

The School for Field Studies
2003
annual report



S F S



The School for
Field Studies



mission statement

The School for Field Studies (SFS) was founded in 1980 as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit academic institution. The **SFS mission** is to provide hands-on, interdisciplinary education and environmental research in partnership with natural resource dependent communities around the world. Our goals are twofold: to provide students with a unique and challenging educational and life experience that assists them in successfully advancing their careers as skilled professionals and globally aware citizens; and, to work with local community stakeholders to develop models for the sustainable management of their natural resources.



Carlos Rodriguez, Costa Rican Minister of Environment & Energy, Nolan Quiros, Director of the SFS Center for Sustainable Development Studies, and Paul Houlihan, SFS President, sign Agreement of Cooperation.

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letter from the chair

I am pleased to report that in Fiscal Year 2003, our 23rd year of operation, 460 students participated in SFS semester and summer programs at our field centers. Through their evaluations these students tell us that their experience with SFS has dramatically impacted how they view the world, and how they plan to focus their future academic and career choices. They tell us quite literally that the SFS educational model, the time spent working with our local communities, the time spent with our field center staffs, and the opportunity to actually put their research efforts to practical use is, for them, a life changing experience.

Like so many other institutions, SFS was directly impacted this past year by the threat of world terrorism, the distressed U.S. economy, and the SARS outbreak. These factors affected our enrollment due to heightened concern on the part of parents, students and their home schools. Unfortunately, due to these enrollment constraints we made the difficult decision to close our Center in British Columbia at the end of August, and to tighten our budgets and downsize our headquarters staff.

It is a tribute to the professionalism of the entire SFS staff that, in the face of these challenges, Fiscal Year 2003 was highly productive throughout the organization. Among the achievements this past year:

- We implemented a three-year Strategic Plan for the organization to guide our decision making and resource allocation throughout the organization.
- We created a new web site (www.fieldstudies.org) which, for the first time, assembles a complete description of SFS, its programs, research, resources and services.
- We increased the number of SFS Affiliate colleges from thirty-two to forty-six in the past year, and we doubled the number of SFS alumni representatives on U.S. campuses.
- We signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenya Wildlife Service in support of the work we are conducting in and around Kenyan National Parks.
- We signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the Costa Rican Ministry of Environment and Energy in recognition of the work we are conducting in and around Costa Rica's National Parks and preserves. SFS is the first research organization to be so recognized by the Costa Rican government.

- Our Center for Coastal Studies in Baja California Sur was awarded a two-year grant by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation to continue our water quality and turtle conservation research in Magdalena Bay and to provide scholarship assistance for Mexican students.
- We successfully ran, on very short notice, a month-long summer program in South Africa, in response to the U.S. imposed Travel Warning in Kenya. Our Kenya and headquarters staff developed the program at Kruger National Park, hosted by the South African Wildlife College.
- We have planned and developed Five-Year Research Plans at each of our field Centers, with the goal of clearly focusing our academic and research efforts, in response to local community needs. These plans will advance annually.
- We have created two additional financial aid resources for SFS students, including the Andreas Family Scholarship Fund for public college students of limited means, and the Low Interest Loan Fund, which augments our other financial aid resources. The creation of these funds broadens our ability to involve a wider range of students in our programs.
- We introduced a two-credit Spanish Language and Culture Course at our Center for Sustainable Development Studies in Costa Rica, thanks to the support and guidance of Boston University.

These, and many other outcomes, would not have been achieved without the energy and dedication of the entire SFS staff, supported by my colleagues on the Board of Trustees, the financial support of our many donors, the support of Boston University and our forty-six Affiliate colleges, and the students and alumni from over 250 colleges who have placed their trust in SFS.

It will continue to be our goal in the coming year to provide an extraordinary opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons, increase their knowledge and experience, and prepare themselves to be citizens of the world at a time when real knowledge, cultural sensitivity and understanding among diverse people are so desperately needed. SFS is absolutely committed to be a resource for students to learn, to grow and to contribute both now and in their future careers. I know that I have your support in making this happen.

Terry L. Andreas

Terry L. Andreas



Terry Andreas inspects results of the water quality research conducted by the Center for Coastal Studies at the local fish cannery on Magdalena Bay.

letter from the president

In November 2002 the **SFS Board of Trustees formally approved a three year strategic plan for the organization.** This plan was the result of a year's work throughout SFS to clarify our mission and vision, determine priorities, craft key elements, identify critical resources, and finalize goals and objectives. The plan focuses on four overall strategies, including: increasing student enrollment, continuously improving program quality, creating new growth opportunities consistent with the SFS mission, and continuously improving organizational effectiveness.

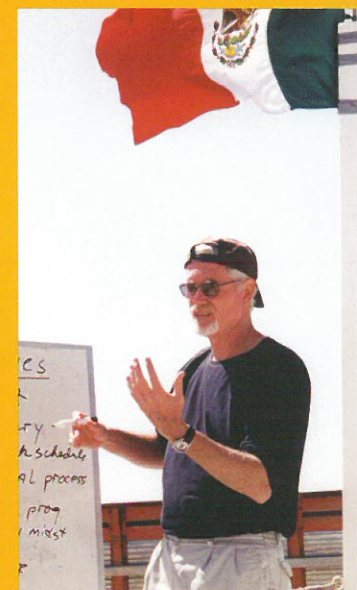
In addition to, and closely related to this plan, SFS has created and is implementing five year research plans at each SFS

center. These plans are consistent with the SFS commitment to continuous improvement of academic and research quality and rigor in our field-based programs.

Together, the three year strategic plan and the five year research plans are serving to focus staff efforts in continuing to build SFS as a high quality academic institution committed to its students and the local communities served by our field centers.

Paul Houlihan

Paul Houlihan



Paul Houlihan conducts a planning session at the Center for Coastal Studies.

letter from the program dean

Our most significant accomplishment in the academic year 2002-2003 was the implementation of a **five-year research planning process** at each of our field centers. The overall goal was to develop well designed and clearly focused plans that fulfill SFS research requirements, provide excellent learning experiences for our students, and respond to the needs of local communities. Each plan outlines a rigorous program of scientific research that delivers concrete outputs to address the natural resource conservation needs of the relevant communities and to enable agencies and governmental bodies at the local, regional and national levels to make more informed decisions. The plans are also intended to elevate the international status and standing of SFS and its faculty by encouraging publication of research results in scientific and technical journals.

Throughout this past year, Centers moved through a twelve-step process designed by SFS-HQ to develop the plans' frameworks and to fine tune and prioritize final project selection. Each research plan was developed based on input from a locally formed Research

Reference Committee, which included representatives from government, research, and non-profit institutions, and which provided an assessment of the research needs within the regional environment.

By the end of 2003, all of the Centers had a working research plan framework with projects developed, and in many cases implemented. We have already begun to see the benefits of the five-year research plans, including better targeted faculty recruiting, the ability to put together competitive grant proposals, higher quality and more in-depth information for incoming students and university faculty about upcoming programs and research projects, and implementation of on-going research programs and extension projects. I am pleased to present here summaries of each Center's Five-Year Research Plan.

Tracy Farrell

Tracy Farrell, Ph.D.



Tracy Farrell on a Summer 2003 scouting trip to Nicaragua where Costa Rica students will conduct a week-long field exercise starting Fall 2003.

Ecological Restoration and Research along the Peterson Creek and within its Catchment

Clearing for agricultural and other land use purposes in the Wet Tropics region of Far North Queensland has resulted in highly fragmented landscapes and critically endangered forests. The Peterson Creek catchment area, where the SFS Center for Rainforest Studies (SFS-CRS) is located, contains patches of a rare and endangered rainforest type (Mabi 5b) that is found only in this corner of the world. It also typifies the environmental and economic challenges faced by the surrounding communities in both Atherton and Eacham Shires—sustaining farm production, developing alternative industries, and promoting rainforest restoration. The SFS-CRS has developed its five-year research program based on the premise that the viability of restoration projects depends on sufficient landholder, community and stakeholder support; the cost effectiveness of restoration; the effectiveness of site maintenance practices; and the extent to which restored sites provide ecological and economic benefits.

Clients and Partners of SFS-CRS include the Centre for Cooperative Research, Tropical Rainforest Ecology and Management, Wet Tropics Management Authority, Department of Primary Industries, National Heritage Trust and James Cook University.

The Primary Goal of the SFS-CRS research plan is to achieve successful rainforest restoration and assist our clients and partners in community restoration projects. The research plan is divided into three components: 1) Determining rainforest restoration success based on ecological conditions and biodiversity benefits by studying the differences in ecological development over time between an area under restoration and a grassy paddock area; 2) Providing specific information about the most ecologically beneficial and cost effective practices for restoration site management, the influences on plant recruitment, the site conditions which enable recruitment to begin and progress, and the extent to which herbicide regimes maximize biodiversity benefits; 3) Developing and prioritizing restoration plans on a local and regional basis to support the efforts of landcare groups, community members and other agencies to connect existing rainforest fragments and increase total rainforest area.

Community Service and Extension Activities that support rainforest restoration are an important aspect of the SFS-CRS experience. We are restoring sections of Stewarts Gully and providing assistance to the Eastern Tinaroo Catchment Landcare Group with tree planting and restoration maintenance. We also have a nursery on our property to enable students to learn about tree seedling propagation and growth, and to grow trees for our research. Finally, we are working towards national certification, which will enable us to share these seedlings with local tree planting groups.

Expected Outcomes of our research and related community projects include: developing nursery procedures and practices at SFS-CRS to produce sufficient seedlings on an annual basis for restoration purposes; developing demonstration sites and community extension programs to elucidate the cost and ecological effectiveness of maintenance treatments; developing an ecological restoration, management and maintenance plan for Peterson Creek and its catchment; making a significant contribution towards restoration and protection of nationally recognized rare and endangered rainforest, and the rehabilitation of existing rainforest fragments.



australia

Center for Rainforest Studies
Five-Year Research Plan Summary



“Spending a semester in Australia undoubtedly changed my life. It inspired me to enjoy the outdoors, take interest in travel, and have a more open mind. I made so many new friends who are closer to me than any friend I have made in my life. It is hard to look back on that semester without having tears come to my eyes because I miss it so much, however I know that it is an experience that has enriched my life and will continue to do so for years to come.”

— Jenny Cunningham
University of New England
Australia Fall 2002



costa rica

Center for Sustainable Development Studies

Five-Year Research Plan Summary



“One of the most wonderful aspects of the program was the people I was privileged to work with. The group was absolutely phenomenal — the professors, directors, and especially the students. The enthusiasm was high, the passion for what we were all about to study was evident and real. As a group we had our issues at times but comparatively I’ve never worked or lived with a group as easy and fun to work with as this, and perhaps I never will again. It is a truly rare and rewarding thing to come across a group of people with ideals and talents such as these.”

— Juanita Abundiz
Santa Clara University
Costa Rica Fall 2002

Sustainable Management Models and Strategies for Land in Production and under Protection

The rationale for this area of study is that the Atenas and Central Valley Region, where the SFS Center for Sustainable Development Studies (SFS-CSDS) is located, is rapidly developing. Current land use practices and land protection strategies do not effectively balance and promote economic, socio-cultural and ecological benefits. Among other environmental problems, conventional agriculture has resulted in wide-scale land clearing, extensive pesticide use, erosion and runoff. The effectiveness of protected area management strategies in promoting socio-economic benefits for local people, managing the steadily increasing negative impacts of tourism, and promoting biodiversity protection need to be examined in light of increasing agricultural, industrial and technological development in the region.

Clients and Partners of SFS-CSDS include the Ministry of Agriculture, the System for National Conservation Areas, Coopeatenas, Ecologica, and the Ministry of Environment and Energy with which SFS-CSDS recently signed an Agreement of Cooperation—the first of its kind for a US institution.

The Primary Goal of our research in Costa Rica is to create and help implement sustainable development models and strategies in cooperation with our clients, partners and stakeholders. The viability of one such model, organic agriculture, depends on its ability to enhance the stability of agro-ecosystems, its potential for generating economic and other benefits for local farmers and farming cooperatives, and the reduction of barriers to certification like cost and education. We intend to conduct research in all of these areas, and are currently supporting local coffee farmers as they transition to organic farms and go through the certification process. Additionally, we are investigating the sustainability of current land protection mechanisms and practices. We are working with protected area managers and surrounding communities to determine methods to improve park-people relations, develop and support biodiversity monitoring programs, and recommend strategies for better managing tourism impacts and park operations.

Community Service and Extension Activities in which SFS-CSDS is involved include converting our own property into an organic farm to provide extension opportunities for local farmers and to educate and train our students. We also have developed recycling and other programs for our neighborhood and we have developed an environmental education program in a local elementary school near Costa Rica’s most popular park.

Expected Outcomes of our research and related community projects include: perpetuating organic farming as a longer term alternative to conventional farming in Costa Rica; helping to develop the justification and strategies for promoting land protection and resource management in and around protected areas; developing programs to build positive relations between parks and surrounding communities; implementing and providing training for biodiversity monitoring programs; and helping park staff and tourism operators maximize visitor services while mitigating the negative impacts of tourism.

Sustainable Cohabitation between Human Communities and Wildlife

The SFS Center for Wildlife Management Studies (SFS-CWMS) conducts research from two field stations, the National Park Site (NPS), which borders Nairobi National Park, and the Kilimanjaro Bush Camp (KBC) located in Southern Kenya adjacent to several Maasai group ranches. Nairobi National Park provides an excellent venue for studying the intensifying pressure that human settlement exerts on wildlife, as well as the increasing difficulty of sustaining migratory routes through growing communities. At the KBC site, research on human-wildlife competition focuses on the effects of changing land-use practices among the Maasai. The increasing shift from a pastoralist to an agriculturalist lifestyle is concentrating human settlement and creating cultivation and commercial nodes around water resources, triggering intense competition between humans, livestock and wildlife.

Clients and Partners of SFS-CWMS include the Kenya Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Fund, the United States Agency for International Development, the United Nations Development Program, International Livestock, local community and group ranches, the Kenyan Tourism Board, the Amboseli Elephant Research Project, the Kimana Community Wildlife Sanctuary, and the World Conservation Union.

The Primary Goal of the SFS-CWMS research plan is to assist our clients and partners in managing conflict between humans and wildlife, and in monitoring wildlife populations and migration patterns. The scope of the plan covers ecosystem and wildlife population dynamics, habitat and species conservation, natural resources exploitation, national policy frameworks and socio-economics of the local communities. At the NPS site, research emphasizes wildlife population dynamics, wildlife diversity, rangeland conditions, migratory routes and movement patterns, and other issues specific to the wildlife concentration within Nairobi National Park and the Kitengela Wildlife Dispersal Area. At the KBC site, research emphasizes the impacts of competition between humans and wildlife for limited resources, especially water.

Community Service and Extension Activities in which SFS-CWMS students participate range from wildlife conservation activities such as removing animal snares set by poachers and building a lion-proof boma at a local Maasai home, to working with nearby communities to fix roads and clean up trash, to conducting environmental education programs at the nursery, elementary and high school levels.

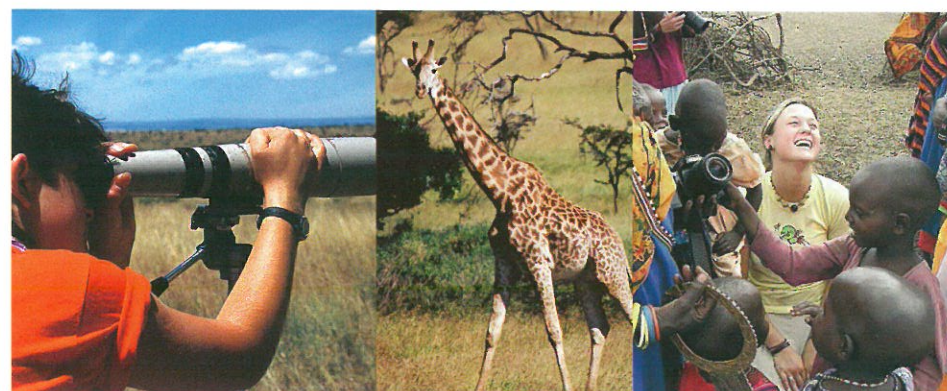
Expected Outcomes of our research and related community projects include: suggestions to park management on a wide range of animal, vegetation and habitat matters to assist with range and wildlife management on an ongoing basis; suggestions to park management on the practicable application of fire as a tool for improving range condition and productivity; a soil and vegetation map of NNP to assist with habitat management for improved wildlife residency; identification of population trends of key herbivore communities (elephant, giraffe, buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, impala, gazelles, etc.); impacts of large mammals on biodiversity; seasonal variation in and off-take of plant biomass by key herbivores; information on mammal, bird, reptile and plant biodiversity and distribution in parks and dispersal areas; implementation of initiatives for improving local community knowledge about, concern for, and sustainable management of their natural resources; information for KWS and other role players about wildlife population biology, range utilization by both wildlife and livestock, human-wildlife conflict, and the impacts of human encroachment on wildlife.



kenya

Center for Wildlife Management Studies

Five-Year Research Plan Summary



The education that I received at SFS is all encompassing. I learned more about myself and my goals in life than I have learned every other semester of college combined. I have conducted research both in and out of the lab for almost three years; it wasn't until I began the directed research project that I learned how much I love academia. Seeing the impact that our research has on the local communities has made me appreciate investigative science for what it really is, and I plan to do it for the rest of my life.

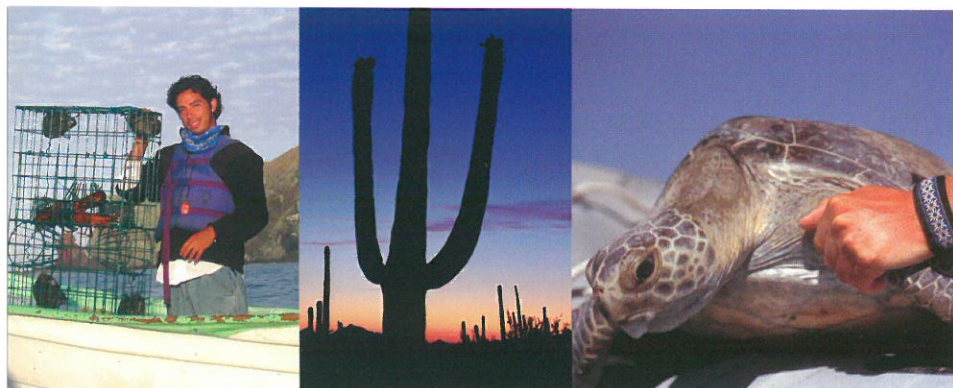
— Danielle Buttke
University of South Dakota
Kenya Fall 2002



mexico

Center for Coastal Studies

Five-Year Research Plan Summary



This experience has changed the way I feel, the way I think, and the way I question. Contemporary laissez faire environmental practices cannot continue, and SFS has opened my eyes to what I can do to help. I encourage anyone interested in environmental issues to consider a semester with SFS. It will change your life.

— Matt Gallagher
Dickinson College
Mexico Spring 2003

Marine Ecosystem Management and the Sustainability of Human Communities in Bahía Magdalena

The rationale behind our research at the SFS Center for Coastal Studies (SFS-CCS) on Bahía Magdalena is that an increase in unregulated fishing and urban/industrial waste from a fast-growing community has resulted in increased pollution of the Bay and other problems threatening its natural resources and biodiversity. Still considered a "bay of plenty," Bahía Magdalena's physical and biological assets present some challenging development opportunities such as ecotourism, sport fishing and aquaculture, which, if exploited in environmentally responsible ways, could help to contain many of these pressures.

Clients and Partners of SFS-CCS include the University of San Diego, the Autonomous Universities of Baja California, the Northwest Center for Biological Research, the Secretary of Agriculture, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, and Simon Fraser University.

The Primary Goal of the SFS-CCS research plan is to assist our clients, partners and stakeholders in maintaining and managing for a plentiful and healthy Bahía Magdalena. We are working in four areas to accomplish this task: 1) Habitat and species conservation research that addresses sea turtle population status, trends and threats, and the impacts of whale watching tourism on grey whales; 2) Pollution research that addresses the effects of fish cannery effluent on water quality in the Bay; 3) Research on the biological and fisheries management aspects of selected commercial species (e.g. shrimp, blue crab, lobster, and abalone) as well as on aquaculture as an economic alternative for the local community; and 4) Research on urbanization and development in Puerto San Carlos to address its infrastructure and service needs and maximize the potential for ecotourism and environmental education programs.

Community Service and Extension Activities in which SFS-CCS students are involved include helping to organize the annual turtle and whale festivals, teaching English classes, and developing materials for the natural history museum. Students also participate in local workshops, town festivals and homestays with Puerto San Carlos families.

Expected Outcomes of our research and related community projects include: suggesting options for cleaning up and/or reducing effluent from the local fish cannery; improving solid waste and litter management; creating marine protected area(s) to protect and conserve the Pacific green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*); creating and updating species-specific fishery regulations to promote sustainable harvesting; reducing negative impacts of fishing gear on marine habitats, fish and turtle populations; promoting natural resources management and conservation in local fisheries co-operatives; updating and improving regulations for the whale-watching ecotourism industry; supporting an infrastructure development plan for Puerto San Carlos; assisting with the development of a region-specific environmental education curriculum; providing information on viable aquaculture systems to fisheries cooperatives in Puerto San Carlos.

Marine Resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands: Sustainable Use and Management for Future Generations



The coral reefs around South Caicos Island, where the SFS Center for Marine Resource Studies (SFS-CMRS) is located, are among the most pristine in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean. Current levels of harvesting and other marine resource conditions are relatively sustainable thanks to effective regulations and policies. Additionally, the system of marine protected areas (MPA) is fairly effective in protecting marine resources. The looming threat for South Caicos is an increase in recreational tourism based on reef diving and sport fishing. The premise of the SFS-CMRS research plan is that while tourism will provide new employment opportunities, it may increase diver impact on the coral reefs, increase commercial harvesting of reef fish, expand bonefish sport fishing, result in artificial restructuring of coastal and beach strips, and tax infrastructure and other facilities. Concrete actions are needed to prepare for, regulate, control and monitor the impacts of tourism.

Clients and Partners of SFS-CMRS include the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), South Caicos Government, TCI National Parks, TCI National Trust, conch and lobster processing plants, Caribbean Marine Research Center, Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC), University of Miami, TCI Tourist Board, and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

The Primary Goal of the SFS-CMRS research plan is to assist our clients, partners and stakeholders with marine resource and fisheries management, coral reef monitoring, marine protected area designation and management, and developing systems to assess tourism impacts. We are working in four areas to accomplish these tasks: 1) Monitoring the marine environment for regional changes, reef health and stress, and status of reef fish and other reef organism stocks; 2) Conserving and managing marine resources with projects on the bonefish sports fishery, and the role of fishing reserves, habitat requirements and larvae origin for Queen Conch and spiny lobster; 3) Preparing for increased tourism by identifying the effects of divers and snorkelers on South Caicos reefs, the impacts of increased sewage and other effluents, and the social and economic expectations of the local community regarding tourism; and 4) Determining the current level of natural resource awareness on South Caicos and identifying means for increasing that awareness.

Community Service and Extension Activities in which SFS-CMRS students participate include environmental education lessons for elementary students, holding an open house for community leaders, helping out with High School Sports day, conducting underwater trash and beach clean ups, and taking people from the disabled center on nature walks.

Expected Outcomes of our research and related community projects include: enhancing community and government ability to protect, conserve, manage and monitor the commercially important conch, lobster and reef fish resources and the bonefish sport fishery; suggesting management strategies to mitigate the effects of escalating tourism on the marine environment and community of South Caicos; improving the conservation, management and protection of the coral reef and MPA ecosystem functioning at South Caicos; and implementing SFS-CMRS initiatives on community awareness about marine natural resources and coastal zone environmental management.

turks & caicos

Center for Marine Resource Studies

Five-Year Research Plan Summary



The most striking thing about the experience is you do not realize how amazing it is. It's just another day of research on South Caicos. Of course, at least once a day someone says "I can't believe how beautiful this place is" or "Did you ever think our backyard was going to be an ocean," but it truly does not sink in until you leave the splendor, ocean, and friendships behind.

— Ellen Crivella
The Ohio State University
Turks & Caicos Islands
Summer 2003



british columbia

Center for Coastal Rainforest & Fisheries Studies

Research Summary



“A field school setting is essential for anyone who is seriously interested in environmental studies. Learning in the old growth forest about the old growth forest was an unbelievable experience.

No longer are you learning abstract ideas written in the black lettering of a textbook. You are looking at the trees, you are walking on the damp earth, you are hearing the ocean behind you. This learning style helped me to feel passionate about academia again, because I realized that it could be applied to real life situations.

— Alyssa Kagel
Wesleyan University
British Columbia Spring 2003

In August 2003, SFS bid a sad farewell to the Center for Coastal Rainforest & Fisheries Studies in Bamfield, British Columbia. Despite the exceptional educational and research programs, and the importance and relevance of the environmental issues in the area, the Center was unable to achieve a sustainable level of enrollment. In our eight years of operation in Bamfield we developed strong research relationships—and friendships—in the Bamfield and Ana'cla communities. We are confident that the work our dedicated students and faculty conducted on stream and salmon population restoration and on sustainable forest management will continue to benefit these communities in the future.

Stream Ecosystem and Salmon Population Restoration Research

Historically, salmon returning to the Sarita River Watershed (SRW) were the mainstay resource of the Huu-ay-aht First Nations Band, but modern forestry practices heavily impacted many of the streams in the Huu-ay-aht traditional territory. In response to this threat, the Huu-ay-aht Band has worked actively to restore reaches of the Sarita River Watershed. SFS partnered with the Huu-ay-aht community to assess the effectiveness of current restoration efforts in the SRW and to determine the historical presence of salmon in different streams within the watershed. Results of this research will help the Huu-ay-aht Fisheries Manager strategically select restoration targets and practices for future projects.

In addition to evaluating current restoration efforts, the Huu-ay-aht Band is also interested in examining the efficacy and practicality of adding salmon carcasses as a technique for restoring salmon populations in the SRW. In response to this request, SFS developed a long-term ecosystem-based research program to investigate the effect of salmon carcass addition on juvenile salmonid abundance and condition in two stream reaches within the SRW. This research has garnered much interest from the Provincial Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection.

Bamfield and Huu-ay-aht Community Forest Society Research

In June 1999, the communities of Bamfield and Ana'cla were awarded a community forest tenure. The Bamfield Huu-ay-aht Community Forest Society (BHCFS) was created to manage the new forest in an ecologically friendly and economically sustainable manner. At the request of BHCFS, SFS designed and completed a series of research projects that aided in the development of a five-year management plan for the forest. Center staff and students completed a timber and vegetation inventory of the forest which was used to develop a more advanced terrestrial ecosystem map and to identify different land-use areas within the forest including ecologically sensitive zones within the forest's wetlands. SFS worked in conjunction with the Community Forest Manager to recommend steps to protect these wetland areas as well as incorporate a recreational boardwalk and viewing areas within them.

Center staff and students also conducted a series of growth and yield studies to help estimate the annual growth of timber volume of major commercial tree species within the BHCFS. At the conclusion of the project in summer 2003, seven permanent study plots had been established within the forest and all data necessary for the 10-year remeasurement had been collected. The database of results was given to the Community Forest Manager and will be used in conjunction with the forest inventory for timber supply analysis, annual allowable volume estimations, and harvesting schedules.

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Nstar Foundation
RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation

other donations

Crocker & Comany—fund raising
marketing services and materials

financial report fiscal year 2003

Statements of Financial Position

August 31	2003	2002
Assets		
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 983,280	\$ 948,281
Investments	1,372,594	1,618,282
Tuition Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$5,100	175,620	450,116
Loans Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$7,100	225,664	334,985
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	425,712	496,432
Property, Plant and Equipment, Net of Accumulated Depreciation	2,859,767	3,025,118
Total Assets	\$ 6,042,637	\$ 6,873,214
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$ 503,326	\$ 485,227
Student Deposits and Deferred Revenue	1,301,965	1,836,565
Total Liabilities	1,805,291	2,321,792
Net Assets		
Unrestricted:		
Undesignated	678,612	490,081
Designated for Plant Expansion	539,097	415,423
Designated for Student Loans	210,766	230,766
Net Investment in Plant	2,536,406	2,657,855
Total Unrestricted	3,964,881	3,794,125
Temporarily Restricted	144,065	628,897
Permanently Restricted	128,400	128,400
Total Net Assets	4,237,346	4,551,422
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 6,042,637	\$ 6,873,214

Statements of Activities

For the Years Ended August 31	2003	2002
Unrestricted Revenues:		
Tuition and Fees	\$ 4,392,900	\$ 4,631,743
Private Gifts, Grants and Contracts	705,365	170,751
Investment Income (Losses)	264,088	(235,664)
Other	132,365	316,940
Total Unrestricted Revenues	5,494,718	4,883,770
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	607,500	208,255
Total Unrestricted Revenues and Net Assets Released from Restrictions	6,102,218	5,092,025
Unrestricted Expenses:		
Program	3,611,878	3,554,649
Administration, Marketing & Admissions	1,657,015	1,493,334
Scholarship and Financial Aid	218,316	300,661
Depreciation	306,509	307,157
Development	137,749	145,576
Total Unrestricted Expenses	5,931,462	5,801,377
Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted Net Assets	170,756	(709,352)
Changes in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:		
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(607,500)	(208,255)
Contributions	122,500	174,389
Unrealized and Realized Gain (Loss) on Investments	168	(70)
Decrease in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	(484,832)	(33,936)
Decrease in Net Assets	(314,076)	(743,288)
Net Assets, Beginning	4,551,422	5,294,710
Net Assets, Ending	\$ 4,237,346	\$ 4,551,422

development review

As a leader in the field of environmental study abroad since 1980, The School for Field Studies is particularly proud of its efforts to ensure that no student who wishes to attend an SFS program is turned away because of financial need. In Fiscal Year 2003, SFS was able to award over \$400,000 in need-based financial aid to deserving students through the following programs:

Thanks to the generosity of the **Andreas family**, SFS recently launched The Andreas Family Scholarship Fund which provides grants to students from U.S. public colleges and universities in order to reduce financial barriers and broaden the range of students who participate in SFS programs. The SFS Fund is supported by the generous contributions of alumni, donors and foundations and is designed to make the SFS experience available to any qualified student facing financial challenges. SFS scholarship funds are awarded in conjunction with a Zero Interest Loan Program created through the early foresight and generosity of the Merck Family Fund. Finally, our newly initiated Low Interest Loan Program is designed to assist semester students in bridging the gap between current financial resources and total program cost.

The faculty, staff and trustees of The School for Field Studies gratefully acknowledge the **alumni, parents, donors, foundations and corporations** whose generosity this year enabled 460 students to experience both personal and academic growth through hands-on, interdisciplinary education and environmental research in natural resource dependent communities around the world.

In Fiscal Year 2003, The School for Field Studies would like to especially acknowledge our Chair's Circle donors, including **Mr. & Mrs. W. James Tozer**. We are particularly grateful to our Protector-level donors and long-time supporters: **Herbert Allen, Martin Andreas, David & Deb Andreas, Bob Censi, Chris & Geri Dark, Lou & Helen Lowenstein, Terry Hunt, Ph.D., Terry Nixon, Barbara Outwater, Hope Noyes Smith and Eliza Smith Cushman**; SFS Trustees **Charlie McKee, Dick Rivers and Judy Winslow**; SFS Alumni **Laura Kennedy, Michael Mars, and Paul E. Marks**; and Alumni Parents **James C. Kennedy and David & Melanie Niemiec**.

Of equal note is the corporate and foundation support SFS received this year. Special thanks go to an **anonymous foundation** for their ongoing support of scholarships for Mexican students at the Center for Coastal Studies. **The Andreas Foundation** provided critical funding for scholarships and operating expenses. **The David & Lucile Packard Foundation** provided funding to continue our water quality and turtle research in Mexico. **The Roy Hunt Foundation** and **The Adelard A. & Valeda Lea Roy Foundation** made important contributions to The SFS Fund. We also gratefully recognize the contributions of **EarthShare New England** members and corporate matching gift support from the **Archer Daniels Midland Company, Houghton Mifflin Company, the Nstar Foundation, and the RBC Dain Rauscher Foundation**.

Several categories of donors deserve particular mention this year: **SFS Alumni continue to be our largest donor base** and they are growing: FY03 saw a 20% increase in alumni participation in The SFS Fund. We also would like to thank the very generous **parents of our alumni** whose donations this year rose by 38% over last year; and we would like to acknowledge the dedication of our own **SFS employees**—both at Salem headquarters and at our field centers around the world—whose scholarship donations to The SFS Fund doubled over the previous fiscal year.

Jane E. Dickson, *Development Director*

profile of enrolled 2002-2003 students

SFS welcomes a diverse student body and promotes an atmosphere open to different cultures and perspectives. Students come to us with a broad spectrum of backgrounds and experiences. In keeping with our interdisciplinary approach to environmental problem solving, we strive to build teams that represent a cross-section of the global student body, including liberal arts, science and economics majors. At SFS, the most successful teams are comprised of students who are motivated, intellectually curious, enthusiastic, flexible, compassionate, socially concerned and ready to take advantage of our unique educational opportunities. In the 2002-2003 academic year, SFS welcomed students from 48 states, Puerto Rico, and the following countries: Australia, British West Indies, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Mexico, Singapore and Turkey. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, SFS was able to provide financial aid to over 30% of our students this year.

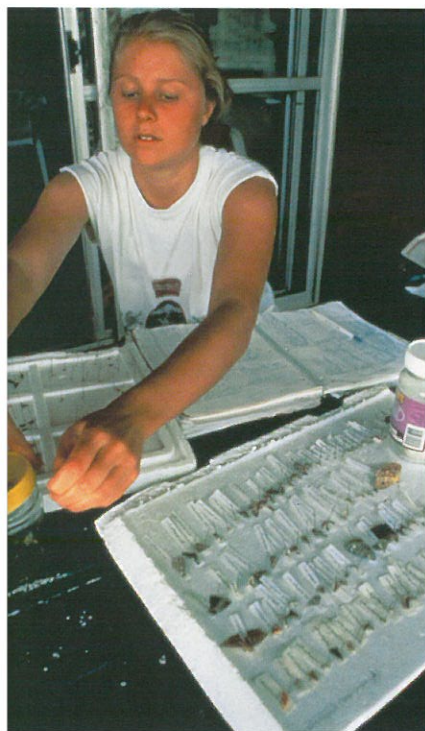
Total Enrolled:	460	Private/Public Institutions	
Semester Students:	272	Public Colleges/Universities	31%
Summer Students:	188	Private Colleges Universities	67%
Gender:		High Schools	2%
Female	78%	Majors	
Male	22%	Biological Sciences	40%
Home Region		Environmental Science/ Studies	32%
Northeast	34%	Other Natural Sciences	4%
Midwest & Mid-Atlantic	25%	Humanities	16%
West	21%	International Relations/ Political Science	4%
Southeast	18%	Other/Undecided	4%
International	2%	Ethnicity	
Financial Aid		African-American	1%
Grants	\$207,396	Asian-American/ Pacific Islander	1.5%
Loans	\$203,900	Caucasian	79%
Total	\$411,296	Hispanic-American	2.5%
Year in School		Other	3%
High School Seniors	2%	No Response	13%
Freshmen	5%		
Sophomores	41%		
Juniors	43%		
Seniors	8%		
Graduates	1%		

affiliate program

The SFS Affiliate Program assists students in maximizing their SFS experience by building better linkages to the academic community from which SFS students are drawn. The 2002-2003 academic year saw a significant increase in the number of SFS Affiliates, with new affiliations being formed in all regions of the US. We were pleased to welcome 15 new affiliates into the program, including Albright College, Cedar Crest College, The College of Charleston, College of the Holy Cross, The College of Santa Fe, Cornell University, Elon University, Emory University, Meredith College, Saint Michael's College, Texas Tech University, University of Georgia, University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, University of St. Thomas, and the University of Texas, Austin. Through the SFS Affiliate Program, students from member institutions receive significant benefits, including preference in admission and

the award of financial aid, streamlined administrative procedures and, in many cases, direct credit from their home institution and the ability to apply their home institution financial aid to their SFS program. Each Affiliate also designates one or two administrators and/or faculty members to serve as liaisons to SFS and advisors to their students. Faculty at Affiliate institutions benefit from increased partnership opportunities, special rates for center rentals, and opportunities to participate in SFS sponsored center visits.

Each year, either during the fall or spring semesters, our Affiliate Representatives are invited on a site visit as well as to an Affiliates' meeting every other year. During the 2002-2003 academic year, SFS hosted site visits for our affiliate representatives, and those considering affiliation, at our field stations in Costa Rica, Mexico and the Turks and Caicos.



Affiliates as of August 31, 2003

Adelphi University

Dr. Gayle Insler

Albion College

Ms. Lynn Del Cid-Neddo

Dr. Timothy Lincoln

Albright College

Dr. Stephen Klein

Dr. David Osgood

Bennington College

Dr. Kerry Woods

Boston University

Dr. Cutler Cleveland

Brandeis University

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Dr. John Cigliano

Dr. Amy Faivre

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Dr. Todd Livdahl

Colby College

Dr. David Firmage

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Ms. Sarah Simmonite

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Dr. Jane Van Doren

College of Santa Fe

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Dr. Kristen Grace

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Dr. Thomas Vawter

Whitman College

Dr. Robert Carson

"The program seems like a wonderful opportunity for students who are interested in marine biology and conservation issues. I am particularly impressed by the fact that research performed by students emerges from needs identified by the local community, and that results are presented to the community."

— **Andrea Kiely**, Assistant Director, International Education, University of Georgia, Athens on her Spring 2003 visit to the Center for Marine Resource Studies, Turks & Caicos Islands

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(As of August 31, 2003)

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