

Unity

Spring 2007

The Magazine of Unity College

**Considering a wind turbine to
cut energy costs**

**Back in the race and looking
for Iditarod success**

**Solar panels connect Unity to
a moment in American history**

**Unity students study in
Ascoli Piceno, Italy**



Message from the President



Mid-February brings a terrific snowstorm to Unity College. Finally the students can get out with their skis, snowshoes, and snowmobiles. Ice fishing trips abound. America's Environmental College gets to enjoy winter! Yet the February light summons spring and we will all be happy when the weather warms up a bit.

What a year of change for Unity College! We are in the middle of an exciting transition, including new staff, faculty, and administrative leadership, great new ideas about curriculum and courses, and a new era of developing a sustainable landscape for the College.

Several new faculty have arrived on campus this year with the promise of additional new hires to come. Our former Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, Susan Fedoush, is now in the newly created position of Associate Director of Publications, charged with integrating the Unity College brand standards developed over the past year into the fabric of the College web site and publications. By the beginning of the 2007-2008 academic year, we will be welcoming three new Vice Presidents to the College. These positions are Vice President for Academic Affairs, Vice President for College Advancement, and the newly created position of Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing.

Such ongoing change will create dynamic future opportunities for the College. Such change always yields a measure of uncertainty and stress. That is natural. However, throughout the transition, we are building on Unity's core strengths and values to build a legacy for the College. Unity has a unique mission. We broaden the constituency for conservation. We attract a wide variety of students who are interested in diverse approaches to conservation. We serve underserved students. We espouse a field-based, experiential curriculum, integrating science, sustainability and the liberal arts, linked to the future of environmental careers.

In the days to come we'll be sharing our ideas about the campus of the future. We are anxious to include you in that discussion. With exciting new ideas and visions in hand, we will be looking for supporters and investors who recognize the vitality of Unity College and its very special place in American higher education.

As Unity cultivates its strengths and builds towards the future, it will ensure its legacy as a college that changes lives, that improves communities, and that is at the forefront of environmental thinking.

Mitchell Thomashow

President



volume 21, no. 1
The Magazine of Unity College
90 Quaker Hill Road
Unity, Maine 04988
207-948-3131 (all departments)
www.unity.edu

Editor

Mark Tardif

Editorial Assistants

Kate Grenier
Cynthia Schaub
Reeta Oun

Photography

Mark Tardif
Jim Evans, Chief Photographer, Central Maine Newspapers
John David Learning '78, Central Maine Newspapers
Chris Jacques

Board of Trustees

Mr. Robert Pollis, Chair
Mr. Tim Glidden, Vice-Chair
Mr. Kenneth Winters, Treasurer
Mr. Robert Doherty, Secretary
Mrs. Joan Amory, Ms. Juliet Browne, Mr. Peter Didisheim
Mr. Donald Foster, Mrs. Doris Hall, Mr. Kenneth Hall
Mr. Mark Miller, Ms. Gloria Sosa, Mr. John Tewhey
Mr. Robert Tonge, Dr. Paul Wade
Mr. Neil Ward, Alumni Representative
Dr. Amy Arnett, Faculty Representative
Mr. William Hafford, Student Representative

Professors Emeriti

Dr. Edward Beals, Leonard R. Craig, Ann Dailey, Dr. C. Larry Farnsworth, Rev. George Fowler, Donald F. Mortland, Florence Noonan, David Purdy, Dorothy Quimby

Dean Emeriti

Donald F. Mortland

Cover Photo

Mick Womersley, Associate Professor/Interim Provost and Senior Vice President, climbs a 40 foot wind tower in Knox as part of a wind study. Photo by Jim Evans, Chief Photographer, Central Maine Newspapers. See wind power story for details.

Unity Magazine is published by Unity College.

Copyright © 2007 by Unity College

All rights reserved. No material may be reproduced in whole or in part without written consent. Material is produced for the reader's information and entertainment only.

Printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based inks.

INSIDE Unity

volume 21 no. 1

America's Environmental College



10



12



16

2 Faculty Commentary

7 Unity College Alum—Back in the race: Smith looks for Iditarod success

Features

10 SAD 3 Considers Using Wind Turbine to Cut Energy Costs

12 Sometimes a Symbol is Worth a Dollar, Unity's Connection to a Moment in American History

14 The Fortunate Outcome of Outstanding Preparation, Dr. Jonathan Jenks '84 Takes Unity College Degree to Heights as Renowned Scholar, Teacher and Researcher

In Our Element

16 Unity College Study Abroad Program in Ascoli Piceno, Italy

18 A Work in Progress, the Changing Face of Dining Services

20 New Lake George Park Director Blazes Trail

22 Civil Disobedience a Must in Class

24 New & Noteworthy

30 Faculty Notes

32 Unit-Y



The Legacy of Steve Irwin and Meaning of an Environmental Career

By Mark Tardif,
*Associate Director of
College Communications*

Make no mistake, few professionals are saying that adventurer Steve Irwin, killed tragically by a freak sting ray strike to the heart while filming a documentary on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia in late 2006, was a world-class naturalist. What many agree on is that Irwin the showman played a role in bringing the beauty and wonder of wild animals and nature to millions of viewers. He was also a reliable champion for conservation causes.

Shortly after the news of Irwin's untimely death at the age of 44, Unity students were sending e-mail messages expressing their views. Some admitted to considering a career in service to the natural world after being drawn to the work of Irwin. Others expressed dismay that Irwin's passing was given so much press in a world where war, famine and large-scale tragedies rage.

Amid the back-and-forth the dawn broke and a Teflon idea emerged: this is what College is for, to consider, learn, adapt, and grow. But first, empathy must be encouraged. Admissions Counselors at Unity College and faculty members alike share the view that they will never tell

students what to think or believe, but they will challenge them to think about their beliefs. And so the Steve Irwin tragedy became a teaching moment, as those who deal with the nuts-and-bolts of pedagogy (or for the rest of us, simply teaching) would say.

As the semester wore on students quickly turned their passions in a million different directions, doing what engaged,

infuse people worldwide with an enthusiasm for nature and conservation. Certainly such an ability to translate his own experiences in a way that was accessible to many was a gift, and so he made his mark in this life.

Though not all individuals will have been personally impacted in the same way by the message/experiences of Irwin or his philanthropic deeds to benefit the natural

“Steve Irwin used a mass medium to infuse people worldwide with an enthusiasm for nature and conservation. Certainly such an ability to translate his own experiences in a way that was accessible to many was a gift, and so he made his mark in this life.”

earthy and active college students do while on the road to becoming the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

Yet the process of pondering Irwin's life and work continued for some students. Irwin's tragic passing challenged some students to re-evaluate their conception of what it means to serve both the natural world and mankind, for in his own way Irwin gave his life in service to the greater good. It was not a greater good defined in military terms, but was it a service any less important or selfless?

A good deal of life is constructing meaning based on shared experience. As such, Steve Irwin used a mass medium to

world, the ongoing global debates concerning conservation are the better for his efforts. The experiences and links shared among human beings, whether through direct inter-personal contact, or as members of communities and observers learning from the experiences of another, shape our collective awareness, helps crystallize ecological problem solving, adds meaning to life, and grants us realistic optimism for the future of this planet.

A journey shared is never ended. The journey Irwin invited us on was to a place where conservation was not linked to sacrifice, but rather was a gift to oneself and all of humanity.



Coming Soon to a Wide Audience: The New Politics of Climate Change

By Mick Womersley,
*Interim Provost and
Associate Professor*

Now that both the movie by Al Gore, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change are both freely available to a wide audience, the effort by climate scientists and environmentalists in general to ramp up public understanding of climate is poised to move to a new level. Public presentations of Gore *et al*, and/or Stern *et al*, are planned to increase by at least an order of magnitude. Thankfully, something is finally moving faster than carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere.

Barbara Boxer became Chair of the Key Congressional Environmental Committee, when discussions with potential Republican supporters of bipartisan climate legislation such as the proposed *Climate Stewardship Act* have occurred (if they are not occurring already), and when Dr. Stern has made his rounds of the US lecture circuit, sponsored meanwhile by the UK Government, then we will finally see national legislation on climate change that has a strong likelihood of passing both houses of Congress. Well and good. About time. There's a lot to do, though, for this to become a reality, and plenty of scope for slip, twixt climate

science cup and American public lip.

In particular, enough American public understanding of climate change has to be generated so as to prevent a backlash, particularly one that fuels some last-ditch Republican climate Alamo and/or a presidential veto. Money is one problem. Potential backslashers have quite a bit. Oil giant Exxon Mobil, flush from \$60 a barrel prices, has thus far funded quite a bit of the backlash, as have from time to time other U.S. energy corporations. The Saudis are likely involved somewhere along the way. Recent signals suggest Exxon Mobil is ready to throw in the towel as far as funding the nay-sayers. That doesn't mean they won't fund a huge effort to derail mandatory emissions reductions or a carbon tax.

There's not much that can be done about the funding, simply to point out publicly over and over the incredible irresponsibility and civic disengagement of such action. Shame on the purveyors of climate pseudo science and backlash politics wherever they are. They are likely some of the least redeemable characters in this whole sad play anyway. Shell and BP, to their credit, got out of the nay-saying business some time ago and began positioning themselves for a new energy millennium, figuring out how to cap and trade and deal with mandatory reductions. Exxon Mobil is a dinosaur that deserves to be punished for its cynical manipulation of the issue.

Something can and is being done about public understanding.

Stern and Gore, Gore and Stern. Through the auspices of a twice-failed presidential candidate (some would say one who had his chances twice stolen), through the UK Government's top social welfare economist and the firm backing of the past and future British kings, messrs. Blair and Brown, through the National Wildlife Federation (one of the most respected American conservation groups), and through a large number of volunteer presenters, a very great effort to convince Americans about climate change is finally underway.

It's going to run into some trouble here and there. For one thing, it's hard to teach people a theory of the planet's climate behavior based on 900,000 years of ice core record and 4.5 billion years of geological record if they don't believe that the planet is that old. Bishop Usher, long dead in Ireland, has a surprisingly large following of Americans. For another, the language, and the underlying math concepts, are very challenging. Feedback leads to exponentiality, which leads to potential tipping points. What did I just say? If you don't know what it means, should you be voting?

Finally, and possibly the fatal flaw in the entire script, is that America, not unlike Britain, is not an intellectual nation at heart. The greatest, most effective, and ultimately most beloved leaders in either country were not dry academics like Stern-Gore, but fireside chatters like Franklin Roosevelt, or trenchant orators like Churchill. The climate issue, for all its public high mindedness and civic virtue

Coming Soon to a Wide Audience: The New Politics of Climate Change (*continued*)

and potential for international cooperation, lacks its Lincoln, and its Gettysburg address. Gore's movie, for all its rationality and good presentation, just won't cut it when it comes down to the wire.

Two things will help here. One is that the Republican party is currently having to decide once more, as it has had to decide every two and four years for twenty six years since the Reagan revolution, if it likes being an unhappy loose conglomerate of

Susan Collins, have already staked out their turf in the sensible climate center. A bipartisan coalition is clearly possible.

The other great help will be that there is an active network of American evangelical climate believers. It doesn't take an insider to the US environmental movement to have caught on to the buzz about Christian environmentalists lately, but how many have noticed that evangelical Larry Schweiger, head of NWE, is on the Board of Al Gore's

that? Will it be enough? What is enough?

Many others, we should recognize, will not be bothered. If your usual media fare is video games or MTV, if you can't find Iraq on a map, never mind understand an exponential function, if you are not a participant in any kind of intellectual debate, then how likely are you to start now?

What we have to hope for is that we still live in representative democracies, where legislators can from time to time be

“Finally, and possibly the fatal flaw in the entire script, is that America, not unlike Britain, is not an intellectual nation at heart. The greatest, most effective, and ultimately most beloved leaders in either country were not dry academics like Stern-Gore, but fireside chatters like Franklin Roosevelt, or trenchant orators like Churchill.”

Christian social conservatives, southern closet racists, and neoclassical economic ideologues. With a few uncomfortable rock-ribbed northern and western libertarians sprinkled liberally here and there in the none-too-firm matrix. As the Democrats found out recently, more sensible Americans abound and just need to be given a party sensible enough to vote for and they will do so in droves. If this means that various left-radicals have to be bound and gagged and left in back rooms, it's not a great loss given what is at stake. Republicans, if not completely in disarray, are politically vulnerable, and they know it, and the more sensible of them such as Colorado Senator John McCain or Mainer

new Climate Project group. Schweiger is there because he believes. In God and Gore both, it seems. And he can help organize the Christian environmentalists.

Not much can be done though, about the complexity of the issue. Gore's approach, and by default Stern's, since both are at root much the same plea to much the same audience, is intensely academic. Hopefully a deeper national conversation about climate can ensue, at least among those who naturally take time to consider more difficult issues in thoughtful ways. Professionals, educators, the growing crowd of bloggers, students everywhere can and likely will participate. How much of the voting population is

made to take their responsibilities seriously. It will be the elected officials in the end that make the decision, in the various state houses and the one great national legislative body. In the absence of a climate Churchill or Lincoln, we are all probably going to have to depend on these folks we just elected to do their job. But they do have addresses, telephones and emails, so we can at least remind them. And we can watch to see they don't take money from the backlash.

Watch them like hawks and crow to the world when they do.



The Good News and the Bad News of Environmentalism

By John Zavodny,
*Associate Professor/Chair of
the Department of Instruction
and Advising Services*

Faith-Based

In 1988 I took my first, and as it turns out my only, job as a full time minister of the gospel. Prior to my two years working as Associate Minister at the Huber Heights church (small “c” is important) of Christ (capital “C” is very important), I spent four years as a student of biblical languages (Greek, Hebrew and a tiny bit of Aramaic, which I am lucky to be able to spell in English now). I studied languages because to my mind and in the tiny subculture of my Christian college it was the only responsible way to prepare oneself for a lifetime of evangelism—of sharing the “good news.”

Study at a Christian college seemed to be the obvious way to pursue my “calling” which over time I realize was more a failed act of rebellion than a calling. In the interest of propriety I won’t mention the name of my bachelor’s degree alma mater, but I will say that when our cross-town rivals from Belmont (who, as I write, are in the NCAA tournament) came across Nashville to play basketball, my friends and I would, good naturedly of course, cheer “B-E-A-T. Beat the Baptists!” The whole being-a-preacher plan didn’t work out and, after years of denial, then graduate school, then therapy,

then more denial, I find myself in a different kind of clergy at a different kind of faith-based institution: an institution of environmental higher education.

The Sacrifice of Environmentalism

The broadest links and similarities between higher education and the church are too many, too rich, and too beyond me, to get into here. There are, though, certain striking similarities between the particular breed of higher education institution known as environmental colleges and the fundamentalist Christian world out of which I come. I offer the following explorations as observations, not as judgments. Like a tarot reading or a horoscope—a provocation, not a mirror.

I don’t remember meeting Bill Becker (not his real name). He was just always around at the West Side church of Christ where I was baptized at age eight, where I preached my first sermons, where I found my second girlfriend, and where I completed my ministry internship in 1985. Bill was a mail carrier, a dedicated Christian, and a kind of spiritual sad sack—hopelessly optimistic, yet always wet-eyed, heartbreaking and somehow wronged. Bill worked his heart out for us kids, and for the old folks, and for just about anyone for whom he could think to work his heart out. It didn’t occur to me until I had left Cleveland for college that dedicated Bill was a kind of protestant lay clergy who had been forced by doctrine into an unspoken vow of chastity. Bill was divorced and according to some people, Bill was scripturally destined for a life of celibacy (Matthew 19:19, do I remember

that correctly after all these years?) By all accounts, Bill is still doing his alone best to be righteous.

I’m not sure there is a correlate to Bill in the world of environmental faith, unless it is in the prodigal corporate sinner who has wasted resources all his life and who now dedicates his time and his millions to habitat restoration, or some such. In the world of environmental higher education redemption plays a role. So does guilt. I’m not sure that celibacy does. But maybe it does...maybe the correlate in the environmental faith world is not literal abstention from sex, but abstention from the product of sex—children. The vow of childlessness. This is the environmental get-out-of-green-purgatory-free card.

As a faculty member who lives in a real house with oil heat, drives a Subaru, and has a basically consumptive disposition, I sometimes feel like a fraud and a poser at a school that professes love of nature in all its many forms. Unlike the Christian academy I attended, our school does not have a statement of faith for every new faculty member to sign. We don’t pledge allegiance to The Sierra Club or Audubon or Safari Club International. We would not fire a staff member who got caught shopping at Wal Mart (have you seen their organic produce? I haven’t.) We do, however, include environmental boilerplate in our job ads. We are, however, working to get a sustainability proviso written into every manager’s job description. We do require that every student take a course in climate change. It is in this value rich environment of environmentalism that I sometimes feel like an imposter.

The Good News and the Bad News of Environmentalism (*continued*)

In my healthiest moments I realize that I can be environmentalist without being an environmentalist. Sometimes I say that I'm environmentalish. I argue that no philosophically healthy person has just one value. Our community members are nature lovers and people lovers and art lovers and NASCAR lovers. God bless them every one.

In my provocative moments I offer a reductionistic challenge of my own. When the sustainability obsessed students in my environmental ethics class last spring were getting a little smug with the other students, I played the card. I claimed to have very few environmental rivals on campus, "I'm effectively tied for status as the best environmentalist on campus," I said. "Why?" I asked. One student quickly answered, "Because you carry your own coffee cup?" After carefully negotiating that response while trying not to discourage the student from participating in the future, and after entertaining a few more attempts, one student got it, "You don't have kids."

The Logic of Childlessness

1) Reducing one's ecological footprint seems to be the basic goal—the thing by which one is judged worthy of redemption or cast into the lake of burning hot... what?...petroleum products? Fryolater grease? The beatitudes of sustainability are something like, "Blessed are the non-consumptive for they shall receive the whole earth. Blessed are the carbon-sequestering, for they'll have trees for their backyards. Blessed are the recyclers, for they shall see God—again and again and again. Blessed are the photovoltaic, for Ra shines upon them." Consume less.

Conserve more. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Those who seem to believe that style points count are in the minority. For them sustainability means more than simple science can capture—there is a spirituality, elegance or a grace to a sustainable life. But when you're keeping score it's all about the numbers. How much? How little? How much left? Nobody gets style points. Or if you do, they matter so little as not to matter.

2) Adding more footprints, no matter how tiny, will never reduce your footprint. Put that on a bumper sticker and sell it at the Co-Op. This is the emotionally tough part of the syllogism but the logic is so simple that it requires little in the way of explanation. Reducing impact is a matter of predicting, controlling, and ultimately limiting the negative consequences of one's behavior. Unleashing children on the planet—no matter how well trained, how impact resistant, how godly they might be—is giving up the ability to predict, control and limit your consequences. God's sacrifice was different in kind and magnitude, but even he gave up a son for the good of the planet.

At this point in the argument, otherwise cynical students become amazingly optimistic. "Maybe my kid will invent new energy technology, write the next 'Silent Spring' or be the first environmentally responsible President of the United States." And maybe they won't. Odds are they won't. Odds are they'll be more-or-less the same as we are. More-or-less the same as the rest of society. And this, no matter how hard you try to train them otherwise—or maybe because you try to train them otherwise. Even people without

kids know how kids are. Messiah's are one-in-a-gazillion.

The Good News and the Bad News

This is the point where those who are religious about their environmentalism make a commitment. Is environmentalism strictly a negative proposition? A list of "don'ts" that add up to a sustainable salvation? Is sustainability a by-the-numbers golf game where the lowest score on the impact card wins? Do style points matter? Al Gore's movie and Rachel Carson's book demonstrate that there is a place in environmentalism for fear, for tough love, for hellfire and brimstone, for the apocalypse. But is there room for something optimistic—something expansive? Is there a place for hope in environmentalism? Is there a place for children?

In the Christian world the contrast is between those who focus on the life-changing power of grace and those who believe in the correction of fear. Gratitude for the opportunity to live, to be sustained, to possibly continue. Fear of death, suffering, alienation that keeps one humble, on the straight and narrow, out of the gutter.

The environmentally religious make dispositional choices too: demonstrate the fullness of a rich life sustainably led, or share the reality of what's been done in order to inform what we might do. Obviously, and like most apparent dilemmas, it's not a forced choice. It's a question of what you want first, the good news or the bad news.

Back in the race: Smith looks for Iditarod success



By Ken Waltz, Sports Director, Waldo Village Soup

For the third time in four years, Camden native Scott Smith will push his body and will to the limit as he tries to conquer the weather, the trail and the rest of the elite field during the Iditarod Sled Dog Race deemed The Last Great Race on Earth.

Smith departed Wasilla, Alaska on Sunday, March 4 on the grueling 1,150-mile trek across some of the most extreme and beautiful terrain in the world, including high mountain ranges, frozen rivers, dense forests, desolate tundra and windswept coastline.

After finishing 48th in his rookie attempt in 2004 and being forced to scratch from the competition due to a sickness that ran rampant through his dogs in 2005, Smith enters this year's Iditarod confident he and his team can break into the top 30 and perhaps even the top 20.

The 36-year-old graduate of Camden-Rockport High School hopes to finish the Iditarod in fewer than 11 days. In 2004, he crossed the trail in 11 days, 22 hours, six

minutes and nine seconds.

In fact, in the event's 34-year history, only 617 people have started and finished the race with Smith being one of them.

The first Iditarod race began March 3, 1973, with 34 teams. Twenty-two of the teams finished 32 days later. How times have changed. This year, the first musher will arrive at the finish in Nome in nine to 12 days, and the last musher will finish up to a week later.

"It is the toughest thing you will ever have to do in your life," Smith said of finishing an Iditarod race. "This race will put you through the lowest of lows and the highest of highs. That is what is so great about the race.

Because you learn so much about yourself. You learn survival skills. When it is 50 below, any wrong moves and you can die out there.

"But nothing really prepares you for going three days without a wink of sleep

and trying to keep your dogs happy and mentally staying on your game plan and staying on schedule. Mentally it is so tough. It will take the biggest, strongest man in the world and tear him to shreds. In the same token, 24 hours later you can turn that around and have a wonderful dog team and be feeling on top of the world."

Smith, who lived in Wyoming before moving to Willow, Alaska in 2005, said that in the first few days of the Iditarod race he may strategically stay back in the pack, but he is confident that his slow, steady, consistent approach "will put us where we want to be at the end."

Smith, in his seventh year of competitive dog-sled racing, must battle temperatures that can reach 50 below zero and a trail that this year has little snow (large stretches are bare). He must have a strategy that will keep his dogs healthy and keep him mentally focused day after grueling day.

"Halfway through the race you can't wait to get on the sled because that is the easiest part. Dog care is the hardest part."



"We have 400 miles of dirt," Smith said of the trail, "and now we are getting high winds so any snow that is out there is probably going to get blown off. Everyone has to deal with it. That is just the way it goes."

Smith said he "feels good about this dog team. I'm not going to make any predictions on where we will be, but I know where we would like to be. It is a really nice dog team. It is probably the slowest dog team I've ever driven but they are steady. They kind of float down the trail, which is what you want, especially this year. They are really comfortable at [a pace of] 10 1/2 to 11 miles an hour. We are not going to try to go out and compete with the guys doing 15 to 16 mph up the river."

Smith wants to make a splash in a sport dominated by those with more experience, time and money to invest. Most of the top teams have major sponsors. Smith does not, but feels he can still compete and

finish among the top 20 or 30 if his dogs stay healthy.

"It is going to be a good race," he said. "I just have to stay within myself—put the blinders on. I have to let a lot of teams go in the beginning of the race and catch them farther on in the race. It is a matter of being patient and taking care of these guys [the dogs]. Obviously, I don't want the same thing to happen that happened in 2005."

Smith said he has a young dog team, with many of his veteran dogs out of the mix due to age, injury or health. He said many of his dogs got sick in 2005 due to the uncharacteristic warm temperatures. This year, sickness should not be a problem because, for the most part, temperatures have been cold.

"It is a lot easier to keep dogs healthy," he said. "You don't get the sicknesses that you get when it is warm like that."

Smith said he probably trained his dogs

a little too hard leading up to the 2005 Iditarod, a lesson he used to avoid the same scenario this year. In 2006, Smith was a judge and spotter on the Iditarod course instead of a competitor.

He said his dogs are prepared for this year's race. "These guys are good," he said. "I've got, depending on the dog, 1,800 to 2,200 miles on them, which I think is perfect. It is just a matter of good dog care now."

Each musher in the Iditarod starts with 16 dogs, but can continue with fewer than that as the race progresses. In 2004, Smith finished without several of his starting dogs. "You can have up to 18 at the vet check [before the race]," he said, but must choose 16 for the race.

Smith said while he will miss some of his older, more seasoned dogs during this year's Great Race, "this year, with the lack of snow, you are going to want good, young dogs. Ones with healthy bones and

who are light on their feet."

Smith said organizers of the race did not let the mushers know in time about the lack of snow on the trail, so some of the racers may not have dropped food for their dogs in the most advantageous places. He dropped his dog food at locations on the trail on Feb. 14.

"The weather is going to affect everyone," he said. "It obviously is going to be a hard, fast trail and it is really easy to injure dogs." He said the dogs can suffer injuries to different parts of their body depending on whether they are trudging through deep snow or going across hard-packed, frozen ground.

"People that are really gunning and pushing the dogs hard early are going to pay the price later," he said. "Having a nice slowed-down team, doing 10 1/2 to 11 mph, will reap the benefits later. If I can just maintain that and keep them steady _ For me to say I think I've got a top-20 team, I sure hope I do. This race is not just about the top 10 or top 20, it is a top-50 dog-sled race."

Smith said the depth and talent of the mushers, all the way through the 50th racer, have improved in recent years. "It has gotten more competitive," he said of the Iditarod. "It has come such a long way in the last 35 years. The technology of lighter sleds with better dogs, better nutrition and the vet care is the best in the world."

Smith said racing the Iditarod is "just such a great experience for you to learn [about yourself] as long as you open up your mind to doing so."

He added that when people ask him why he competes in such a tough, physically and mentally demanding event, he responds, "It's a sickness."

"Everyone has some sort of passion in

life and if you can tap into it and follow your heart and dreams and live your passion, boy, it is a heck of a way to go through life."

Editor's Note: At press time for this magazine Smith was in 38th place but had fractured the runners on the rear of his sled. He was having a new sled flown in and continuing the race by running behind the sled.

From The Official Site of the IDITAROD

Scott Smith

Willow, AK, USA

Bib Number: 26

Position: 38

Checkpoint: Eagle Island

Time In: Mon, March 12, 2007 03:17:00

Dogs In: 10

Time Out: Mon, March 12, 2007 03:17:00

Average Speed: 3.80 MPH

Scott Smith, 36, was born and raised in Maine. He attended the University of Maine and Unity College, majoring in fisheries studies. He moved to Wyoming in 1994 and to Alaska in 2005. Presently he is a builder and a racer. Scott says he knew the first time he stepped on the runners that some day he wanted to do the Iditarod. Scott lists his hobbies as fly fishing, travel and building.

Smith has had a special relationship with dogs since he was a young boy growing up in the Midcoast. "I was very fortunate to find dogs," he said.

"Growing up in Camden, Maine I never knew I'd be doing this when I was 36 or 37 years old. It has taken me to a lot of

different experiences. I've gotten to see a lot of the country I never would have seen."

Smith said those who attempt to cross the Iditarod trail "see things so few people have ever seen. You are out there in the middle of God's country."

He said early in the race he will not, figuratively, be looking at the finish line. "I have to take it one check point at a time," he said. "If I look too far ahead then I'm not taking care of my dogs properly. Every run is an individual run. It is a whole new experience every time you step on the runners."

Smith said his physical and emotional condition changes dramatically during the race. "In the beginning, you can't wait to get off that sled and tend to your dogs," he said. "Halfway through the race you can't wait to get on the sled because that is the easiest part. Dog care is the hardest part."

He said he has a deep love and respect for his dogs. [His relationship with those dogs—the animals who could be the difference between Smith's life and death during the race—is crucial for success in the harsh world of dog-sled racing.]

Smith, a builder by trade, said he has always loved dogs, starting with Max, a chocolate Lab he had for 13 years when he was a young boy. He always had hunting dogs.

Smith said all dogs are intelligent in their own right, but none of them compare to the brains of an Alaskan husky.

"These guys are like little people," he said. "Physically and athletically they are just incredible. They inspire me to do this."

Smith said trying to put 16 dogs together so he can work in unison with them is the ultimate. "I don't teach these dogs anything," he said. "I'm the one getting taught everything. They teach each other everything. I'm just along for the ride."



SAD 3 Considers

Using Wind Turbine

to Cut Energy Costs

By CRAIG CROSBY

Staff Writer, Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal

Mick Womersley shuffled carefully across the pipes, 40 feet in the air, his body and hard hat silhouetted by the falling sun. With one final reach, he began his descent and the small, black pods with which Womersley had been working began spinning furiously in the afternoon breeze.

Back on the ground, Womersley looked up at the small anemometer and wind vane he had installed, dozens of feet below the whirring 31-foot blades on Wes Kinney's 100-foot tower on Knox Ridge, and he thought about the future.

"I love the sound of a wind turbine," said Womersley, a professor at Unity College and sustainability expert. "That this is just sitting there, cleanly producing power and it's home grown. It's a Maine resource."

The anemometer and wind vane Womersley finished installing on Thursday afternoon will deliver data that will be recorded over the next few months. The information will be crucial as Maine School Administrative District 3 decides whether to become the first district in the state to add a wind turbine of its own.

The district is expected to break ground this spring on a new school that will serve pre-kindergartners through 12th-graders.

Last spring, the school's board of directors gave Coastal Enterprises, Inc. of Wiscasset permission to conduct a feasibility study on behalf of the district to determine if it can harness wind to help offset electricity costs and perhaps even turn a profit.

"There are only certain locations and situations around the state where wind turbines can work," said Stephen Cole, director of

"There are only certain locations and situations around the state where wind turbines can work," said Stephen Cole, director of natural resources and sustainable communities for Coastal Enterprises.

natural resources and sustainable communities for Coastal Enterprises. "You need a place with pretty high and sustained winds. The circumstances of Mount View building a new school on a ridge with good wind capacity made it seem like a good testing ground."

Located in Thorndike, the Mount View school complex is visible from Kinney's farm approximately a quarter of a mile away.

Judging by his naked eye, Womersley estimated the ridge on which proposed wind turbine would sit is at least as high as the spot where Kinney's turbine has stood for more than 20 years.

Winds must average at least 14 miles per hour over the course of a year to meet the minimum requirements of most turbines,

Womersley said. There cannot be too many lulls, nor too many gusts.

"There's plenty of wind here," he said. "Nobody's really worried about having enough wind."

Kinney's windmill, which was installed at the farm in the mid 1980s, produces up to 20 kilowatt hours and serves his entire farm. His electric bill last month was \$91. When the turbine is not in use his bill ranges from \$250 to \$450, Kinney said.

The turbine proposed for the district would probably produce about 1.5 megawatts. The district would qualify as a small power plant, allowing it to sell excess electricity.

"I think the wind mill's a good idea," Kinney said. "I miss it when it's not running. You have the investment and you have the income coming in, so you have to balance it out."

That is exactly what the school board plans to do once the feasibility study is complete, said Barbara Rado Mosseau, superintendent of MSAD 3.

In addition to studying the wind data, the study will include an overview of permits the school would need, and what grants are available to help cover the installation expense, which Cole estimates could run as high as \$500,000.

So far the district has spent nothing. Coastal Enterprises, a private, non-profit community development corporation, received a \$60,000 grant from the Massachusetts-based Jessie Cox Charitable Foundation to conduct the study.

"This is just a feasibility study," Mosseau said. "'I believe the board is very, very interested in all kinds of options that are energy efficient and sustainable. The cost of doing that is another issue. That's something the board would have to consider."

The new school is expected to be completed by September 2009. The turbine project would be tied into the construction schedule to help reduce installation costs, Cole said.

There is still much to be done, however, before the turbine ever becomes a reality at the new school.

"We're not quite there in crunching the numbers to know what the savings will be, but in the best of all possible worlds, we'll be able to make the case that renewable energy makes good financial sense for the district itself," Cole said.

"It seems that's the only way renewable energy products are going to be widely used, if you can demonstrate they are a practical investment."

Sometimes a Symbol is Worth a Dollar, Unity's Connection to a Moment in American History

By Jason Reynolds, Unity College Sustainability Coordinator '05



Documentary filmmaker Christina Hemauer (far left) was joined by Rosalynn, former President Jimmy Carter, and Roman Keller outside the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum in Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1891 during the Presidency of Benjamin Harrison, electricity was installed in the White House for the first time. At that time electric lighting was a new technology, being slowly adopted by Americans. Harrison saw the White House as instrumental in demonstrating this new technology; if the White House did it, surely electricity was dependable and safe.

Jimmy Carter entered his presidency in the midst of another advance in the field of energy technology. Solar energy was on the cutting edge of technological evolution. Much like Harrison, Carter was dedicated to demonstrating the reliability of solar options to the nation, to assure Americans that they could trust these new technologies to provide their energy needs. While in office, Carter had an array of thermal solar panels fit on the White House's West Wing.

This decision followed an important energy speech given by Carter on April 18, 1977 in which he stated, "with the exception of preventing war, this [the energy crisis] is the greatest challenge our country will face during our lifetime." At the time, oil prices were sky-rocketing around the country amid fear of potential supply instability in the wake of the Iranian Revolution. Carter viewed advancing the solar industry as a way to strengthen the economy, fortify national security, and guarantee clean, dependable energy, while at the same time reducing the environmental problems associated with fossil fuel consumption.

American energy policy is widely discussed around the world. With only 300 million people, the U.S. consumes the vast majority of global crude oil. Particularly, in the European Union, where mitigating

human effects on global climate change is a high priority, U.S. energy policy is highly scrutinized. The story of one panel begins here. Sitting in front of a computer in Switzerland, Roman Keller, read about the panels, from installation by the Carter Administration and removal by the Reagan Administration to the current owners, Unity College. Roman saw in the panels a story worth telling, one that could really describe the conflict within the United States and perhaps initiate a broader discussion about the importance of America as a role model regarding energy. After discussing the concept with Christina Hemauer, the two Swiss filmmakers decided to make a documentary about the panels and by extension about Carter's energy policy. To do this they enlisted the help of Unity College's own Sara Trunzo, a current

*“with the exception of preventing war,
this [the energy crisis] is the greatest challenge
our country will face during our lifetime.”*
—Jimmy Carter, 1977



*Documentary filmmaker Roman Keller taking a bath
using water circulated through the solar panel. The
setting was the loading dock of the Carter Library.
The scene will be in the documentary.*

student and Jason Reynolds, recent graduate and Unity's Sustainability Coordinator. The crew was to deliver one of the panels to the Carter Library, the donation was facilitated by Interim Provost Mick Womersley,

As the crew approached the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library, the library's employees continued sorting through 27 million documents, 1/2 million photographs, and hundreds of hours film, audio and video tape that the Carter Administration left after its four years in the White House. They estimated that with a staff of ten this process would take about fifty years but they hoped the archived Presidential papers would provide some insight into the political climate at the time of the solar installation.

As they shuffled through the papers, news articles, and memos the researchers discovered a missing thread of information.

The Administration's pre-installation research considered several variables, including placement, cost and installation challenges. It was discovered that serious upgrades would be required in the HVAC (high voltage alternating current) hot water system before the panels were installed. The other significant variable was aesthetics. The Administration was concerned about balancing the traditional look of the White House with their overwhelming desire to promote alternative energy sources to the public. Through the assessment, the Administration realized that because of these "added costs" the solar installation would likely not pay for itself over the estimated 20 year lifetime of the thermal hot water system. This discovery led to a barrage of media coverage touting the installation as a waste of tax dollars, another

example of government squandering. Carter had to make a difficult decision.

Even under these circumstances, Carter felt that his White House's emphasis on alternative technology (symbolized in the array of solar panels) would influence public and private sector consumer choices. In the midst of heavy criticism, the President followed through on his commitment to renewable energy and in the process set the tone for advancing the field. The affects of such a high profile installation would echo throughout the nation and the world. Carter said it best, "We have been proud of our leadership in the world. Now we have a chance again to give the world a positive example." And that he did.

82

'84

The Fortunate Outcome of Outstanding Preparation, Dr. Jonathan Jenks '84 Takes Unity College Degree to Heights as Renowned Scholar, Teacher and Researcher

By Mark Tardif

When Jonathan Jenks arrived on the Unity College campus as a married, non-traditional student, the furthest thing from his mind was going on to earn a Ph.D, become a distinguished Professor and conduct wildlife research. His main focus was finding a career that provided a stable life for his family.

Fast forward to the present day and a simple request for Jenks' resume in preparation for this story yields a seventy-eight page treasure trove of scholarship. The story of Jenks' experience as a Unity student is one with equal measure personal revelation, empowerment and fulfillment.

"The small classes and opportunities for hands-on learning at Unity were aspects that I appreciated," Jenks said. "There was actually camaraderie that existed between students and faculty. When I was a student if you went to the Student Center on a Friday night you'd see faculty there and socialize with them as human beings, not just mentors in labs or the classroom. That kind of connection made for a warm, supportive campus environment."

Being on the dance floor with faculty boogying too was eye opening. The message

picked up by Jenks virtually from his arrival as a non-traditional student was that Unity was more than a college. It was a place that encouraged personal fulfillment, including intellectual and social development. The Unity approach was one that considered the whole person, from the classroom to mentoring towards a career and enjoying time together in social contexts, the College had an approach that Jenks found deeply resonant.

In his estimation Unity is an ideal place for a particular type of student.

"Unity is excellent for students who might not do well in larger classes, or in general, flourish in a larger campus environment, and also, for those non-traditional students like I was, who can take full advantage of a talented, accessible and caring faculty," Jenks said.

Jenks' surprising journey to life as a Distinguished Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota, his present and long-term position, began with his first job after high school.

Not a particularly strong student, after graduating from high school in his home state of Massachusetts, Jenks spent several

years as a metal worker. The experience left him longing for something more, for a greater connection to both the outdoors and the greater good.

"I had always loved wildlife and wanted to work in the outdoors, but there I was, working in a machine shop," Jenks said. "I just reached a point where I did the research, found Unity, and knew it was where I should go."

Living off campus as a non-traditional student posed an initial challenge, but the open culture at Unity along with supportive faculty made it all work for Jenks.

"I worked with faculty there at the time closely," said Jenks. He remembers former Professors Ron Barry and Terry Bowyer with particular fondness.

While Jenks found the class size to be ideal to help foster confidence, it has another consequence that fostered success. As a career educator, Jenks sees the academic difficulties that some students face when they start to withdraw and don't participate. This disengagement can be an unintended consequence of larger classes.

"Because of the small classes at Unity, students can't sit back and not participate,"

'86

Jenks explained. “Small classes mean that all students have to be involved. At least that’s the way it was when I was a student at Unity, and I suspect that’s the way it is today.”

At every step of the way, all of his professors challenged him to challenge himself. This was an approach that Jenks appreciated and seized with relish. He became a voracious reader, broadening his science skills in the process. By the latter stages of his time at Unity, Jenks was among the very top of his class in grade point average.

“I TA’d (served as a Teaching Assistant) for Terry Bowyer,” Jenks said. This positive experience coupled with the encouragement he received from Bowyer and other Unity faculty members caused him to re-think his original career goals. Winning both the Dean’s Award for excellence in scholarship and a wildlife department scholarship from Unity in 1982, caused him to question whether his career goals were quite reflective of what he was capable of achieving.

Though he had always wanted to work with wildlife, Jenks recognized the opportunities that could open up for him with additional education after Unity. He received his Associate degree in Environmental Science in 1982, and his Bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management in 1984.

He went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Maine, Orono, in 1986. Without pause, he journeyed to Stillwater, Oklahoma, where he entered the Ph.D. program. The awards that were to become an aspect of his distinguished career at the very highest levels of scholarship began when in 1989, Jenks was named the Outstanding Ph.D. Student for the Zoology Department.

His dissertation was entitled Effect of Cattle Stocking Rate on the Nutritional Ecology of White Tailed Deer in Managed Forests of Southeastern Oklahoma and Southwestern Arkansas.

It didn’t take long for Jenks to land his first big career break upon receiving his Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Ecology from Oklahoma State University in 1991. He defended his doctoral dissertation and within months, was on the job as an Assistant Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota.

What started out as an unsettled, tenuous start to life after high school turned into a career in service to college students, animal research and the environment that would be the envy of just about anyone.

“I’ve been extremely lucky with my

career, since it has gone so smoothly,” Jenks said. “I recall preparing my master’s degree application with (former Unity Professor) Terry Bowyer, and he told me I ought to tell them that I was interested in going on to earn a Ph.D, that saying it would help me to get in.”

Once at the University of Maine in pursuit of his master’s degree, the issue of actually pursuing a Ph.D. became more concrete.

“I just met people and made connections, and transitioned fairly smoothly from one to the other,” Jenks said.

Despite his success on a big stage, Jenks never lost his Unity roots.

“The contacts I made at Unity are still there for me today,” Jenks said. “Maybe that happens when you feel comfortable with people who are your mentors.”

“Those professors at Unity had Ph.D’s and were doing research, and it was pretty easy to grow to their level because they were so encouraging, helping you to realize that you too, could achieve what they had achieved,” Jenks said. “I’ve spent my career trying to live up to the standards they set for themselves and for students at Unity.”

And what a career it continues to be...



Jonathan Jenks '84 on a pronghorn hunt in northwestern South Dakota. (Photo by Ph.D. student Chris Jacques.)

’91

Unity College Study Abroad Program in **Ascoli Piceno, Italy**

By Diana Murphy, Associate Professor

“Where in the world is Ascoli Piceno?” This is a reasonable question to ask, since even many Italians have never been to this relatively untouristed city in central Italy, despite its architectural beauty and prime location between the Appenine mountains and the Adriatic Sea. During the fall semester, 11 Unity College students have had the opportunity to live and learn in Ascoli, and to expand their cultural horizons by visiting other places in Europe. They are the first group from the college to participate in a study abroad program, earning credits for their immersion experience. One of the goals of this pilot initiative is to keep the momentum going so that Unity students will continue to benefit from the educational stimulus of travel.

Reactions to the program have been enthusiastic. “This is the best place I’ve ever been,” said Ryan Feener, a sophomore majoring in Landscape Horticulture. Ryan and the other students are housed in apartments near the historic center of Ascoli and attend classes at the Accademia Italiana, where they are studying the Italian language and culture in addition to course material that normally forms part of the curriculum at Unity College. They like the individual attention they get in the small language classes (no more than six students), which are taught by native Italian instructors. The students get plenty of chances to practice what they’ve learned outside of class, since most people in this area do not speak English. They’ve also met people from



Ryan Feener '09 (front left foreground), a Landscape Horticulture major from South Thomaston, Maine, and Alex Best '09 (right side facing foreground), a Conservation Law Enforcement major from Bethel, Maine, were joined with friends from the University of New Hampshire on a gondola ride in Venice, Italy.

places like Portugal, Croatia and Lithuania who come to the Accademia to improve their skills. It’s easy to make friends here and students have discovered that even the gruffest train station ticket agents are willing to help when approached with a smile and a polite “buongiorno”.

The occasional snags that are inevitable when trying to organize travel from Italy to other destinations have not thwarted Unity

students. During the fall break, Jill Travisano '05, who speaks some German, organized a trip to Berlin for one group, while another group (Alex Best, Sue Coolbeth and Linda Wyler) made their way by ferry to Athens and the Greek islands. Plans for the Thanksgiving break include travel to Spain, Amsterdam and Dublin.

Local excursions, which form part of the Culture and Environment course, have also



enhanced the students' learning experience. The class has visited sites that still attest to Roman and Longobard influences in Ascoli, as well as numerous medieval monuments constructed in the characteristic soft marble called travertine. We hiked to a 13th-century hermitage set into the hillside above the city in order to get a better idea of the way monks lived in the Middle Ages. A recent visit to the town of Acquasanta Terme, famous for its thermal springs, was sparked by interest in these "blessed waters" (a literal translation of the town's name) as both a natural and cultural phenomenon. As Peter

Taliaferro, a senior Ecology major, put it, "The excursions keep getting better and better." Research topics chosen by the students, ranging from peasant food traditions to pre-modern building techniques, are often generated from the "living history" aspects of the course.

Unity College's environmental focus means that our students bring with them perspectives that are not typical of the average tourist. They are able to compare the way modern Italy tries to cope with the reality of problems such as traffic, population density, and pollution to the

way we treat these same problems in the States. It's been an eye-opener, for example, to observe that the use of smaller, more fuel-efficient vehicles is only a partial solution to the degradation of the environment. By walking and riding bikes in the city and using public transport for longer trips, the students have inserted themselves into the daily life that many Europeans have adopted.

We appreciate the support that the college has given us in pursuing this adventure abroad. If you are interested in learning more about the program, check out our web journal at www.unity.edu/Adventures/Italy/Start.aspx.



Unity College students are joined by students from the University of New Hampshire, which has a center in Ascoli, Italy.



Casey Smith, a Conservation Law Enforcement major from Rochester, New Hampshire, with the Bocca della Verità in Rome, Italy.

A Work in Progress, **the Changing Face of Dining Services**

By Holli Cederholm '07



QiuXia Chen '09, a Landscape Horticulture major from Brooklyn, New York, harvests greens for the cafeteria from the extended growing season hoop house on campus.

From a new farm, focused in part on raising livestock for meat, to the community garden and hoop houses for vegetable production, steps taken to integrate local food into Unity College's dining services are already visible on campus. Still, more discernable efforts stand to be made, in terms of where— and how far away— the bulk of Unity's food is coming from.

At present, dining services are done in-house, meaning Unity does not work with a corporate food management and distribution system like Sodexo. Director of Dining Services Sandra Donahue decides who to contract with, in terms of a food broker, and tries to get local foods whenever

“The theory seems to be that you have to have processed food from far away— which is the worst kind of food to use in terms of climate change impact— in order to keep students happy,” said Womersley.

they are available, and financially possible. “We are currently getting our carrots and potatoes through Farm Fresh Connection,” said Donahue. “Seventy-five percent of our potato products are McCain's potatoes from Mars Hill, Maine.”

Donahue, who raised her own children on organic food from her gardens, knows the value of farm-fresh produce and has done her best to use vegetables from the college garden in menu-planning; potatoes, carrots, and squash harvested in the past seasons were welcome additions to the kitchen. Basil and garlic were also used to make pesto. “Fresh pesto— there's nothing like it,” said Donahue.

At the initiative of President Mitch Thomashow all managers are now required to have sustainability plans in place for the next academic year— dining services included. The Dining Services Sustainability Plan, designed by the College's Sustainability Committee, builds on past and current initiatives— the college gardens, farm, and

composting system— to further reform Unity College's food-ways.

Jason Reynolds, Sustainability Coordinator, sees the plan as a step in the right direction. “The current food system is far too dependent on industrial agriculture and non-sustainable sources of food,” said Reynolds.

There are several major reforms outlined in the Dining Services Sustainability Plan. To start, local food purchasing will be implemented at increasing percentages of the total food purchased overall. In other words, in this next academic year, 5% of the total food budget must be spent on local food, and 10% of the budget must go to local food the year after, so on and so forth.

The plan also calls for increased integration between sites of on-campus food production— namely the community garden and FFA farm— and dining services. Food production will be better planned to satisfy both the needs of dining services and state health requirements.

In order for the plan to be successful, according to Reynolds, it has to hold key personnel responsible, but it also has to fit with student needs. “We have to balance the environmental mission of the school with student happiness and student demand,” said Reynolds.

The reality is, however, that if dining



services continued to serve all the menu items that it does currently, increasing local food percentages in years to come will not be possible.

Mick Womersley, Interim Provost and Chair of the Sustainability Policy Committee, thinks students need to adjust to local fare if they have not already. “More than anything, we’ve used student preferences as an excuse for us not to think about changing the menu. The theory seems to be that you have to have processed food from far away— which is the worst kind of food to use in terms of climate change impact— in order to keep students happy,” said Womersley.

Since all of Unity’s students chose to come

to an environmental college, Womersley feels perplexed by their lack of connection with food and environmental impacts.

“Students didn’t come here to eat a suburban diet,” he said. “Rural Maine still raises a lot of high quality grains, vegetables, meat, eggs, seafood (of course), and other wonderful, sustainable foods. I don’t care if you’re a hunter or a hugger, but local food is better for you, tastes better, and is better for the planet.”

Donahue, also in charge of planning the menus for the dining hall, thinks that some students will be really excited about more local food on the menu, while others will not be as receptive. “We have to be realistic, students are not going to eat lamb

[from the school farm],” said Donahue. She feels that some of the more unusual food items—lamb, or beets—require a different approach than more standard foods, like hosting special “tastings.”

Donahue thinks that more food and nutrition education might ease the transition for students. “It would be great to see classroom experience as part of the garden,” said Donahue. “And then maybe, offer different food items.”

Thomashow—who wants sustainability to be built into every aspect of the College, and who wants to see food as a substantial part of the construction process—would agree. “The future of environmental studies is related to the food we eat,” said Thomashow.



By August 2006 the first animals had been moved to the new farm at Unity College.



Jacklyn Slawson '07, a Wildlife Conservation major from Oak Park, Illinois, works in the organic garden on campus.

Unity College Alum Jeff McCabe '2000 **New Lake George Park Director Blazes Trail**

By DARLA L. PICKETT, Staff Writer, Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal

Jeff McCabe remembers dropping by Lake George Regional Park ten years ago to visit with his college buddies.

"A lot of my friends worked at the park for college internships, so I would stop by during the summer," McCabe recalled.

Little did the Unity College graduate know that someday he would be the person in charge of future college students in the same position.

McCabe, 29, took over as park director in December, when Nancy Warren retired.

"The legacy of Lake George is pretty inspiring," McCabe said, pointing to its history as a youth camp -- Camp Modin -- for years before the park was established in 1993.

The state purchased the land for the park before 1997 and leased it to operators of the park, which straddles the Skowhegan-Canaan line. The park is leased to both towns and run by a nonprofit group, Lake George Corp. The board is comprised of five people appointed by selectmen in each town.

The park, which survives on donations, fundraisers and gate fees, also is helped by extensive volunteer and internship programs, according to McCabe.

Including land purchased in 2002 with money from the Land for Maine's Future and foundation grants, the park is now a

320-acre treasure with swimming holes, boat launches, hiking trails, 15 miles of cross-country ski trails, 16 buildings "and some of the best bird-watching around," McCabe said.

He said there also are bath houses on the east and west sides of the lake, a social hall on the west side and other smaller buildings for family reunions, barbecues and group functions.

McCabe said his new position is an apt fit because of a strong partnership between the park and his alma mater. Unity College provides interns an education on how the park is run while they perform work there.

McCabe's job includes fundraising, handling the day-to-day operation of the park, bookkeeping, office management, and human resources. During the summer, there are up to 20 day camp employees.

Beyond that, however, an enthusiastic McCabe has set his eyes on bigger goals.

"I hope to grow the year-round usership, pursue foundation funding, upgrade and maintain the buildings and improve trail maintenance," McCabe said. He said he also hopes to expand the park's affiliation with area schools, perhaps offering environmental education in the fall and spring.

Already, McCabe said, he has written

two grant applications and has two more in the works.

"There are a lot of people committed to this park," he said. "What I think a lot of people don't realize is how much the park relies on donations to run.

"It's not actually passes and gate fees that keep the park running. Capital improvement relies on substantial donations and grants, from buying a chain saw -- which we need right now -- to finishing our office. It still needs a deck and ramp for handicap accessibility."

McCabe, originally from Arlington, Mass., graduated from Unity College in 2000 with a degree in environmental education. For five years he was executive director of Somerset County Soil and Water Conservation District. In that capacity, he traveled the state working on conservation and environmental issues as they relate to water quality and soil erosion.

McCabe lives in Skowhegan with his wife, Sara, and their daughter, Carly Francis.

"I thought this job was a good fit for me. It's not every day people get to work where they have a sense of place. Before I was all over the county. Now I'm in one location," McCabe said. "I spent a lot of time in Maine as a kid and I always said I would move here. Now here I am, and I love it."



"I thought this job was a good fit for me. It's not every day people get to work where they have a sense of place. Before I was all over the county. Now I'm in one location," McCabe said. "I spent a lot of time in Maine as a kid and I always said I would move here. Now here I am, and I love it."



Civil Disobedience a Must in Class

Unity College Class Makes You 'get it' Following Convictions — Legally

By CRAIG CROSBY, Staff Writer, Kennebec Journal and Morning Sentinel



Unity College student Stephenie McGarvey, left, and associate professor Kathryn Miles discuss McGarvey's American literature project. McGarvey used a series of windows to protest what she views as the college's glass ceiling, an invisible barrier that prevents women from advancing. (Blethen Maine News Service photo by David Leaming)

Stephenie McGarvey figured if her display were going to generate real discussion, real change, it had to be just visible enough to give people a nudge, rather than a shove over the cliff.

Protesting what she perceived to be Unity College's glass ceiling -- the invisible barrier preventing women from advanced positions and pay -- McGarvey depicted her evidence on a series of glass windows. There were even panels with shattered glass, symbolizing women breaking through the ceiling.

Without a march, without so much as

an opinion piece in the school newspaper, McGarvey displayed the windows all over campus, including one outside President Mitchell S. Thomashow's office, and waited for students' curiosity to do the rest.

"People started talking about it and the buzz was created," McGarvey said.

By the end of the semester, McGarvey's windows had earned her lunch with Thomashow, and a promise from the school's human resources department that it will brief search committees on the problem.

Among the student body, the diversity committee, which had been dormant, will be resurrected when classes resume in January and the Women's Environmental Leadership Programs hopes to use McGarvey's display as a springboard for campuswide forums.

"The most I had ever done was very conventional actions toward change, like writing letters," said McGarvey, a senior environmental policy major. "I had not done any kind of social protest. I was a little dubious about what would happen. It was a lot more than I had hoped for. I was very surprised."

Effecting Change

McGarvey's experience is exactly what Unity College associate professor Kathryn Miles had in mind when she first developed the focus for the fall semester's American literature class. From Walt Whitman and Henry David Thoreau through speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. and Edward Abbey's "The Monkey Wrench Gang," the students

read the best-known literature of social protest and civil disobedience ever written in this country.

More than just reading, however, the 18 students in Miles' class had to identify an issue, develop plans to effect change through an act of protest and then carry it out. Some chose well-traveled roads, such as the war in Iraq, while others were moved by the more obscure, such as a Maine law that prohibits owning exotic reptiles.

The project was designed to let the students put into practice the philosophies they read in the books, Miles said. McGarvey, for example, based much of her protest on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from Birmingham Jail" in which King writes, "one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust law."

"Now, more than ever, we can't have higher education in a high tower," Miles said. "I really wanted them to do something to make a difference. I feel like we don't have the luxury of keeping academia abstract. I feel like we have to apply it and do something. I think that, by and large, we as a culture, and this age group, tends to be fairly politically apathetic. Sitting back and complaining is just not an option."

Consequences

Miles made sure the students understood from the beginning what they would have to do and that there might be consequences. She told the students she did not condone breaking the law, however.



"If they felt they needed to do that, it was fine, but it was going against my wishes for the project," Miles said.

Sophomores Zoe Turcotte and Jake Harr stayed within the law, but pushed their protest well beyond the confines of the college campus.

Protesting for labels on genetically engineered food, Harr and Turcotte earned meetings with Rep. John Piotti, D-Unity, and Gov. John Baldacci during his recent campaign.

The sophomores also are planning a meeting with the governor's wife, Karen Baldacci, which will likely be held following an awareness walk from the college to Augusta.

"I really like social protest when it's productive and real and something that's necessary," said Turcotte, a wildlife biology major. "When I heard about this class I thought it could be a great tie into that and that it would teach me more techniques."

Generating honest, rational discussion was more difficult for Sara Trunzo, who protested the war in Iraq. Students for and against the war hold strong opinions, so

Trunzo looked for an approach that would be universally accepted. She settled on the number of coalition soldiers, civilians and even insurgents killed during the war.

"I didn't want to do something that was protesting the war," Trunzo said. "It's kind of useless. I wanted to come at this with a solution as opposed to protesting a problem."

Trunzo settled on a candle display inside the hoop house, a greenhouse that is typically used for growing vegetables. For Trunzo, the house was the perfect venue. Growing vegetables, she said, helps reduce dependence on foreign oil.

The hoop house's plastic walls refracted the candlelight like a lighthouse, appearing from outside as though it were engulfed in flames, thus sparking the students' curiosity.

Trunzo hung signs inside the house with the numbered dead and posing hypothetical questions and waited for the discussion.

"I really wanted it to happen organically," Trunzo said. "People came over to peek their heads in. It really felt like a chapel. And people could tell. When they came in

they just started to whisper."

Graded On Effort

Miles graded the projects based on effort rather than effectiveness. All of the students took the assignment seriously.

"I was universally impressed with what they came up with, both in the implementation of their topics and what they came up with," Miles said.

Many students struggled to know if their protest was justified, McGarvey said. They learned that a strong belief in the changes they were seeking was fundamental to the project's effectiveness, she said. McGarvey is not a protester. She is a woman of convictions.

"It would be a struggle for me to expand the range of my protest or civil disobedience," McGarvey said. "I think I will be looking at how to change society in a different light. I have to believe in what I'm doing to carry it through."

There are other ways besides one-on-one communication to bring awareness and spark change."

HOMEWORK FOR TONIGHT: CHANGE THE WORLD

Saturday, December 30, 2006 (Editorial from Central Maine Newspapers)

If committing an act of civil disobedience is a class assignment, is it still an act of civil disobedience?

Never mind such hairsplitting. Definitions these days -- when we can't even decide what to call what's going on in Iraq -- are hard to come by. So we will simply note with pleasure a very unusual experiment -- sort of an organized, for-credit rebellion taking place at Unity College.

That's where professor Kathryn Miles has her students inhabiting the spirits of some of America's greatest thinkers, writers, social critics and disobey-ers, including Walt Whitman, Henry David Thoreau, Dr. Martin Luther King and Edward Abbey (the latter, for those of you who don't know because you are too young or were too well-behaved during the 1960s, wrote a classic of environmental incitement called, "The Monkey Wrench Gang").

Miles wants her students to be latter-day monkey-wrenchers (well, not quite; she'd like them to stay within the law) and, after reading the social protest literature of the

abovementioned folks, she asks her pupils to identify an issue that's important to them and carry out an act of protest about it. Concerned about the lack of political engagement among today's youth, Miles' credo is that "sitting back and complaining is just not an option."

So her students went out and followed instructions. One built tableaux drawing attention to the glass ceiling at Unity College, including a series of glass windows displayed throughout campus. That one earned its creator a meeting with the college president and a commitment from the school's administrators to brief search committees on the problem.

Other students protested the lack of labeling on genetically engineered food and the number of deaths in the Iraq war.

Miles says she graded her students on effort rather than effectiveness. That's probably a good idea, because from our brief review of world history, we figure it usually takes more than a semester to accomplish major social change.

New & Noteworthy



Not Your Mother's Belly Dancing Class

Normally Associate Professor Emma Creaser can be found in labs, leading students on field trips to explore the biological diversity of Maine, or in the classroom. During the spring semester Creaser takes an unusual page from her personal life, offering a one credit class on belly dancing. For years this exotic art has been a hobby for Creaser. The course has been well received by students and media alike, being profiled on the pages of the *Morning Sentinel* newspaper and on both WABI-TV 5 and WLBZ-TV Channel 2. In February, Tara Morgan '07 (foreground in photo), an Ecology major from Fairfax, Vermont, and Laura Craver '08, an Environmental Writing and Wildlife double major from North Grosvenordale, Connecticut, practiced their moves during Creaser's class. On April 28 the class will hold a belly dancing extravaganza to showcase their skills at the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts in Unity, Maine, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Cindy Thomashow, wife of President Mitchell Thomashow and an environmental educator, attended a workshop for global climate change educators in Nashville, Tennessee, from January 12-14, 2007. There she met former Vice President and environmental activist Al Gore. The workshop was based on information presented in Gore's Academy Award winning documentary about global climate change entitled *An Inconvenient Truth*.



Unity College Booth Wins Award at Common Ground Country Fair

A Unity College booth showcasing approaches to sustainability won Best Educational Display at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity, Maine, in September of 2006. The concept for the educational display and construction of the booth was completed by Sustainability Coordinator Jason Reynolds '05, Associate Professor and Interim Senior Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Mick Womersley, Sara Trunzo '08, and

additional Unity College student volunteers. It featured a solar panel that was once atop the White House during the administration of former President Jimmy Carter, a wind turbine test system, a grease powered truck, a straw bale building system, a wind turbine generator, a compost system, and a good deal of educational literature. The booth was manned by Womersley, Reynolds, Trunzo and others. "We answered questions all day long for three days," said Reynolds. He estimates that he personally talked with several thousand fair goers.



Founded in the summer of 2006 in a pasture adjacent to the Maintenance Department complex on campus, the new farm at Unity College, named Tinker Farm, has been embraced by the campus community. Located on what was once part of Tinker Farm, the name is a nod to the area's history.

During the fall 2006 semester Unity students who are members of Future Farmer's of America (FFA) built a shelter for the farm animals. Students pictured are (facing left to right) Ian Saylor '08, an Adventure Education Leadership major and work-study employee of the farm from Columbia, Pennsylvania; Will Calkins '08, a Conservation Law Enforcement major and FFA Treasurer from Plainville, New York; Devin Randall '07, a Wildlife



Biology major from Diamond Point, New York; Paul Duncan '00, a Conservation Law Enforcement major from Kent, Connecticut; Eric Bragg '07, an Aquaculture and Fisheries major and FFA President from Thetford Center, Vermont; and Scott Cunfer '08, an Aquaculture and Fisheries major and work-study employee of the farm from Leighton, Pennsylvania.

Lamb harvested from the farm was served at the employee Holiday party. Aimee (Dorval) Sawyer '00, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Facilities and Public Safety and staff advisor to the FFA and farm on campus, says that a "whole farm" management plan is in place, including a working budget with funds for work-study student employees. The farm is also integrated into the organic gardens at the college, with fertilizer produced at the farm being used to nourish the gardens. Sawyer's husband Jonathan, Assistant Director of Admissions, is co-advisor to the FFA and Tinker Farm.



Dr. Amy Knisley Accepts Vice President for Academic Affairs Position

After an exhaustive, nation-wide search, it was announced in early March in a memorandum from the Office of President Mitchell Thomashow that Dr. Amy Knisley, Chair of the Department of Humanities at Colby-Sawyer College in

New Hampshire, had accepted the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs.

During a multi-day campus visit in February, Knisley impressed students, faculty, staff and the extended College community with her agile intellect, open manner, wide range of personal and professional experiences, and consensus-building approach to leadership.

Knisley holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Philosophy from the University of Colorado, and she is nearing completion of an M.S. degree in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School. She is also personally interested in the field of sustainable agriculture and runs and organic farm with her family. She hopes to continue with her agricultural interests when she relocates to the Unity area during the summer.

President Mitch Thomashow led a group sing-a-long during the annual Faculty and Staff picnic to mark the opening of the 2006-2007 academic year. An accomplished musician, Thomashow also performed with the Dave Wooley Band at the September 7 annual Founder's Day celebration on campus.



Out with the Old, In with the New

The fall 2007 semester brought the demolition of Alder Brook, site of the former health center at Unity College. At the time of its demolition the new health center adjacent to Cianchette residence

hall. The new health center includes spacious rooms for meeting and group physical activities such as yoga.



During the Founder's Day celebration on September 7, 2006, Associate Professor John Zavodny was front-and-center as the drummer for The Dave Wooley Band, a country-and-western band that has recorded several CD's. The band headlined the 42nd Anniversary of the College. They were joined for several songs by President Mitchell Thomashow, who like Zavodny is an accomplished musician.

New & Noteworthy

In October of 2006 the newest residence hall on campus, Maplewood, became news with several television stations and several newspapers writing stories focusing on its



Maplewood Residence Hall shortly before its completion in October 2006.

built-in energy efficiencies. Pictured is WABI-TV (CBS) Channel 5 reporter Miranda Grossman (center of photo facing) interviewing Stephenie McGarvey '07, an Environmental Policy major from Waterville, Maine, as Associate Professor and Interim Provost (far left facing) and Director of Residence Life Stephen Nason wait their turn to be interviewed.

Maplewood was opened to residents at 5 p.m. on October 20. It houses 27 students with 10 single and 8 double rooms, and one room for a Residence Assistant. "This is the next generation of student housing offering the amenities, comfort and energy efficiency expected by today's college students," Nason said. "The lounge in Maplewood has truly become the heart of this building, just as we intended it to be."



The fall 2006 semester marked the tragic passing of outdoors television and conservation champion Steve Irwin. To achieve local perspective on the story and assess Irwin's legacy several Maine-based media organizations visited campus to interview faculty and students. Pictured (center) is Bangor-based WVII ABC 7 Anchor/Reporter Heather Wilson as she prepared to interview Assistant Professor Amy Darcangelo.

Environmental Education Student Shines at National Level

Tim Cassidy '07, an Environmental Education major from Martinsville, Indiana, received a National Association for Interpretation National Student Scholarships for 2006. He attended the 2006 National Workshop in New Mexico and in doing so represented Unity College at a workshop attended by over 1100 professionals from across the country and world.

Students Help Concerned Citizens Improve Recycling Participation

On a snowy morning at 6 a.m. in February, Unity College students left campus in car caravans with in a mission in mind: to observe the recycling habits of area residents. The weather has more often than not been better than that first day, but their enthusiasm and dedication hasn't dampened.

Throughout the spring semester students from a class taught by Associate Professor Nancy Ross entitled Advocacy, Ethics and the Environment are taking a comprehensive look at recycling in the town of Unity. The studies will lead to the creation of a

campaign to raise recycling participation.

The class project includes developing a needs assessment, conducting research, developing messages, testing messages, designing an implementation plan, and developing an ongoing assessment procedure, says Ross.

"Our goal is to increase recycling in the town of Unity," said Rachel Mestas '07, an Environmental Policy major from Gulfport, Mississippi. "We're gathering data to find out how many residents recycle. We're hoping to have surveys and focus groups to find out what the barriers (to recycling) are and why some people choose not to participate."

"This was a need (to improve recycling participation) identified by the Unity community," said Ross. "They came to us though Jennifer Olin, our Community Service Learning Coordinator, asking for our help to address this need."

"In class we learn advocacy tools and skills by putting them into practice in a real world setting," said Ross. "We're working together with community partners. They give us the information and feedback, and we give them a plan."

Students from the class will be hitting the roads once again on Tuesday, February 20 and Friday, February 23, to observe the monthly recycling in Unity.

In addition to observing the recycling pickup in Unity each month, Ross says her class is observing drop offs at the regional recycling center in Thorndike, assessing communication channels in town, looking at the costs of trash disposal versus recycling, conducting focus groups to see barriers and incentives to recycling behavior, and looking at programs in communities across the United States to see what works and what does not.



Trustees Learn of Conservation Law Enforcement Program Successes

During a Board of Trustee Meeting held in February of 2007, Trustees were briefed about the successes of the Conservation Law Enforcement (CLE) program. Through a written statement to the Board, Associate Professor Patrick Stevens noted that the program has made remarkable strides during the past five years, including:

- The US Fish and Wildlife Student College Experience Program (US F&W SCEP) is an exclusive program that has remained out of reach of our students. The program offers a part time employment salary for students of around \$27,600.00 per year, and includes accumulation of federal retirement points as well as a buy-in option for federal health insurance. To date Unity College has placed one minority and four female CLE students into the US F&W SCEP program. Four CLE students will be placed in the eastern region between Maine and Virginia, and the other student will be placed between Minnesota and Missouri. The official from the Mid-US region was so impressed with the students he initiated a new SCEP program, and one female Unity College CLE graduate will be the first ever employed there. In addition, Unity College recently received another request for resumes indicating the possibility of new hires.
- Currently there are approximately six to eight Unity College CLE alumni either attending or in an application process for graduate school in NH, CO, VT, CT, and ME. The Conservation Law Enforcement program has two courses that have recently been accepted for graduate credit by Husson College. A Unity College Conservation Law Enforcement major scored a 165 on his LSAT, and was offered scholarships from two law schools and currently



attends Vermont Law School, with an award of \$13,000 per year in scholarships. His class standing is in the top 25%.

- In the past three years, Unity graduates have placed in the top five candidates for the New Hampshire Warden Service, and have had two at the first candidate level. New Hampshire has now initiated a strong outreach for Unity students.

- In the past year, a female CLE student was hired over stiff competition becoming one of two people hired into new positions since 1947 by the New Hampshire Forest Ranger Service. This position is supervisory in nature, and reflects well on the person hired, given that applications were received from across the United States.

- Within the last three years, another female CLE graduate became one of the first law enforcement qualified harbormasters in the State of Maine. She was later selected in a nationwide search for a newly created position at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

- Recently two females from the CLE program were selected to attend the Safari Club International Conference in Reno, Nevada. Unity College

President Mitchell Thomashow was a guest speaker at the conference. Both of these students were guests of the conference, and later awarded \$800 in scholarship funds.

- The CLE program will propose a Marine Law Enforcement Program for the next catalog. The improved federal funding of state marine patrol agencies has resulted in increased numbers of requests for officer candidates. Within the last four years, Unity has placed approximately eight candidate officers into federal, state, and local positions.

New & Noteworthy



Tiffany Pulli Uses Geographic Information Systems to Boost Local Produce

Tiffany Pulli '07, an Environmental Policy major from Auburn, New Hampshire, is using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in a unique way. A GIS project that Pulli is working on will provide both the Unity College and surrounding communities with detailed information on farm stands, small food producers, and restaurants.

The GIS area food mapping project is sponsored by Unity College and the Vibrant Community Project, a Unity, Maine community group dedicated to improving the local community.

"The end result will be a brochure that shows people where these food stands and restaurants are, which is important because a lot of times people don't know where these local food producers are located," said Pulli.

Pulli is gathering different pieces of information that will be placed on a map. "Volunteers for the Vibrant Community Project and Unity College student volunteers are developing comprehensive questionnaires to gather information that will go on the map," Pulli explained.

Information from the Maine Office of GIS was used by Pulli to create initial maps showing the area that volunteers will blanket.

"This is a good example of how technology may be used to help boost consumption of local food projects," Pulli said.

She will work on the project inputting information from volunteers until she graduates in May. "We're shooting to have most of this project done by the beginning of Earth Week on April 16."

Pulli noted that the GIS food mapping project will be continued in years to come by other Unity College students who will pick up where she leaves off, overseen by Associate Professor Sari Hou, who in was instrumental in starting the project.



President Mitchell Thomashow and Coral Clifford

Clifford Charitable Foundation Donates Unity Centre for the Performing Arts and Field of Dreams to Unity College

In October 2006 the nonprofit Clifford Charitable Foundation transferred ownership of the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts and Field of Dreams, both in Unity, Maine, to Unity College. The properties are collectively valued at approximately \$2.5 million. The Clifford Charitable Foundation was founded by the late Bert Clifford, a Unity area entrepreneur and among the group area residents who founded Unity College in 1965. The gift was celebrated at an event at the Centre held in October and

attended by Bert's widow, Coral Clifford. She was honored at the event by the College community for her contributions to the arts and education.



In her first year as Community Service Learning Coordinator, Jenifer Olin has helped the College to integrate aspects of its curriculum with community life. Her position was jointly funded by a generous donation from James and Lillian Haversat of Owls Head, Maine, and Unity College. Olin's office is located in the Outdoor and Career Center. "This position has been a wonderful opportunity for both the community and College," said Libbey Seigars, Director of Experiential Programs. "Positive involvement with the community is a deeply held value at Unity College." Olin is currently working with students and faculty on a variety of projects with local schools, community organizations, area farms, and developing events to benefit the local community.

In November of 2006, students at Unity College who serve as volunteer fire fighters and rescue personnel for the town of Unity and elsewhere were profiled in an article published in the Morning Sentinel and Kennebec Journal newspapers. Meghan Fenton '09 (in photo) a Conservation Law Enforcement major from Gray, Maine, told of how she became inspired to become a volunteer fire fighter with the town of



Unity, Maine. She told reporter Craig Crosby of feeling helpless at the scene of an accident and from that moment forward, decided to obtain training. A year after beginning with the Unity Volunteer Fire Department she helps put out fires, works accident scenes, and is training to do more.

Unity College has attracted media attention for its strong mission, interesting projects and enrollment growth. During



the Fall 2006 Semester Assistant Professor and Interim Provost Mick Womersley was interviewed by WABI-TV Channel 5 Waterville Bureau Reporter Jon Chrisos about Unity's strong enrollment numbers, its unique hands-on curriculum, and overall appeal for potential students.

During the fall semester of 2006, Dean for Student Life and Men's Soccer Coach Gary Zane reached a milestone in his coaching career with a 3-2 victory over

Thomas College, earning his 200th career coaching victory. His team earned a bid to the National USCAA soccer tournament in Rochester, Michigan but fell in the first round. The Rams finished the season as the top-ranked team in the YSCAA with a 6-0 record. It was the 14th straight season that Unity College finished with a winning record.

On March 12, Associate Director of College Communications Mark Tardif read two poems at the WRFR community radio studios in Rockland, Maine. The original poems are entitled T.V. and Notes from a Frustrated English Teacher. They will be periodically run on various radio broadcasts through the summer of 2006. The poems are part of a poetry project sponsored by WRFR spotlighting Maine poets. The project is available online at www.wrfr.org/streaming.htm.



The Rams finished the season as the top-ranked team in the YSCAA with a 6-0 record. It was the 14th straight season that Unity College finished with a winning record.

Faculty Notes



Professor Barry Woods received a letter stating that he has been approved as a Reader for the Advanced Placement Statistics exams for the Educational Testing Service.



Professor David Glenn-Lewin was a member of the National Task Force on a National Vegetation Classification, and chaired the panel for three years, until shortly before arriving at Unity College. The final report of the Task Force was submitted to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), an interagency group that is standardizing federal geographic information. After review and revision, the final recommendations and standards have been approved by the FGDC, and the standards are now ending the period of public review. Once given final approval by FGDC, the standards will be used by all federal agencies that do or use vegetation classifications.



Associate Professor Emma Creaser attended a training workshop with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to learn fish otolith extraction, and processing techniques to detect oxytetracycline marks. She will be using this technique to further assist the Moosehead Lake Fisheries coalition with their smelt stocking project. Emma also traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina to read grants for Sigma-Xi's Grants-in-aid-of-Research committee.



Associate Professor Diane Murphy published a scholarly book entitled *Mystery Plays as Popular Culture* (Mellen Press, 2006). She also successfully completed the study abroad semester in Italy. The "Adventures" section of the college website features photos and student comments on their experiences. During the spring 2007 semester students will be offering a series of presentations about their experiences in Italy to the Unity College community.



Professor Chris Beach led a committee with President Mitch Thomashow and his wife Cindy, Director of Experiential Programs Libbey Seigars, Professor Chris Marshall, Associate Professor John Zavodny, and Manager of the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts (UCPA) John Sullivan to organize the first Lapping Lecture Series at the centre. The impetus for the Lapping Lecture Series during the spring 2007 semester was a decision by the interdisciplinary core faculty to pilot a new approach to teaching the culture and environment course.



President Mitchell Thomashow playing piano at the Unity Centre for the Performing Arts during the fall 2006 semester.



Associate Professor Lois Ongley is working with the Pattee Pond Association to begin characterization of the watershed and to compare water quality data with records going back to the 1970s. She is also developing an arsenic project with colleagues at the University of Maine at Augusta. She is writing an HP technology grant to help redesign the physical science majors to make a more coherent program. She also has four publications in various status of completion.



Professor Gerry Saunders will be on the Teacher Accreditation State review team for St. Joseph College Feb 4-7, 2007. He has also served as a research advisor to a student who completed his PhD at the University of Northern Colorado in December, 2006.



Assistant Professor Tom Mullin presented concurrent sessions at the New England Environmental Education Alliance annual conference in Rhode Island and the National Association for Interpretation's National Workshop in New Mexico in 2006. He was reelected to a third term as the Director of the College and University Academics Section of the National Association for Interpretation and was also reelected to represent the members on the National Board of Directors. Mullin also successfully obtained 10 student scholarships to attend the February 13, 2007 Governor's Conference on Tourism in Rockland, Maine.



Associate Professor Nancy Ross has been working with two Unity College students in partnership with Unity Barn Raisers to determine the feasibility of selling locally baked bread made from locally grown grain. She hopes to present the findings at the next meeting of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society in British Columbia in May 2007.



Term Faculty Member Aimee Phillippi reports that some of her Biology II students will be doing a service learning project during the spring 2007 semester with Unity Elementary School. They will be designing and delivering the soot plate tracking lab with 4th graders. The elementary school students will alternate between doing activities at the Unity College campus and at their school.



Associate Professor Amy Arnett tutoring a student on the violin during the fall 2006 semester at Unity Rocks!

The Role of the College or University in a Changing World?

By Mick Womersley

Is a college meant to be a driver of societal change? Protector of the sacred tradition? Both? How is this function changing as society and the planet change?

Colleges and universities began as religious organizations. The great European foundations such as Oxford or Cambridge were associated with monastic and other religious orders. They were necessarily conservative. They acted largely to found and to conserve the western tradition.

Today the western way of life is threatened again, by climate change, by higher energy costs, and through conflict with other civilizations.

At Unity College, for many years we turned out uniformed conservation professionals: foresters and rangers, wildlife biologists and fisheries professionals. A minority went into the sciences and humanities.

Protecting land and habitat, our alumni supported society in a specific way. Our college had a specific and narrow niche. But old ideas of the proper role of the conservation professional are changing rapidly. It's no longer good enough to train a good forester or a good wildlife biologist, if climate change will literally change the ground under their feet. A newly graduated environmental educator or environmental policy major can now expect to work in climate mitigation. A conservation law enforcement major that decides to work for a local police service will have new homeland security and environmental disaster preparedness duties. We will all have to increase the energy efficiency of our lifestyles.

The importance of the environmental movement has grown hugely, and with it the importance of the environmental college in protecting and preserving society.

These days, all our graduates will be forced to think about how they should participate in the conservation of the western tradition. It isn't just the energy. It is the conflict and civil unrest that occurs over the energy, or that will occur over climate change. When I think about sustainability, I don't just think about reducing climate emissions. I think about habeas corpus and other civil rights. I think

about whether I want my children to grow up in a world where security is privatized, run by corporations who answer to no civil authority. I think about my role and the role of our graduates in re-founding and conserving the western tradition. I think about ethics for police and Army officers and national security training for environmental humanities majors.

It is not good enough to train good graduates for today's job market. We have to train them for tomorrow too. In particular, we have to train people who can help take society from the place it is in now, heading for conflict with the rest of the world over energy, climate and other security issues, to the place it needs to be in, ready, willing, and able to invest in energy security and climate stability for the real long haul. And if we fail, then we have to have people who can pull us out of the fire. And we all have a stake in every part of the puzzle. The police officer we train today has to be tomorrow's civil liberties activist and next year's congresswoman. The environmental policy major we train today has to be tomorrow's disaster preparedness officer and next year's USAID official. The environmental humanities major we train today, has to be tomorrow's farmer and next year's Army civil affairs officer.

When the monks built the great medieval universities of Oxford, Paris, and Naples, they built for the long haul. Those foundations are still around because of that. Each new generation makes higher education reborn and newly relevant. Today our job is made harder than ever because of environmental events. I can't tell you how many tornadoes and hurricanes the Gulf coast will see in 2017, but I can tell you it will be a larger number than today. I can't tell you whether the Maine climate will be closer to that of North Carolina or Georgia in 2057, but I can tell it will be much warmer than today. I can't tell you if we will be in conflict with Iran, North Korea or some other country in 2027, but I can tell you that it shouldn't be over oil, climate, or culture.

And I can tell you that if I don't try to get our graduates to think about these things, then I am not doing my job as a college professor.

1,000 words



Unity Student Team Places 2nd in United States National Toboggan Championships

A Unity College student team competing in the four-person sled category at the U.S. National Toboggan Championships in February 2007, took 2nd in a highly competitive field of 140 four-person sleds. The Unity College team took the only trophy by a college team competing in the 2007 Championships at the Camden Snow

Bowl in Camden, Maine. Team Dude Sled is (left to right facing), Brian O'Donnell '08, a Conservation Law Enforcement major from Stoneham, Massachusetts; Team Captain Greg Hodsdon '07, a Forestry major from Cumberland Foreside, Maine; Christopher Ames '08 Forestry major, Bucksport, Maine; Brian Williams '09, Landscape Horticulture major, Chelmsford, Massachusetts.



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

Non-Profit Status
Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Farmington, ME
Permit No. 30

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Team Green Monster, the faculty and staff team from Unity College, finished tied for 3rd in the U.S. National Toboggan Championships on February 3 and 4th held at the Camden Snow Bowl in Camden, Maine. Team Green Monster was profiled with a photo in the February 23 edition of The

Chronicle of Higher Education. Team Green Monster is (left to right facing) Joe Saltalamachia, Senior Associate Director of Admissions; Steve Nason, Director of Residence Life; John Zavodny, Associate Professor; and Mark Tardif, Associate Director of College Communications.