



S F S

THE SCHOOL
FOR FIELD STUDIES



14
ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Susan Wilson

Dear Friends of SFS:

At this year's Forum on Education Abroad Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, recent SFS students Wesley Hauser and Erin Emmons will stand before more than 1,400 international education professionals to share the research they conducted on our program in Australia. Their project, which focused on the habitat needs of the Lumholtz's Tree Kangaroo, was selected as among "the best examples of the highest quality academic achievements of undergraduates studying abroad."

We are incredibly proud of Erin and Wesley, as their accomplishment positively reflects our efforts to give

undergraduate students the chance to engage in hands-on, community-based field research.

Studies have shown that participation in research results in an increased likelihood for undergraduates to continue on in the sciences, according to a report commissioned for the American Association for the Advancement of Science. It also "cultivates scientific thinking, allowing students to experience authentic activities of working scientists, including designing studies, interpreting unexpected outcomes, coping with experiments that fail, considering alternative approaches, and testing new techniques." This is true regardless of their chosen field (AAAS Vision and Change 2011 Report).

At our growing network of international field stations, which now includes centers of study in the Andes-Amazon region of Peru and the Mekong River region of Cambodia and Vietnam, SFS programs are providing these formative, engaging research experiences, and in the process, educating the future leaders, teachers, and scientists who will shape tomorrow's policies and practices.

Your support makes our work possible. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "James A. Cramer".

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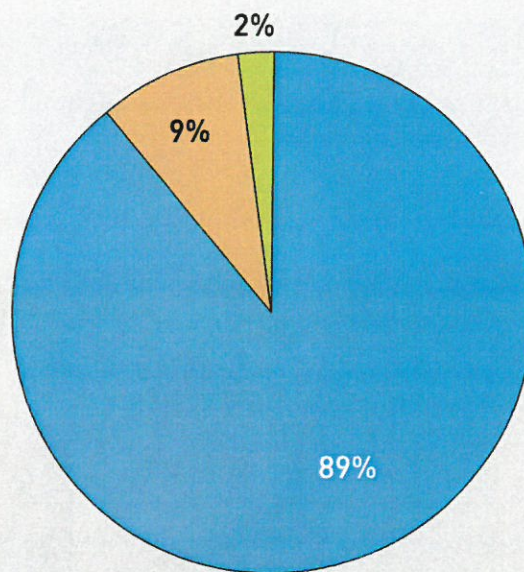
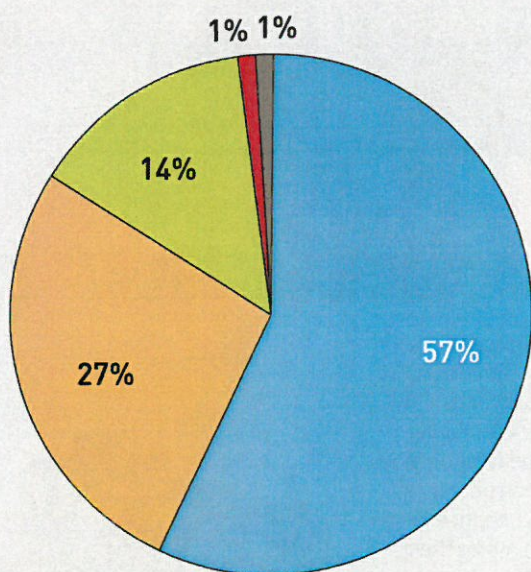
ex officio, SFS President
Beverly, MA



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.

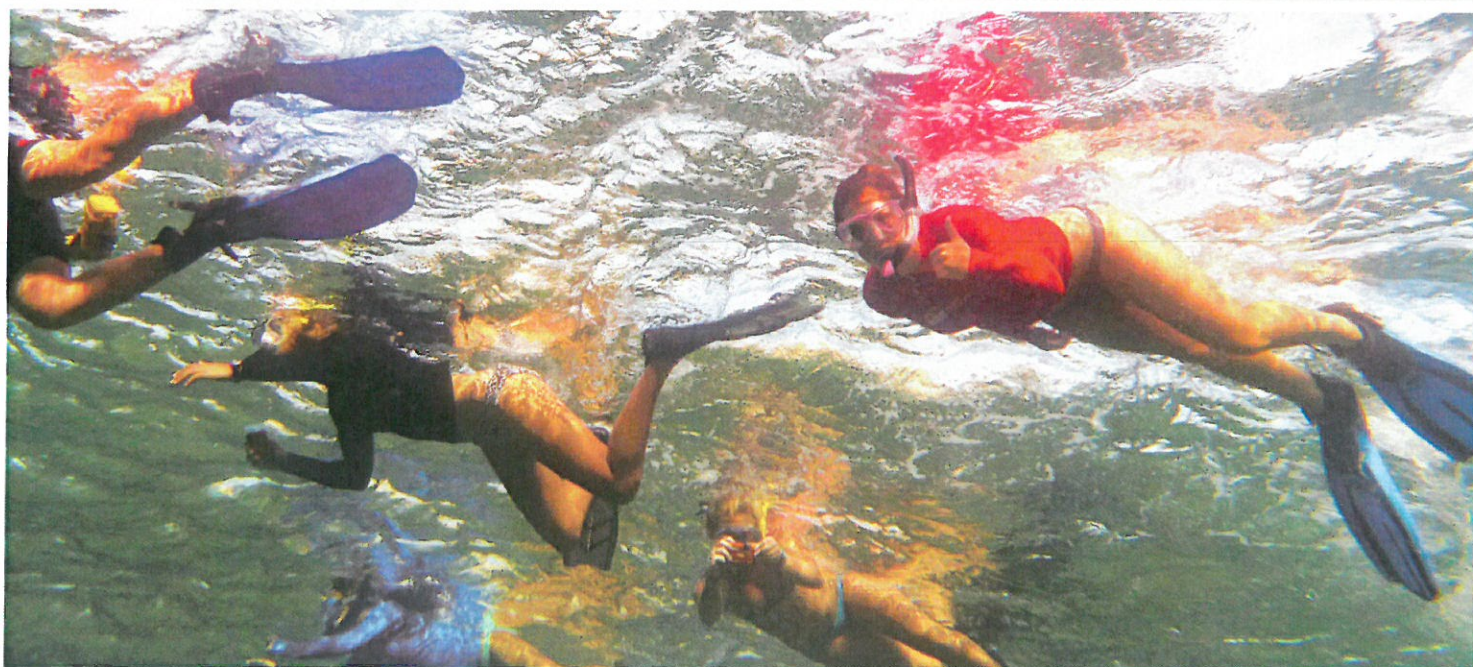
REVENUES

● Tuition and Fees	\$7,441,485
● Gifts and Grants	\$715,497
● Other Revenues	\$148,978



EXPENSES

● Program Operations	\$4,768,113
● Program Support	\$2,291,915
● Administration	\$1,196,554
● Development	\$80,547
● Other Expenses	\$105,404





Brennan PetersonWood

Tanzania Fall 2014
Colorado College

Attending The School for Field Studies program in Tanzania significantly enhanced my academic experience.

The first several months were spent studying, visiting, and investigating the many protected areas of northern Tanzania. Then, in the final portion of the program, I had the incredible opportunity to conduct a research project in Ngorongoro Crater.

I was stunned by the beauty and the size of the Crater. We were fortunate enough to see a black rhino, lions, and many other grazing ungulates. However, we also saw the damage to the grasslands caused by the cattle which are grazed and watered there. The grasslands were overrun with invasive plant species. For these reasons, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authorities had requested that our professor conduct a survey of the grassland health and invasive species present.

I was interested in comparing grass health in areas of the Crater grazed by the Maasai cattle to the areas not grazed. Using established standards to determine grass health, I designed a rating system to measure it. Along with two other students, I spent nine days walking transects through

grids in the north western section of the Crater through the herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle, warthogs, hyenas and many species of birds. A few close calls with Cape buffalo and a hippo kept us alert but we thankfully never had a run in with lions. While there we had the chance to see five more black rhino, which, given their rapid rate of population decline, is something our children may never see.

At the completion of our data collection we returned to our campus at Moyo Hill near Rhotia and spent a week analyzing our data and writing a research paper with our recommendations for the Management Authorities on how to improve the grassland health and stop the spread of invasive plant species. We then presented our findings at a community presentation attended by the Management Authorities.

Having the opportunity to conduct a research project in a place as stunning as the Ngorongoro Crater, a World Heritage Site, was truly a blessing. Just driving through the Crater for a day blew me away with the amount of wildlife and natural beauty; so, being able to get out and walk through the grasslands was simply amazing. The experience gained from this research project is above and beyond anything I could have done at my home



university. Furthermore, having the chance to design, execute, and then write a publishable report that will be used in future management decisions was an experience that will serve me greatly in future educational and career paths.

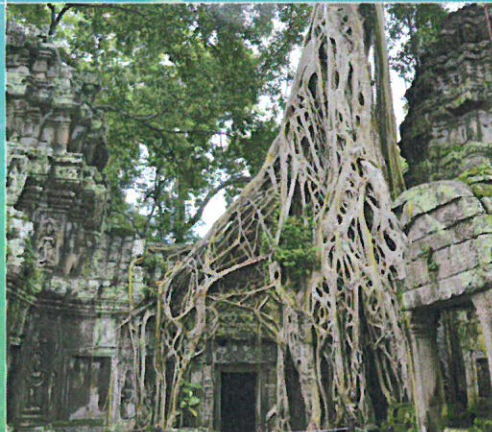
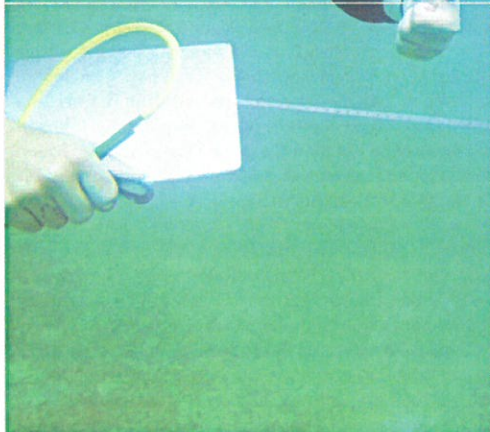
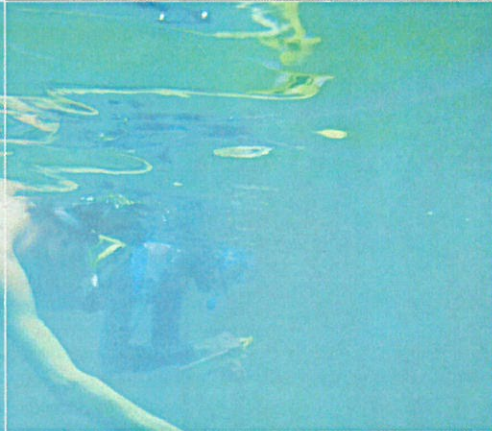
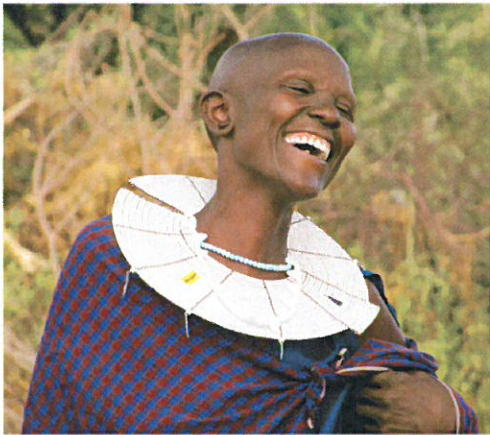
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100 Cummings Center, Suite 534-G
Beverly, MA 01915 USA

P 800.989.4418
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