



Photo by Brian Waterman, Costa Rica Fall '08

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THE SCHOOL FOR FIELD STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT

09

ADDRESS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Presented by Ms. Terry L. Andreas
Chair of the SFS Board of Trustees
December 2009

Members of the Board of Trustees and Corporation, I am pleased to report to you on the accomplishments of The School for Field Studies in fiscal year 2009, our 29th year of operations.

As you know, the hallmark of an SFS education is practical field experience, interdisciplinary international education, and research conducted in close partnership with the communities where we live and work. In fiscal year 2009, we provided 438 students with this educational opportunity during the course of our semester and summer programs.

Our students' work this year spanned an impressive range of ecological and sociological research topics, guided by our Five Year Research Plan. This plan is the backbone of our operations in the field, providing a roadmap for the direction of student coursework and research projects and an outline for how it all fits into the bigger picture of natural resource management. In fiscal year 2009, we finalized our second cycle of this plan, establishing the path of future research.

The quality of our students' work has permitted them to present their research at international conferences such as the Ecological Society of America and the Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. One Australia student, Laura Bergner, was awarded a \$25,000 Thomas J. Watson Fellowship to continue work begun at SFS on the effect of cultural perceptions on the conservation of bat species around the world.

To sustain our success, we depend on continued collaboration with other academic institutions. We signed five new affiliation agreements in fiscal year 2009 (Colby-Sawyer College, Southern Methodist University, Western Oregon University, the University of New England, and Arizona State University), facilitating the enrollment process from these universities. We signed Memoranda of Understanding with Lyndon State University to provide our students with enhanced geographic information system (GIS) capabilities and the University of Exeter

in the United Kingdom and the Marine Conservation Society to launch a project tracking the path of sea turtle movement within the Caribbean waters.

We continually strive to improve the quality of our programs and the satisfaction of our students. In fiscal year 2009, the following curricular activities served to better fulfill our mission:

At the Center for Marine Resource Studies in the Turks and Caicos Islands, we ran a digital media workshop during our summer II session, providing students with the chance to envision an environmental media campaign to communicate critical scientific information.

In Costa Rica at the Center for Sustainable Development Studies, students work in the Center's new hydroponic garden – investigating the feasibility of new agricultural techniques to combat problems of limited space, nutrients, and water availability.

At the new staff-initiated, student-run recycling center in Puerto San Carlos, Mexico, students from the Center for Coastal Studies have a direct hand in cleaning up the bay area.

In Australia, as part of their directed research on food distribution systems in the Tablelands, students from the Center for Rainforest Studies were present to support the grand opening of the Cairns farmers market.

After attending the Kimana Water Project community symposium, a dialogue on sustainable water use and management strategies among Maasai communities in the region funded through a European Union program, students at the Center for Wildlife Management Studies took action and started a rainwater collection project in partnership with a local church.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of foundations, corporations, and individual donors. In Mexico, SFS was awarded \$342,000 pesos



(approximately \$26,000 US dollars) from the governmental agency CONABIO for work on mangrove restoration. Also in Mexico, a grant of \$64,140 from the Walton Family Foundation will permit us to evaluate a Voluntary Marine Reserve in Bahia Magdalena for the next two years. Support from Project Aware made possible the production and dissemination of environmental education materials for school children on South Caicos. A donation from alumni parent Ellen Lee in memory of her son Stephen has established an endowed scholarship, with preference given to students interested in the marine sciences. Through the contributions of all of our individual donors, we have been able to give out nearly \$250,000 in scholarships, working to ensure that financial need is not a barrier to participating in our programs.

For all of these accomplishments, achieved through the dedication and commitment of our board, staff, and students, we have many reasons to be proud of our work in fiscal year 2009. And I anticipate exciting developments in fiscal year 2010, including a new pilot program in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan on forestry management. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

FOUNDERS' SOCIETY

The Founders' Society recognizes individuals, corporations, and foundations for their cumulative lifetime giving of \$50,000 or more. Members of the Founders' Society have made a substantial commitment to

ensure the success of SFS in the areas of center research, operations, facilities, scholarships, and financial aid. Cumulative giving is based on gifts pledged or received through the fiscal year ending August 31,

and the totals include employer-matched gifts. Qualifying gifts include confirmed commitments of cash, securities, and other gifts.

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White Scroll Algae by Amanda Schworm, TCI Summer 2009

THE DWAYNE AND INEZ ANDREAS SOCIETY

The Dwayne and Inez Andreas Society was established in 2007 to honor SFS alumni, parents and friends who have chosen to establish any kind of planned giving arrangement for the benefit of the school. We extend our greatest appreciation to the

following founding members of this prestigious society, **Ms. Terry L. Andreas** and **Mr. Charles D. McKee**, who have made a commitment to the future of SFS through a gift plan such as an estate provision, beneficiary designation, charitable gift annuity,

pooled income fund, or charitable trust. Please contact SFS President Bonnie R. Clendenning to learn more about how you can join this select group of supporters.

MEMORIAL DONORS SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 TO AUGUST 31, 2009

The loss of a loved one inspired the families of Erin L. Bergstrom *Australia Spring '03*, Heather Jo Leibowitz *Kenya Spring '04*, and Stephen F. Lee *Florida Summer '86* to create memorial scholarships. The following individuals made gifts in honor of these three SFS alumni during this past fiscal year.

Erin L. Bergstrom Memorial Scholarship Fund

Nicholas and Lily Gold
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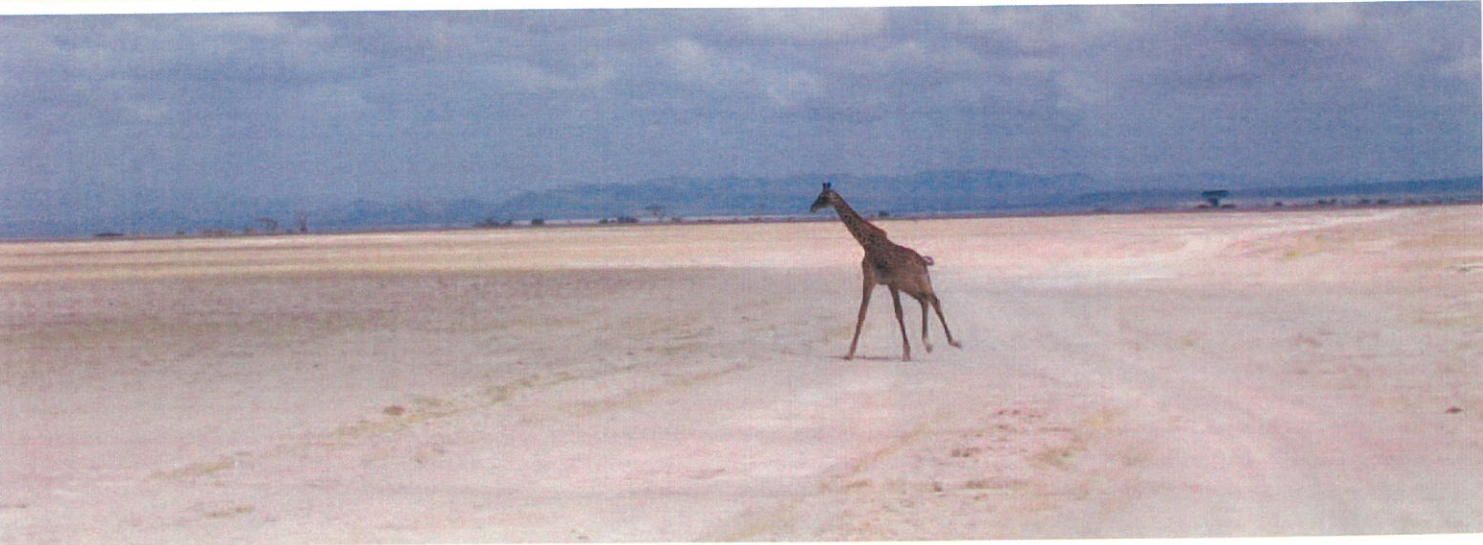
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Stephen F. Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund

Ellen Lee
Seneca Storm *Australia Summer '91*



CORPORATIONS & FOUNDATIONS (SEPTEMBER 1, 2008 - AUGUST 31, 2009)

We are proud to have received generous support from the following corporations, government agencies, and family, community, and charitable foundations. Many of our donors have taken advantage of corporate matching gift programs to double their contributions to SFS.

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USFWS African Elephant Conservation Fund

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Photo by Jenn Redman, Kenya Fall 2008

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The School for Field Studies is honored to have so many generous alumni, parents, employees, trustees, and friends who actively support our work.

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Mr. and Mrs. Rolando Perez

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Darren Aronofsky *Kenya Summer '85*,
Alaska Summer '86
Bonnie R. Clendenning
Angie Weedon *TCI Spring '95* and Matt
Weedon *TCI Fall '93*



I think my favorite thing about SFS is the perfect placement: we read about mangrove destruction and conservation, and then we go to where mangroves have been destroyed and discuss how they can be saved; we read about gray whales, and then we go out into the bay and see gray whales. No matter how many times I see a whale, it feels like my birthday every time!

—Lizzie McNamee *Mexico Spring '09*

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and David Wizelman
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F. Ariella Baylson *Australia Spring '99*
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Lauren Bloch
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B. Christine Hoekenga *TCI Fall '01*
and Marion Hoekenga
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Mary Hulbert and Anne Morehouse
Meredith DuBarry Huston
Costa Rica Spring '96
Lifon Huynh *Canada Summer '00*
Lauren Ice *Kenya Fall '05*
Laure Katz *TCI Summer '01*

Continued on next page



Saturday morning we got up early to help out TREAT (Trees of the Evelyn & Atherton Tablelands) at a restoration site along Patterson Creek. Together, we planted over 1,200 tree saplings. It was a great opportunity to work with the local environmentalists and volunteer activists who are really trying to make an ecological difference in restoring degrading streams from the intense agriculture on the Atherton Tablelands.

—Laura Wood *Australia Spring '09*



After a two-day journey halfway across the world, we arrived in Nairobi and drove six hours to our camp. There are no words to describe the overwhelming incredible feeling we had when we arrived at our camp, except that it is a paradise. The bandas we live in are small, the showers are ice cold, and the heat is sometimes overpowering, but those small details are largely overshadowed by the beauty of Mt. Kilimanjaro as our backdrop, the sounds of the exotic birds and vervet monkeys, the lush green foliage, and the rich red earth. Nighttime arrives with the threat of black mambas and scorpions, but also with crackling campfires and a huge night sky full of stars stretching out above us. Our camp is a gorgeous oasis that we get to call home.

—Anne Guillen *Kenya Spring '09*



My shoulders burn as I stubbornly cling to the wooden handles of the manta-tow, feeling my outstretched body drag through the clear blue water. I struggle to keep my mask submerged while peering through the bubbles at the ocean floor beneath me, continually scanning the bottom for that familiar color and shape - shell, flippers, mottled green. "Turtle!" I yell, instantly releasing the board while keeping my eyes glued to the target. My partner does the same, and we pursue the turtle, stroking doggedly through the waves, side by side. Instantly, everyone else on the boat is in the water, and the chase is on.

—Catherine Caruso TCI Spring '09

- | | |
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| Jeffrey Sugarman TCI Fall '93 | Alexis Wright TCI Spring '93 |
| Verne and Lee Sullivan | Meg Wright Kenya Summer '01 |
| Margie Sutherland Mexico Summer '02 | |



Seeing the cloud forest was an amazing experience because of the dense vegetation and abundant wildlife. The types of plants present in the forest were nothing like the temperate forests of Connecticut. I loved being able to learn about the plants I was seeing directly in the field instead of in the classroom.

—Leah B. Herity Costa Rica Summer '09

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Jan Lupton
Intern
William Maclellan
Intern

Safety Advisory Group

The Safety Advisory Committee advises the safety director. It is made up of professionals with extensive backgrounds in medicine, scuba diving, adventure programming, and outdoor education.

Michelle Aitken
Morrinsville, New Zealand
Doug Brown
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Rob Chatfield
Salt Lake City, Utah
Jennifer Haddock
Rockport, Maine

Tony Hawgood
Groton, Massachusetts
Jeff Isaacs PA-C
Crested Butte, Colorado

Rick Miller
Camden, Maine
Faith Model
Nairobi, Kenya

Mary Moran, M.D.
Chicago, Illinois
Melissa Quinby
Portland, Maine

Amelia Randolph M.D.
Lewiston, Maine
Mark Ritchie
Chiang Mai, Thailand
Saranne Taylor
South Paris, Maine

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION: AUGUST 31, 2009 AND 2008

ASSETS

	2009	2008
ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$966,939	\$1,182,875
Investments	1,014,245	1,391,237
Tuition receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$7,902 for 2009 and \$10,243 for 2008	9,157	120,898
Student loans receivable, net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$6,000 for 2009 and \$5,000 for 2008	228,216	207,211
Grants receivable	25,000	50,000
Other receivables	5,619	16,762
Prepaid expenses and other assets	121,106	179,918
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>2,719,786</u>	<u>2,543,644</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$5,090,068</u>	<u>\$5,692,545</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$105,692	\$237,696
Notes payable	24,316	54,634
Capital lease obligation	64,507	95,415
Student deposits and deferred revenue	1,489,829	1,638,808
Commitments and contingent liabilities	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,684,344</u>	<u>2,026,553</u>
NET ASSETS:		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Board designated	-	75,000
Other	2,978,284	3,173,554
Temporarily restricted net assets	137,535	181,547
Permanently restricted net assets	<u>289,905</u>	<u>235,891</u>
Total net assets	<u>3,405,724</u>	<u>\$3,665,992</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$5,090,068</u>	<u>\$5,692,545</u>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES: YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2009 AND 2008

	2009	2008
Unrestricted revenues, gains and other support:		
Tuition and fees	\$4,740,883	\$5,154,079
Less scholarship & financial aid	<u>(213,863)</u>	<u>(368,099)</u>
Tuition and fees net	4,527,020	4,785,980
Private gifts, grants and contracts	599,792	402,673
Investment loss	<u>(351,676)</u>	<u>(244,855)</u>
Other programs (RBO's)	46,769	101,055
Interest income	10,468	17,301
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment	157,557	7,728
Other revenues	<u>179,010</u>	<u>101,967</u>
Total unrestricted revenues	5,168,940	5,171,849
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>74,200</u>	<u>88,645</u>
Total unrestricted revenues, gains, and other support	<u>5,243,140</u>	<u>5,260,494</u>
Unrestricted expenses:		
Marketing and admissions	845,251	893,533
Administration	744,791	715,827
Program - headquarters	750,977	647,594
Kenya - Center for Wildlife Management Studies	685,287	780,162
Australia - Center for Rainforest Studies	599,749	591,819
Costa Rica - Center for Sustainable Development Studies	499,000	538,412
Turks and Caicos - Center for Marine Resource Studies	430,297	521,869
Mexico - Center for Coastal Studies	427,155	504,819
Depreciation	321,803	310,227
Development	116,633	108,815
Grant and projects related	85,499	70,596
Interest expense	4,998	6,849
Other programs	<u>1,970</u>	<u>22,465</u>
Total unrestricted expenses	<u>5,513,410</u>	<u>5,712,987</u>
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	<u>(270,270)</u>	<u>(452,493)</u>
Changes in temporarily restricted net assets:		
Contributions	30,188	122,841
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(74,200)</u>	<u>(88,645)</u>
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>44,012</u>	<u>34,196</u>
Changes in permanently restricted net assets:		
Contributions	54,014	56,662
Increase in permanently restricted net assets	<u>54,014</u>	<u>56,662</u>
Decrease in net assets	(260,268)	(361,635)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>3,665,992</u>	<u>4,027,627</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$3,405,724</u>	<u>\$3,665,992</u>