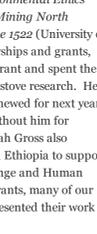


Annual Newsletter
2017-2018



Letter from the
Director



As I conclude my first year as the Director of the Environmental Studies Program, it is a pleasure to look back on the past year and to thank colleagues, staff, students, alumni and visitors for making it a rich and interesting one. I'm particularly grateful to our former director, Prof. Kim Smith, whose thoughtful and wise guidance has greatly eased my own transition into this position.

Among the highlights of the year has been the scholarly work of our faculty. Several faculty members completed books, articles, artwork and other forms of scholarship, and several more received impressive fellowships and grants this year. Among the books published are Prof. Mark Kanazawa's *Research Methods for Environmental Studies* (Routledge, 2018), Prof. Kim Smith's *Exploring Environmental Ethics* (Springer, 2018), and my own co-edited *Mining North America: An Environmental History since 1522* (University of California Press, 2017). In terms of fellowships and grants, Prof. Tsegaye Nega received a Fulbright grant and spent the year in Addis Ababa focusing on his cook stove research. He recently learned that his Fulbright was renewed for next year as well, so we will have to find our way without him for another year. Prof. Nega and Prof. Deborah Gross also received a grant from the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia to support their team-taught course on Climate Change and Human Health. In addition to these books and grants, many of our faculty published research articles and presented their work at conferences across the country.

We were also fortunate to host a terrific group of visitors this year. In the fall, public writer, artist and environmental historian, Jenny Price, joined us for a week as the Wurtele Distinguished Visitor in Environmental Studies. And in spring, John Dermbach came to campus to teach courses on sustainable development, environmental law and policy as the Benedict Visiting Professor in Environmental Studies. Additionally, Papia Rosario ably stepped in to teach our introductory Geospatial Analysis course and run the GIS lab while Prof. Nega and Wei-Hsin Fu have been away in Ethiopia, and we are most pleased to have her returning to teach two GIS-focused courses again next year. Other visitors over the past year included Winona LaDuke, Paige West, and Paul Wennberg.

Next month we will be graduating eight new Environmental Studies majors, and we will be sending them off with our very best wishes. There will certainly be plenty of work for them to do, as even a cursory look at the world reveals ever so relentlessly. Our hope is that they – and all of our alumni and friends – will find meaningful and rewarding ways to engage the world around them and help nudge it onto a more sustainable footing.

Lastly, on a sadder note, retired Prof. Julie Klassen passed away in January of this year. Prof. Klassen taught courses on German forestry and literature, and an introductory Environmental Studies course that spanned a wide range of topics. Her example of steadfast kindness, innovative pedagogy, and careful scholarship embodied the program's highest ideals, and she will be sorely missed. We will all strive to carry forward her good and noble traditions.

Alumni Updates

[Read the Alumni Profiles!](#)

Off Campus Studies

Comparative Agroecology: China

This December, twelve students travelled to China with Professor David Hougen-Eitzman on the Comparative Agroecology Off-Campus Studies program. Travelling for three weeks, the group visited Beijing, Chengdu, Hangzhou, and Guilin, surveying over 30 Chinese farms.

The program consisted of an on-campus Fall term course, ENTS 260, focusing on the basics of sustainable agriculture, developing a survey to evaluate farm sustainability, and visiting Minnesota farms. Then, over winter break, students did farm visits and interviews with Chinese farmers, cultural sightseeing, and general tourist activities. Additionally, the group met up with students at a university in Chengdu, walked the Great Wall, and stayed at a traditional Chinese culture and farming institute in Hangzhou. Finally, the program wrapped up with a course back at Carleton in the winter, where students evaluated the sustainability survey data to compare the Chinese and American farms and present this information.

"I had a fantastic time visiting farms in both Minnesota and China. It was really interesting to compare farms in Minnesota and China and gain a better sense of agricultural sustainability. And the trip to China was amazing! We tried lots of new foods, visited so many cities, and got to explore sustainability in an entirely new context." -- Bex Klaffer (ENTS 2018), program participant

Wilderness Studies at the Grand Canyon

Professor George Vrtis led his Wilderness Studies at the Grand Canyon OCS program over spring break for the third time this year. The program began with the 10-week on campus course, American Wilderness, which explores how iconic wild landscapes have both reflected and shaped American cultural, political, and environmental history over the last four centuries. Then, with the help of teaching assistants Cassie Prenz-Vaslakis and Ingrid Lyons (both ENTS '15), he took eleven students on a two-week trip to one of the most iconic of American wilderness areas: Grand Canyon National Park.

For the first two days, the students enjoyed the classic park visitor experience on the South Rim: listening to ranger talks, exploring museums, and taking in the views. Then they hiked down to the Colorado River, spending three nights exploring wilderness and camping in the backcountry. For senior ENTS major Kadin Woollever, the backcountry experience was enjoyable and instructive. Accustomed to camping in isolated regions of his home state (Maine), he expected the park to feel more crowded and less wild: "But it felt quiet and isolated," he observed, "even a short distance from the Rim." Maybe the weather helped: a blizzard and high winds made the first night in the canyon unusually exciting. But the next night was clear, allowing Kadin and the other students to sleep outside under the stars and watch the sun rise behind the snowy cliffs.

The rest of the trip had a more traditional academic focus. In seminars with park officials and concessionaires, and in working on their own research projects, the students learned about the complexities of park management. And after returning to campus, they continued to process their experiences during spring term, completing their research projects and sharing them with the campus community through a poster session.

While at the park, Superintendent Chris Lehnertz told the group that she wants the place to "get into your DNA." Program assistants Cassie and Ingrid – both of whom were students on the first Wilderness Studies program – thought that Lehnertz's hopes were achieved. Their repeated visits to the Grand Canyon with Prof. Vrtis's program have given them a strong sense of place, even though (as Ingrid commented), "Every experience is different because my life experience is different." But she and Cassie agree that the biennial trip always ignites their passion for wilderness and for those deep academic discussions about its meaning and value.

ENTS EvENTS

Jenny Price: Distinguished Wurtele Visitor

The ENTS department was excited to welcome our 2017 Distinguished Wurtele Visitor Jenny Price to campus this fall. Jenny Price is a public writer, artist, and environmental historian. Author of *Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America* and "Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A.," she is co-founder of the public art collective LA Urban Rangers (<http://laurbanrangers.org/site/>) and a co-creator of the Our Malibu Beaches mobile-phone app. She is working on a new book, *Stop Saving the Planet! A 21st-Century Environmentalist Manifesto*.

While on campus, Price delivered a public presentation about her book, led a creative writing workshop for students entitled "Thoreau Gets on the Bus: A Nature Writing Workshop," and held a faculty workshop on public environmental humanities. She also met with student groups over dinner in CANOE House and Farm House.

Her book and the public presentation focused on traditional environmentalist narratives and the ways that they fail us. Arguing that our current environmental movement has not yet made great enough strides, she emphasized that we need to shift from individual responsibility to communal responsibility, to question the urban/wilderness dichotomy, and to incorporate environmental and social justice into all environmental narratives. This thought-provoking talk brought a new perspective to environmental conversations at Carleton.

Winona LaDuke Convocation

November 3, 2017

This November, Winona LaDuke--renowned Native American environmentalist and rural development economist--gave a Friday Convocation entitled "Economics for the Seventh Generation - Moving Forward." According to LaDuke, "We are at this point, known in prophecies as the time of the 7th fire, where we have a choice. This a choice between a well-worn, scorched path and a new, green path. It is time to make the right choice and develop economics that support the new, green path."

The author of six books, including *Recovering the Sacred*, LaDuke is widely recognized for her work on environmental and human rights issues, as well as her international advocacy for indigenous peoples. She lives and works on the White Earth reservation in northern Minnesota, where she is the founder of the reservation-based non-profit White Earth Land Recovery Project. She is also the executive director of Honor the Earth, a Native environmental advocacy organization that played an active role in the Dakota Access Pipeline protests. She is a former board member of Greenpeace USA, and currently serves on the advisory board of the Trust for Public Land's Native Lands Program. A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, LaDuke has won numerous honors and awards and is an inductee of the National Women's Hall of Fame.

During her convocation, LaDuke discussed her involvement with Dakota Access Pipeline and Line 3 protests, her philosophy on building a sustainable economy, and her hopes for the future of agriculture. Throughout the talk, she emphasized the intersection of indigenous peoples' issues and environmental issues. For example, she said "We need to move onto the next economy. We need the Sitting Bull plan: put our minds together to see what kind of future we can make for our children." She also highlighted the indigenous wild rice industry as an example of sustainable economy, as they have been doing the same thing for the past 8000 years. Thus, she called for a relocalization of the food system and an appropriate reindustrialization which creates infrastructure "for people, not oil companies." An inspiring and fascinating convocation, LaDuke brought the intersection of indigenous rights and environmental justice issues to Carleton.

Climate Action Week 2018: Spotlight on Juan Carlos Galeano

Environmental Studies majors often moonlight as sustainability assistants, putting their communication and creative problem-solving skills to work on making Carleton a more sustainable system. This year, several of our majors helped the Sustainability Office organize Climate Action Week, a week-long series of environmentally-focused discussions, panels, and workshops hosted by various student groups, academic departments, and Northfield community partners.

This year, Climate Action Week partnered with the International Film Forum to host the keynote speaker, Juan Carlos Galeano. Galeano is a poet, essayist and filmmaker born in the Amazonian region of Colombia. He has spent over a decade collecting narratives from riverine and forest people in the Amazon basin, which has resulted in poetry collections, short stories and two documentary films. In addition to his writing and film-producing, he has worked with indigenous communities in Peru and Colombia to establish sustainable fisheries, and recently has collaborated with ex-combatants of the FARC on sustainable community development projects and movement towards peace in Colombia and the Amazon Basin.

As the keynote speaker for Climate Action Week, he hosted a public talk and film screening of his new documentary, *The River*. He focused on the question: What are the contributions that traditional cultures and indigenous epistemologies make in addressing our present climate crisis? Specifically, *The River* draws attention to the sophisticated knowledge systems that Amazonian communities have developed over thousands of years to interpret globalization, climate change and human relationships with rivers, ecosystems and the species that live there. An affectionate and mythological journey through the Amazon Basin, the film shows how the spiritual beings that dwell in these waters inspire stories that help communities visualize the challenges they are facing and navigate the everyday ethics of living in an increasingly threatened environment.

This year's Climate Action Week focused on drawing a wide audience and highlighting narratives based on the intersections environmental and social justice. Partnering with the International Film Forum, Galeano's keynote speech and film screening attracted a wide array of students, faculty, and community members from diverse backgrounds.

Student Internships

Each summer, the Environmental Studies Program funds students internships and research experiences for its majors:

Thu Nguyen: Oceanography Satellite Remote Sensing Workshop at Cornell University

In June, Thu spent two weeks in a Oceanography Satellite Remote Sensing Workshop at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY as a way to pursue her interest in remote sensing. She spent most of her time in the computer lab developing new skills and applying them to problem sets related to remote sensing. The other portion of her internship was dedicated to attending lectures based on oceanography and marine biology.

Kadin Woollever: Cascadia Research Collective

Over the summer, Kadin volunteered with the Cascadia Research Collective in Olympia, Washington researching marine mammals. Kadin was attracted to this organization as a means of learning more about this field of Environmental Studies. His research included managing data and identifying and sorting migratory whale pictures. His favorite part of his internship was when a juvenile gray whale was stranded on the beach outside of Olympic National Park. He and his team were able to use a new rescue method to pull the whale back into the ocean during high tide.

Bex Klaffer: Boulder JCC and New Era Colorado

Bex worked for two organizations over the summer: the Boulder Jewish Community Center's farm and New Era Colorado. The Boulder JCC is dedicated to teaching about sustainable food systems and agriculture. While there, Bex was a farm intern tasked with harvesting vegetables, weeding, farm maintenance, and milking goats. She also led several week-long camps to teach elementary students about food sustainability and healthy eating. While working at New Era Colorado, an organization designed to engage young people in local politics, Bex collected surveys and helped with voter registration and leadership training.

Eric Wang: Global Environment Institute

Eric spent the summer volunteering in Beijing, China for an NGO called Global Environment Institute. His project group focused on community conservation and development in rural areas of China. Eric researched the literature on community based conservation projects as well as designing evaluation and survey questionnaires. He also designed brochures to help educate the public on proper garbage sorting and disposal.

COMPS Symposium 2018

The 2018 comprehensive exercise was dedicated to analyzing the environmental, social, and economic aspects of the changing Minnesota landscape.

Topics:

- "Searching for Solar: Applying the Path of Least Resistance, a Case Study of Solar Gardens in Farmington and Lakeville, MN" Bex Klaffer, Amy Roach, and Rafael Soto
- "Spatial Misallocation of Utility-scale Renewable Energy Across Minnesota" Archibald Fraser, Jerrilyn Goldberg, and Zifeng (Eric) Wang
- "Rice County Farmers and the Conservation Reserve Program: Comparing Congressional and Local Perspectives" Willa Gruver and Kadin Woollever

[Click here to see the 2018 comps papers.](#)

Interview with Papia Rozario

Papia Rozario is a visiting professor of Environmental Studies specializing in GIS (Geographic Information Sciences). We interviewed Papia on her involvement with the ENTS program and GIS research. Click her photo to read the interview!

New This Year

Benedict Distinguished Visitor: John Dermbach

The Environmental Studies program welcomed Professor John Dermbach this spring as a Benedict Distinguished Visiting Scholar. John Dermbach is Distinguished Professor of Law at Widener University Law School (and Carleton parent (Becky, SOAN '08)).

Professor Dermbach is a nationally and internationally recognized authority on sustainable development, climate change, and environmental law. He offered Carleton students two courses: Environmental Law and Policy (ENTS 310) and Sustainable Development (ENTS 248). Both courses included a major civic engagement project: helping the City of Northfield begin its climate action planning process. Students in each class worked with mentors from the city to research issues ranging from managing stormwater to transportation policy to upgrading the city's existing building stock. City Council member Erica Zweifel praised the students' work, commenting that "these classes have provided a wealth of information anchored in current local policies." She noted in particular how effectively their presentations engaged the city board and commission members.

For Caroline Harvey (ENTS '19), the Environmental Law and Policy seminar was her first introduction to environmental law. Comparing Northfield's transportation plan to those of other cities, she was impressed by the complex, multi-layered nature of city planning--and also how long it takes to implement these policies. "Some towns have very detailed, nuanced plans," she learned, "but they're still at the very early stages of implementing them. It's just hard to evaluate them at this stage."

In addition to these courses, Professor Dermbach gave a talk to ENTS faculty on his new book, co-edited with Michael Gerrard, *Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States* (Eli Press 2018). The work aims to identify specific strategies that decision makers at every level of government, as well as private businesses, can take to accelerate our transition to sustainability.

New Physiological Ecologist: Dr. Nishizaki

The Biology Department welcomed a new tenure-track faculty member for Physiological Ecology. Dr. Michael Nishizaki will begin teaching at Carleton in the fall of 2018. Dr. Nishizaki received his B.Sc in Environmental Science and M.Sc in Biology from the University of Northern British Columbia, and his Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Washington. He has also done post-doc work at the University of Guelph. Mike is an aquatic biologist with research interests that center on the interaction between organisms and their physical environment. His work primarily focuses on issues of ecophysiology and fluid mechanics related to marine/freshwater invertebrates, and involves a combination of lab, field, and modeling approaches.

Next spring he will teach a new seminar on ecomechanics, which will involve "challenge students to view their physical surrounding from the perspective of an organism" such as a mussel, a sea urchin, or a tree.

Dr. Nishizaki

Julie Klassen and George Vrtis at an ENTS picnic

Julie Klassen Obituary

This January we lost one of the major architects of the ENTS program: Professor of German (emerita) Julie Klassen, who passed away at the age of 74.

Julie received her Bachelor of Arts degree in German from the University of California -- Santa Barbara and her Masters and Ph.D. in German Literature from Stanford University. She came to Carleton in 1978 and retired in 2009. During her years as a member of the ENTS steering committee, Julie was a strong and eloquent voice for the value of the environmental humanities -- a value demonstrated in the courses she co-taught with other ENTS faculty and in her own popular course, "The Forest in German Literature and Culture."

A master naturalist, Julie was also engaged in local environmental activities up until her passing, working on projects in the Carleton Arb, the Valley Grove Preservation Society, and the Cannon River Wilderness Area. She also maintained an active research agenda in retirement: In 2016 she attended the Women in German conference in Banff, Canada, and published an article in the German literary quarterly, *TEXT + KRITIK* (Vol. 208, October 2015), entitled "Lieben Sie etwa die Russen? Motive der Gesamtliche im Werk von Angela Krauß" [Do you perhaps love the Russians? Motifs of Total Love in the Works of Angela Krauß].

We remember fondly Julie's energy and enthusiasm, her warmth, and her spirit of adventure.

What's Inside?

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Casper Award

Bex Klaffer (ENTS 2018) won this year's Casper Award, honoring superior academic achievement & leadership in support of understanding and protecting the environment. Click her photo to see past recipients.



Four Friends Fellowships

Emma Dempsey (ENTS 2019) won this year's Four Friends Fellowship. This summer she and three of her friends (Chris Lee, Caroline Ward, and Erik Lagerquist) will create an interactive "Carl's Guide to the Twin's Cities" based on their experiences visiting restaurants, parks and museums in the Twin Cities.



Caroline Hall (ENTS 2020)

won this year's Adelaide H. Matteson Service Internship.



Bex Klaffer (ENTS 2018)



Eric Wang (ENTS 2018)

Bex Klaffer and Eric Wang were inducted into the honorary Phi Beta Kappa society for their outstanding academic achievements.



ENTS 260 students visiting a farm in the fall.



Mountains in Guilin, China



ENTS 260 students at the Great Wall in China.



Students at the Grand Canyon during the Wilderness Studies OCS program



To learn more about Jenny Price's LA Urban Rangers project, click her picture!



Juan Carlos Galeano, introducing his film *The River* at the International Film Forum screening.



Bex Klaffer's (ENTS 2018) renewable energy campaign for her summer internship in Colorado.



ENTS 310 receiving questions after presenting to Northfield's City Council on climate action planning.