

THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES

Headquarters: 16 Broadway, Beverly, Massachusetts 01915-4499 Phone: (978) 927-7777 Fax: (978) 927-5127

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES



SFS Center for Coastal Rainforest and Fisheries Studies

Vancouver Island,
British Columbia
CANADA

SFS Center of Marine Resource Studies

South Caicos
TURKS & CAICOS
ISLANDS, BWI

SFS Center for Rainforest Studies Yungaburra, Queensland AUSTRALIA

Center for Sustainable Development Studies Atenas, COSTA RICA

SFS Center for Coastal Wetland Studies Magdalena Bay, Baja, MEXICO

SFS Center for Wildlife Management Studies Athi River, KENYA

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Terry L. Andreas, *Chair*
W. James Tozer, Jr., *Treasurer*
G. Randolph Bevis, *Clerk*

George Bevis
Evan Davis
Kenneth R. Locklin
James F. Millinger, Ph.D.
David Orr, Ph.D.
Richard R. Rivers
Richard B. Wilson
Judy Winslow

Trustee Emeritus
F. Whitney Hatch III

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Cutler Cleveland, Ph.D.
Astra Davis
James G. Else, Ph.D.
David Hales
Thomas Kunz, Ph.D.
George Lamb
Rick Mrazek, Ph.D.
Arthur Page
George Patterson
Ala Reid
F. James Rutherford, Ph.D.
Crocker Snow, Jr.

MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

Martina Lee Albright
Inez Andreas, Ph.D.
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld
The Honorable Sumner Gerard
Enid Gort, Ph.D.
Terry Hunt, Ph.D.
Charles McKee
Emil Mosbacher III
Rolando Perez
Susanne LaC. Phippen
Carlos Riva
Jo-Ann Watson

June 11, 1999

Dear Friends and Supporters of SFS,

For eighteen years, The School for Field Studies has offered young people the training and skills necessary to successfully address natural resource management challenges facing communities around the world. I hope you will share my pride and sense of accomplishment as you read about some of the recent resource management initiatives that have resulted from SFS staff and student efforts at our six field study centers. As resource management strategies become increasingly community-based and landscape oriented, SFS has been hailed as a pioneer in providing the next generation of conservation leaders with the interdisciplinary, team oriented, real-world experience and training necessary to address the complex environmental challenges of the next century.

This past year has been one of transition, rebuilding and assessment yet at the same time we have seized or created opportunities to significantly advance SFS. In our efforts to make SFS a more sustainable institution, we have come to recognize and embrace the role of partnerships and see them as a central theme in our recent growth.

Examples of new partnerships include:

- Our partnership with the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, fostered through the efforts of Paul Houlihan and Center Director Andrew Gude, has enabled SFS students to gain real world experience while having a very tangible impact on the sustainable development of this island nation. This partnership has allowed us to expand our faculty team at this center and helped to form the basis for a more sustainable workload for Center staff.
- Our partnership with Darden Restaurants is supporting

—a non-profit educational corporation—

- Innovative research on lobster casitas and giving students a new perspective on the partnerships that corporations can forge to support pro-environmental intents by identifying new means to sustainably develop and manage natural resources.
- Our emerging partnerships with the African Environmental Education Foundation and the Kuku Maasai Group Ranch in Kenya will not only greatly enhance our students' experience in Kenya by providing a community wildlife management component to their program but will also deliver tangible wildlife management recommendations for our Maasai partners. Center Director Betty Nicholson and her staff have made great progress in moving this joint effort forward.
- Our partnership with the Educational Foundation of America is enabling us to develop an internship option for SFS alumni. A pilot program, developed by Liana Babbar and staff at the Center for Sustainable Development Studies in Costa Rica, has identified 46 different host organizations interested in working with Center alumni.
- Our educational partnerships with feeder colleges and universities continues to expand as we've added five new affiliates:
 - The University of Southern California
 - The University of Redlands
 - The University of Michigan School of Natural Resources and The Environment
 - DePauw University
 - William Woods College

Our list of affiliate member schools now totals 26 institutions supported by Director of Institutional Relations, Adrian Boney and Education Director, Ed Stashko.

The most important partnership of all is with our staff. Our ongoing efforts to improve communications with and support for staff in the field and in Beverly through new resources, training, professional development opportunities and a commitment to examine accommodations, lifestyle, benefits and salary levels are critical first steps to making SFS a more sustainable organization.

New staff in Beverly and the field (including two faculty members, Tony Cummings and Andrew Gude who have returned as Center Directors in Australia and the Turks and Caicos Islands) have brought welcomed expertise and energy to the hard working and committed veteran SFS staff. We believe the newly created position of Assistant Education Director, held by Dr. Rich Malatesta, will help us continue to support program quality as one of our highest priorities just behind program safety.

On a special note, we'd like to acknowledge and thank Donna Dowal on the occasion of her 10th anniversary with SFS. In her role as SFS Associate Director of Admissions, Donna has influenced and guided literally thousands of SFS students. She is, in fact, probably the most recognized SFS name among our 8800 alumni.

This has been a year of solid growth for SFS:

- Tuition and general revenues have increased by 9% to 5.8 million dollars;
- Student enrollment increased by 8% to 662 students and reports from Center Directors indicate that these students have been very well qualified and prepared;
- SFS financial aid assisted 30% of these students with over \$290,000 in grants and \$260,000 in Merck Family Loans;
- Donations, including an unprecedented gift of one million dollars from the Andreas Family, have helped to fund:
 - Scholarships for U.S., Mexican and Costa Rican students;
 - A new information technology system institution wide;
 - An internship program;
 - Major site renovations at the Center for Marine Resource Studies in TCI;
 - And the purchase of the Center for Sustainable Development Studies in Costa Rica.
- Improved financial management in Beverly and the field has enabled us to use these funds more efficiently and effectively.
- The Center for Coastal Rainforest and Fisheries Studies in British Columbia has moved into a beautiful new home at Aguilar House and has strong new leadership under Center Director Barbara Heidenreich.
- And Center Director Luis Calderon has made great strides in raising the profile of the Center for Coastal Studies in Bahia Magdalena with local officials as well as Mexican and American scientists.

The events connected with the recent dedication of the Costa Rica Center gave testimony that our goals and vision are attainable. As we reviewed five years of directed research projects and community involvement and listened to the comments of our neighbors, clients and partners, real results in the form of management decisions, model projects, publications and a network of support were clearly identified and in use. Updates from alumni of this program confirm that many are using the knowledge and inspiration they gained from this program in their careers and daily lives.

As we approach our 20th anniversary in October 2000, we believe we have a strong team in place, committed to continuing to help SFS realize its full potential as an agent for ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources and the mentoring of the individuals who will lead these efforts. Thank you for the critical role you have played in helping us to build and sustain SFS during this year. We hope that we can continue to count on your partnership and support in the year ahead.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Andreas

Chair and President