



Longtime government professor and newly chosen Director of the Environmental Studies Program, Bob Turner, has big plans for the program. While a government professor may initially seem like a surprising candidate for the position, Bob's extensive personal and professional background in the environmental field have equipped him with a unique set of skills and a perspective that will stimulate and strengthen the department. Bob has been involved with Environmental Studies for over ten years, and worked as the director for one year previously. He is strongly committed to building the program and ready to invest the time and energy needed to bring his ideas to fruition.

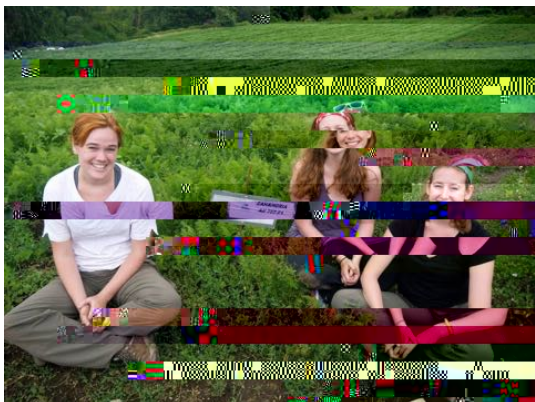
Bob's connection to Environmental Studies traces back to his political career on Capitol Hill, where he dealt hands-on with the kinds of issues and discussions he now brings into the classroom. In fact, the first big bill he worked on was the 199

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Assistant Professor **Nurcan Atalan-Helicke** published a paper titled “Learning and Promoting Urban Sustainability in Place: Service Learning in an Undergraduate Environmental Studies Curriculum” in the December issue of *Journal of Environmental Education*. Her paper, “The Halal Paradox: Negotiating identity, religious values, and genetically-engineering food in Turkey,” which she presented in June at the annual meeting of Agriculture, Food, and Human Values in Burlington VT, was accepted for publication in *Journal of Environmental Education*. She presented her Faculty Student Summer Research project “Seed saving and agricultural biodiversity conservation: Food system

resilience in the US and beyond” at the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences meeting in June.

Associate Professor **Eric Morser** contributed a chapter to a recently published book. He wrote “Flames in the West: American Expansion, Federal Indian Policy, and the Transformation of Indigenous Lives in the Age of Grant” in *Indigenous Peoples and the American West*, ed. Edward O. Frantz (Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014). He was also a commentator at a Researching New York conference held at the University at Albany last November,





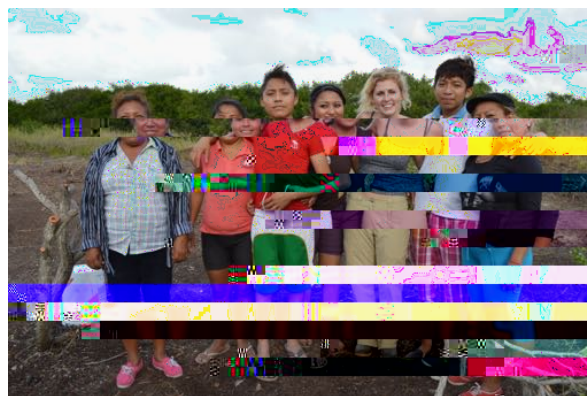
I spent my summer working with the sea turtle conservation and research program at Mote Marine Lab in Sarasota Florida, one of two nighttime tagging interns who monitored a six-mile stretch of beach for nesting loggerhead and green turtles. The sea turtle tagging program is focused on gaining information about turtle nesting habits as well as larger scale data on population size and life history characteristics. I learned how conservation could be paired with fieldwork in order to successfully understand and protect a species. Both the field research and monitoring were important to collectively protect the threatened loggerhead and endangered green turtles that nest on the Florida beaches.

I also worked closely with Dr. Justin Perrault, an immunology research scientist at Mote who is looking at toxin levels in turtles. We collected and analyzed blood samples, finding that many turtles had toxins in their system associated with a red tide event in the area over two years ago. Being involved in this research allowed me to experience hands on science and apply what I

**Tsering Choden** '17, a student in Skidmore Scholars in Science and Math (S3M), participated in the Alternative Seed Systems and Food Resilience in the US project this past summer. The funding was provided by S3M.

**Nahid Paiman** '15 spent 5 weeks this summer doing faculty-student summer research with Assistant Professor Nurcan Atalan-Helicke. Her project was entitled Afghan Women in Leadership Positions: Activism and Local Economic Development.

**Lauren Bosche** '15 and **Helen Alemayehu Mebrate** '16 spent 8 weeks this summer working with Assistant Professor Nurcan Atalan-Helicke on a faculty-student summer research project focused on alternative seed systems and food resilience in the US. They received an additional \$750 award for conference travel, and attended both the Food Systems Summit at the University of Vermont and the annual meeting of Agriculture, Food, and Human Values.



This past summer, 8 ES students successfully competed for funding from various groups and programs on campus to undertake summer internships that focused on a range of environmental issues. In addition to Anna Gubbins and Jenna Frank (featured on the previous page), 2 students got funding from the ES Program and 4 others were awarded funding from either the Student Government Association or directly from Skidmore. The goal for each student was to connect academic interests to real-world experience, and students worked from Saratoga to San Francisco, covering urban planning and land conservation, wilderness protection, food security, environmental health, and sustainability.

**Emily Cheung '17, ESS major, funded by the Student Government Association's Responsible Citizenship Internship Award (RCIA)**

Emily interned at the Student Conservation Association with the Forest Service, working on a trail crew in the Frank Church-River of No Return, a protected wilderness area in Iowa. She was responsible for creating a network of approximately 200 miles of trail passable to horses and mules, the primary means of transportation in the backcountry. Over the course of her internship, Emily practiced and mastered the skills it took to properly clear a trail. Emily's experience cultivated teamwork and communication skills, living in the remote wilderness with a small team and no electricity or mechanized instruments. She also was able to meet with wilderness rangers, smokejumpers, fire lookouts and field biologist, broadening her perspectives on wilderness management.

**Emily Durante '15, ESC major, funded by RCIA**

Emily interned for the City of Saratoga Planning and Economic Department. She dedicated her time mostly as Project Manager for the pilot bike share program she worked to implement in Saratoga Springs between July and August. She collaborated with the Capital District Transportation Committee to receive funding for the project, the bike share company Buffalo BikeShare, other cities participating in the project, as well as various departments within Saratoga Springs government to bring the project to fruition. She also met with various local stakeholders, including members from the Chamber of Commerce, the Visitor's Centers, the Greenbelt Trail Committee, hotel and tourism managers, as well as managers of the Saratoga Spa State

**Rebecca Fennel '15, ESC major, funded by the ES Summer Internship Award**

Rebecca interned at Food Gatherers in Ann Arbor, Michigan, a nonprofit food bank that rescues food from local grocery stores and large businesses, diverting millions of pounds of food from landfills to people in need. Rebecca helped sort through food items to make sure that the food being distributed to food-insecure community members was good quality. She spent much of her time directing volunteers

the organization and implementation of a produce box program, which provided hundreds of needy families with fresh summer fruits and vegetables. Rebecca's internship taught her not only about feeding the food-insecure, but also about how to address the steep problem of food waste, how nonprofits are managed and evaluated, how to interface with volunteers and clients, how to create "best practices" in a workplace, and how to maximize efficiency by focusing on strong organization.

**Sarah Hoenig**



**Auden Schendler, ES Keynote Speaker:  
Great Fear, Great Hope: Climate Change, Human  
Nature, and Effective Action**

In September, the Environmental Studies Program welcomed Auden Schendler as this year's Keynote Speaker. Auden is the Vice President of Sustainability at Aspen Skiing Company and author of

He spent the day meeting with students over lunch in the dining hall, taking a walk through the North Woods



## Rod Coronado: A Voice in the Wild – Citizen Action to Save the Wolf ... Again

In March, the ES Program and the Sociology Department brought Rod Coronado to speak on campus. Coronado has been called one of the most notorious radical animal-rights activists from the far left of the environmental movement. He previously served close to a decade in federal prison for direct actions with the Animal Liberation Front, Earth Liberation Front, Earth First!, and Sea Shepherd, including sinking whaling ships and damaging whale-processing facilities in Iceland, and sabotaging mountain lion hunts in Arizona. His talk at Skidmore, entitled “A Voice in the Wild: Citizen Action to Save the Wolf... Again”, focused on the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s de-listing of grey wolves from the Endangered Species Act.

Grey wolves were a federally endangered species but lost their protected status in 2011 after their populations began to recover. Wolves are now viewed as game animals, and hunting has reduced their numbers by over 2000, more than a third of their total recovered population in the lower 48 States. Coronado believes we are inextricably linked to wildlife, however, and our survival depends on theirs, so wolves deserve to be protected.

Coronado no longer practices illegal activism, and instead advocates for writing letters and going through legal channels as a means to protect the environment, practices he once did not believe would work. He believes taking mainstream action can still be radical

because you are representing a different worldview by speaking for the animals. He does not regret any of his previous actions, however; when asked about his thoughts on spending time in prison, he said



**John Crisan and Andrew Blakc**

**The End of Skiing? Business Strategies of 6 NY Ski Resorts**

The first humans to strap long pieces of wood to their feet lived during the most recent Ice Age – 8000 BC. Today, skiing has become a way of life for some, and declarations of its approaching demise have caused upset. We examined historic precipitation patterns, future climate and snow cover projections, and business theory to predict the effect of climate change on ski resorts.

**Jennifer Garvin, Faith Nicholas, and Lauren Schilling**

**Public Participation in the Saratoga Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program: Community Based Action Research and Recommendations**

We examined the current household hazardous waste (HHW) program of Saratoga Springs in the hopes of enhancing participation and expansion. We researched other municipal HHW programs in New York State and surveyed Saratoga Springs residents. We recommend the following: utilize permanent facilities within the community, hold collection days multiple times a year, and provide substantial educational material.

**Josh Inaba, Katherine Rosman, and Leslie Velasquez**

**Economic Growth, Politics, and Comprehensive Planning**

Saratoga Springs is challenged with planning for future development that balances growth with conservation of natural resources. We conducted an analysis of the city's comprehensive plans over the last 50 years and interviewed various stakeholders. Despite conflicts between competing interests, the outcome of comprehensive plans and the work of local politicians have balanced economic, sustainability, and social goals.

**Kate**

