

We Are Coming to a School Near You

Did you know that SFS employs four Academic Liaisons? These roving staff members are based throughout the United States and spend nine months of the year visiting U.S. colleges and universities. The Liaisons are assigned to the following regions:

- Northeastern Region—Gurudharm Singh Khalsa, Ph.D. (gkhalsa@fieldstudies.org)
- Mid-Atlantic and Mid-Western Region
Kathleen Rhodes (krhodes@fieldstudies.org)
- Southeastern Region—Patricia Kustron (pkustron@fieldstudies.org)
- Western Region—Eric Arndt (earndt@fieldstudies.org)

Our Academic Liaisons play several key roles at each school. As our primary presence on campus, they increase awareness of SFS among students. Their efforts can range from putting up posters to representing SFS at study abroad fairs and meeting with students to answer questions. They also keep in touch with alumni serving as campus representatives and to inform them of recent developments at the Field Stations. Liaisons have been invited by alumni to give presentations on SFS to their classmates and are also available to work with them to arrange gatherings of alumni and prospective applicants from their school. Much more than just a friendly face, each Academic Liaison forms an important personal connection between their schools and SFS Headquarters in Salem.



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From September to May, the Liaisons travel through their regions attending study abroad fairs, holding information sessions, and meeting one-on-one with students, faculty and administrators. Prior to a visit, students and alumni will receive a postcard and an email announcing the event and containing details. All alumni are invited to participate in a Liaison's visit by stopping at the SFS table during a fair or attending a presentation to share their experiences.

If you are interested in inviting Kathy, Eric, Gurudharm or Patty to your campus or would like to know when, or if, an Academic Liaison will be visiting your school, please email Wing-Sy Wong at wwong@fieldstudies.org. Also, feel free to contact each Academic Liaison directly with questions or suggestions on how best to reach interested students on your campus.

British Columbia · Kenya · Baja Mexico · Australia · Costa Rica · Turks & Caicos Islands

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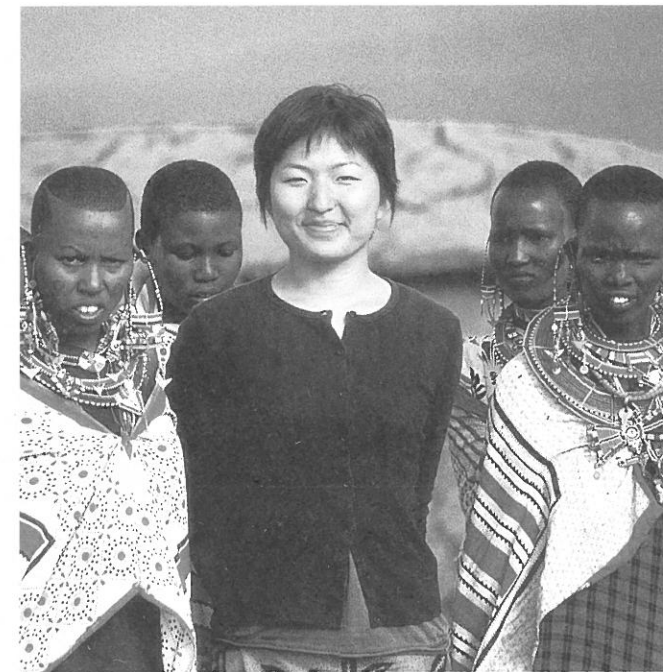
+ FY02 Annual Report Winter/Spring 2003

FIELD NOTES

News from The School for Field Studies

British Columbia · Kenya · Baja Mexico · Australia · Costa Rica · Turks & Caicos Islands

Refining the Vision for SFS



SFS Student with Maasai women.

SFS staff and Board explored the following questions:

- What programs and services should SFS be offering now and in the future that would best enable us to achieve our vision?
- Should we make changes in the programs and services we currently offer, and how we conduct our business to better achieve our preferred future?
- What kind of organizational culture and work environment do we need to create and sustain to achieve the visionary outcomes described below?

The Vision

Emerging from this process was the vision SFS wants to have achieved in three years.

- Having strengthened our academic program delivery, SFS is the environmental study abroad program of choice.
- Having strengthened our academic program and facilities, SFS field stations are recognized as high quality, academic and research institutions.
- Through continuous improvement in terms of service, working conditions and research quality, SFS is the leading employer among field-based environmental teaching and research professionals.
- Through continuous improvement in staff training and professional development, SFS is a professionally and personally rewarding workplace that values high-quality work, creativity and commitment.
- Having strengthened our fund raising efforts, SFS scholarship funds are supporting a wide diversity of U.S. and in-country students and young professionals in SFS programs.
- Having supported their career development efforts, SFS alumni are making valuable impacts in their professions, including public policy, research, advocacy, teaching and law.
- SFS alumni, recognizing the value of their SFS experience, are financially supporting the scholarship fund and are actively involved in the SFS alumni association.
- Through continuous development and expansion of our

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Letter from the President

This year, SFS has taken a major step forward in deepening and energizing its program model through the creation of Five-Year Research Plans at each of its field stations. With a sharpened focus, the SFS model continues to provide our students with hands-on, field based academic/research experience in support of local community efforts to deal with their natural resource challenges. We do this by bringing together an important set of resources to maximize the student experience, including:

- permanent field stations encompassing the resources required for living and conducting academic and research activities
- five-year research plans focusing on complex issues critical to the communities and ecosystems in which we reside
- professional staff who are expert in the scientific, environmental and socio-cultural issues of the area, and knowledgeable local staff who support the program's safety, logistics and operations
- strong working relationships with our local communities, ranging from Maasai group ranches, to small scale farmers, to residents of temperate and tropical rainforests and coastal fishing villages.

With this mix of resources, relationships and contacts, we position our students to make real contributions to our local communities. For example, as you will read later in this newsletter, SFS faculty and students were instrumental in conducting the research and participating in a successful proposal to the provincial government to create one of the first designated community forests in British Columbia—the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest—a major victory in forest sustainability.

At our Center for Coastal Studies, staff and students are making steady progress in educating the community and local fishers on the importance of protecting the Black Sea Turtle. Research, community education and discussions with government officials are underway toward development of a marine protected area for these endangered turtles. A new grant, recently awarded by the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, will provide financial support to continue this important project.

In Costa Rica, our staff and students have conducted important research and community education to demonstrate to local small-scale coffee farmers the financial, health and environmental benefits of switching from traditional to organic means of production. Already these farmers are realizing the financial advantage of organic production. They are also realizing the health affects on themselves and their families.

SFS students participate in a rigorous, interdisciplinary academic program. They learn field techniques critical to their research efforts. But most important, they learn the skills necessary to address environmental challenges responsive to community needs. As one of our alumnae states in this newsletter, "the environmental and social research is first hand. It involves real people, real solutions and real problems."

In essence, the SFS model teaches our students how to generate solid research, examine decision making options, work effectively with diverse communities, and be an active player in the complex, often frustrating process of creating change. It is this process and experience that students can take forward in their academic and professional careers. And it is this skill set that will stay with them as effective professionals and citizens.

Sincerely,

Paul Houlihan

Paul Houlihan
President



Paul Houlihan

The School for Field Studies Organization

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SFS Alumni Weigh in on Their Experiences

A recent survey of SFS alumni contributed greatly to the development of a vision for SFS that will carry us into the future.

In January of 2002, we received a grant from The David and Lucille Packard Foundation to undertake a comprehensive market assessment. Awarded through the Foundation's Organizational Effective program, this funding provided a unique and timely opportunity to assess SFS's attributes and to determine how best to employ them in a changing world.

SFS commissioned GDA Integrated Services, a leading market consultant specializing in higher education, to survey four key constituencies—SFS alumni, inquiring students, advisors and faculty—to gain information and perspective. At the heart of this study was feedback from recent SFS alumni. A survey sent to 2,100 SFS alumni yielded a 29% response rate, and this information provided the basis of the content for subsequent surveys to inquiring students, advisors and faculty.



Students help repair Maasai Boma.

From these responses we learned, not surprisingly, that SFS alumni, when choosing a study abroad program, placed a high value on the features that are central to the SFS mission—learning through hands on field experiences; improving the environment; and experiencing new and exotic ecosystems. Over 90% of respondents rated the SFS experience as excellent in each of these categories, demonstrating resounding support for our educational model.

We also discovered that those alumni who were most pleased with the SFS experience learned to value things that had originally been less important to them. For example, they became fascinated with all aspects of the host country and gained a greater appreciation of the challenges of natural resource management in a community



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context. One respondent commented about their "astonishment at the differences of priorities between cultures...having the time to be concerned about the environment is in some ways a luxury." Students also enjoyed the interdisciplinary nature of the program and the research, which offered "a true appreciation for the sheer number of variables that need to be understood and tackled for conservation and environmental restoration to progress effectively and efficiently." Finally, they were surprised how the SFS experience provided a variety of transferable skills that could be used long after their experience ended, and as result one student claimed to be "a much better learner and contributor to my school."

Through this study we learned more about why people chose to apply to SFS and about the characteristics of those who are more likely to thrive in our program. This information will help us to attract students most suited for the SFS experience. As we articulate our mission and attract committed students we are that much closer to achieving our goals.



BC students learn coastal ecology field skills.

News From the Field

Costa Rica Research Direction Defined

In 1994, Costa Rica—which possesses 5% of the world's biodiversity—adopted Sustainable Development as an official policy. This announcement came just two years after SFS opened the Center for Sustainable Development Studies (SFS-CSDS) in the Central Valley community of Atenas to introduce students to sustainable development. Today, with nearly 25% of its land under protection, Costa Rica leads the world with one of the most enlightened and dedicated approaches to conservation. Still, there are considerable challenges and conflicts that come with the shifting economies and a growing population.

As tourism eclipses agriculture as a leading economic force, Costa Rica is seeking environmentally friendly practices to ensure long-term sustainability of the resources that drive the economy. Small-scale farmers, struggling to maintain their productivity and profitability of their farms are eager to adopt new approaches, providing fertile territory for SFS research and development efforts. With limited resources to sustain protected lands, the National Park System seeks help in maintaining the country's precious and unique resources that attract hundreds of thousands of visitors.

In adopting a new five year research direction for SFS-CSDS, and consulting with the main actors of development at the community, governmental and academic level, SFS has committed to a series of interrelated research initiatives that will lead to the development of sustainable management models and strategies for land in production and land under protection.

Exploring the Economic, Cultural and Ecological Viability of Alternative Agriculture

Alternative agriculture may represent an excellent alternative for Costa Rica to generate income while minimizing natural resource degradation. In many segments, organic products typically yield 20-45% price premium over conventional products. Additionally, the conversion from chemical pesticides and fertilizers to natural inputs is likely to result in improved ecosystem health and other benefits such as increased biodiversity and crop yields. In spite of the potential benefits small farmers in Costa Rica are likely to be marginalized in world organic food markets because of the high cost of organic certification, insufficient information and lack of technical support. Over the next five years, in their search to develop environmentally, culturally, and economically sustainable models for alternative agriculture, SFS students and faculty will:



Dr. Nolan Quiros

- undertake an analysis of organic production and marketing opportunities and strategies
- examine the feasibility of small farm input development
- identify barriers, protocols and databases required to follow organic certification standards
- identify and measure indicators of ecosystem health, such as soil conditions, and pest populations and residues to determine the success of the conversion from conventional to organic production
- explore the effectiveness of various organic practices in increasing biodiversity or otherwise enhancing ecosystem stability.

Exploring the Economic, Cultural and Ecological Viability of Protected Areas

SFS will also work in two Central Valley parks—Volcan Poas National Park and Braulio Carrillo National Park—to help develop strategies to monitor biodiversity and address the growing issues related to community relations, environmental education and tourism.

Nearly one-quarter of the total land area in Costa Rica is under protection. In spite of this, forest ecosystems inside and outside protected areas have continued to experience degradation. Agriculture, cattle ranching, urbanization, and highway construction have also resulted in habitat fragmentation, posing a threat of species extinction. To respond to pressures, Park managers have requested that SFS conduct research about species populations fluctuations, habitat requirements, habitat quality and threats to that quality, as well as strategies for biodiversity conservation.

Increased visitor traffic as result of ecotourism is posing other daunting challenges. As park infrastructure development fails to keep pace with this traffic, trail systems are eroding and important environmental educational opportunities are being lost. At the same time support for the preservation of lands is not forthcoming from the communities surrounding protected areas. This is in large part due to the perceived lack of benefits to compensate for the loss of the use of the land. To respond to these concerns, SFS has been asked to conduct research on parks and people relations, provide protected area staff training programs and other resources in the areas of visitor management, and establish environmental education programs aimed at building local constituencies for conservation efforts.

Many benefits will be realized in implementing this new five-year research plan. Describing the SFS Five-Year Research Plan as a

socially progressive model for international education, Director Dr. Nolan Quiros stated “there will be great returns not only for the student participants but also for the community at large.” He went on to say that “the success of the plan is dependent on strong partnerships between the students and our partners, which include farmers in Atenas, staff and managers from Braulio Carrillo and Volcan Poas National Park systems, as well as from the

I learned about sustainable development—the act of developing a nation while simultaneously preserving its natural resources... about the relationship between the people and the park. The community relies on the park to bring in tourism, and the park depends on people to protect it.

—Angelo M. Del Re, Wake Forest University
SFS-CSDS Summer 2002 Alumnus

overseeing management agency SINAC (Sistema Natural de Areas de Conservacion), among others.”

When asked about the community's response to the SFS new research direction, Dr. Quiros offered the following. “Again, our goal is to provide our partners with resources and research that will help to advise critical resource management decisions. The collaborative process we undertook to develop the plan brought a better understanding of the communities needs and priorities, and ensured that our focus was on projects that would have a meaningful impact and bring resources and knowledge to priority issues. With the plan serving as a blueprint for our research, our neighbors also have a clearer picture of what we are working toward, and can provide input and share their experiences and knowledge — all of which is vital in our search for concrete solutions to the real problems they face.”

In closing, Dr. Quiros emphasized that SFS students were key to moving the research agenda forward. “While engaging in a rigorous academic field experience, SFS students also work as an efficient ‘pro-bono’ consulting group that brings quick and practical solutions to problems that escape the scope of the big international agencies.”



Australia SFS CRS Welcomes New Director

Dr. Robyn Wilson assumed duties as the new director of the SFS Centre for Rainforest Studies in January 2003. Robyn received her Ph.D. in Animal Ecology and M.Sc. in Tropical Ecology from James Cook University and has worked in tropical ecology for 15 years as a lecturer and researcher. She has a multidisciplinary approach to research, combining ecology and social science research methodologies, with a focus on wildlife-human interactions. Her Ph.D., conducted in the Australian tropical rainforest, addressed the impact of roads and power lines on the movements of arboreal mammals and ways of mitigating these impacts, and the additional impact of human visitation on them. Robyn's M.Sc. research addressed the impact of habitat change on the magpie goose, *Anseranas semipalmata*. More recent research focused on biophysical and psychosocial impacts associated with visitation to the rainforest and has led to the development of a visitor monitoring system for the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area. Robyn has traveled widely in Central and North America, South East Asia and Europe, pursuing her research interests, and has worked extensively with Elder Hostel and American students studying in Australia. She has been a summer school guest lecturer with the University of Hawaii, University of Long Island and SFS.



Dr. Robyn Wilson

Center for Rainforest Studies Dr. Robyn Wilson, Center Director

“My arrival at the Station coincided with the start of the wet season rains, which are a welcome relief. Last year was the driest in recorded history for this area and it took its toll on the experimental reforestation plots the students and staff had diligently planted. The dry con-

ditions, however, presented a unique opportunity to research the effects of drought and taught us an important lesson about growing trees in the rainforest when there isn't enough rain to support that growth. Working closely with our students through their Directed Research projects, and with our Research Advisory Committee and Landcare groups, we identified a series of factors that contributed to the high seedling mortality. While trouble shooting and developing means for preventing similar losses in the future, students experienced the realities and challenges of field research and learned that while sometimes experiments fail to yield the data they are looking for, the lessons learned can lead to positive outcomes in the future. This year we will be planting heartier trees, mulching and possibly installing an irrigation system for this year's planting. Students will be involved in that planting. Preliminary measurements of seedlings once planted, will serve as the baseline data for future Directed Research projects on seedling establishment, growth and recruitment.

Another Directed Research group last fall studied the attitudes of community members, landholders and business leaders in Yungaburra toward conservation of the Allumbah Pocket site. The team worked with a local landcare group and concluded that the community appreciates the benefits of restoration although they are often uninvolved in assisting. We hope to use this information in the near future to demonstrate the importance of aiding the restoration of the lower Peterson Creek catchment. This work is part of our larger community commitment to connect existing rainforest fragments by creating corridors.

The faculty are also preparing for a new Directed Research project to analyze the cost effectiveness of rainforest reforestation efforts at a nearby restoration corridor. This inquiry should increase our understanding of the benefits of local conservation programs. We will also perpetuate our research examining the use of our experimental and restored sites by birds and other wildlife, to help us determine the extent to which restoration benefits wildlife or promotes ecological development.

I look forward to guiding the implementation of the Five-Year Research Plan in its second year and beyond as Center Director. This plan provides great direction for our research efforts and will ensure that these contribute to the development of effective strategies for tropical rainforest reforestation, not only here in Australia, but worldwide.”



Students replanting trees in Australia.

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British Columbia

Center for Coastal Rainforest and Fisheries Studies
Jan Teversham, Director

"A spell of Mediterranean-like weather welcomed our fall students to Bamfield. Upon return from mid-semester break, however, the real Bamfield showed itself. The wind and rain that is more typical of this area became the reality and the Directed Research (DR) days were spent pushing through the very wet salal bushes or wading in increasingly deep creeks as students carried out the three projects of the semester.

"It's impossible to learn about the multitude of controversial issues in this area without spending time thinking about possible solutions. The solution I keep coming back to is education. I knew before I got here that I wanted to go into environmental education, but this semester has emphasized that in a big way."

—Andy Whitaker, Bates College
SFS-CCRFS Alumnus, Fall 2002

The Stream Restoration DR included the continuation of past research projects, including monitoring of bedload profiles, water quality, and macroinvertebrate and fish abundance; assessment of past research methodologies and datasets with respect to developing our long-term research plans. Two additional research topics were introduced to meet the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest Society's (BHCFS) needs. A Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping DR completed a new ecosystem map, which related the ecosystems and development stages of the ecosystems to topography and soils, present timber volumes, past logging history and previous smaller scale TEM maps of the Community Forest. A third group undertook a Growth and Yield (GAY) study, which produced such useful information such as site indices and mean annual increment of different tree species.



Student collecting data in British Columbia.

We continue to make strides in the development of the new Five-Year Research Plan. Research related to stream restoration will move toward an ecosystem-based approach in order to bring a more comprehensive understanding to the Huu-ay-aht First Nation and guide and assess future restoration initiatives within the Sarita Watershed.

SFS research was instrumental in the designation of the Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest, one of only ten community forests in British Columbia which are helping to demonstrate the feasibility of smaller scale, community based, forest management practices as a means of achieving sustainability. In the years ahead, we will to work with BHCFS to provide the research and technical support to achieve the goals of an ecologically sustainable and economically viable forest and to provide a model for the

development of other community forests in the Pacific Northwest.

As a part of their community service efforts, students, working under the direction of the First Nations Band as well as archeological consultants and government personnel, helped to clear a National Historic Site. SFS students spent more than 200 hours clearing the abandoned Huu-ay-aht village so that the outlines of the old long houses can be clearly seen from the ridge above the site when it is opened to the public next year. It was really quite a privilege to be involved in this work, and to know that the community has entrusted us with a piece of their history."



Kenya

Center for Wildlife Management Studies
Simon K. ole Seno, Ph.D., Director

Despite everything going on in Kenya and elsewhere in the world, SFS-CWMS had a very successful fall semester. Our two sites have continued focusing on research that addresses conservation of wildlife and real community related problems, with our primary clients being Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the neighboring landowners. It is very stimulating for both faculty to know that they are involved in a real research program which is making positive contributions to the management of a national park and the livelihoods of our neighbors, while at the same time training students and park managers.

Case Study I explored strategies for the sustainable management of Nairobi National Park (NNP) and the adjacent dispersal area. Developing guidelines for providing wildlife-based benefits and minimizing conflict between people and wildlife provided the focus for the semesters three Directed Research (DR) projects.

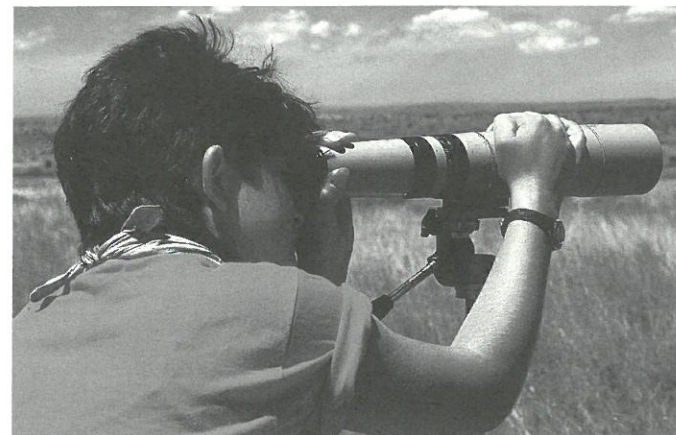
With two majors fires in NNP over the past year (one prescribed and one accidental), concern arose about the effects of the burning and its implications for large browsing herbivores, and two of the research projects focused on assessing this on vegetation and grazing. Students also mapped the past fires in NNP and thus provided maps for the group studying herbivore distribution, age and sex ratios. Although some still regard controlled burning as controversial and damaging to ecosystems, our work is proving the opposite. With the Kitengela Swamp and Munjiriri Riparian woodlands identified as appropriate locations for communally owned and managed eco-tourism ventures, the Kitengela community is eager to move forward. To assist with this, fall students produced a schematic diagram for



Dr. Simon K. ole Seno

The Directed Research was one of the great learning experiences of my life. I was involved with Dr. Sinnary's research of the age and sex composition, vegetation and burning preferences of large mammals in Nairobi National Park. Working with my team, we were able to collect, analyze, discuss, and present findings that were relevant to the problems CWMS was trying to solve. It was during directed research that I really came to understand our contribution to the program.

—Laurie Bottensek, College of Charleston
SFS-CWMS Alumna, Fall 2002



Student conducting game count on African Savanna.

the location of various developments for such a venture.

At the Kilimanjaro Bush Camp (KBC), Case Study II looked at the ecological factors and land use influences on wildlife and other natural resources within group ranches between Amboseli, Tsavo West and Chyulu Hills National Parks. Three DR projects set their research objectives within their broad themes of wildlife management, land use and plant resources assessment. One DR assessed support among the tourism trade for the proposed conservation area, while also providing an assessment of wildlife species abundance and density in the proposed location for the sanctuary.

Changing land use practices continues to present challenges to sustainable resources utilization in the region, and DRs over several semesters have analyzed and evaluated various aspects of land-use practices in the larger Kuku/Kimana/Mbirikani region, with a focus on Kuku Group Ranch. In the fall DR activities focused within the Namelok and Kimana agriculture cluster areas, and analyzed the effectiveness of the EU fence as a means of mitigating human-wildlife conflicts along with the costs associated its maintenance. A final DR study sought to establish the impact of settlements on medical plants and important tree and shrub species to the ranch members.

This fall we also co-sponsored a workshop with KWS to discuss the Five-Year Research Plan. In attendance were representatives from the African Wildlife Foundation, European Union, African Conservation Center, East African Wildlife Society, Friends of Nairobi National Park and the Museums of Kenya. This is a clear indication that SFS is gaining recognition as strong academic and research institution.



Mexico

Center for Coastal Studies
Carlos DeAlba, Director

It was a busy fall for the faculty, staff and students at The Center for Coastal Studies. A very intense academic and field research program was undertaken in conjunction with the elaboration of our Five-Year Research Plan. A major vote of confidence came with the approval of funding from The David and Lucille Packard Foundation for two of the proposed areas of research: water pollution remediation and turtle conservation.

It seems that our efforts have finally changed people's attitude. With our concentrated educational programming, turtle consumption seems to have gone down in the past three years. Fewer turtles were

found dead in and around town and interviews showed that most people think that fewer turtles are eaten now. This is extremely encouraging news and we hope to find that this trend continues in the future. We have also established that the communities in the Bahía Magdalena region would support a sea turtle protected area. The next step in working toward a formal proposal involves discussion with community members on the development of strategies and proposals.

During a field trip to the nesting beach "San Cristobal," students witnessed first hand the work that is being undertaken and learned of the importance of community involvement and consideration of socioeconomic aspects in species conservation and management. The opportunity to patrol this beach to find sea turtle nests, collect the eggs and put them in a protected corral was an amazing experience.

Students continue to collect and analyze data that will contribute to the sustainable management of the shrimp fishery, and this fall students tested and analyzed the efficiency of different types of gear to harvest shrimp. It was found that fishers recognize decreasing shrimp catch levels, but they have been compensating by fishing more. We also discovered that the average by-catch of non-target species by trawling nets was high—70-80% of the catch.

The staff and teachers also enlightened us about the community and their history. We learned how to cast nets like the subsistence fishermen of Baja with Salvador and visited the canneries that provide jobs for most of the community with Carlos. We played volleyball in the town center and tutored children and adults at English classes. We became a part of Baja— part of the town of Puerto San Carlos, part of the desert, part of Magdalena Bay, part of the Pacific Ocean.

—Zoe Vasconcellos Hastings,
Tufts University
SFS-CCS Alumna, Fall 2002



Students catch, measure and release endangered sea turtles in Bahía Magdalena.

Work to advance the cultivation of the Lion's Paw Scallop as an alternative to fishing is also ongoing. Its high growth potential, good market price, low environmental impact and comparative ease of culture are strong arguments for promoting this species here and the fishers as well as state and federal government support this. While there are cooperatives that are doing Lion's paw aquaculture in the state, all are located north of Bahía Magdalena.

Community service continues to play a vital role in the student experience and remains one of the best ways for them to interact with the San Carlos community. Students continue to teach English to both adults and children. Environmental education classes on ecology and conservation were developed and delivered to students at the primary school. Finally, students are working on the creation of a Natural History Museum in a space that has been loaned by the local government.

Turks and Caicos Islands New Director for TCI Field Station

Dr. David T. Wilson joined the SFS Team in August of 2002 as Director of the Center for Marine Resource Studies. An alumnus of Australia's James Cook University where he received his Ph.D. in Marine Ecology, Dave has worked on the biology and ecology of coral reef fishes in both the Caribbean and Pacific. Dave received his early training as an undergraduate student studying coral reef ecosystems on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR), Australia. Since that time his work has focused on coral reef fin-fish fisheries. While working for the Cooperative Research Center on the GBR Coral Trout fishery, he acquired a deep understanding of the processes of environmental management and planning. He worked in the Caribbean studying the dynamics (patterns and processes) of the supply of coral reef fish larvae to the Caribbean coast of Panama, in association with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute and the Australian Institute of Marine Science. He then worked as a fisheries biologist for the American Samoan Government where he established a coral reef monitoring program for the territory's coral reef fisheries. A native of Australia, Dave is rumored to be an accomplished cricket player.



Dr. David T. Wilson

Center for Marine Resource Studies Dave Wilson, Ph.D., Director

Three DR projects ran this past fall: Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) coral reef surveys, Patch-Reef community dynamics, and the ecology and biology of Bonefish. The AGRRA divers and Bonefish researchers honed their skills in the field almost daily. The Patch-Reef crew spent long hours in the water looking for suitable research sites. They located several stunning reefs, the best of which is called 'Trophy Hall' and is a stunning patch reef from all accounts—one which the students were keen to re-survey.

Results of this semester's reef fish survey using AGGRA, confirmed those from previous years and make a significant contribution to our understanding of important fish species on South Caicos. Interestingly, the analyses of different fish families all showed that members of the most abundant species of each family were slightly larger in total length inside the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) than their counterparts outside of the Park. Abundance, on the other hand, was not significantly different. These results follow the trends in the literature that suggest MPAs have positive effects on biomass of fish inside parks.

A study investigating if inter-recruitment between patch reefs and a fringe reef promotes the growth of macroalgae and allow a phase shift to persist was carried out. The results support the theory of inter-recruitment of benthic organisms between a fringing reef and patch reefs, and that decreasing recruitment of benthic macroalgae might support a phase shift.

Data gathered from the 120 Bonefish (ranging from 28 to 72 cm in total length) which were tagged in Spring of 2002 on the Caicos Bank suggested that the size of Bonefish increases from west to east across the Bank. Although preliminary, it is likely that bonefish travel in and out of Bell Sound Nature Reserve, making them susceptible to harvest by the commercial fishers. The continuation of the Bonefish tag and recapture program, and the collection of information from local guides, should provide additional information on Bonefish movement and aid in the development of a management plan to conserve local stocks.



Student with local community children on "Sea Day."

SFS is working with the TCI Department of Environment and Coastal Resources to explore the feasibility of developing a chlorine bleach detection kit for use in the lobster fishery. Recent declines in lobster stocks have prompted the use of chemicals such as bleach to assist in catching lobster hidden in reef crevices. While increasing lobster catches, it is devastating to the reefs. Student research this fall helped to confirm that the damage is proportional to exposure to bleach. The results of this study were developed into an interactive web based program to be used in local primary and high schools to help educate the next generation of fishers to the perils of using bleach in a coral reef environment.

"I have learned more about fisheries and fishery management from conversing with community members and through SFS classes than I ever would have in a textbook at home. Unlike my past studies, the environmental and social research on South Caicos is first hand. It involves real people, real situations, and real problems. South Caicos and SFS have given me an excellent first field experience."

—Libby Christensen Rayburn,
University of Puget Sound
SFS-CMRS Alumna, Fall 2002

Alumni Directory

Dear Alumnus/a:

It has been a busy time at SFS and we have several exciting developments to tell you about!

We have secured funding to develop a new SFS website. Providing information and services to the SFS alumni community is one of our highest priorities in this project, and our new site will feature an alumni directory and LISTSERVES, among other things.

As we prepare to launch the new site in the late spring, we need to gather information from you. We hope you will share your current contact and professional information with us for inclusion in the Alumni Directory. This feature will be key in keeping alumni involved and connected with SFS and each other; something that can be helpful for networking and professional development. Of course, we will only include information for those alumni who have provided their authorization. The Directory will be available to other alumni through the password protected site.

We have also created a new Alumni Relations Coordinator position* to provide leadership and support to our growing alumni program. By completing this data form, you help us to plan and respond with programs that are of high interest to SFS alumni.

Please return completed forms:

By Mail: Alumni
The School for Field Studies
10 Federal Street
Salem, MA 01970

Or by Fax: 978/741-3551

As always, please feel free to contact SFS if you have any questions, concerns or ideas at alumni@fieldstudies.org.

*SFS alumni are encouraged to apply. To learn more about this and other positions, visit the *Work for SFS* section of our website (www.fieldstudies.org)

- Name: _____ Name when Student (if different): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____
- Program/year/semester at SFS: _____
- Please list all schools attended (starting with undergraduate):
a. Degree/Graduation date/Institution: _____
b. Degree/Graduation date/Institution: _____
c. Degree/Graduation date/Institution: _____
- Current Occupation: _____ Employer: _____
- Business address: _____
- Please provide us with a brief description of your current job/program: _____
- May we share this information with other alumni in the SFS online Alumni Directory? ☐ Yes ☐ No
The following questions are for SFS planning purposes only, and will not be listed in alumni profiles in the online directory.
- How would you describe your experience with SFS? ☐ very positive ☐ positive ☐ neutral ☐ negative
- How did SFS influence your career choice (if at all)? _____
- What activities or programs would interest you? (Please check any that apply)
☐ short term program at an SFS Field Station (any focus ideas?) _____
☐ short seminar around an Alumni event (any topic ideas?) _____
☐ volunteering (helping outreach efforts, communicating with prospective students, serving as an alumni career contact, planning/coordinating alumni events, etc.) _____
☐ writing articles, submitting updates or other material for the Newsletter _____
☐ other suggestions? (please describe:) _____
- What kinds of stories/articles/information would you be interested in reading in future SFS Newsletters? (i.e., articles by alumni, research related to the work of SFS Centers, articles by recently returned students, alumni gatherings, news from the Centers?) _____
- How has your perception of your SFS experience changed (since you finished the program/graduated from college/etc.)? _____
- Please check if you would like to be added to the Wild Night mailing list: _____

Additional comments/ideas/suggestions other than those we have mentioned here? (We want to know how best to keep you connected!)

Alumni Notes

Costa Rica

Ivana Gomez del Campo, Spring '97 is a Development Writer/Editor for the National Audubon Society.

Mariana Upmeyer, Fall '96 was married in 2002. She and her husband bought a house in Colorado. "If any fellow SFSers in or around town, please contact me!"

Meredith DuBarry Huston, Spring '96 wrote to say "my comment, 'Wartime Environmental Damages: Financing the Cleanup' was recently published in the University of Pennsylvania Journal of International Economic Law (Vol.23, #4, Winter 2002). I'd be happy to share a copy with anyone who might like to read it!"

British Columbia

Jessica Bail, '98 (Costa Rica '99) is a paralegal.

Carrie Nyman Olsen, Fall '96 reported that she was married in 2001 and is now living in Tacoma, WA and teaching 3rd grade.

Amanda (Amy) Souers, Fall '95, Director of Internet Strategies for American Rivers, wrote "I recently completed an 8-day trip down Alaska's Copper River and posted dispatches to the American Rivers web site, trying to raise awareness about the need to protect the river and its salmon." <http://www.amrivers.org/feature/copper-river.html>; Would love to hear from classmates."

Heidi Vogel, Spring '97, is a fisheries technician working the Mt. Hood National Forest. "I spend most of my days in the field, snorkeling in streams, performing spawning surveys, and other really incredible stream surveys."

TCI

Jennie Leslie, Summer '92: Working as an Ob/Gyn resident physician at MAHEC Women's Health Center in Asheville, NC.

Christine Hoekenga, Fall '01 will graduate from Willamette University in the Spring of '03.

Elianna Strode, Summer '01 is working towards her teaching credential and plans to

get her Masters in Environmental Education or Science.

Kristen Roda, Spring '98 is a lab analyst.

Kenya

Kelly Hill, Spring '02 wrote to say "I miss everyone from Group A in Kenya Spring 2002!"

Camille O'Donnell, '00 is a research assistant at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Nyle Dwyer, Summer '00 plans on going into environmental law, and hopes to return to Kenya some day!

Sage Lansing, Summer '00 is a Congressional legislative assistant.

Frederick Sanjeeve Martyn, '98 works as a research assistant/technician in Nuclear Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, and sends this message. "I miss everyone from session I, and I still have unbelievable memories and pictures. If anyone is in Boston, please be in touch!"

Bob Fuhrmann, Fall '99 is an Education Program Coordinator for Yellowstone National Park.

Nicole Ventuarelle, Summer '99 is a chemical analyst for an environmental lab.

Connie Nickel Showalter, Summer '99 is a research specialist at University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Maggie Cross, Summer '97 is currently attending medical school.

Krista Wenning, Spring '97, writes from Pheonix, Arizona where she is "a wildlife biologist working to alleviate human/wildlife conflict in urban settings. My main task is to manage wildlife hazards at a Pheonix Airport, and I provide technical and operational assistance on and off the airfield."

Jane deLima, Fall '94 is a doctor.

Kathryn Sheppard Hoar, Summer '94 just got married.

Deborah Tipton, Spring '94 is an Environmental Protection Specialist for the National Park Service.

Melody Gomez Wubbenhorst, Fall '93 is a foreign language teacher on Long Island.

Carla Robertson, Fall '88 is a science teacher.

From a classmate we recently learned of the death of renowned wildlife researcher and SFS alumna, **Dr. Annelisa Kilbourn, Fall '89**, in a in a small plane accident in the Lope Nature Preserve in Gabon. The first scientist to link Ebola outbreaks with the disappearance of large gorilla populations in Africa, Dr. Kilbourn dedicated herself to the study and protection of gorilla, elephant and rhino populations across the African continent during her lifetime. You can learn more about Annelisa's many accomplishments and contributions at <http://www.sos-rhino.org/programs/annelisa.php>.

Mexico

Duamed Colon-Carrion, Summer '99 is currently a marine biology student.

Nicole Adame, Spring '98 is in her second year of law school at Tulane and will finish next May with a certification in Environmental Law.

Lynn Kowalchuk Abramson, Summer '97 is a PhD student at Marine Sciences Research Center, Stony Brook University.

Nicole Moore, Summer '98 is a high school teacher in integrated physical science.

Heather Schoonover, Summer '99 is a researcher for the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy.

Australia

Meghan Riley, Fall '02 writes that she will be doing seabird research on the Farallon Island this summer with the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

Jennifer Germano, Spring '02, wrote with news that she received the Joanna Jackson Goldman Memorial Prize funding to support a year of research on the South Island of New Zealand, where she'll work with the Department of Conservation to radio-track the endangered Grand and Otago skinks and hopefully find out what predators are having the greatest impact on the skink populations.

Kristina Gray Fisher, Fall '00, wrote that a "year after getting back from Warrawee, I

was glad to get a chance to hang out and catch up with Stephanie Matthews one appropriately rainy day. After graduating from Williams in June, I was glad to say my final goodbyes to New England and head South again. However, before making it all the way back to New Mexico, I spent the summer in DC, participating in an 8-week federal internship in the Forest Service national headquarters. It turned out to be something of an exercise in "know your enemy"—I quickly learned that there are few things they dislike more than environmentalists, particularly right now. The people I was working with were a far cry from the good-natured Mark and Arthur of Queensland's Department of Primary Industries that Steph and Jana and I worked with on our sustainable logging Directed Research project. I did get a chance to do some work with our own Forest Service's sustainable development initiative, which was very cool. At the beginning of August, I finally flew home to the Southwest desert, and I've been here ever since. My job (Research Director for Think New Mexico, a results-oriented public policy think tank serving New Mexicans) is stimulating and fulfilling. I really feel like I have the opportunity to make a difference for the land I love so much, and I've already begun researching potential policy topics that will sustain New Mexico's watersheds as living rivers, rather than dead ditches. I hope that all the members of my wonderful Warrawee tribe are doing well and enjoying themselves, and please look me up if you ever pass through New Mexico.

Ken Jin Tan, Summer '00, wrote from Singapore that he will be finishing his term with the Singapore Armed Forces in May. He started a recycling program in his camp, which is perhaps the first one in Singapore. "While the future is uncertain, I've already got a bond that requires me to teach. However, I'm allowed to take a year off to pursue a private sector job. So if anyone's got tips or string to pull...please help."

Emily Hogan, Summer '00 is in her first year at UMASS medical school and loving it!

Scott Murray, Fall '99, Web Administrator, Alumnae and Alumni of Vassar College (AAVC), designs, updates, and maintains all web services for the alumni association.

John Schatz, '99 is a teacher in Massachusetts.

Laura Blume, Fall '99 is an outdoor educator in New Hampshire.

Joseph Clift, Summer '99 is in the process of obtaining his MS in Environmental Science, and has one year left! He is applying to Ph.D. programs in the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington and Portland State.

Micah Lewis, Fall '99 is a Teacher's Assistant.

Daniel Tonkin, Fall '97 is an Immunology graduate student.

Herbie Duber, Fall '97 is currently attending medical school.

Dr. Woutrina Smith, Fall '95, a Veterinarian involved in teaching and research at U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, writes that she will be marrying Cameron Miller, her boyfriend of 10 years, in May.

Amy O'Neal, Spring '93 is a science teacher.

A. Christy Uchida, Spring '92 is a business manager for a non-profit organization.

Bryan Butler, Fall '89 is in technology sales.

Molly Buck Eldridge, Fall '89, writes "I am living in Crested Butte Colorado with my husband Alan and hanging out with my two sons - Ian 2 1/2 and Alex 6 weeks! I am trying to figure out my next career move after running a snowcat skiing lodge for the last 5 years. I would love to have any visitors - Crested Butte is great - summer or winter."

Other Programs

Andrew Biskupski, Maya Archaeology, Northern Belize, Summer '86 is owner and operator of Enviroworks, an environmental sampling and contracting company in New Jersey!

Gretchen Dietrich, Biology of Bottlenose Dolphins, Mobile Bay, Alabama, Summer '87 is a Major/health administrator for the U.S. Air Force.

Albert Luppens, Acid Rain/Limnology, New York, '85 is a student.

Russell Meller, Crete, Summer '83 is a professor.

Dr. Amy Bernard, Alaska, Summer '86, writes from Seattle, where she is a Research

Scientist at the University of Washington, to say hello to any old cronies who are out there reading this...love to hear what you are up to! Particularly Brett!

Two-time alumae, **Gail Johnson, Colorado - Summer '87, USVI - Fall '89, and intern in Australia (Fall '91 -Spring '92)** wrote from her home in Lafayette, California, "In July 2001, I was married to Steve Saeger in an outdoor ceremony in a mountain meadow just outside of Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. We recently returned from a vacation in Kauai, Hawaii, where the experience of being in the tropics made me homesick for both St. John and Queensland. I have not been diving recently, but we go snorkeling every chance we get (and I obsess about identifying all the fish). I'm still backpacking as well, though not as frequently or for as lengthy periods of time as I did with SFS in Colorado!

I was just web-surfing info re St. John the other day and noticed that tourists can now rent out the cabins we used to stay at VIERS (Virgin Island Ecological Research Station). Those of us who suffered through Hurricane Hugo and its aftermath during our SFS program would likely get a chuckle out of the fact that you can now pay \$65 + a night for the privilege of being terrorized by donkeys loudly braying through the cabins' screened-in windows. Seriously, though, it would be particularly fun to have a reunion there knowing that we could actually stay at VIERS and go night snorkeling etc. in Lesser Lameshur Bay. Any takers? (Jill, Suzanne, Rebecca? Where are you?) And I was heartened to learn that the southern part of the island remains roadless after all these years. (Remember the petroglyph hike?)

With respect to Queensland, I really miss the SFS centre there—especially the tropical fruit, the incredible diversity of the forest, and the bird calls. I would love to go back for a visit soon—it would be great to see not only the centre but also the Yungaburra market, the Cathedral Fig tree, and the Millaa Millaa falls circuit. I wonder how many years the flying foxes that we helped rehabilitate kept coming back? One memorable evening, one landed on my head! If anyone has photos, I never got any (was busy fending off little claws perilously close to my eyes) and would love to see them.

SFS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2002

Statement of Financial Position for the Years Ended August 31, 2002 and 2001

August 31	2002	2001
Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 948,281	\$ 1,945,283
Investments	1,618,282	1,651,376
Tuition Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$4,700 and \$3,000, Respectively	450,116	326,354
Loans Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$6,700 and \$6,600, Respectively	334,985	357,442
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	496,432	557,070
Property and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	3,025,118	3,097,223
Total Assets	\$ 6,873,214	\$ 7,934,748
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 485,227	\$ 760,818
Student Deposits and Deferred Revenue	1,836,565	1,879,220
Total Liabilities	2,321,792	2,640,038
Net Assets		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	490,081	863,762
For Designation by Trustees		340,000
Designated for Plant Expansion	415,423	262,351
Designated for Student Loans	230,766	230,945
Net Investment in Plant	2,657,855	2,806,418
Total Unrestricted	3,794,125	4,503,476
Temporarily Restricted	668,897	662,834
Permanently Restricted	128,400	128,400
Total Net Assets	4,551,422	5,294,710
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 6,873,214	\$ 7,934,748

Statement of Activities

For the Years Ended August 31	2002	2001
Unrestricted Revenue		
Tuition and Fees	\$ 4,631,743	\$ 5,175,901
Interest and Dividends	(235,664)	120,102
Private Gifts, Grants, and Contracts	170,751	167,297
Other	316,940	127,880
Total Unrestricted Revenues	4,883,770	5,591,180
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	208,255	444,420
Total Unrestricted Revenues and Net Assets Released from Restriction	5,092,025	6,035,608
Unrestricted Expenses:		
Program	3,554,649	3,583,600
Administration, Marketing and Admissions	1,493,334	1,260,954
Scholarship and Financial Aid	300,661	299,646
Depreciation	307,157	294,175
Development	145,576	52,821
Total Unrestricted Expenses	5,801,377	5,491,196
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	(709,352)	544,404
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets		
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(208,255)	(444,420)
Unrealized Loss on Investment	(70)	188,310
Contributions	174,389	139,271
Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(33,936)	(116,839)
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(743,288)	427,565
Net Assets, Beginning	5,294,710	4,867,145
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 4,551,422	\$ 5,294,710

SFS Donors

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(\$10,000 or Greater)

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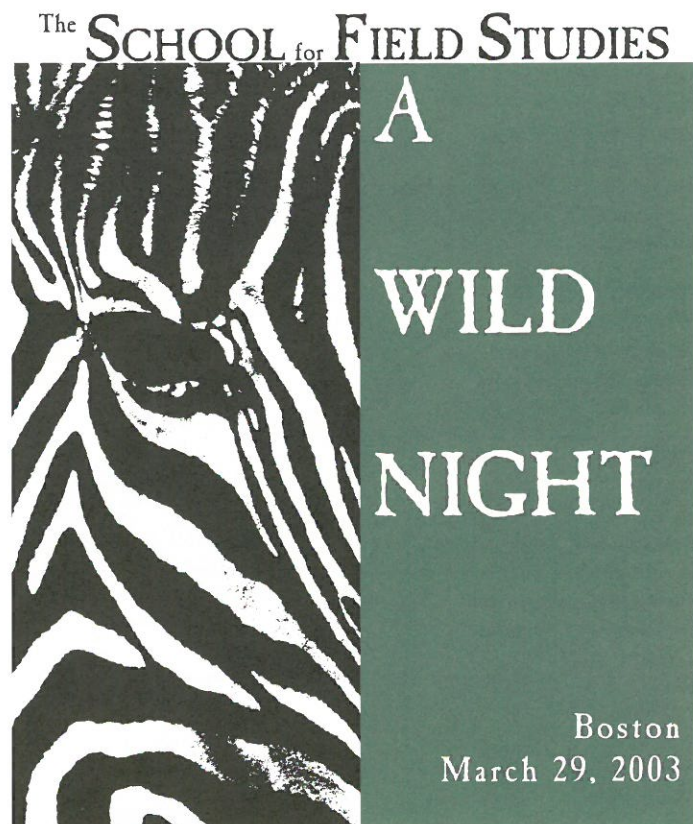
Alexandra Janelli
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Dawn Vollmer
Dana L. Voorhees
Caitlin Waddick
Angela Walker
David "Dirty" Wallstrom
William and Karen Watts
William Weyleman
Jonathan White
J. Wilson White
Alden Whittaker
Wing Sy Wong
Melody Wubbenhorst

Plans Taking Shape for Another Wild Night!

Those who joined us in May 2002 agreed that the first annual Wild Night was a wild success—so much so that we are again donning our bush hats and lacing up our hiking boots in preparation for our 2nd annual, field attire optional, gala. Wild Night II will be held in Boston on Thursday, May 29 and we expect a large contingent of SFS alumni and friends to be on hand to welcome our team of Center Directors and to reunite and reminisce with fellow SFSers. We'll have festive food and an exciting auction where you can bid on one of a kind adventures, outdoor gear, and other unique items and cultural artifacts. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 to support SFS programs and provide scholarships to students.

Simon Ole Seno will make the trek from Kenya and Jan Teversham from beautiful British Columbia. Coming from South of the border will be Nolan Quiros of Costa Rica and Carlos De Alba of Mexico. Our two newest Center Directors, Robyn Wilson of Australia and Dave Wilson from the Turks and Caicos Islands will also be in attendance.

In the interest of conservation, invitations will be mailed only to alumni living in the Northeast. But, you never know who might be in Boston area on the 29th, so we wanted to get the word out to others across the country. If you would like more information about the event please send an email requesting an invitation to amaclea@fieldstudies.org. Please include your name and address. You can also check yes to question 13 when completing the alumni data form, which can be found on page 9 of Field Notes.



Become a Founding Member of the SFS Sustainer's Society and Receive a Free Gift



The Sustainer's Society is a monthly giving program for friends who want to support SFS on an ongoing basis. Your gift of just \$10, \$25, \$50 (or more) per month, when combined with those of growing circle of Sustainers, will play a key role in helping SFS continue to provide high quality education and research programs. And, because Sustainers receive no renewal notices, it's environmentally friendly as well.

We'll send you an SFS logo Nalgene water bottle when you sign on as a founding member of the SFS Sustainer's Society with an annual commitment totaling \$120 or more.

You can make your gift using a credit or debit card. At the end of each calendar year, your pledge is automatically renewed.

For more information, please visit the our website (<http://www.fieldstudies.org/pages/alumni/SFSSustainersform.htm>) or call 978/741-3567 x600.

continued from page 1

related business opportunities, SFS has succeeded in significantly broadening our revenue base through a wider client base, new programs, joint ventures and partnerships.

- Having continuously strengthened our efforts, SFS quality programming is widely recognized in our local communities and in academic/research circles in the U.S. and abroad.
- Having demonstrated our quality and value, SFS has significantly increased its formal affiliations with U.S. colleges/universities.
- Having demonstrated our value and capabilities, SFS has significantly increased its partnerships with U.S. and international universities, organizations and government agencies.
- Through our research dissemination efforts, SFS local client communities are becoming empowered to better manage their natural resources and ensure long-term sustainability for future generations.
- Through our educational and research efforts, SFS is recognized as a contributor to host country/regional economic advancement.
- Through our commitment to organizational effectiveness, SFS has techniques in place to monitor and sustain the organizational gains achieved, and to support future changes that serve the organization's mission.

- increasing opportunities for host country youth to participate in the program.

Continue to improve program quality, by:

- investing in training and development of faculty and staff;
- developing long-term research plans and pursuing research partnerships with key local, national and international organizations;
- publishing/presenting SFS student and faculty research at appropriate forums.



SFS Alumna and Education Specialist for the San Francisco Zoo, Jessie Bushnell.

Steps to Achieving the Vision

The new three year strategic plan for the overall organization and five-year research plans at each of our Centers are now providing guidelines and action steps to help us achieve this vision. Our major objectives, as defined by the strategic plan, are to:

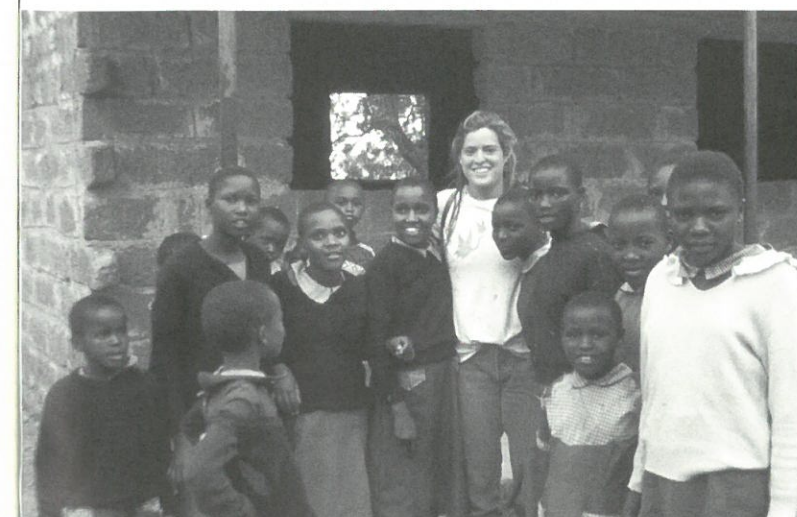
Grow and diversify the SFS Student body, by:

- providing adequate financial assistance to all qualified students;
- developing affiliations and partnerships with a broad range of educational, scientific, and communities based organizations;

Create new growth opportunities consistent with the SFS mission, by:

- providing training and educational opportunities for non-traditional SFS audiences;
- conducting continuing education programs for SFS alumni;
- hosting visiting researchers;
- providing contracted services for U.S. and International governmental and non-governmental organizations.

We welcome your thoughts and ideas on these issues. Please contact us at: alumni@fieldstudies.org



Work for SFS

Alumni are encouraged to keep an eye on the Work for SFS section of our website (www.fieldstudies.org) to learn of upcoming openings for interns, faculty, and other staff positions at the SFS international field stations and at our headquarters in Salem, MA.

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