

## Carleton College Environmental Studies Program 2014-2015 Annual Newsletter

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### ENTS Director Tsegaye

**Nega** sends his greetings from Addis Ababa, where he is helping city leaders plan for the sustainable development of that rapidly-growing capitol. His research is just one example of the global reach of Carleton's Environmental Studies program. This year we sent students to Burma and the South Pacific, heard from experts on China's energy policy and perceptions of climate change among the Sherpas of Kathmandu, studied Global Food Systems, and considered the fate of Cities in the Twenty-First Century. A grant from the Luce Foundation allowed us to strengthen our ties with the Asian Studies Program—for example, by funding a couple of students to accompany Chemistry Professor Deborah Gross to study air pollution in China this summer. And next year we will be welcoming new Economics Professor Stephanie Fried, who studies the macroeconomic dimension of climate policy.

Photo of Prof. Kimberly Smith

Back here in Northfield, **Prof. Kim Smith** reports that our students continue to engage with the campus and community. They showed leadership in the Divest Carleton movement (an effort to encourage the College to divest from fossil fuels) and worked in the sustainability office on issues ranging from energy efficiency to making our food purchases more sustainable, humane, and equitable. (All that energy seems to be making a difference: The sustainability office reports that we achieved a Real Food increase from 28% in 2014 to 36% this Fall, as well as increasing student involvement in Climate Action Week and Northfield Earth Week.) In their courses, ENTS students imagined a sustainable design for the Arb Office, got hands-on experience on a chicken farm, worked at a seed bank for heirloom indigenous seeds, and studied a new local wildlife management area. And we encouraged their engagement beyond Carleton by funding summer internships for our majors. Last summer, for example, we sent students to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota, the Natural Capital Project, the Los Angeles Maritime Institute, the Minnesota Land Trust, and the Stanford Environmental Law Clinic.

Now that our Environmental Studies major is five years old, we thought it would be a good idea to check in with our alums and find out how they're doing. We've included below a link to their responses. And you'll see, they continue to bring their energy, commitment, intelligence, and creativity to our common project of making a sustainable future.

Barry Lopez

### Barry Lopez

*2014-2015 Angus C. Wurtele Distinguished Visitor*

This October, the ENTS program and the Carleton community were very fortunate to welcome renowned writer Barry Lopez to our campus. Lopez, an American author, essayist, and fiction writer, is also known for his work on humanitarian and environmental concerns. Described as "the nation's premier nature writer" by the San Francisco Chronicle, Lopez's non-fiction work examines the relationship between human culture and the physical landscape, while his fiction addresses issues of intimacy, ethics and identity. His 1986 classic, *Arctic Dreams*, received the National Book Award. Among his other nonfiction books are *About This Life and Of Wolves and Men*, which was a National Book Award finalist. He is also the author of several award-winning works of fiction.

His presentation at Carleton, "The Writer and Social Responsibility," discussed how a good person needs to be conscious and aware of social and environmental aspects of society, especially when writing. Lopez also engaged with students at a lunch meeting where he discussed sustainability and shared wisdom from his years as an author and environmentalist.

We were inspired by Lopez's contributions to American literature and the environmental movement. Carleton College was honored to have the opportunity to welcome him to our campus. See more of Barry's work at [www.barrylopez.com](http://www.barrylopez.com).

[Click here to read more about Lopez's visit and see previous Wurtele Visitors.](#)

Welcome Alumni Sign on Sayles

### Alumni Updates

We asked alums to keep us updated on what they were doing after graduation, and we were overjoyed by the number of responses!

The 34 responses show the interdisciplinary range of ENTS alums. In fields ranging from agriculture to journalism and public health to business, our alums have put their ENTS degrees to good use!

[Click here to read all of the responses and see what your former classmates are up to!](#)

Also, don't forget to create and update your Alumni Profile and add your photo. We want to know what you're up to! [Click here to find out how to create a profile.](#)

### Off-Campus Studies

#### Political Economy and Ecology of Southeast Asia

This winter term, Professor Tun Myint led a group of 20 students on the first ever Political Economy and Ecology of Southeast Asia OCS program. Carleton is the first American college to host a study abroad in Burma since 1962. The program attempted to provide a holistic look at the state of Burma's environment and economy by traveling from homestays in villages to tourist filled temples in Bagan to the golden triangle where they discussed border issues and drug trafficking. Students

engaged in their own research projects and also documented their adventures through photo and video journals. Professor Myint took advantage of his "mobile classroom" by organizing the trip to start in rural villages and move towards villages with more technological development. In this way, students were able to journey through the different stages of modernization and were challenged to look critically at the social and ecological effects of transitioning into a market based society. The program also focused on the ecology of Southeast Asia by looking at transforming agricultural practices and environmental policies. Students went backpacking through national parks, studied at elephant rehabilitation facilities and set up trail cameras to capture images of endangered species. Inspired by their experiences, four students have already been awarded funding to return to Burma this summer to teach and further their research. Professor Myint hopes to run the program again in the future.

#### Studio Art in the South Pacific

This winter term, a group of 23 students traveled to Australia, New Zealand and the Cook Islands to study studio art in the South Pacific. The goal of the program was to bring together studio art practice with the challenges and advantages of off-campus study – drawing from nature in a new environment, studying social issues in context, and producing narrative work in response to travel.

Students worked both to improve their drawing skills and to see drawing as a unique way to understand the world. The work of the entire term, including both drawing and printmaking projects, formed a visual journal in which the students recorded the experiences of travel abroad. Students examined social and environmental issues, learned about indigenous and post-colonial art and artists, visited with artists, and interacted with many people along the way! Their work was also displayed in the Weitz Center for an art show this April.

### ENTS evENTS:

Highlights from the ENTS-related events on campus throughout the year

#### Exercising Power: China's Transition to Sustainable Energy - Dr. Stephanie Ohshita

Dr. Stephanie Ohshita discussed energy efficiency and renewable energy in China. Through her research in analysing energy saving policies and policy implementation Dr. Ohshita examined how and why China is making decisions regarding energy. Dr. Ohshita combines energy and carbon analysis with political economy and policy analysis to explore the question, how can China use energy-based solution to transition into a sustainable livelihood? This event was funded by the [Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment](#).

#### Japanese Gardens in Minnesota - Kendall Brown

The Department of Art and Art History hosted art historian Kendall Brown to present his book ["Rising Suns in the North: Japanese Gardens in Minnesota"](#) Dr. Brown discussed the book, tracing the local manifestations of trans-Pacific imagination by the rich history of Japanese Gardens in Minnesota. He began by tracing the social history of the Japanese in North America, but quickly delved into the rich history of Japanese gardens in Minnesota. He ended his talk by examining a unique question about Japanese gardens: How can we re-imagine the status and expand the functions of these gardens in order to maintain their role in an ever changing world?

#### ENTS Career Workshop

Early in the fall, we heard from senior ENTS majors Charlie Bloom, Maria Kjellstrand, Kathy Dooley, Taylor Mayhall, Eli Skinner, and Ingrid Lyons about their ENTS-funded summer internships. Their projects ranged from rehabilitating wild birds to teaching schoolchildren how to sail to working with the Natural Capital project. We also discovered numerous opportunities available for both junior and senior ENTS majors as we plan our next career steps.

#### Sherpa Perceptions of Climate Change: The View from Mt. Everest - Dr. Pasang Sherpa

Dr. Pasang Sherpa presented her studies on climate change, international development, indigenous peoples, and South Asia. Based on her fifteen months of ethnographic fieldwork in the Everest region and Kathmandu between 2010 and 2012, she related how climate changes affect indigenous people, specifically Sherpas, and how changing climate can cause environmental and institutional changes for these people.

#### Is De-Extinction a Game Changer for Biodiversity Conservation?

Stanley A. Temple, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, discussed his work with extinction and biodiversity. For over 3.5 billion years extinction has been forever, but rapid advances in biotechnology may soon make de-extinction feasible. This epic event would have many technical, ethical, legal and ecological implications for biodiversity conservation.

### ENTS Symposium 2015: Cities in the 21st Century

Urban areas are vital to the social fabric of countries and to national economies worldwide. However, these regions can come at a tremendous ecological cost. Urban areas are increasingly recognized as hot spots that drive social and environmental change around the world at multiple scales. This year, the Class of 2015 explored the influences and impacts of cities on the environment in the 21st century.

[Click here for a recap of each presentation along with a copy of the studies.](#)

Sarah Lukins '15

We were proud to honor **Sarah Lukins '15** with our departmental [Casper award](#) for her academic achievement and environmental leadership (and she also took home the Stewsie, thus extending the ENTS Program's five-year winning streak for that award).

#### Interview with SOAN Professor Ocampo-Raeder

New courses taught by Professor Constanza Ocampo-Raeder are building connections between the Sociology/Anthropology department and the ENTS program! How can her courses help students learn about solving environmental issues? According to Professor Ocampo-Raeder, "You need to spend time thinking about conservation as a social problem. That's what I love about the ENTS program, you need all of these different angles in order to make it work. My angle is the social angle." [Click here to read more!](#)

#### Carls Help Carls!

Do you love your job? Do you think that Carleton students could help contribute to your workplace? Connecting with alumni allows for the training and growth of our students as they prepare for lives and careers after graduation. Students are always looking for internship and externship opportunities! [Click here](#) to find out how you could host a student!

[Host an Internship](#)

[Host an Externship](#)

#### Looking Forward to Next Year:

##### 2015-2016 Comps Theme: *Governing Animals*

Next year's comps theme, *Governing Animals*, invites students to examine environmental problems by focusing on the most lively members of our biotic communities. From habitat and species conservation to domestic animal production, we will explore how our environmental management affects and is affected by our nonhuman neighbors.

##### Off-Campus Studies:

###### Winter - [Urbanization and Conservation in Ethiopia and Tanzania](#)

Next winter, Tsegaye Nega will be leading a group of ENTS students on a Carleton OCS trip to Ethiopia and Tanzania. Students have loved this program in the past and are excited to have this opportunity again. The program focuses on development and sustainability with a focus on urbanization and urban planning.

###### Spring Break - [Wilderness Studies in the Grand Canyon](#)

Professor George Virtis will be leading another trip to the Grand Canyon this winter break. This two-term seminar and off-campus study program will explore the idea of wilderness, and ponder the past, present, and future of Americans' relationship with wild country. Students will conduct intensive research projects and present their findings to the Carleton community in the spring.

##### New Teacher, New Classes!

Next year, Stephanie Fried from the University of San Diego will be joining Carleton's Economics department. Stephanie specializes in Macroeconomics and Natural Resource economics and will be teaching a variety of courses related to the ENTS department. Notably, this winter she will be teaching a new course called The Economics of Climate Change. The program is excited to have Stephanie join us!

[Winter - ECON 269 - The Economics of Climate Change](#)

Ethiopia/Tanzania Trip

[Goodsell Observatory](#)  
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