is that there is a growing incoherence between the human economy and the integrity of

Earth's life support systems. The book envisions a restructured economic system based on right relationship between the human economy and biosphere.

Barry Woods Offers Conference Presentation

Barry Woods recently made a presentation, entitled "One Sample Inferential Statistics Using Excel," at the New England Mathematics Association's 34th Annual Conference. He also co-authored, with Lois Ongley and Unity student Clayton Kern, "An Inexpensive Mercury Thermometer Alternative For Use In Older Melting Point Apparatuses" recently published in the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

Two Papers by Lois Ongley Accepted for Publication

Associate Professor Lois Ongley had two papers accepted for publication. The first, to be published in 2008 in the *Journal of Chemical Education* was jointly authored by student Clayton Kern and Professor of mathematics Barry Woods. It is entitled "A Non-mercury Thermometer Alternative for Use in Older Melting Point Apparatuses." The second was as co-author with Mary Anne Holmes, Suzanne O'Connell, and Connie Frey and has been published in *Nature Geoscience*, volume 1, as a feature article, titled "Gender imbalance in US Geoscience Academia." Ongley was nominated by President Thomashow for the "Donald Harward Faculty Award for Service-Learning Excellence" for work she and her students did on Pattee Pond in Winslow. She expects to present this work at the Maine Water conference in March.

Diana Murphy Presents Paper at Conference in Italy

Professor Diana Murphy presented a paper to the 8th Annual Teaching Medieval Literature Conference, which will take place in May in Vogogna, Italy. The presentation will focus on interdisciplinary approaches to teaching history, literature and cultural studies in the context of a full

semester study abroad program. Drawing on experiences from the successful Unity College pilot project conducted in Ascoli Piceno during fall 2006, she will share information about ways in which a "living history" course can enhance learning. The initial part of the paper covers planning, outcomes and assessment of the study abroad program as a whole. It then goes on to explain how learning outcomes for the capstone course in the Unity College General Education core curriculum were applied to a course that was specifically designed to use an Italian city as a "lab". As students reported in their self-evaluation essays, this was an optimal way to achieve the goal of acquiring knowledge about patterns of cultural change. In this sense, experiential education reinforced the more standard methods of pedagogy delivered through lectures and readings.

Don Lynch Accepts ETS Invitation, Will Present at Conference in Rockland

Professor Don Lynch has again accepted an invitation from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) to travel to Kansas City, MO to be a reader for the national AP examinations in Psychology. He will be among a group of over 440 psychology faculty members from across the United States and several foreign countries. Professor Lynch has also been invited to present a training workshop this spring on "Using Adventure Therapy with Disruptive Behavior Disorders." The session will be a part of this year's Maine Counseling Association's annual conference in Rockland, ME. Dr. Donald Lynch, Psychology.

2007-2008 Annual Report

ADVANCEMENT REPORT

It is an exciting time to be part of the Unity College community, and I am happy to offer this review of the 2008 Fund year which ended June 30, 2008. During the year, the college received over \$450,000 in new support as well as collecting more than \$100,000 in funds pledged toward endowment and capital projects. The year was highlighted by a generous gift from the Unity Foundation and UniTel to bring the balance of the Bert & Coral Clifford Endowed Scholarship Fund to a balance of \$150,000.

Alumni and faculty and staff participation stayed steady during the year. We saw an increase in unrestricted support of the Unity Fund which helps offset all of the costs of providing a quality education while keeping tuition reasonable. We introduced several new giving clubs and were happy to welcome some of our most generous supporters into these clubs this year. And we laid the groundwork to build a sustainable development program that will ensure the success of the college for years to come.

The college also enjoyed the attention of prominent news sources during the year including an article on our sustainability efforts on Time Magazine's on-line site and mention in an education article appearing in the New York Times. Work on the Unity House, our newest facility begun late last spring and expected to be completed by the fall was covered extensively locally as well as in sources as varied as trade journals and on-line at Forbes magazine. This coverage is testament to the college's growing reputation as a nationally recognized environmental college.

We are just getting started. Well positioned, Unity College continues to hone its vision and deliver on our promise to all of our students, our community, and our earth. Building on our young but rich history, Unity College is committed to providing an academically challenging environmental studies program in a fully engaged community. The financial support of the people included in this annual report is vital as we continue to write the next chapter in our history.

Rob Constantine,
Vice President for College Advancement

LETTER FROM BOARD CHAIR

On behalf of a grateful Board of Trustees, as well as everyone who studies and works at Unity College, I thank you for your support of the college during the 2007-2008 fund year. The college received over \$450,000 in restricted and unrestricted support and we welcomed many new donors to our list of supporters.

Together, we have engaged students. Together, we have prepared environmental leaders ready to make a difference in the world. Together, we have begun to build an exemplary sustainable campus. We couldn't do what we do without the support of all of the people included in this annual report.

It is truly an exciting time in the college's history, and I couldn't be more proud to be a trustee. Unity College is enjoying success but we can't meet the college's needs and successfully position the college for the future without the support of even more members of the Unity community. As we embark on a new school and fund year, I hope that you will consider joining me in supporting this most deserving college.

Tim Glidden,
Chair of the Board of Trustees

2007-2008 GIVING SUMMARY

(New Gifts and Pledges: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008)

Annual Operating:

Unrestricted	\$117,078
Restricted Budget Relief	\$44,582
Budget Enhancing	\$272,580

Capital:

Campus Center	\$5,015
Other Projects	\$2,000

Endowment:

Unrestricted	\$300
Scholarships	\$16,603

Total of All Giving to Unity **\$458,158**



CAPITAL GIFTS

From time to time, the administration and Board of Trustees identify building projects and acquisitions important to accomplishing the college's mission. Examples include new facilities, building renovations, and significant new equipment for academic and co-curricular programs.

Daniel and Joan L. Amory
Jebediah Foundation
Lawrence G. Johannesman '84
Roger R. and Roberta I. Jolin
Charles A. and Arlene C. Schaefer
Marian G. Schmidt

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Gifts designated to Unity College's endowment are permanently invested. The income earned from an endowed fund is directed toward the purpose selected by the donor. Endowed funds currently support scholarships, building and facility maintenance, and current operations. Endowed funds enhance regular operations of the college while also ensuring our future.

GENERAL ENDOWMENT

Robert W. Dineen '70
Doris Hall
Kenneth M. Hall
Travis P. Wagner '83
William J. Waite '98

BERT AND CORAL CLIFFORD FOUNDER'S SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Unitel, Inc
Unity Foundation

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2008 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

This roll recognizes gifts received between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2008. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness of this list. If your name was inadvertently omitted or misspelled, we apologize and ask that you inform the Advancement Office so we may correct our records.

Recognized Giving Clubs (donations given annually)

Unity Circle: \$5,000+
Woodlot: \$2,500-\$4,999
Unity Rocks!: \$1,000-\$2,499
Coops: \$500-\$999
Ram: \$250-\$499

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Robert F. Pollis
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(in memory of Georgette T. Wade)

Coops

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William Zoellick

Ram

Juliet T. Browne
Gloria M. Sosa '80

Others

William T. Hafford '08
Don Kleiner
Michael W. Womersley

CURRENT FACULTY AND STAFF

Woodlot

Cynthia B. Thomashow
Mitchell S. Thomashow

Unity Rocks!

Robert J. Constantine
Roger R. Jolin
Amy Knisley
Barry Woods

Coops

David C. Glenn-Lewin
James J. Horan
Anna McGalliard
Douglas Van Horn
Gary Zane '83
Nancy S. Zane '88
John E. Zavodny

Ram

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Kathleen Hale
Christine Melanson
Melora R. Norman
Lois K. Ongley
Gregory Perkins
Gerald W. Saunders
Cynthia F. Schaub
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Others

Anonymous
Sandra Abbott-Stout '83
Beth Arnold
Carol A. Blasi
Heidi Brugger
Charles G. Cinnamon
(in honor of Unity College Woodsmen's Team)
Patricia E. Clark
Nicole S. Collins '00
Michael A. Davis
Kay Fiedler
Douglas R. Fox
Alisa M. Gray
Kate J. Grenier
David Knupp
Christopher Marshall
Diane L. Murphy
James T. Nelson
Aimee Phillippi
Mary-Cay Pitre
Janet M. Preston
James H. Reed
Alysa J. Remsburg
Joseph J. Saltalamachia '94
Claire Smart

ANNUAL REPORT

Mark Tardif
(in honor of Stephen Nason)
Judy Williams
Michael W. Womersley

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF

Woodlot

David M. Purdy

Unity Rocks!

Dorothy W. Quimby
Charles A. Schaefer

Coops

Kathleen Glenn-Lewin

Ram

Edward W. Beals
Jan F. Sassaman

Others

Theodore S Baker
Noah Bourassa '06
Sari Hou
Carolyn Jo Meserve '87
Charles F. Rabeni
Jason D. Reynolds '06
Karrie A. Saltalamachia '03
Deborah Sugerman
Nancy Wanderer

ALUMNI (1970-1979)

Woodlot

Gregory M. McMorrow '71
Jane M. McMorrow '72

Coops

Robert E. Doherty '78
(in honor of Robert F. Pollis, Jr.)

Ram

C. Edward Carson '71
Robert W. Dineen '70
Peter R. Leishman '79
(in honor of David M. Purdy)
Paula J. Meiers '79
Craig P. Segar '79
Richard E. Saltzberg '72
Thomas H. Shelley '75
(in honor of Dorothy W. Quimby)

Others

Louis E. Abramson '73
Marc D. Bane '73

Michael W. Ditz '79
Timothy A. Gay '78
Gale A. Gennaro '78
Thomas C. Hendricks '70
Eugene Holm '72
Robert E. Howes '73
George W. Knoecklein '73
Anthony J. Lambert '71
Michael H. Masley '79
Lawrence D. Maye '74
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John M. Montgomery '74
Patricia L. Newell '78
Robert L. Portner '73
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Alexander P. Toles '77
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Donald E. Wolph '76
(in memory of John Sanborn)

ALUMNI (1980-1989)

Coops

Andy R. Robidoux '82
Catherine M. Wolfe '85
Gary Zane '83
Nancy S. Zane '88

Ram

Gloria M. Sosa '80
Glen F. Wall '82
Toni G. Wall '82
Kevin J. Ward '81

Others

Sandra Abbott-Stout '83
Patricia E. Bartlett '84
Michael E. Berberian '87
Maria T. Broadbent '88
(in memory of Kenneth M. Hall)
Todd L. Brown '88
Cathie M. Buscaglia '86
(in memory of Stephen H. Willard '84)
Peter B. Butryn '84
Susan B. Cote-DeMilia '81
Bruce R. Desmond '82

Kevin J. DesRoberts '88
Alan P. Desrosiers '83
Owen M. Devereux '83
Cindy Dick '89
Barbara C. Dollison '83
Corey A. Francis '87
Christanne J. Gallagher '80
Todd G. Hartford '86
Lawrence G. Johannesman '84
Randall H. Kane '87
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(in honor of Dorothy W. Quimby)
Kim Larrabee '82
Daniel J. Leduc '81
Heidi A. Ludewig '84
Robert MacGovern '81
Tammy MacGovern '81
Robert J. Maietta '81
David W. Mancuso '80
Carolyn Jo Meserve '87
John A. Meserve '82
Monica Murphy '87
Stephen A. Puibello '80
Sharon A. Ramsey '84
David R. Smith '86
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Stephen B. Sparrell '83
Robert C. Speed '83
Julie E. Theroux '83
Peter D. Tinkham '82
Travis P. Wagner '83
(in memory of Hans M. Fralick '99)
Gary A. White '84

ALUMNI (1990-1999)

Others

Peter A. Abello '95
Jonathan M. Audet '99
Beth H. Berman '97
(in honor of Christopher Beach and
David M. Purdy)
Tami L. Bill '92
Christopher K. Borg '91
Kenneth J. Broskoskie '91
Brian P. Carolan '94
(in memory of Kevin Carolan)
Tammy M. Ciesla '91
Richard H. Dreves Jr '95
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Jennifer M. LaBranche '96
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Sara A. McCabe '99
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Paul J. Miller '97
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Philip K. Perhamus '90
Penny Picard '90
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Andrea J. Reny '97
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(in memory of Laura Winans '97)
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Ryan M. Thurber '98
Heather E. Toulmin '93
William J. Waite '98
Andrew E. Weaver '97
John B. Wimsatt '91
Christa M. Wood '93

ALUMNI (2000-2008)

Coops

Matthew S. Shejen '00

Others

Brian C. Adams '02
Victoria Arnold '08
Daniel W. Birmingham '00
Noah Bourassa '06
Brett A. Bowser '04
Cheri A. Brunault '03
Hannah Brzycki '08
Alisa Christopher '07
Nicole S. Collins '00
Travis W. Collins '00
Andrew B. Cooper '07
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Lisa J. Ferrisi-Guttman '01
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Laura M. Hill '01



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 Sarah C. Kieran '02
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 Jeffrey M. McCabe '00
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Tides Foundation
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Woodlot

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Unity Rocks!

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Kenneth Cole Foundation
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Janis & Alan Menken Foundation
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Chase's Home Furnishing's, Inc.
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
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NRDC
The Steak Pit
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Waldoboro Utility District

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McCormick's IGA Supermarket
North Country Press
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Poland Spring Water Company
Power & Twersky Business Mgmt Group
Reader's Digest Foundation
Matching Gift Program
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(in memory of Gerald D. Angel '76)
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Town of Freedom
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Town of Troy
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Unity House of Pizza
Unity Pond Pottery
Unity Variety and Video
Village at Stony Brook Dover, LLC
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Your Backyard Superstore, Inc.

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C. Caprara Food Service Equipment
Chase's Daily
Chase's Home Furnishing's, Inc.
Crosstrax Neighborhood Deli
Down East Federal Credit Union
EBS Building Supplies
Edwards Family Shop N Save
Holiday Inn
The Homestead Restaurant
Kleinschmidt Associates
Mac's True Value Hardware
Maine Antler Design
Maine Audubon
Maine Department Of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Maine Kayak Inc.
McCormick's IGA Supermarket
North Country Press
Poland Spring Water Company
Swish Maintenance Limited
Troy General Store
Unitel, Inc
Unity House of Pizza
Unity Variety and Video

GIFTS IN KIND

Charles River Publishing
Chase Toys
Michael A. Davis
Hair Flair
The Homestead Restaurant
Ingraham Equipment
Mac's True Value Hardware
Lois K. Ongley
Unity Pond Pottery
Unity Variety and Video

1,000 Words

This snapping turtle was out for a stroll on a sidewalk in Waterville, Maine one balmy afternoon in July. (Photo by Mark Tardif)





90 Quaker Hill Road
Unity, Maine 04988
www.unity.edu



In July, the Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) screened *A Road Not Taken* about oil dependency and lack of political will to pursue alternative energy. Attending the July 13 Premier at Railroad Square Cinema in Waterville were John Sullivan, Director of the UCCPA, Hemauer, Keller, Mark Tardif, Associate Director of College Communications, Rob Constantine, Vice President for College Advancement, and Anna McGalliard, Director of Health Services. Part of the documentary was filmed at Unity College, and it also features faculty, staff, students and alumni. (Photo by Darren Payson)