



S F S

THE SCHOOL
FOR FIELD STUDIES



13
ANNUAL REPORT

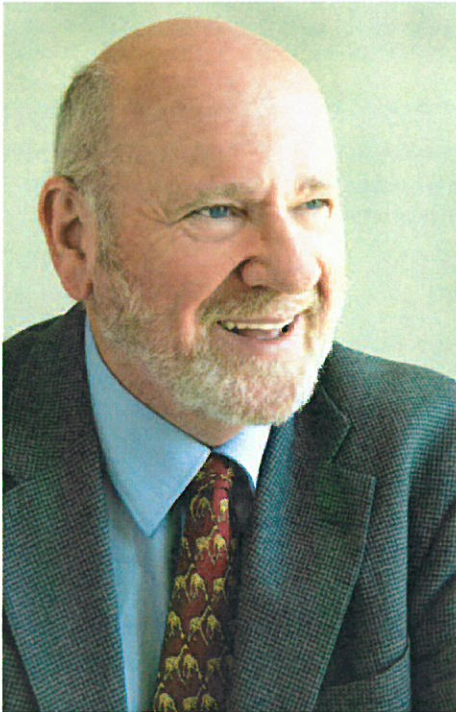


Photo by Susan Wilson

Dear friends,

In 2013, The School for Field Studies welcomed 568 students at our field stations around the world. In keeping with our mission, we have endeavored to show them the beauty and fundamental importance of the natural world while teaching them the skills needed for sustainable use and protection of our resources.

We have continued to pursue important research in collaboration with our partners. In Kenya, we are working with the International Fund for Animal Welfare and Kenya Wildlife Services to track elephant populations around Amboseli National Park to determine their needs for space and resources, and ultimately

help prevent human-elephant conflict. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, we received a grant from the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation to study the effects of climate change on nesting sea turtle populations.

Our portfolio of educational programs has expanded to meet the growing demand. Our sending institutions and students expect from SFS not only the highest quality academic programs but also a broad range of locations and themes that reflect the dynamic and rapidly expanding field of environmental education. In response, we have added two critical ecosystems to our portfolio of educational program locations: the Andes-Amazon of Peru and the Mekong River region of Cambodia and Vietnam.

These regions possess incredible biodiversity, including thousands of threatened plant, fish, and bird species. However, unmitigated development and climate change pose a great risk to the health of the environment and the security of local livelihoods such as fishing and farming. This is the opportunity of a lifetime for students to participate in field research on urgent environmental issues related to rural livelihoods in changing landscapes, natural resource management, and biodiversity conservation.

Thank you to all of our supporters who believe, as I do, that the emerging generation of leaders need to experience firsthand the ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic systems at play in our increasingly global world. The generosity of our alumni, parents, and friends of the organization is critical to our success.

Our challenge for the coming year is to project our mission to an ever-growing audience of students, educators, and communities who are ready to embrace the challenges of environmental leadership.

Sincerely,

James A. Cramer
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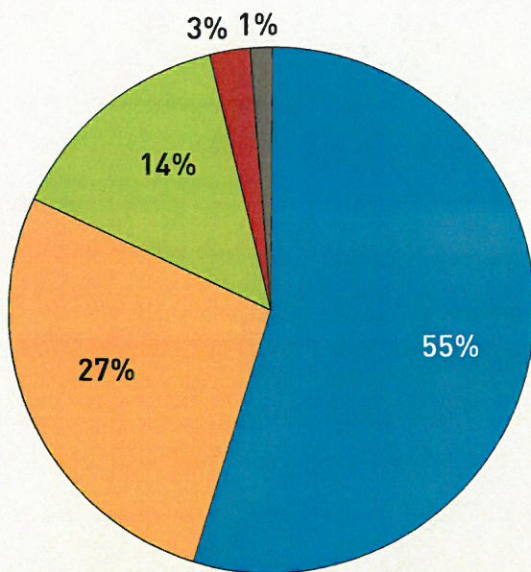
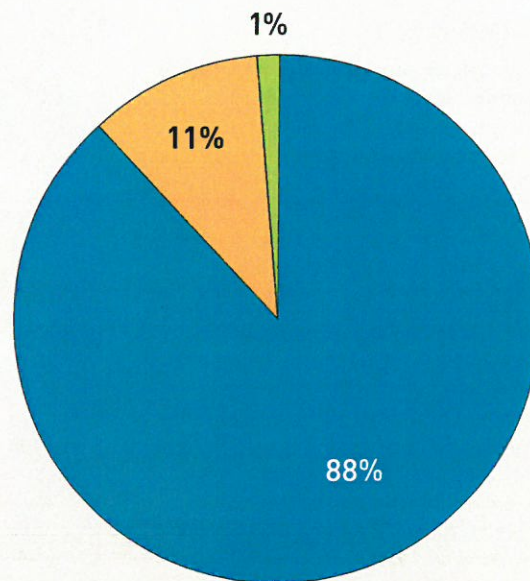


SFS is a member of Earth Share, and through our participation, we benefit from several workplace giving campaigns including the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #58008) and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employees Charitable Campaign.

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SFS is a 501(C) (3) non-profit educational institution.

REVENUES

● Tuition and Fees	\$7,076,474
● Gifts and Grants	\$842,272
● Other Revenues	\$100,530



EXPENSES

● Program Operations	\$4,237,275
● Program Support	\$2,105,316
● Administration	\$1,096,550
● Development	\$201,228
● Other Expenses	\$92,548



Dear Scholarship Donors:

Thank you so much for your generous donation to support SFS programs! I am a very financially-conscious student, budgeting for college and planning my course loads far in advance to ensure an optimal graduation time (and cost); with this mindset, I had almost given up on the possibility of fitting a study abroad in my three-year graduation track when I stumbled upon The School for Field Studies.

Enthralled by vibrant snapshots of environmentally-sensitive locations and the chance to make a meaningful difference in one of these communities, I vowed to get myself there—regardless of the financial difficulties, academic reorganization, or personal struggles that may get in the way. My eyes landed on the Turks and Caicos program. I fell in love with the dynamic Cockburn Harbor town and impossibly blue surrounding waters. Hearing of the struggling economy and tourism's potential to damage this fragile environment, I knew I had found my place: as a business management and sustainability major, I am avidly engrossed in the conflict between our world's ever-increasing development plans and our ever-stressed ecosystems—and South Caicos seemed to be in the midst of this very problem. I was thrilled for the chance to strengthen my science background, further my environmental understanding, conduct research for my honors college thesis, involve myself in a developing country community, and push myself overall as an individual—trying new things, meeting new people, and living in an uncomfortable environment.

There are almost no words to describe what outcomes I actually experienced from this semester. I was anticipating a wonderful term but I was in no way prepared for the meaningful work and relationships that came out of the SFS Center for Marine Resource Studies. I participated in conch and lobster research that fed into government decisions, assessed coral bleaching for a worldwide NGO database, and collected turtle and elasmobranch data for a professor's longstanding research project. I surveyed Turks Islanders and tourists nationwide to improve the accuracy of seafood landings—research that yielded crucial though unexpected results for the TCI government and is the first SFS project to span an entire country. With a smaller group, I interviewed community members across ages, ethnicities, and professions to create a platform for South Caicos residents to voice their concerns and visions of the island's future; after another semester of research, a report will be created so the TCI government can make appropriate development decisions and allocate funding and tourism projects on South Caicos.

As a side project, I created a digital archive for the local community—preserving over 700 photographs—to both protect old images and facilitate youth education and historic eco-tourism on the island. This project is the first of its kind and culminated



with handing over the database to a local islander who was beyond appreciative to have such an undertaking started. The hours spent studying for exams, uploading data, eating rice and beans, diving, sharking, washing dishes, watching the stars, writing reports, or talking in hammocks with my fellow program members—now great friends—were indescribable as well. Pushing me as a person and broadening my worldview, I thrived on the chance to get to know people from so many different backgrounds and mindsets; coming home, I approach life with a more seasoned view and have a more defined vision of my future—one that is significantly different than the path I had envisioned prior to the program. After a crowded airport terminal of goodbyes, I watched South Caicos and then Provo fade in

the distance. I could not help but pinch myself and ask if this had really happened.

A sincere thank you for your donation that made such a difference in funding this program for me! I hope you continue providing this experience for passionate students like me to explore a different world and answer questions about themselves—pushing limits they thought they could never cross.

Jenna Wiegand, a business major at Oregon State University, participated in the Turks and Caicos program in the fall of 2013. She was recently awarded the prestigious Udall scholarship in recognition of her commitment to pursuing a career that will positively affect the environment.

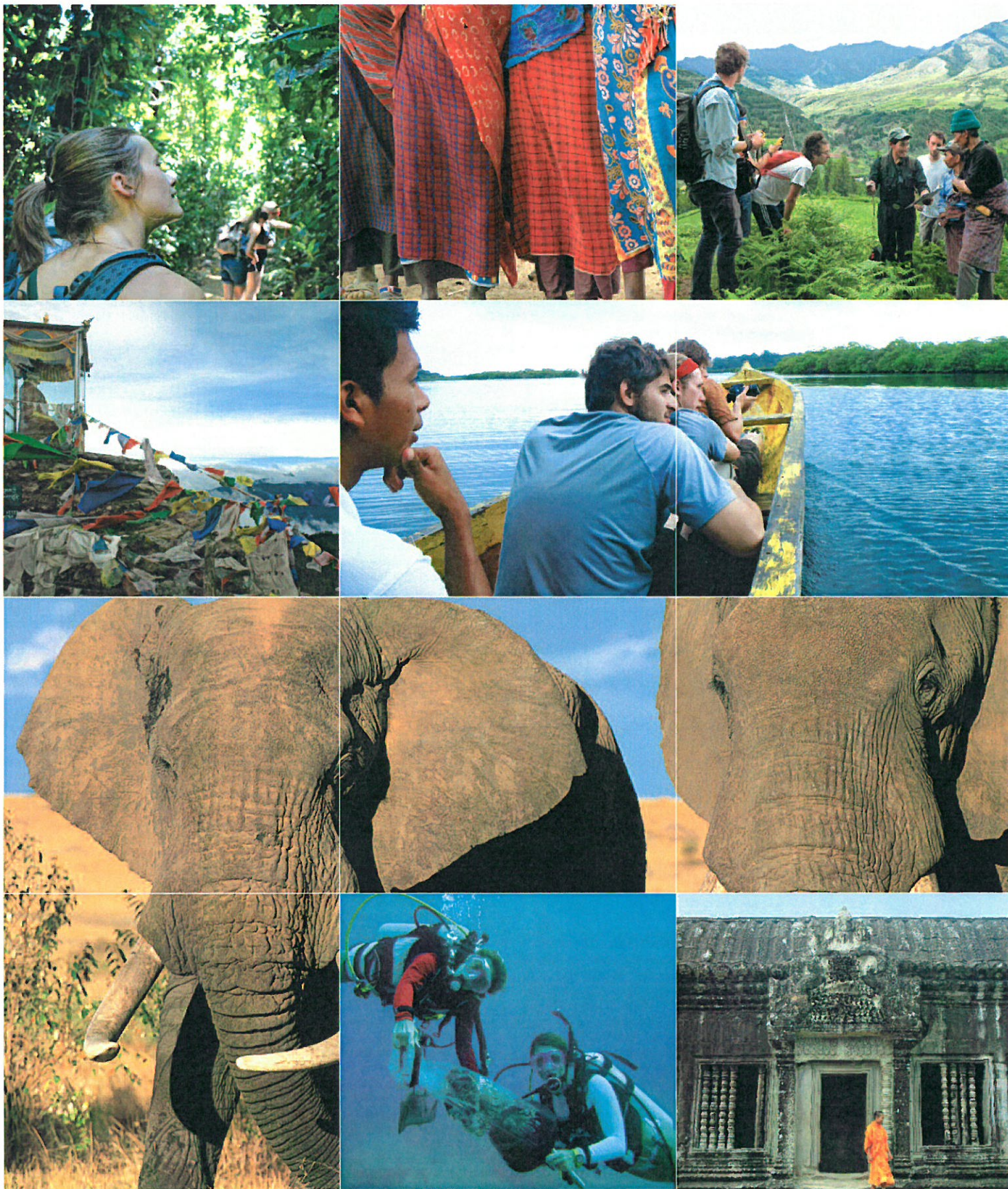
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