



The Environmental Connection

Dickinson College Environmental Studies Alumni Newsletter



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Professor Michael Heiman Easing into Retirement

By: Mary Orr



It is official! After 22 years at Dickinson, Michael Heiman is moving toward phased retirement.

Professor Heiman came to Dickinson in 1989 from Syracuse University where he was a member of the geography faculty. Throughout his long-running Dickinson career he has taught our introductory environmental science courses, in addition to environmental policy courses.

I am sure that if you had Professor Heiman as an instructor, you could attest to his love of environmental policy and zeal for teaching.

This past year the college offered eligible faculty the option to take a phased retirement. After deliberating for some time, Michael decided he was in!

This phase out will allow him to continue offering courses during one semester a year and retire from serving as department chair, while freeing up the second semester for other pursuits.

Perhaps, it was the four semesters that he co-instructed the intensive field studies program known as LUCE that drove him to his decision. Or maybe, it's just his desire to spend winters on the ski slopes and summers on the lawn listening to his favorite bluegrass bands and sipping his favorite brew.

Quite frankly, I know Michael!! I can't see him taking much time off. He breathes policy and the environment. Although, I hope he'll enjoy retirement, I know that he will probably spend a good portion of his time conducting research, writing, and preparing new classes.

But seriously, Michael, take some time to smell the roses....after all... that is what you have been fighting for all these years!

**Photo Left
Michael Heiman, Candie Wilderman
and the 2006 LUCE Student
Participants**

Although we have you for a little longer, your ES family will miss you! I think we can all agree that on some level you are irreplaceable!

Environmental Studies Department Welcomes Michael Beevers as New Environmental Policy Instructor

Michael D. Beevers is currently a lecturer in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland and an affiliate with the Harrison Program on the Future Global Agenda. Mr. Beevers will earn his Ph.D. in international relations and environmental and natural resource politics from the University of Maryland in the spring of 2011.

Michael's research interests are in the domains of environmental policy and politics, development, international relations, globalization, peacebuilding and African politics. His dissertation work examines how, and under what conditions, environmental and natural resource governance influences war-torn societies with a specific focus on forests, minerals and diamonds in Sierra Leone and Liberia.



Mr. Beevers was a Harrison Fellow at the University of Maryland and a Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar at the US Institute of Peace in Washington D.C.

Before attending the University of Maryland, Michael was as a Research Associate at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School in the Science, Technology and Environmental Policy Program where his work explored the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on coastal areas of the US. Mr. Beevers has consulted for the United Nations Environment Programme's Postconflict and Disaster Management Branch and

World Resources Institute, and has worked in South Asia and West Africa on a host of development and environment issues. Michael served also in the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa and holds masters degrees in public policy and natural resource management/environmental policy from the University of Washington in Seattle.

Before his forays into academia, he was an outdoor instructor with various organizations, including Outward Bound, where he taught alpine mountaineering, climbing and sea kayaking in California, Oregon and Washington. Originally from upstate New York, Michael enjoys free time playing bluegrass music, traveling, training for marathons and planning trips to the mountains.

Photo Below:

Professor Wilderman's Freshwater Ecology class at Laurel Lake in February



A Note From Professor Michael Heiman

The past year has been one of unprecedented growth for the department. While enrollment by majors had been slowly rising during our "Luce Semester" years (2005-2009), it really took off when we hired charismatic Greg Howard for a new position in environmental health with his penchant for turning classroom students into majors, and with the founding of the Center for Sustainability Education under the leadership of equally charismatic Neil Leary and Sarah Brylinsky. With the College now committed to sustainability as its second main focus alongside Global Education, and with our new ranking at the very top in half-a-dozen national surveys of college and university commitment to sustainability education and practice, we are experiencing a huge jump in applications to Dickinson, particularly from those with an interest in environmental studies as a major. Thus the College readily committed to hiring new faculty as needed to meet this demand (e.g., in history, international business management, economics, and our own department)--a strong vote of confidence in our program during this time of retrenchment elsewhere across the academic world. Concurrently Candie's exceptional leadership and contribution as founding and still very-active "Godmother" of both ALLARM and the Environmental Studies Department, was just recognized with her appointment as "The Walter Beach Distinguished Chair in Sustainability Studies," named after an alum very active with environmental education through his work as a publisher of *Environment Magazine* (and many other journals as former director of Heldref Publications).

At my end during this busy period of growth, there is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel. I will be taking early phased retirement in July. This would have me continue for another 3 years teaching one semester a year with the rest of the time off to get back to research, writing, and of course travel--the favorite passion of geographers. With Paula, my wife, also retiring next year, and me on reduced salary, we'll have to live on a lot less, moving down the food chain.

(Cont'd on page 4)



Photo Above: Michael Heiman 1978

Photo Below: Michael Heiman (on left) 1978



Heiman (cont'd)

But then again, we managed during our happy grad school days and they don't yet padlock the dumpsters here as they do in NYC (a major source of nutrition during my earlier tree-planting days in Washington State). The College already has big plans for all my "spare" time now that I have German citizenship (whereby if you were denied citizenship by the Nazis you, your children, and even your grandchildren are eligible). Not that I have any special affinity for the Germans, but EU citizenship is very useful. Thus I may be involved with our summer program in Bremen, or else the one in the Arava (part of the Rift Valley) in the Negev between Jordan and Israel--both new programs focusing on environmental sustainability. A new "Luce-Semester"-type mosaic down the line is another possibility, as Candie and I agree that this was the most rewarding teaching experience we had--sharing it with many of you.

We just hired my "replacement," Michael Beevers from the University of Maryland (see attached article). While none of the candidates looked exactly like me, Michael came closest--at least with physical appearance. Take a look at my picture (from 1978) and Michael's accompanying the article. Perhaps our "Michael Look-Alike Pageant " from a few years ago can continue (picture attached). Anyway, it's good for our program to have fresh voices while phasing out old farts who do not even use Twitter or have a smart phone (though I do have a seldom-used Facebook page at the demand of former students--80 friends none of whom I ever asked!). Maybe now, with a bit more time on my hands, I'll finally be able to update my profile, keep in touch, and get out from under the rock I've been trying to hide under while serving as chair.

We continue to receive inspiring reports of your many major accomplishments, both professionally and socially--as you successfully build careers as well as families. Please keep in touch as the Dickinson Environmental Alumni Family (aka the DC Green Team) continues to grow and spread its wings. Our dedicated alumni web page can be found off the department's home page. All the best on a fulfilling year.

Photo Below: Michael on Sproul Plaza Berkley
1979



Photo Below: The Heiman Look Alike Contest
(Can you name the Alumni in the photo?)



Photo Below: Michael at the Landfill in 2010



A Note From Professor Candie Wilderman



Hello there to all of our ES alums!

Thank you so much for your continuing interest in our program and for keeping in touch. It is always such a pleasure to hear from you.

It is a busy time for the ES Department – new faculty, a growth in student majors and a strong college-wide initiative on sustainability which has thrust us into the center of Dickinson’s curriculum. We are so pleased to be working closely with Dr. Neil Leary, the Director of the Center for Sustainability Education, as he finds new and creative ways to educate for sustainability. And more and more first year students are coming to Dickinson with an interest in the environment, and so, well – business is booming!

My last year has been focused around Marcellus Shale gas extraction issues throughout the Marcellus Shale play. As you probably know, the extraction of shale gas is transforming the social, economic and environmental landscape in PA. During my sabbatical last spring, I worked with Jinnie Woodward (Assistant Director of ALLARM) to develop a protocol for volunteers to monitor small streams for the purpose of early detection and prevention of stream contamination from Marcellus Shale gas extraction. This protocol involves measuring flow, conducting visual assessments, and measuring conductivity and total dissolved solids, and, when needed, barium and strontium concentrations. Residents all over the state are demanding training in this protocol and ALLARM is now involved every weekend in western and northern PA, training hundreds of Marcellus Shale watchdogs. We are also integrating these issues into our courses; right now I am teaching Freshwater Ecology and all of the students are doing research to expand our protocol and to verify its validity and impact.

**Photo Right:
Professor Heiman’s
Energy Policy class and
Professor Wilderman’s
Freshwater Ecology class
at a Marcellus Shale gas
drill rig in early March**



I have also been spending time working at the national level on issues of public participation in scientific research, with partners from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. We are attempting to characterize the outcomes of different models of community science, and ALLARM has become a nationally-known example of the “bottom-up” community capacity-building model. For those of you who participated in the ALLARM program when you were students, rest assured that we are thriving under the leadership of our Director, Julie Vastine ('03), our Assistant Director, Jinnie Woodward, and 12-15 student staff members every semester!

Still stomping around in streams on cold rainy days with high-spirited students! Our Luce grant to run our “integrated watershed-based field semester (Luce Semester)” has now been spent and we are working on alternative ways for the department faculty to offer a similar program every three or four years. Both Michael and I feel that this program was the most rewarding teaching experience of our careers; traveling with students for over 4000 miles has its challenges, but the rewards were well worth it! We still stay in touch with our West Virginia and Louisiana colleagues and hope to return in the not-too-distant future.

Every now and then I look at my old slides and see the familiar faces of our students of decades past. Our new GIS specialist, Jim Ciarrocca, created a map for our entrance hallway that shows where our alums are employed (only names of employers, not names of alums). It is truly impressive – both for its geographic and professional range! What a wonderful rich history we now have and how grateful I am to be a part of it.

Warmest wishes to you and your families,
Candie

Annual Update from the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring

By: Julie Vastine & Jinnie Woodward

It is 2011 and the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring is turning twenty-five! It is amazing to look back on ALLARM's history and examine how our past has influenced where we are today. In our 25th year ALLARM has transitioned back to providing technical assistance statewide – a shout out to our Alliance for Acid Rain Monitoring days. For 25 years, ALLARM has successfully trained and engaged volunteer monitors to investigate and answer questions about the myriad of issues facing our state's water quality. Today, ALLARM is traveling throughout Pennsylvania, training communities to determine if their stream health is being compromised by the drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale.

Marcellus Shale:

During ALLARM's first seventeen years of operation, we worked with over 700 volunteers in every Pennsylvania county to collect data on the impact of acidic deposition on aquatic systems, collecting the largest database on alkalinity and pH on streams in the state, and playing a role in the eventual passage of acid deposition controls. In 1996, we expanded our focus to work with watershed associations on multiple issues to assess, protect and restore Pennsylvania streams. Since that time we have trained more than 2,500 individuals who have implemented over 10,000 square miles of watershed assessments, addressing a range of issues and resulting in stream upgrades, conservation plans, public education and informed debate, participation in permit hearings, and local zoning improvements. When faced with the severity of natural gas drilling and the lack of resources at the state level to monitor the health of streams, ALLARM developed a Marcellus Shale volunteer monitoring protocol to insure that Pennsylvania streams are aptly monitored and protected.

The recent growth of activity to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale gas play is taking place in a space of uncertainty. Marcellus Shale gas development is literally taking place in backyards, fields, and beneath homes in our communities. Involving volunteer monitors in documenting impacts from gas extraction is a cost-effective way to collect data over a wide geographic area. Residents can easily gain access to private property in their neighborhoods and can sample frequently.

In response to this need, ALLARM directors Candie Wilderman and Jinnie Woodward spent the first seven months in 2010 developing a scientifically robust protocol that allows residents to monitor small streams on a weekly basis for the purpose of early detection and prevention of stream contamination from Marcellus Shale gas extraction.

The protocol calls for a period of baseline monitoring prior to gas well development, followed by "watchdog" monitoring during the gas extraction activities. On a weekly basis, volunteers collect flow, visual assessment, conductivity, total dissolved solids (TDS) data. Volunteers also send low flow and high flow samples to ALLARM for quality assurance and quality control (to verify they are using their equipment correctly). Volunteers are encouraged to send low and high flow samples to certified laboratories for baseline analysis for signature chemicals, barium and strontium. If volunteers have elevated TDS and conductivity readings they will send samples to a certified lab for barium and strontium analysis to determine if flowback water is the source of elevated levels. If those signature chemicals are also elevated, the event is reportable. The development of the protocol has involved extensive laboratory work and field testing. The manual ALLARM developed, entitled *Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction: A study design and protocol for volunteer monitoring*, is available to the public at www.dickinson.edu/about/sustainability/allarm/content/Marcellus-Shale/.

ALLARM piloted this protocol in the 2010 summer and since then has conducted 14 trainings in 14 counties (Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland, Clarion, Clearfield, Cameron, Potter, Clinton, Bradford, Susquehanna, Wayne, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Columbia). Over 20 community organizations have been trained, resulting in close to 300 volunteers trained. ALLARM's Marcellus Monitoring protocol has already been adopted by a number of organizations conducting trainings, including the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Mountain Watershed Association, and Trout Unlimited.

ALLARM recently was awarded \$185,000 by the Colcom Foundation to disseminate training resources and free equipment to volunteer monitors in Western Pennsylvania, which is going to make for a busy summer!

ALLARM Update Continued

Technical Assistance:

Over the past year, ALLARM has continued to provide technical and programmatic assistance to watershed groups in south-central Pennsylvania to empower communities with the scientific tools to monitor, protect, and restore water ways. This past year ALLARM built new relationships with two new watershed groups – the Lower Penns Creek Watershed Association (LPCWA) and the Yellow Breeches Watershed Association (YBWA). Both LPCWA and YBWA have received strategic planning assistance from ALLARM – a new branch of organizational assistance that ALLARM is offering groups. In addition to the six standard workshops ALLARM provides to monitoring organizations (monitoring plan study design; chemical, biological, and visual assessment workshops; data interpretation; and data communication), ALLARM offers strategic planning and volunteer recruitment assistance.

Regional Incentives:

ALLARM continues to play a leadership role in volunteer monitoring on the state, regional, and national levels. This past year ALLARM was asked to be one of several volunteer monitoring representatives to the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. ALLARM was also one of two Pennsylvania organizations asked to contribute advice on increasing community stewardship in the Chesapeake Bay region.

For additional information about ALLARM programs, visit www.dickinson.edu/allarm and be sure to read our annual newsletter, *Stream of Consciousness*.

Stormwater Campaign:

ALLARM's LeTort Stormwater Education Campaign is still going strong! This year the Campaign moved into more direct community based projects. Two storm drain marking events took place, resulting in more than 75 volunteers involved in marking more than 500 drains with the message "Don't Dump Drains to LeTort." These events served two purposes, first the volunteers were educated in the issues of stormwater run-off and second, hopefully Carlisle residents will be deterred from dumping materials down storm drains. Another new project is rain barrel construction and installation. ALLARM worked with the Cumberland County Conservation District to build its understanding of existing rain barrel initiatives in the watershed and built 50 rain barrels to be given away at community workshops – the first of which was April 7. Lastly, the Campaign implemented the 3rd Annual LeTort Festival. This year Carlisle was chosen for a tree planting site by the Department of Conservation Natural Resources and strategically, the tree planting and the festival took place on the same day. It is estimated that 125 volunteers participated in the tree planting and an additional 450 people attended the LeTort Festival.



Photo Above:

Taylor Wilmot '13 trains community members at a Marcellus Monitoring Workshop



Photo Left:

Ben Mummert '12 trains volunteers how to install stormdrain markers



Photo Above:
Michael Heiman, Candie Wilderman and
the 2005 LUCE Student

Dickinson Launches a New Alumni Resource Named myDickinson

Similar to the attributes of facebook, Dickinson has launched it's latest Alumni resource entitled myDickinson. MyDickinson is available to Dickinson Alums to reconnect and network with other Alums. The benefits of myDickinson over facebook include no annoying advertisements and the fact that this is not open to the general public. Only those who have the distinction of being called Dickinson Alumni are able to join. To utilize the myDickinson site you will need to create an account. Please click on the following link:

<http://my.dickinson.edu/s/1224/start.aspx>

To create your new account, just Click on the "myDickinson links" tab at the top left of the page and scroll down to "Create New Account"

Dickinson License Plates

If you are a Pennsylvania resident, you can display your pride in your alma mater by ordering a Dickinson license plate. Please click on the following link if you are applying for a new license plate:

<http://www.dickinson.edu/alumni/Information-for-New-License-Plate-Applications/>

Your Feedback is Important to us.....

We have created this newsletter with you in mind....If you would like to make a suggestion regarding newsletter content or format please let your voice be heard. Please email ormm@dickinson.edu



Photo Below:
Michael Heiman, Candie Wilderman and
the 2009 LUCE Student
Participants

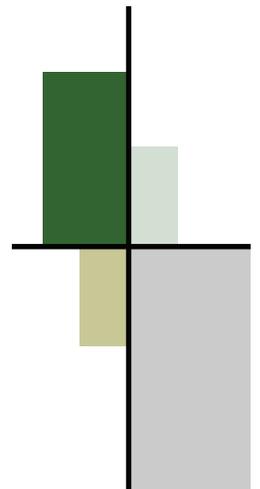


Photo Below:
Michael Heiman, Candie Wilderman and
the 2007 LUCE Student
Participants



Alumni News....

Be sure to check out the Dickinson Alumni web link below. <http://www.dickinson.edu/alumni/>

It will keep you informed on the latest Alumni news and events.

We WANT You!!

- Has your Dickinson education landed you the perfect career?
- Are you excited to tell people about projects you are currently working on?
- Are you involved in cutting edge environmental work?

If you answered “yes” to any of these questions, the ES department would love to have you back to campus to speak with our current majors.

If you would like to share your wisdom, knowledge and experiences with our students please contact Vallie Edenbo at edenbov@dickinson.edu

Job Hunting or Seeking a Career Change?

Occasionally, our department receives emails from organizations seeking to fill positions that would be well-suited for Alumni of our Environmental Studies/Science programs. We would welcome the opportunity to pass this information along to you. If you are interested in receiving these announcements, please email Mary Orr at ormm@dickinson.edu. You should send your “sign up” request from your desired email account. Please include your name, year of graduation and “Sign Me Up” in the subject line.

ES Women Plan Bike Trip Across US With Local Food Focus



2011 Dickinson College Environmental Studies Majors--Elise Rodriguez, Katie Panek and Kerstin Martin--are planning a cycling trip across the United States. The trio will connect with 7-10 Girl Scout troops along the way, teaching young women about community based agricultural projects, nutrition and the environmental impacts of the food industry. In addition, they will be actively demonstrating and encouraging these young women to stay healthy by participating in outdoor, recreational activities.

You can learn all about their journey and offer support by visiting their blog: <http://localmotive2011.wordpress.com/>

Stay tuned for more updates!

Alumni Updates

Class of 1979

Susan Rogers Spreat

Well, as a 1974 graduate, I guess I must be one of the first Environmental Sciences majors at Dickinson. There was no major in Environmental Sciences at that time. I had to create my own major, with the assistance of Professor CJ Ralph. To tell the truth, I just wanted to avoid taking the Organic Chemistry class that was required for a biology major, and while my entry into environmental sciences might not have had the purest of motives, I did put the information to good use. My master's thesis at Drexel University had to do with the extraction of the antibiotic Gentamicin from soil samples. At that time, I was employed in the Animal Health Division of Schering Plough, and I was responsible for determining the environmental impact of antibiotics that passed through cows and other farm animals. I was also on my township's Environmental Commission for a couple of years. Eventually, I had to take that @\$^&%# Organic course as a prerequisite for veterinary school, and I'm now the owner of the Imlaystown Veterinary Clinic in Allentown, NJ. Regarding CJ - he offered an observation that has lived on in my family and that I use repeatedly to ensure the continuing humility of my husband, Scott. Upon meeting Scott, a Dickinson graduate with a doctorate in psychology who still sounds a bit like a farmer, CJ opined that while Scott might be pretty smart, but he certainly didn't sound like an east coast intellectual.



Class of 1980

Paul Landry



It's great to see that the Environmental Science department at Dickinson has grown into such a strong and vibrant group over the years, then again, not surprising with Candie's leadership and vision. Personally, I'm still working in the Philadelphia area with Weston (23+ years) focusing on groundwater remediation, cleanup and development. Right out of college, I got my feet wet by working in the oil industry learning well drilling, testing and logging, which allowed me to live in some great places like Australia, Singapore and Egypt. After 6 years of international work, I returned home and back into the environmental field where my true passion remained. In the years since, the field has really matured and grown as the environmental laws that grew out of the 70's became an everyday reality. Emerging cleanup technologies such as bioremediation and in situ oxidation/reduction of hazardous chemicals continue to offer challenges and opportunities for professional growth, so work remains interesting - and I have my Dickinson experience largely to thank for that. My daughter Rachel (18) and son Chris (16) are growing up fast, so I'm savoring my time with them, but usually find time to return to Carlisle for one reason or another throughout the year. Keep up the good work and stay in touch.

Class of 1981

Rick Shangraw

Recently became director of the Global Institute of Sustainability at ASU.

Class of 1986

Daphne Moritz



I will try and be brief, but let's just say a lot has happened since 1986. This is my 25th college reunion year! Oh, but it feels like yesterday. Not exactly. My son, Matthew, has applied to Dickinson and if accepted he would very likely be involved in the environmental studies department, at the very least to supplement a biology major. Although I was drawn to Vermont Law School primarily to study environmental law my interest in staying around here (Vermont) led me down many other life paths. Now I have my own boutique law firm with offices in Woodstock, Vermont, and Hanover, New Hampshire, and we specialize in estate planning, elder law and special needs. I love my work and my rural life. A big shout out to Candy Wilderman who looks exactly the same as when I left Dickinson lo those many years ago. Thanks for being such a positive role model. When I talk about Dickinson to my children I always tell them how great the professors are there and how much impact my professors had on my life. Thanks and kudos to growing a great department at a time when studying the environment in a wholistic manner was still very much the cutting edge. If I am back again (with Matthew) or one of my other kids, I will make it a point to see Candy.

Class of 1993

William Nellen

In 2010 joined Alliant Insurance Services, a leading national specialty brokerage firm, to start and build an environmental liabilities brokerage business for the firm. Our focus is on growing a sustainable business based upon both transactional deals and operational risk management for commercial clients.

Class of 1994

Cristin Melissa Tighe



Currently in Ghana, West Africa, until August 2013. Do consulting and teach trainings in Africa, Europe and sometimes the US.

Class of 1995

Chris Mincavage

Since graduating from Dickinson, I received my J.D. from Dickinson School of Law and began practicing Energy Law with McNees Wallace & Nurick in Harrisburg, PA, where I am now a partner. I live in Hershey with my husband, Andrew Rossetti, who works for the Department of Homeland Security. In August 2010, welcomed our son, Anderson Evan Rossetti, to our family.

Class of 1996

Suzanne Kahn Eder



Hello friends! After graduating from Dickinson, I spent the next five years working as a park ranger at Acadia National Park, with a couple of winter/spring seasons on Puget Sound in Washington at an environmental education center. I then moved to Portland, Maine and worked as the Science Coordinator at the Children's Museum of Maine for seven years, while also immersing myself in the Ecological Teaching and Learning graduate program at Lesley University. I am now working as the Education Director at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, one of 28 Reserves across the country.

It is a great fit! I live in Portland with my husband and chihuahua pug. We love getting outside on the coast of Maine to kayak, hike, bike, and snowshoe. I still have such warm memories of my time at Dickinson and am so impressed with all that has happened in the environmental science department since 1996!



Class of 1998

Will Pino

I currently place engineers and other professionals/executives in manufacturing and energy companies.

Caroline Whitehead

Just passed the 5 year mark at EPA where I have worked on water quality standards in the Office of Water and subsequently, the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations focusing on appropriations, children's health, international health and research & development. Recently joined the Presidentially-established Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force - a federal and state initiative to develop a strategy focused on the recovery of the Gulf of Mexico.

Terra Zvara

Since my time at Dickinson I've completed a masters and worked for several years in a variety of environmental policy positions. Several years ago I switched careers and have been working in the military family support field. I have recently begun a new position with the American Red Cross Armed Forces Emergency Services program and will be deploying to Afghanistan in March 2011. I have enjoyed seeing and have been very impressed in how much the Environmental Studies program has grown.

Class of 1999

Becky Glenn



My husband Lynn and I opened our own restaurant in November, 2010. Shoo Mama's farm fresh cafe provides local and organic food to the West Chester, PA area. Through good food and good service, we hope to increase consumer awareness and demand for local and organic options.

Michelle Pappas

Hello Candie! I hope you are well. Although I am not currently working in the environment field, my husband and I are very in touch with what is going on in the environment. We recycle all paper and plastic and are avid supporters of environmental sustainability. I do hope someday to be more active in global warming and/or stream restoration projects in my local community. Currently, I am nine months pregnant and expecting our first baby any day now. We are uncertain if it is a boy or girl. Honestly, we are just hoping for a healthy and happy baby. Take care.

Ann Yoachim



After graduation, I moved to New Orleans for an environmental education job. Eleven years later, I'm still here. I've left and come back and will certainly leave again, but the city certainly has become my home.

Currently, I am a Program Manager at the Tulane Institute on Water Resources Law and Policy where I work do policy and community work related broadly to issues of survivability and sustainability in Southern Louisiana. This includes everything from climate change to coastal wetland restoration and protection. I focus on connecting the region's challenges and opportunities to other areas of the world. I am also an Adjunct Instructor teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on a wide range of topics including global health, urban spaces, climate change and development. Most of my free time is taken up by teaching yoga, traveling, enjoying the music and food of New Orleans, and volunteering on community projects. A big shout out to all the Luce Semester students who I've met over the last few years.

Class of 2000

Melissa Shannon Pitchford

Hope everyone in the ES community is doing great! I'm doing quite well, still employed with URS Corporation working as a Geoscientist and will celebrate my 10-year anniversary with URS this summer. My husband, Jeff, and I welcomed our daughter, Keira, in August 2009, and we're currently expecting our 2nd this March. Life is busy (soon to become even more so!) but great. And hoping to make it back to D-son this summer sometime!

Alexis Schoppe



I am living and working in Santa Barbara, enjoying the year round access to amazing food! I work for the s'Cool Gardens Program which helps elementary schools in the county create sustainable school garden programs.

I also work with the Farmer Veteran Coalition and the Teaching Garden in Los Angeles. The FVC is a great program which connect vets coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan with organic farmers to train them as future farmers while helping them heal. I got hitched to my long time partner in September and we are expecting our first child in July! We are very excited. I am thrilled to see the seed of a garden we planted at Dickinson in 2000 has fully grown beyond our wildest dreams...go Dickinson for keeping the garden/farm growing!

Class of 2001

Melissa Burgan

I'm currently living and working in Norwich, England. I got married to my husband, Terry, in 2003 and we recently adopted two black labs. After Dickinson, I attended UEA where I received my MS in Climate Change from UEA. After that I began working in local government as a transport planner, with an environmental remit. In 2006 I started my own consultancy company, Small Fish, with a former colleague. I am the partner in charge of environmental strategy. We write policies, strategies and undertake environmental assessments, mainly for government bodies, but also sometimes for private sector developers. I've specialized in climate change with a particular focus transport and future built developments.

Class of 2002

Patrick Read

Since graduating from Dickinson I have worked as an Environmental Scientist in a variety capacities both as a consultant and now as a federal Employee with the U.S. Navy. I currently serve as the Program Manager for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Drinking Water at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Washington, Annapolis Public Works Department at the Naval Support Activity Annapolis which includes the United States Naval Academy.

I hope all is well with all my former Dickinson Environmental classmates and professors! If any one is intrested in environmental jobs or internships with NAVFAC feel free to contact me.



Class of 2003

Patrick Sutton



I have been working as an environmental consultant for over 6 years and I'm currently living in Oakland, California. I work at a small company called BASELINE Environmental, where I specialize in water resources protection and environmental assessments/remediation of contaminated properties. I love, love, love what I do and highly recommend environmental consulting to any geologist or environmental scientist who is about to graduate from Dickinson. Lauren and I have a wonderful daughter, Nora, who is now 16 months old. Nora's first sentence was "bye-bye moon." We enjoy living in the Bay Area, but we might find ourselves back on the East coast in the near future. I'm planning to attend graduate school in the fall of 2011 to study environmental engineering. I've spent the last 4 years studying math and physics at community colleges to prepare for a graduate program, so it's very exciting to soon start studying how those concepts apply to models such as groundwater flow, air quality monitoring, and fate and transport of contaminants in the subsurface.

Class of 2004

Jessica Durkota

After graduating from Dickinson I returned to the University of East Anglia as a graduate student in Environmental Sciences. After finishing my Masters, I joined the Environment Agency of England and Wales as a freshwater ecologist specializing in aquatic entomology and fisheries science. In addition to my work, I found a bit of funding a few years ago to start a part-time PhD at University College London investigating the distribution of hyporheic fauna in relation to environmental pressures and have very much been enjoying some extra field work in the English countryside.

Claire Foster



I just started a new job in the remediation division of the CT DEP; so far it has been great! I am also currently living with a group of Catholic nuns - the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. They are an amazing and very diverse group of women. I am currently learning more about their way of life to see if I might want to join them.

Nate Lapierre

Since receiving a Masters Degree from the University of Texas, Energy and Earth Resources program, I now work with Venti Energy as a Project Manager for renewable energy projects, primarily wind and solar. As a Project Manager with Venti Energy my role is wide ranging but includes developing financial models, performing due diligence for investors, providing in-house GIS services and wind resource assessments, grant writing and analysis of electricity markets throughout North America.

Class of 2005

Clare Froggatt

Professionally, I am trying to make my way into the event planning industry, eventually specializing in putting together more eco-friendly events. I've planned and carried several events at NECSI and welcome any ideas or connections in the event planning or sustainability world!

Cassie Gurbisz



Since graduating from Dickinson, I spent two years living in the backyard of Maryland's Blackwater National Wildlife refuge, exploring coastal ecology and waterman communities with 6-12th graders as an educator for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Then for three years I took a job as Program Manager of an NSF-funded Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence, housed at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES) Horn Point Lab on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Currently I'm working towards an MS degree in Marine Estuarine Environmental Science through UMCES and doing research on underwater grass restoration. I've picked up a few water-related hobbies after living on the Bay for several years, including proggin' (beach combing), birding, and sea kayaking. Recently I took my love of paddling to Florida for a week-long trip in the 10,000 Islands area of Everglades National Park.

Andrew Parsekian

I am in the fourth year of my PhD in Environmental Geophysics at Rutgers University and I hope to complete my degree in October 2011.

Class of 2006

Amanda Bridenhagen



Hello Dickson ES Faculty and Alums, I have been living in Boulder, Colorado since 2008. I am currently a first-year MBA student at the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado. My focus in the program is Sustainability and I'm enjoying the incredible community of environmental entrepreneurs in Boulder. Before grad school, I was working at Global Greengrants Fund, a foundation that grants small grants to grassroots groups in the Global South working on environmental and social justice issues. I am engaged to Eli Feldman, a water rights attorney, and we will be married in Virginia in July. I love exploring the Southwest and skiing in the mountains of Colorado! I'd love to have visitors!

Lily Cavanagh

I've been volunteering with a grassroots direct action based environmental group here in Philadelphia, called EQAT. Our current campaign is focused on stopping Mountaintop Removal coal mining. I first learned about MTR and the fight the people of Appalachia have been in while at Dickinson, during the first LUCE Semester. So, thank you to Candie and Heiman (and all the other ES professors) for teaching me about real grassroots struggles, because that bit of education has guided my life since graduating! (I'm the one holding the banner on the left in the photo, which is of a sit in/sing in that shut down a PNC bank during Appalachia Rising, a mass mobilization for climate justice)



Class of 2006 Cont'd

Julia Hyman

I am about halfway through, and still greatly enjoying, my PhD program at Univ. of Rhode Island. My research focuses on denitrification hotspots in fluvial systems and tradeoffs with greenhouse gas generation. I am currently doing work in beaver ponds. I recently got engaged to a fellow Dickinson '06 grad, Louis Lazar!

Becki Walker



Hello fellow Dickinsonians! The last few years have been full of big changes for me. I'm now working at a non-profit watershed council, directing our education and marketing efforts. I also "engaged the world" on October 15th by marrying a Dutchman! We were thrilled to have a ton of Treehouses and ES majors at our wedding reception. Currently, we're very happily living in Portland, Oregon with our neurotic cat.

Adam Wickline



I was living the dream. I was on Fox Island in the middle of the Chesapeake working to educate the future generations on why the Bay is amazing and worth saving.

The island is off the grid, operating on three PV panels, composting toilets, and all the fish and crabs one can eat. The only things lacking were trips to the bar and girlfriends. Well, after three and a half years of this life, I landed a job on the mainland. Luckily, it is with the same organization, but as a grassroots advocate. I will be working to promote CBF's message of clean water to all corners of the 64,000 square mile watershed. If anyone is in the Annapolis area and wants to meet up, hit me up.

Class of 2007

Emma Andrews

Still living in Florida, in late 2009 I took a promotion as a permanent park guide in the National Park Service at Big Cypress National Preserve. My duties include leading swamp walks, conducting Ranger programs, alligator talks, and canoe trips during our season and assisting with graphic design as well as information management the rest of the year. This past summer I was requested to serve a month-long detail on the Deepwater Horizon Mississippi Canyon 252 oil spill as a volunteer coordinator and as a Public Information Officer for the NPS at Gulf Islands National Seashore. The skills I learned will hopefully assist me in assisting during future emergencies such as hurricanes and wildfires.

Class of 2008

Lisa Biddle

After graduating from Dickinson, I moved to Truckee, California to work as an AmeriCorps member at the Sierra Business

Council doing environmental education and community outreach. After a year and a half of living and playing in the beautiful Sierra Nevada mountains, I moved back to the east coast this fall and am currently pursuing my Master's in Landscape Architecture at the University of Georgia.



Danielle Gioce

I'm working on a MS in Water Management and Hydrologic Science at Texas A&M. I'm loving living in the south, and it's a great place to study water!

Matt Freedman



After two years of providing estuarine field expeditions for K-12 groups at the Institute of Florida Studies, I realized that it was time to switch roles and start learning again instead of the teaching, as I still had so much to learn about the marine biology. In August '10 I moved back up north to start a masters program through William & Mary at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). I'm in the Biological Sciences department with a focus on benthic ecology. It's a fantastic program and I'm really enjoying it. After VIMS I plan to go back into marine education and outreach, but that's still a few long years down the road!

Jensen Gelfond



I've just returned from an amazing month-long trip through South America (Paraguay, Bolivia, Peru). For the past two years I've been working with Seven-Star, Inc.,

the event-planning company that produces the environmentally-themed Green Festivals and Mother Earth News Fairs. I have worked in sponsorships with Seven-Star, and am currently the IT Director. Give me a ring if you come to Asheville!

**Class of 2008
Cont'd**

Brendan Hughes

After finishing 2 years in Peace Corps Paraguay as an Environmental Education volunteer, I decided to extend for a year in El Salvador working in a school in a small town. I teach about current environmental issues in El Salvador such as deforestation and trash management.

Karen Kirner



In May 2010 I completed my MA in anthropology at the University of Florida. My research project studied agricultural change and variation among Bakiga and Batoro farmers around Kibale National Park in western Uganda. I spent the summer of 2009 wandering around farm land within 5 km of the national park and talking with farmers about farming. This project was a great way to combine my interests in human culture, the environment, and farming. It is part of a larger NSF-funded research project looking at landscape change around national parks in eastern and southern Africa. This year is my "break year" to do something completely different. I'm working part-time as a language assistant in Toulouse, France where I'm responsible for teaching English to elementary school children. I'm also working part-time at Dickinson's study abroad program in Toulouse where I help students adapt to living in France. I'm also working on developing a Dickinson summer program themed around the environment and sustainable development in France and Toulouse.



Kim Ogren

After consulting for two years for EPA on water security issues, I started working towards my Masters of Science in Water Resources Policy and Management at Oregon State University in the Fall of 2010. In addition to my studies I am helping manage a project for the Bureau of Reclamation on its institutional capacity, conflict, and cooperation in its management of water in the western US as well as contributing to a series of symposia entitled "Transboundary River Governance in The Face of Uncertainty: The Columbia River Treaty." When I am not in class or working my research I enjoy exploring the Pacific Northwest.



Carl Kjellman

I'm currently working as a water researcher for the Food & Water Watch in DC as well as working as a data entry assistant with the Friends Committee on National Legislation.



Class of 2010

Michael "Quinn" Biros



Hey everyone! Right after graduating, I started working for an environmental consulting firm doing natural resource damage assessment regarding the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. I currently live in New Orleans and go out everyday on a boat in the marshes assessing birds for oil. I really get to put my LUCE experience to work! Hope everyone's doing well!

NOTE TO ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE ALUMNI:

We appreciate that you took the time to update your contact information with the ES department. By keeping us updated, we are able to contact you regarding participation in our annual newsletter. For those of you who provided us with a news blurb and/or photo...we say thank you....without your input, it really isn't an alumni newsletter. For those who would like to participate in a future newsletter, please update your contact information on the environmental studies webpage or email orrm@dickinson.edu from your preferred email account. This will enable us to contact you about our next newsletter request.



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