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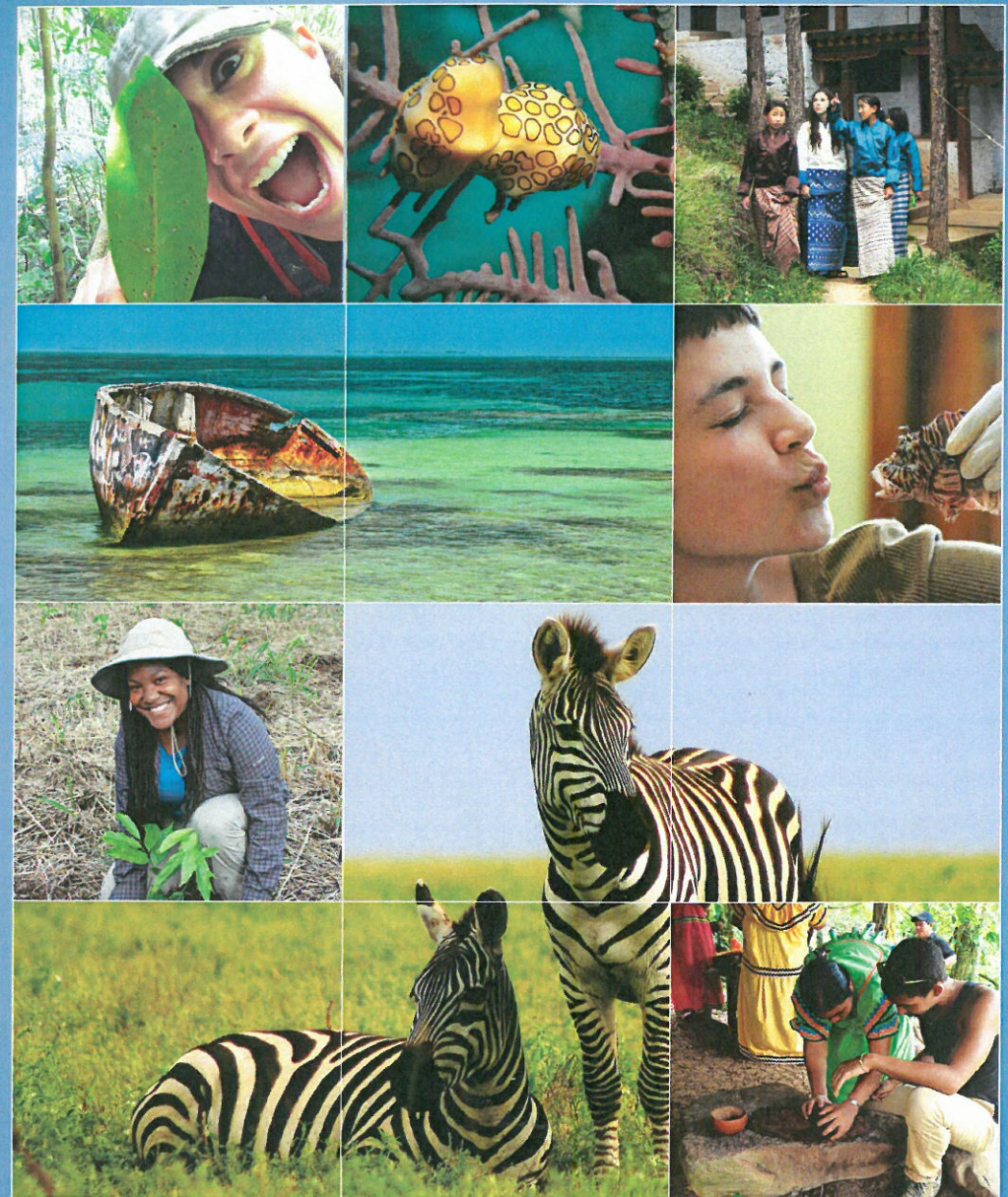
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THE SCHOOL
FOR FIELD STUDIES



12
ANNUAL REPORT



Board Chair Terry L. Andreas, one of the founders of The School for Field Studies, shares her insights on the accomplishments and evolution of the organization since the first programs were launched in the summer of 1981. She was interviewed by Priscilla C. Deck, Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

Priscilla C. Deck: When the idea to establish The School for Field Studies first came about, what did you hope to achieve? What was the philosophy and inspiration behind it all?

Terry L. Andreas: At that time, if you went around saying 'environmental education,' people responded by saying, 'well which is it — environmental or education?' We thought those words should go together. From what we observed, people kept focusing on saving the trees on their own block and in their own backyard. That's a nice thing, and I don't fault it, but we didn't think it would go very far in saving the planet. We thought students needed to know something about the larger world.

Also, we thought people would learn things faster if they were *doing* them. And that is something I absolutely still believe in. Most other people believe that too now, but it was not true then.

PCD: How were the very first program themes and sites chosen?

TLA: No one else was doing this, so there wasn't a model to follow. For the first five years, we only did summer programs, which meant we had to re-hire every teacher every year. So, we hired good field science researchers, and asked them what they wanted to do. But, after that, we developed a core curriculum and our Five Year Research Plan, and then we could hire faculty who wanted to learn and study the same things we do. And that's a lot easier! It really is.

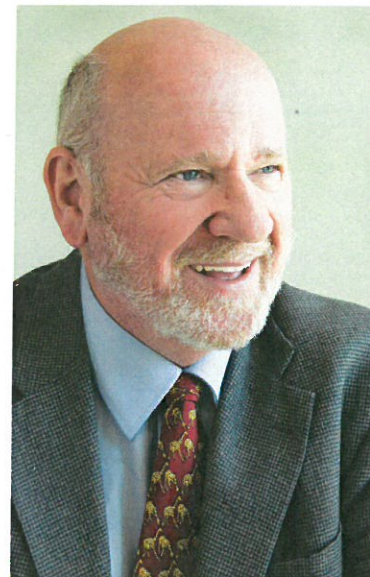
PCD: Well, I knew that pedagogically SFS had always been cutting edge, but I never realized how deep that went.

TLA: 'Cutting edge' is a nice soft way to say it. Sometimes we were blunt and dumb — out there in the front, like a small bulldozer trying to clear the way.

PCD: As the organization evolved, and the focus shifted to long-term collaboration with specific communities...how did that come about? Was it all sort of coincidental or serendipity or...

TLA: In a way it was. We began to find that we could really work closely with a small town or a small community and do what they wanted us to do. Giving a project over to the community became a real part of the experience for the students. They not only found out that plastic bags were clogging the sewers, for example, they were also sharing the information with the community. Then, they turn the responsibility over to the community to decide what to do about it.

When we started SFS, every issue looked like it was too big for any one person to do anything about. But, when you come off a School for Field Studies program, it doesn't feel overwhelming any more. It feels doable. You can go home to your own community and say, 'let's look at our water quality, analyze the results, and take action.'



Dear friends,

In July of 2012, I was extended the privilege of taking the helm at The School for Field Studies as the fourth President in its more than thirty year history.

There were a number of factors that attracted me to this organization, including its comprehensive and rigorous academic model; the timely and pressing nature of its environmental research agenda; the impressive list of accomplished alumni; and of course, the demonstrated dedication of its staff and faculty.

We are now in a period of growth, building upon the success and strength of our programs to expand into new countries and emerging areas of research. We have added two new programs in the past few years: *Himalayan Forests, Watersheds, and Rural*

Livelihoods in Bhutan and, most recently, *Tropical Island Biodiversity and Conservation Studies* in Panama. At this moment, we are energetically pursuing the development of programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America. Later this year, we will announce new programs that will be launched in the fall of 2014.

We could never be where we are today without the steadfast support of our donors. Please accept my sincere thanks for your commitment and generosity. I look forward to working with you as we set our course for the next thirty years.

Best regards,

James A. Cramer
James A. Cramer
President



Terry Andreas

Chairman of the Board
Parent of two SFS Alumni
New York, NY

Darren Aronofsky

Film Director
SFS Alumnus *Kenya Summer '85* and
Alaska Summer '86
New York, NY

Tomoko Haber

Greenwich, CT

Michael Mars

mTerra Ventures, LLC
SFS Alumnus *Australia Fall '88*
Boston, MA

Shaun Martin

World Wildlife Fund
Washington, DC

Andrew Mason

Jade Capital Management, LLC.
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Charles McKee

Royal Bank of Canada
Parent of two SFS Alumnae
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Boston, MA

Christopher R. Reaske

Peabody Essex Museum [ret.]
Salem, MA

Judy Winslow

Winslow Associates
Greenwich, CT

John "Jack" Waggett

Trinity College [ret.]
Hartford, CT

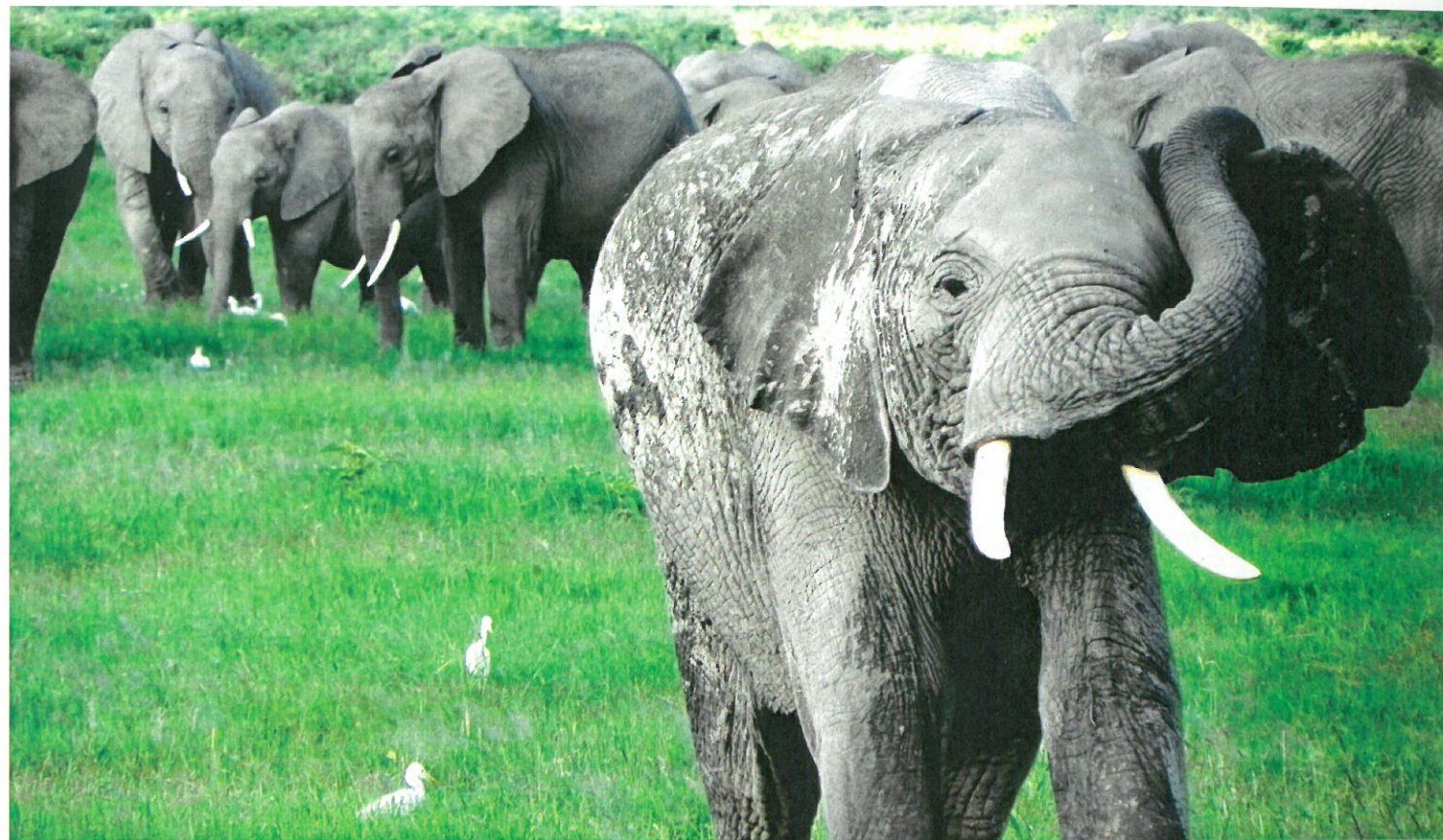
James A. Cramer

ex officio, SFS President
Beverly, MA



SFS is a member of Earth Share, and through our participation, we benefit from several workplace giving campaigns including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #58008) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign.

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Wildlife Management Studies & Public Health

EAST AFRICA

OUR WORK

The Tarangire-Manyara ecosystem of northern Tanzania and the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem in Kenya just north of Mount Kilimanjaro are home to indigenous communities, such as the Maasai, and wildlife sanctuaries in which elephants, lions, baboons, and other creatures roam. Students on the Wildlife Management program study how changes in land-use and resources can be managed to foster the well-being of local communities while safeguarding and promoting biodiversity conservation. In our Public Health course, students are introduced to rural health issues, emphasizing the links between health and environment, and community-based health care and modern medicine.



No matter how much time we spent sitting and watching or driving to find a cheetah, the experience filled me with a sense of purpose. We could take what we observed and apply it to the classroom. Our lectures on conservation, on the interaction of animal and man, and the steps we're taking towards creating a harmonious world were more than informative; they were presenting fulfilling career options and life purposes.

— Diana Beck
Queens College
Tanzania Summer '12

WHO WE ARE (1/1/13)

KENYA

Moses Makonjio Okello, Ph.D., Senior Director, East Africa / Center Director, Kenya
John Warui Kiringe, Ph.D., Deputy Director / Associate Professor in Wildlife Ecology
Shem Mwasi, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Techniques of Wildlife Management
Caroline Musita, M.C.H.D., Lecturer in Public Health
Onesmus Masyuki Kioko, Site Manager

TANZANIA

Bernard Kissui, Ph.D., Center Director
John Kioko Masila, Ph.D., Deputy Director / Resident Lecturer in Wildlife Ecology
John Mwamhanga, M.S., Resident Lecturer in Environmental Policy & Socioeconomic Values
Christian Kiffner, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Techniques of Wildlife Management
M'Lis Flynn, B.A., Student Affairs Manager



Sustainable Development Studies

COSTA RICA

OUR WORK

Costa Rica is known worldwide for its conservation efforts, which have attracted millions of tourists to the country's parks and reserves. However, the ongoing transition from an agriculture-based to a service economy threatens its biodiversity. Students examine management schemes, identify the benefits of protected areas, and determine which systems offer the best option for economic development and habitat preservation.

Studying sustainable development feels a lot more meaningful when you're interviewing farmers about the impact of tourism on their community than it does when you're listening to a lecture in a classroom.

— Devyn Powell
Tufts University
Costa Rica Fall '12



WHO WE ARE (1/1/13)

Gerardo Avalos, Ph.D., Center Director
Achim Häger, Dr. forest, Resident Lecturer in Principles of Natural Resources Management
J. Edgardo Arévalo Hernandez, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Tropical Ecology & Sustainable Development
Sergio Molina Murillo, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Econ. & Ethical Issues in Sustainable Development
Trygve Madsen, B.A., Student Affairs Manager
Marvin Vargas Rodriguez, B.S., Site Manager



Rainforest Studies

AUSTRALIA

OUR WORK

In 1988, the Wet Tropics of Queensland was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. This historic act has provided important protection for this stunningly beautiful, and biologically diverse, corner of the earth. SFS has been there since the beginning. The same year as the UNESCO listing, the SFS Trustees authorized the purchase of a 153-acre tract of land, now known as the SFS Center for Rainforest Studies or Warrawee (a Yidinji name meaning "you are welcome here"). For the past 25 years, students have studied the loss and fragmentation of this rainforest and examined the management strategies and policies designed to protect it.

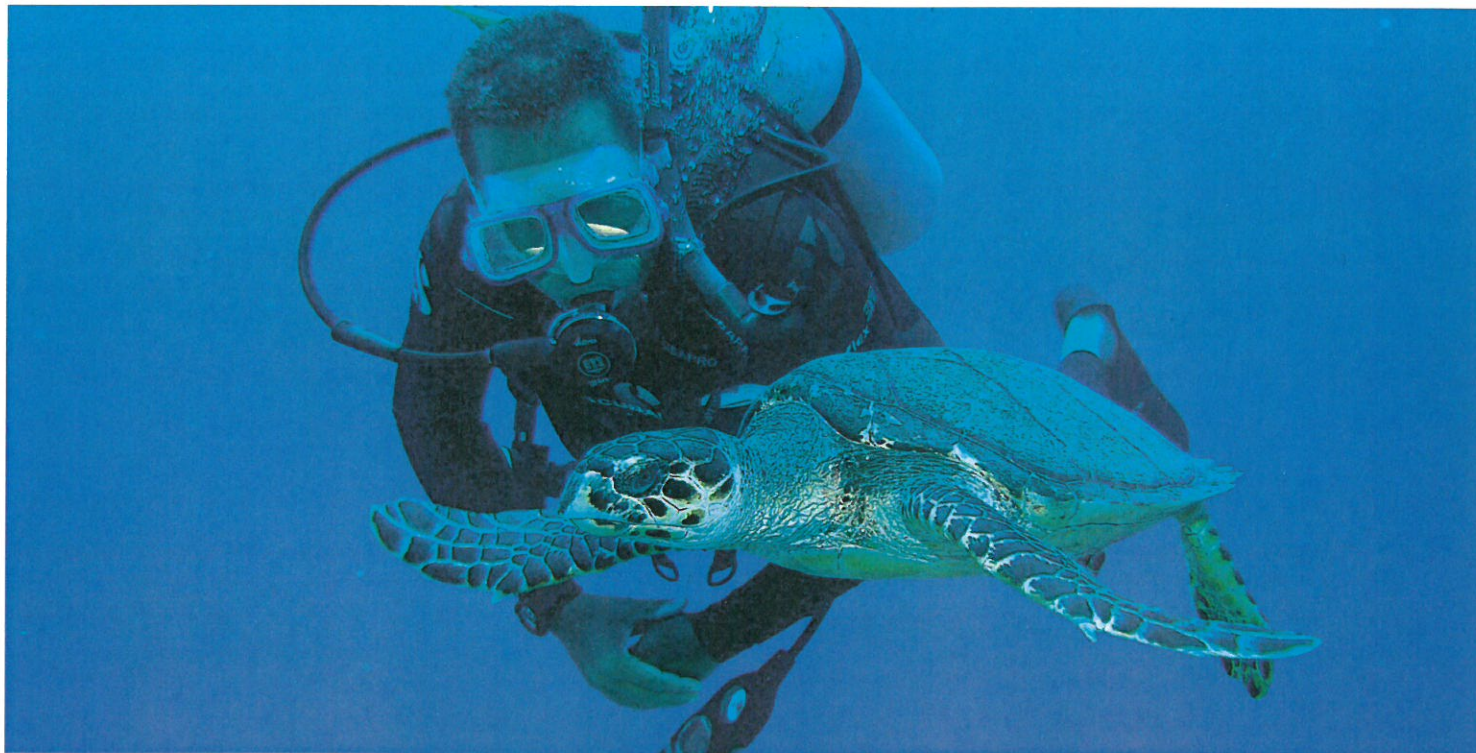
I must admit I never expected to gush about snakes before I came here. I also never expected to see so many, but being in the middle of a diamond of biodiversity has made me realize that it's easy to have your breath taken away by what bumps in the night.

— Alan Zigler
Franklin and Marshall College
Australia Spring '13



WHO WE ARE (1/1/13)

Amanda Freeman, Ph.D., Center Director
Sigrid Heise-Pavlov, Dr. rer. nat., Associate Professor in Rainforest Ecology
Justus Kithiia, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Environmental Policy & Socioeconomic Values
Catherine Pohlman, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Principles of Forest Management
Ciara Legato, B.S., Student Affairs Manager
John Hall, Site Manager



Marine Resource Studies

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

OUR WORK

SFS partners with the Turks & Caicos Islands Department of Environment and Maritime Affairs and the National Park Service to develop management strategies to conserve marine biodiversity and provide economic opportunities for island residents dependent on the sea for their livelihood. Student research assists in finding viable options for managing fisheries and conserving critical habitats, like coral reefs, to ensure long term economic, social, and environmental sustainability.

Nothing compares to the feeling of holding a baby shark in my hands and gently walking it through the water, or diving down in the pitch black water after a turtle slowly crawling along the bottom. Even going out to the lobster condos to catch lobster and measure their carapaces turned out to be an amazing experience — getting to learn about their anatomy right in front of my eyes instead of in a textbook.

— Caitlin McNally
University of San Diego
TCI Summer '12



WHO WE ARE (1/1/13)

- Heidi Hertler, Ph.D., SFS Alum, Center Director
- Aaron Henderson, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Tropical Marine Ecology
- Alex Tilley, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Marine Resource Management
- Edward Hind, Ph.D., Lecturer in Environmental Policy & Socioeconomics
- Kimbrough Mauney, M.Ed., SFS Alum, Student Affairs Manager
- James Squires, Diving Safety Officer
- Robert Duke, B.S., Site Manager



Himalayan Forests, Watersheds, & Rural Livelihoods

BHUTAN

OUR WORK

SFS students help our local partner, the Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment, to advance its research agenda in several priority areas, including community forestry and watershed assessment. Students learn and apply field research techniques in both the social and natural sciences, like forest measurement, species identification and enumeration, interviews, surveys, and participant observation to answer questions related to sustainability.

By the time we started our fieldwork in the Bumthang valley I knew this was not going to be the research I was accustomed to. Spending five days bushwhacking along the banks of the Chamkhar River, and returning back to campus for data reduction each day brought me close to the sublime. At points the beauty of the river was overwhelming to the point of speechlessness.

— Markus MacNamara
Guilford College
Bhutan Summer '12



WHO WE ARE (1/1/13)

- Robin Sears, Ph.D., SFS Alum, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Bhutan Program Director
- Sonam Phuntsho, M.Sc., SFS-UWICE Program Coordinator
- Ritodhi Chakraborty, M.A., Temporary Lecturer
- Galen Murton, M.A., Temporary Lecturer
- Lauren Stanton, B.A., Student Affairs Manager



Tropical Island Biodiversity and Conservation Studies

PANAMA

OUR WORK

Panama is the great connector between two continents; a corridor that links the natural riches of Central America to South America. Few places on Earth can claim either its density of species or the diversity of its ecosystem. We launched our pilot program in the fall of 2012, welcoming 13 students from universities across the country to study marine and terrestrial ecology and conservation in the archipelago of Bocas del Toro.

Whatever the project—be it assessing amphibian resistance to climate change, monitoring invasive species, or discovering a local culture—come dinnertime we gather together and share our daily adventures. Every day brings a new challenge; on some days we have great success and on others we learn to cope with unforeseen trials.

— Nikola Alexandre
Vassar College
Panama Spring '13



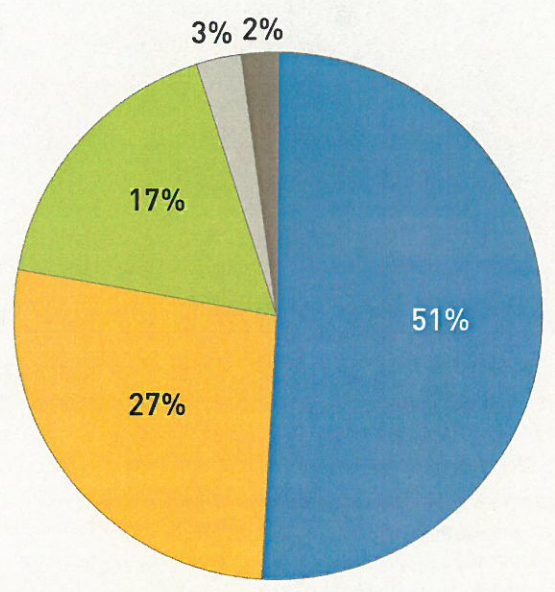
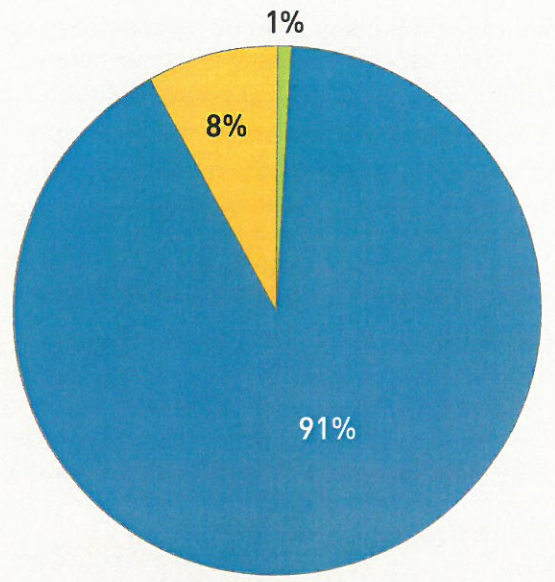
WHO WE ARE [1/1/13]

- John Claydon, Ph.D., Program Director / Resident Lecturer
- Arika Virapongse, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Environmental Policy & Socioeconomic Values
- Steven Whitfield, Ph.D., Resident Lecturer in Natural Resource Management
- Marta Calosso, M.A., M.S., Program Manager / Resident Co-Lecturer
- Sam Weiner, B.A., Student Affairs Manager

FINANCES YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2012

REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$6,525,923
Gifts and Grants	\$570,143
Other Revenues	\$38,736



EXPENSES

Environmental Programs	\$3,766,370
Program Support	\$1,967,519
Administration	\$1,271,028
Development	\$205,505
Other Expenses	\$146,561



The School for Field Studies is proud to have so many alumni, parents, corporations, foundations, and employees, trustees, and friends who support our work.

Chair's Circle - (\$25,000.00 +)

Terry L. Andreas
Michael Mars *Australia Fall '88*
Van Otterloo Family Foundation

President's Club - (\$10,000.00 +)

Spencer and Tomoko Haber
Jack Waggett

Conservation Council - (\$5,000.00 +)

David and Debra Andreas
Anonymous
Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Charles D. McKee
Thomas J. Quinn and Joy D. Bennett

Dean's List - (\$2,500.00 +)

Earth Share
Ken and Gwyn Schlothman
Hope Noyes Smith
W. James and Zibby Tozer Jr.
United Educators Management Company

Protectors' Society - (\$1,000.00 +)

Benjamin Andreas *Mexico Spring '06*
Martin L. Andreas
James and April Biller
Moni Carlisle
Sean Kelly and Priscilla Deck
Leslie Granese
The James C. Kennedy Family
Adrienne and John Mars
Andrew and Babetta Mason
Elizabeth Niemiec *Canada Summer '99, Mexico Spring '03*
Tom O'Donnell
Christopher and Mary K. Reaske
Julie and Nicholas Sakellariadis
Swimmers Choice
Angie Weedon *TCI Spring '95 and Matt Weedon TCI Fall '93*

Defender - (\$500.00 +)

Martha Albrecht
George Bevis Jr. *Greece Summer '84*
Ian Campbell *Kenya Spring '85*
Joseph and Kristan Madison
Matthew Bloch and Marilyn Pasierb
Ben Pomeroy *Costa Rica Spring '99*
Protozoa Pictures
Ben Still *Kenya Fall '04*
Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc



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Andrea F. Feltner *Maine Summer '86*
Michael and Heather Goldberg *TCI Summer '93*
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Whitney and Elizabeth Hatch
William Hewig and Anne Marie Hunter
Shaun Martin
Christopher Orsine *TCI Summer '93*
Mark Seifert *Costa Rica Summer '88*
Paul and Barbara Seifert
Abby Sheppard *Kenya Summer '04*
Rahul Tripathi *India Summer '92*

Sponsor - (\$100.00 +)

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Grant Alexander *Australia Fall '98*
Laura Blume *Australia Fall '99*
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Shireen Brazier *TCI Spring '02*
Todd Broseghini *Costa Rica Summer '84*
George R. Bunn, Jr.
Howard E. Buoy
Carrie Camp

Meghan Cloud *TCI Summer '93*
Ferdinand and Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld
Ellie Crosby
Michael P. Daley
Gretchen Dietrich *Alabama Summer '87*
Ken and Katherine Doctor
Kelly A. Doyle *Australia Fall '87*
Robin Abernathy Dunlay *Kenya Summer '02*
Samantha Cairns Durakovic *Washington Summer '93*
Susan and Nelson Eby
William V. Engel
Joannis Flatley
Susan Freiwald and Eric Olson
Megan Frummer *TCI Fall '98*
Douglas and Kathleen Fuda
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Angela Getchell
Donald Hammond
Doris Hastings
Sarah Helman
Jeffrey and Faith Hortick
Gail Johnson *Colorado Summer '87*
Leslie King-Schultz *Kenya Fall '00*
Aaron Martin *Costa Rica Fall '93*
Auden McClure *Nepal Summer '88*
Will McDaniel *TCI Spring '93*



Bonnie Millar *Palau Spring '95*
Jim Millinger
Willett S. Moore, Jr.
Jacqueline N. Odders
Scott Pherson *Costa Rica Summer '98*
Ala Reid
Diane Riccioli
Michael and Debra Savageau
Nicole Savageau
Cynthia Sawtell
Beth and Peter Scholze *TCI Spring '98*
James Schwartz *USA: Montana Summer '93*
Robin Sears *Ecuador Summer '90*
Karen Eller Shelton *Alaska Summer '88*
Beverly Stoll
Christy Uchida *Australia Spring '92*
The Veitch Family
Lance and Marilyn Vinson
Lisa Weikert *Australia Spring '04*
Mary West *Australia Summer '02*
Benjamin Wiley *TCI Fall '91*
Judy Winslow
Frederic and Susan Winthrop
Alexis Wright *TCI Spring '93*

Friend - (Under \$100)

Eleanor Acworth *USA: Alaska Summer '84*
Nicole Anderson
Karen Andreas *Costa Rica Spring '94*
Anonymous (3)
Sophie Archambeault *Kenya Spring '02*
Rosemary Armstrong and Morris "Sandy" Weinberg, Jr.
Gregory and Kelley Assarian
Kara Demsey Baker *Kenya Summer '00*
Peter Blank *Kenya Fall '92*
Melissa (Dills) Boglioli *Australia Spring '93*
Nikos Boutis *USA: Virgin Islands Fall '88*
James and Susan Bricker

Peter Brown
Bruce and Rhoda Bush
Rita Cabral *TCI Summer '07*
Kwan Chang and Don Lee
Jenny and Marc Chipault *Kenya Spring '03*
Michael Chuang *Mexico Summer '99*
Jeremy and Jonna Derbenwick Clark *Australia Fall '97*
Erin Cole *Australia Spring '04*
Yizette Colon
Elizabeth Concra *Kenya Summer '04*
Colin Cushman *Canada Fall '97*
Curtis Daehler *Costa Rica Summer '89*
Laura Deloatch *Kenya Fall '88*
Elizabeth Schwartz DeLorenzo *Costa Rica Spring '01*
Barbara Desroches *Kenya Summer '02*
Karen Douthwaite *Costa Rica Fall '98*
Elisabeth Duffy *TCI Fall '95*
Lawrence and Lori Elliott
Stephen L. Epstein
Raymond and Patricia Fiore
Kristina G. Fisher *Australia Fall '00*
Martha Beck Fisk *Kenya Summer '01*
Suzanne Fowle-Schroeder *Kenya Fall '88*
Emma Fox *TCI Fall '10*
Pamela Freeman *Australia Fall '92*
Bob Fuhrmann *Kenya Fall '88*
Christopher Furey *TCI Spring '98*
Carrie Gallagher *Costa Rica Spring '94*
Dave and Joanne Geiszler
Joseph and Mary Gibson
Beth Girolamo *Australia Fall '87*
Chase Gruber *TCI Fall '10*
Scott Guthrie *TCI Summer '93*
Kevin and Tammy Haas
Tracy Harbaugh *Australia Spring '04*
Alicia Heyburn *USA: Virgin Islands Summer '87*
Marion Hoekenga and B. Christine Hoekenga *TCI Fall '01*

Lysiane Huber *TCI Spring '01*
Mary Hulbert and Anne Morehouse
Meredith DuBarry Huston *Costa Rica Spring '96*
Alyssa Irizarry *Mexico Spring '09*
Tyler Isaac *TCI Fall '10*
Jessica Jay *Australia Summer '87*
Kemp Jaycox *Australia Spring '94*
Sarah Jillson *Canada Summer '97*
Erin Johnson *Costa Rica Spring '11*
Elizabeth Jones *Australia Fall '97*
Deborah Josefson *Costa Rica Summer '89*
David Joyce *TCI Spring '99*
Dave Reynolds and Cindy Kardeman
Jiyeon Kim *Kenya Spring '10*
Susan King and Jack Sanderson
Marla Knight Dutille *Costa Rica Summer '89*
Joy Kotheimer *Kenya Summer '02*
Kathryn Krummel
Hadas Kushnir *Kenya Spring '00*
Scott Lamer
Jennifer Landis *Costa Rica Spring '04*
Ellen S. Lee
Eric MacMillan *TCI Fall '06*
Sharyn Marks *Kenya Spring '86*
William and Melissa Martens
Todd and Charlotte (Finley) Maynard *TCI Summer '91*
Edward Mayo *TCI Summer '91*
Dottie Mayol
Rima McCoy *Costa Rica Summer '87*
Nina C. McKee *Alaska Summer '84*
Megan McSherry *Kenya Spring '05*
Carol Migalski *USA: Alaska Summer '84*
Kirsten Moy *TCI Fall '10*
Mark Mulvahill *TCI Fall '10*
Galen Murton
Katherine O'Brien *Australia Spring '11*
Sophie Osborn *Kenya Fall '89*
Vivekananda and Meera Penumetcha

Ethan Perry and Meredith Cornett *Australia Fall '89*
Andrea Petzel *Washington Summer '93*
Judy (Musnikow) and Simi Rabinowitz *Australia Fall '99*
Ellen Reid
Emily Reynolds
Philippa Richards *Nepal Summer '88*
Daniel and Jennifer Ritchie
Lawrence and Deborah Roach
Michael Robinson
Deborah Morris Roe *Kenya Spring '89*
Doug Rose *Costa Rica '92; Barbados '91*
Donna Rosenblum
Steve and Ming Samalot
Alison Samuel
Jeffrey Shaman *USA: Alaska Fall '87*
Jonathan Sharp
Alessandra Shea *TCI Fall '10*
Roz Slawson
Leslie and Sandi Smith
Maura Smith
Thomas and Laura Smith
Richard Sonneborn
Sean Stanton *TCI Fall '10*
Amy Sullivan *Kenya Summer '09*
Blair Sullivan and Jennifer Jull-Sullivan
Shannon Sullivan *TCI Fall '10*
Keisha Myrick and Lauren Thie *Kenya Summer '06*
Ruth Thier *TCI Fall '10*
Roxanne Thomas *Australia Summer '99*
Leah Varga *TCI Fall '10*
Jonathan Vlahos *Kenya Spring '96*
Dorothy Wallace-Senft *Australia Spring '92*
Charles and Maria Watson
Marlin and Jane Wenger
Ryan D. Willis *Australia Spring '08*
D. D. Wolohan
Prof. BJ Zirger





The loss of a loved one inspired the families of Stephen F. Lee *Florida Summer '86* and Heather Jo Leibowitz *Kenya Spring '04* to set up memorial scholarships. The following individuals made gifts in honor of these two SFS alumni during this past fiscal year.

Stephen F. Lee Memorial Scholarship Fund

Kim and Jeffrey Markuns *Hawaii Summer '88*
Molly Rideout *Australia '88* and Charles Hulse

Heather Jo Leibowitz Memorial Scholarship Fund

57th Street Chiropractic PC
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The Ajwani Family
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Jeanne Bechard
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D. E. Bungert and Michele Piri-Bungert
Patrick Burke
Joe and Jacki Cashin
Rachel Chase *Kenya Spring '04*
Cathleen Cleary
Anthony and Melissa Di Spigna

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STUDENT REFLECTION



Hanna Mogensen
Smith College
East Africa Fall '12

“Write down three things that you will miss from your time abroad in East Africa.”

I stared at the blank strip of paper on the table and let my mind wander as I finished off the last of my rice and mixed vegetables. It was two weeks now before our departure date from Tanzania back to the states and people were beginning to think about being home. This was evident from tonight's student presentation in which this question was laid out, along with a stack of blank paper and a handful of pencils. As the food on my plate disappeared I now faced the hard task at hand, and picked up my pencil...

When I first arrived in Kenya the day had been hot. The sun scorched down on us as we shuttled our luggage across the tarmac and into the vehicles waiting in the lot. Waves, hugs, shouts of welcome were all shared as if we were old friends meeting; I should have known from that moment that **the people** here were special. When we finally made it over the bumpy roads to Kilimanjaro Bush Camp (KBC) I realized that the staff on our campus did not just comprise an academic organization but rather a family, and one that we were graciously welcomed into. At KBC and Moyo Hill, the staff and faculty played a vital role in all aspects of our abroad experience from the education to the cultural exchanges. They shared food, language, sports, games, and attitude with us.

The culture itself was just as inclusive and vibrant as the people who embodied it. We were received by neighbors, shop-owners and townspeople with chai, fruit, and curious inquiries. Wherever we traveled shouts of welcome and smiles followed. At each stop we made—at churches, homesteads, businesses, schools, offices, farms, shops, we soaked up the experience. The Maasai greeted us with

dance and showed us how they build their homes; the Hadzabe welcomed us to make fire and taught us how to shoot arrows; the Datoga showed us their metal work and how to grind maize into powder for ugali; the Iraqw taught us songs and how to cook. Everywhere we went lessons presented themselves—obvious ones, such as those mentioned above, but others too, like how to laugh with no reserve, how to place your trust in a person you can hardly communicate with, how to dance with welcomed embarrassment, and lastly, how to learn with ease and willing excitement. I recall one time when I was carrying out my Directed Research and it began to pour down rain. I had been conducting interviews with local farmers and was immediately welcomed into a small house with one seat. The woman of the home insisted I take the seat and then sat on the floor next to me and answered all of my questions. When I had finished, she smiled and went into a small side room emerging a few minutes later with a large and juicy ripe mango. She explained that there was not much else to do right now than to stay in her home, stay dry and eat the fresh mango. I could not turn down such an excellent offer.

The land, which cradled these people and their culture, was rugged, loved, and hardy, yet colorful and fresh as well. While Kenya was characterized by its red dirt and dusty ground during the dry season, we made it to Tanzania to see the skies open up and inspire green and lush foliage to cover the earth. Mount Kilimanjaro towered over our site in Kenya. One of my favorite places to view the peak was from our shower stalls. With sometimes warm but usually cold water pouring down, the view—and the chill—

brought me back to reality and the beauty of it all. In Tanzania the land was characterized by sinusoidal hills, carrying land and livestock and crops up one slope and down another in an endless view to the sky. The long walk up Moyo Hill in Tanzania was all worth it when you reached the peak and saw the day drawing to a close over the houses below. I remember one day I was aching to catch the last waves of the sun. It was nearing dinnertime and I quickly fled from my half written sentence on my computer and tore through our campus gates. I made it just in time to catch the last bits of sunlight shooting out over the sky in waves of contrast as though reflected by a prism. I risked the chiggers and sat right down, unable to tear myself away until the sky was almost dark.

“The people, the culture—including food, dance, attitudes—and the land.” It seems that I had come up with the three things I would miss the most in East Africa. Now that I am home I have realized that the things I loved had larger implications on my life. In the spirit of my time abroad I have decided to try to be like the people I knew there—more relaxed, more open-minded, and more accepting. I have tried to embrace the welcoming and open spirit of the culture, opening the door and bestowing welcome on all those who need it and deserve it. And I have tried to live with greater conscientiousness of our limited natural resources.

There is a vast amount of knowledge to be gained and the more I learn the more I realize there is to learn. Thank you for your contributions. You made this experience possible for me, and it has been an invaluable time in my life.