



Henry David THOREAU FOUNDATION™

2006 Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest™



Mission Statement

The Henry David Thoreau Foundation™ is dedicated to encouraging highly talented and academically successful young women and men to pursue undergraduate studies preparing them for leadership in advancing the quality of life for all individuals, protecting the environment, and ensuring equitable and sustainable use of the world's natural resources.

Editorial Board

Jennifer P. Galvin, Publisher of the *Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest* and Advisor to the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment.

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Environmental Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

Fostering and encouraging future environmental leaders, a primary goal of the Henry David Thoreau Foundation™, has existed ever since our organization began seven years ago. Each spring, we are reminded of it when we induct the graduating senior Henry David Thoreau Scholars™ into the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment,™ our growing alumni organization. We also welcome our incoming freshmen as new Henry David Thoreau Scholars.

This third edition of the *Henry David Thoreau Environmental Digest*™ updates us on the activities and accomplishments of our Scholar Graduates from the classes of 2003-05. As vital people, they are building bridges to each other—no matter where they live and work. They continue to share and act on the same visions of operating in more efficient and sustainable ways so that we can support a healthy planet. While our Scholar Graduates face climate change, abuse of natural resources, and air pollution, their energy for positive change knows no bounds. As the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment grows, the horizons for its members' professional advancement, personal growth, and long-term collaboration with each other also expand. With their strong determination, keen intelligence, and unquenchable optimism, our Scholar Graduates will continue to be successful, active citizens.

Inspiration for all our Scholars and Alumni comes from *different* sources, and many have written about life-changing events that they have experienced. This year, for the first time, we asked Henry David Thoreau Scholar applicants to describe the role models who motivated them to pursue environmental goals. Their diverse answers delighted us. The list was endless. In addition to teachers and parents, others named were an older brother who is also a Henry David Thoreau Scholar, an EarthWatch leader, a Costa Rican rainforest guide, the Island School program in the Bahamas, an organic farmer in Italy, a National Parks employee, and, not surprisingly, Henry David Thoreau himself.

Our deepest congratulations to one and all. We are proud of our outstanding Henry David Thoreau Scholar Graduates and undergraduate Scholars, truly the environmental leaders of tomorrow, as well as today.

John R. Galvin
President
Henry David Thoreau Foundation

News from Our Henry David Thoreau Scholar Alumni

Lauren E. Bliss
Colby College '03

Over the past year, I have faced many unexpected decisions which have changed my present work and will alter my future. Last year, I turned down a fully funded University of Maryland master's program, potentially studying the bioenergetics of white perch in the Chesapeake Bay. Instead, I decided to continue pursuing my love of teaching science at the high school level. I enrolled in Bridgewater State College's one-year teacher preparation program, which helps me earn my initial license in biology and chemistry, grades 8-12.

Part of the program includes completion of full-time student teaching. Since I had taught previously, I decided to complete my student teaching as a full-time teacher rather than an understudy to a veteran teacher. I found a job as an 8th-grade biology teacher at Qualters Middle School in Mansfield, Massachusetts, when the prior teacher unexpectedly resigned in December 2005. Although I enjoy my current position at the middle school, I am interviewing for science teaching positions at local high schools, and I am excited to stop switching jobs and ultimately get settled. Fortunately, my boyfriend Andrew has felt the same need to get rooted, and we are now engaged! We have purchased a house in Attleboro, and are planning on moving there in July.

When I first decided to pursue high school teaching and a more traditional lifestyle over ecological research and its more scholarly lifestyle, I worried that I would disappoint my family, college professors, and the Henry

Lauren E. Bliss
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David Thoreau Society. I thought that I had worked so hard, earned the right grades, and made the right connections that I, by default, must pursue research even if it were not my passion. However, I received the exact opposite sentiments from my closest friends and colleagues when I mentioned my concerns.

Some people are destined to travel the world, asking questions and conducting cutting-edge research. It is my job to take their findings and transmit them in an engaging way to the next generation, or all that we learn is lost. I now feel a sense of direction and purpose in my life because I have realized that teaching is my calling. I am excited to start a new teaching position in which I can assist in science fairs, help the environmental club, and have time in the summer to volunteer in local environmental efforts. When I see the newest Henry David Thoreau Scholars, who each year are incredibly talented and bright, I worry that they may receive the wrong messages during their undergraduate career. We want to encourage these young Scholars to pursue their goals, but we must never convince them to relinquish their passion in life for what may seem loftier aspirations.

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Stacie L. Bush
Northeastern University '03

I am currently working at Novobiotic Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Using diffusion chambers, we are obtaining previously uncultivable bacteria from terrestrial soil. The bacteria are then tested for antimicrobial activity. The goal is to find antibiotics that can be used against bioterrorism agents such as anthrax (*B.anthraxis*) or black plague (*Y.pestis*). At Novobiotic, I have started working on my Ph.D. in microbiology with the founders of the company, Slava Epstein and Kim Lewis from Northeastern University. Working at Novobiotic has allowed me to travel for conferences. In 2004 I visited Mexico for the International Society of Microbial Ecology (ISME) general meeting, and in August I will be visiting Austria for the same conference. I am very fortunate to be completing a degree while working full time, which gives me both academic and industrial experience. Some goals are to complete my Ph.D. in the next few years and, hopefully, with my help, find a new useful antibiotic.

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Jennifer L. Dziubeck
Connecticut College '05

After graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Connecticut College in May 2005, I began working as an analyst at KLD Research & Analytics, a socially responsible investment research firm in Boston. At KLD, I research a portfolio of banking and financial companies for clients that integrate environmental, social and governance issues into their investment decisions. I also act as KLD's liaison with the Chicago Climate Exchange and conduct an annual audit of the company's greenhouse gas emissions. In my spare time, I volunteer for the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord Watershed Community Council and also take classes in fashion design.

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Scott D. Ellis
American University '03

I am attending the University of Houston Law Center and will graduate with a J.D. degree this May. Each year, our dean presents the ALL-ABA (American Law Institute and American Bar Association) Scholarship and Leadership Award to a graduating student. I am happy to say that I will receive this honor in 2006!

In my first year of law school, I worked to create the *Environmental and Energy Law and Policy Journal*. During my final year, I provided leadership to the *Journal* as Editor in Chief, overseeing its first print publication. I also served as President of the Energy and Environmental Law Society at the Law Center and as Student Liaison to the Board of Directors of the Houston Bar Association's

Scott D. Ellis
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Environmental Section. Throughout law school, I gained valuable environmental litigation work experience as a law clerk with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Houston Mayor's Office of Environmental Policy. Recently, I accepted a position as a litigation attorney with Gardere, Wynn, Sewell LLP, a large Houston law firm, and will begin working following the upcoming bar exam. In January, I married Nicole Tritter Ellis, also graduating from law school this May. My e-mail address is sldel@hotmail.com.

Shoshana M. Friedman
**Oberlin College of Arts &
Sciences '05**

I graduated from Oberlin College in May '05 with high honors in Environmental Studies and the Joyce Gorn Memorial Prize for Excellence in the Environmental Studies Department. My thesis followed my childhood interest in the New England Transcendentalists, and paid homage to the namesake of the Henry David Thoreau Society for the Environment. I looked at the themes of children, nature, and education in the writings and teachings of Thoreau, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bronson Alcott, and Elizabeth Palmer Peabody. Then I drew conclusions both about those thinkers' respective philosophies of environmental education, and their respective beliefs in the child as a wise agent in society.

This year, I am a Fellow with the Jewish Organizing Initiative (JOI) in Boston, which trains young, progressive Jews to do grassroots community organizing. I am learning how to build an organization, develop leaders, effectively plan campaigns, facilitate meetings, and much more that helps create positive, meaningful, sustainable change in the world. I look forward to using these skills in my

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Shoshana M. Friedman
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future work for the environment, whether as an organizer, lawmaker, or journalist. In the near future, I plan on traveling and applying to graduate programs for environmental policy.

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Laura T. Gallant
Cornell University '03

For the past two years, I've been working on my Master's Degree in Biology at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. I'll be graduating this May and moving back north. I'm looking forward to an idyllic summer working on a small family farm in the Green Mountains of Vermont. This will give me time to look for a more permanent job either in an ecological research laboratory or as a high school science teacher.

Baylor University has kept my schedule full. Last year, I was the secretary for the Graduate Student Association. I sing with the Baylor University Concert Choir, and this past semester I have found time to join the Baylor Kung Fu Club. Last spring, I had the opportunity to present at several scientific conferences. In March 2005, I delivered "Do Cowbird-host Status and Boundary-nester Status Mediate Bird-boundary Relations in Deserts?" by Laura T. Gallant, Kevin J. Gutzwiller and Wylie C. Barrow at the 20th Annual Symposium of the U.S. Regional Chapter of the International Association of Landscape Ecologists. In April 2005, I presented "Does Aquatic Invertebrate Family Richness Vary With Nutrient Level?" by Laura T. Gallant, and Kevin J. Gutzwiller at

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Laura T. Gallant
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the Texas Academy of Science 108th annual meeting. I recently gave a more detailed discussion of this paper as my Master's Exit Seminar.

I have focused my course work here on the more applied and technical sides of biology. My courses have included Geographical Information Systems, Invasions Biology, Remote Sensing, and Multivariate Statistics. Many ecologists are taking advantage of modern developments in technology, and I believe having courses in these areas will allow me to follow cutting edge research more closely.

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Robin L. Gibson
University of
Massachusetts—
Amherst '03

In 2005, I continued to operate Crescent Moon Gardens, my greenhouse and landscaping business, located in Gill, Massachusetts. I specialize in design, installation and maintenance of ornamental gardens for homeowners, often working one on one with my clients to provide personal landscaping services. I also continued to improve my showcase gardens around my greenhouse: expanding my vegetable garden, improving perennial gardens, and adding a new woodland garden.

This spring, I am offering my landscaping clients an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) approach to lawn care, including soil sampling and analysis, organic fertilization and pest control, and weekly monitoring for pests and disease. I

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Robin L. Gibson
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will also be participating in the Gill Farm and Garden Tour Day on June 25, 2006. Tickets are \$6 each and can be obtained by contacting me by email at gibsonorion@aol.com.

Christopher D. Golden
Harvard College '05

Recently, I finished eight months in Madagascar's Makira forest, researching bushmeat hunting and consumption on a local and commercial scale. I will be starting my Ph.D. at UC Berkeley's Environmental Science, Policy and Management Department.

In the past year, I have spent long hours in a tent, working with local communities and hunters to understand food security and the role of bushmeat in Malagasy culture. I have also been doing hunter follows to see how they spend time in the forest collecting resources.

During my five-year Ph.D. program, I will be working to expand my research into four or five sites in Madagascar to examine the extent and similarities of hunting throughout the island nation. Specifically, I will be looking into how hunting impacts species endangerment and human nutrition. I received a National Science Foundation fellowship to fund for the extent of my Ph.D. research, and have also been supported by Wildlife Conservation Society and Conservation International to achieve my goals. My e-mail address is Chrisgolden05@gmail.com

Caitlin E. Hicks
Middlebury College '04

In May 2004, I graduated with a degree in Biology and Environmental Studies. I spent the next year working as a research assistant for Dr. Steward Pickett at the Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York. There I worked on research projects, studying the landscape ecology of the city of Baltimore and Kruger National Park, South Africa.

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Caitlin E. Hicks
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As part of my job, I got to spend an amazing month sampling plants and soils among the lions and elephants of Kruger Park.

In August 2005, I moved to Gainesville, Florida, to attend graduate school at the University of Florida. I am currently a master's student in the Soil and Water Science Department under Dr. Ramesh Reddy. My thesis is on the ability of constructed coastal wetlands to sequester carbon. In my limited spare time, I like to get outside to enjoy Florida's unique flora and fauna and warm weather.

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Ashley M. Johnson
Wellesley College '04

I am currently working as a research assistant in the Renal Division at Brigham and Women's Hospital. There I am studying the use of urinary proteins as biomarkers for kidney injury and cancer. I still spend every Saturday as a volunteer Aquarist's Assistant at the New England Aquarium. You may spot me feeding the Atlantic salmon or replanting the anaconda exhibit.

This fall, I will begin pursuing my Ph.D. at the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign as a graduate student in its Department of Animal Biology. My research will be in Evolutionary and Ecological Genetics, with Dr. Kim Hughes as my advisor. I look forward to the new challenges.

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Ashley M. Johnson
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Sue J. Kim
Cornell University '04

The past year has been pretty exciting for me, since I held my first field position and have moved on to a second. My first job was with the State of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, through which I was able to assist in population monitoring studies of threatened and endangered local species, namely desert tortoises and Virgin River fish. The job was enjoyable, not only because I learned a lot and worked with some cool people, but also because it was located near several beautiful National Parks where I could spend my free time.

I have just moved to the Bay Area of California where I have started work as a field technician for a biological consulting firm. Much of the work here involves conducting biological inventories in construction and research sites, with a particular focus on two threatened snake species, the Alameda whipsnake and the San Francisco garter snake, and the California red-legged frog. The job has been going well so far, and I've enjoyed working all over the Bay Area and learning the local fauna.

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Paula Deardon Kulis
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology '03

Over the past year, I have become interested in water supply/sanitation in developing countries. I've started working with the UT student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (UT-EWB) and Water for People, a non-profit NGO that works closely with NGOs in other countries. I'm trying to learn more about this topic, hopefully, so that I can stay involved in some organization after I graduate—maybe incorporate it into my job or keep doing it on the side.

I'm also making progress on research for my Ph.D. in fluid mechanics in Corpus Christi Bay in Texas, at UT Austin. I love my research topic: modeling a thin, dense underflow in a shallow bay. We got some very interesting results when we took field data last summer, and now I'm working on modeling different physical processes in Corpus Christi to explain this data.

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Matthew J. Looft
University of Vermont '05

I'm sitting in the public library in Lander, Wyoming, having just awakened in City Park, and trying to get things in order before I head out into the field. I'm a student on a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS, www.nols.edu) Instructors Course, starting tomorrow morning. I'll be in the mountains, and out of contact, for about a month. After my work with the Outing Club at UVM, I decided to pursue my passion for experiential education and outdoor pursuits. I will be

Matthew J. Looft
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working with a curriculum that includes everything from expedition behavior, to climbing anchors, cooking, leadership styles, and Leave No Trace ethics.

Between graduation and now, I've been busy working and playing. I maintained my job at Eastern Mountain Sports full time, worked with the Outdoor Education and Leadership, Wilderness First Responder, and Ice Site Management and Anchor Construction classes at UVM and led winter backpacking trips for UVM and St. Michael's College. In my free time, I did a fair amount of ice climbing and spent a week in Georgia paddling on Tybee Island.

I'm off to make sure my truck hasn't been towed and go for a hike in Sinks Canyon to start the acclimatization process. In Vermont, if you're from out of state you're a "flatlander," but with 13,000-foot peaks just out the door, I'm certainly the flatlander here! My cell phone is still current at 508-789-4926; my parents are receiving my mail at the following address:

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Stacy Barron Minahane
Bowdoin College '03

I continue to be employed at Beals and Thomas, Inc., an environmental consulting firm. My work focuses on wetlands: permitting, delineating, and restoration/creation. I find the work both rewarding and interesting, and am really looking forward to the upcoming field season. Perhaps my favorite time of year is happening right now with vernal pool season. I survey various pools for evidence of breeding by amphibians and salamanders, and look for unusual aquatic insects like water scorpions. Basically, I get paid to play in large puddles!

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Stacy Barron Minihane
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In other news, I recently traveled to Germany with my husband Justin. Even though we stayed in a fairly rural region, I was amazed at the number of windmills and solar panel roofs, among other environmentally conscious technology.

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Kerri J. Murphy
Northeastern University '05

I am currently attending Pace Law School in White Plains, New York, working toward my J.D. with an environmental law certificate. During my first year, I have been active in the Environmental Law Society and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity. I was also selected to participate in the Land Use Internship Program and served as a bailiff for the National Environmental Moot Court Competition.

In the fall, I hope to take part in an Environmental Seminar focusing on Environmental Enforcement and Compliance. As part of the seminar, I will be working on the 4th Academy of Environmental Law Colloquium Implementing Environmental Legislation which will be held at Pace Law School in October. Next spring, I hope to be a part of the Brazil Comparative Environmental Law class which concludes with a 10-day visit to that country.

In addition to school activities, I have been serving as Advisor for the Delta Phi Epsilon Chapter at Pace University and the Alumni Advisor for the Massachusetts Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Organization.

Kerri J. Murphy
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This summer I will be participating in Pace's DC Externship program and working at the EPA in Washington in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. Specifically, I am hoping to work in the Environmental Justice Department.

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Matthew F. Norton
Cornell University '03

I began my first year of veterinary school at The University of Glasgow in late September 2005. The first two years of this five-year veterinary program include coursework in the subjects of Animal Anatomy, Animal Physiology, Biomolecular Science, and Animal Husbandry. I am thrilled that I decided to pursue a veterinary degree in Scotland. Here I have the opportunity to experience a different culture and have access to beautiful mountainous terrain with numerous lochs and rivers just an hour's drive out of the city.

Animal Husbandry is a course that stands apart from those included in the American veterinary school programs. It is through this course that I have gained valuable knowledge and experience of the United Kingdom's agricultural system. I just returned from an amazing two-week trip that I spent helping assist in the lambing process on a 1,400-acre sheep farm/estate in the village of Skipness, located in the northeast section of the peninsula of Kintyre. Kintyre is situated just off the west coast of mainland Scotland. I looked after about 500 pregnant ewes, separated on the basis of whether they were expecting twins, triplets or a single lamb. I oversaw approximately 600 births

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Matthew F. Norton
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and helped assist in about 150 of them.

In addition to my coursework and extramural studies such as lambing, I have joined the American football club on campus, and thus have the opportunity to continue playing football until I'm 30!

Kehinde S. Oshodi
Northeastern
University '05

I am currently at the end of my second semester at the University of Texas at Austin, pursuing my Master's in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering. I have intentions of completing the program in December. My last semester went extremely well. The courses I took were Geological Information Systems (GIS) for Water Resources, Physical and Chemical Processes for Water and Wastewater Treatment, and finally Water Quality Modeling.

In my Water Quality Modeling course, my classmates and I wrote a draft TMDL report for the Lower Galveston Bay, submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). For my GIS course, I conducted a hydrological study of Nigeria which entailed researching the four water basins that are located in various sections of the country. The final report can be found at <https://webpace.utexas.edu/kso97/www/OSHODI-GISHYDRO.mht?uniq=vw00a1>. This semester, my courses consisted of Environmental Water Analysis, Water Resources Planning and Management, and Groundwater Pollutant and Transport. As I noted above, I wish to graduate in December; however, since my interests lie in both areas of water resources or treatment, I might stay on until May to take more classes in those fields.

As for project ideas, I am currently pursuing three leads. The first is creating a Water

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Kehinde S. Oshodi
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Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) System for the Niger River Basin, under the supervision of Dr. David Maidment and Dr. Deane McKinney at the Center for Research in Water Resources (CRWR). This program will provide water managers a robust tool with the ability to model water flow in order to maximize benefit to all users, realizing that allocations of limited water resources between agricultural, municipal and environmental uses now require the full integration of supply, demand, water quality and ecological considerations.

The second possibility is working with Dr. Randall Charbeneau, also at the CRWR, on evaluating water quality impacts from highway construction and runoff through monitoring and laboratory investigations of performance of temporary and permanent pollution control structures and sediment traps. The third option is working on a portion of either a treatment or water resources project being handled by Camp Dresser McKee (CDM), an engineering consulting firm. My current email address is KSOshodi@mail.utexas.edu.

Louisa A. Pitt
Williams College '04

Currently, I am still working in Greenwich Connecticut, co-teaching at Greenwich Country Day School. My teaching responsibilities include third-grade math and acting as assistant media/technology specialist, where I am in the computer lab both teaching and assisting with classes for students in grades K-3.

I also run the Lower School recycling program, which I reorganized and brought back to life after a two-year hiatus. Every day, individual classrooms empty their recycling bins into large collection containers in the halls. On Friday morning, I have third-grade helpers who join me in weighing the week's recycling and then graphing it on a piece

Louisa A. Pitt
(continued)

of chart paper that hangs in the hall. The recycling bins are emptied by the custodial staff on Mondays, allowing us to keep an accurate weekly record.

This Earth Day, I also involved the lower school in the Earth Day Groceries Project (earthdaybags.org), where students draw themed images on grocery bags which have been donated by a local food store. The bags are then returned to the store and distributed to shoppers on Earth Day, reminding them of its importance.

Finally, I also run an after-school program for first to third graders called "Kids for Kindness," in which the children complete small community service projects on a weekly basis. Projects have included visiting local food pantries, making cards or small gifts for the elderly, assembling projects for school children after Hurricane Katrina, and preparing holiday treats for local children's groups.

My plans for next year (while still up in the air) include looking for a teaching job in the Williamstown, Massachusetts, area and beginning graduate school in elementary education. I am moving back to Williamstown in June to continue pursuing teaching and, hopefully, get back into the environmental/science/outdoor aspects that I love so much.

Julia H. Porter
Harvard College '05

I graduated from Harvard last June with a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemical Sciences. In the first months after graduation, I flew out to Seattle with my two best friends from college, and we traveled around the Northwest, visiting a number of cities and national parks (a week

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Julia H. Porter
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of camping, hiking, and “safari-ing” in Yellowstone was one of the highlights!).

When I returned to Boston in July, I continued researching in Ralph Mitchell’s environmental microbiology laboratory back at Harvard. Along with other researchers, I began a study investigating the qualities of water purifiers produced by an international company contracting with the lab, and conducted follow-up research on a previous project to profile the bacterial populations inhabiting samples of the Mayan ruins in Mexico. I can now be reached at jporter@post.harvard.edu; phone 781-864-3272

Andrew C. Riely
Macalester College ’05

I’m currently finishing my work at the Winter Term, an American boarding school in Switzerland. It’s a fun program with an emphasis on skiing for 13- to 14-year-olds. For many of our students, this is by far the longest they’ve been away from home. Our chalet is in a little town called Lenk, deep in a valley in the Bernese Oberland.

Soon, I head out for a six-week travel adventure in Europe, which will include Rome, Dubrovnik, Budapest, Prague, Vienna, London and Copenhagen. I’ll end up at Chalet Hohliebi in Switzerland to work for the AEEC (Alpine Environmental Education Center). In June, it’s back to the States to work at Camp Pasquaney over the summer, and I don’t know after that. Graduate school in geography is something I’m looking into seriously, perhaps for fall 2007.

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Jonah M. Stinson
Whitman College '04

I'm still enjoying living in the Pacific Northwest, continuing my work as a geologist for a mid-size geotechnical and environmental consulting company here in Seattle. My usual work duties these days often include construction monitoring, groundwater sampling, drilling and soil analytical testing, and conducting environmental site assessments.

While the approaching summer season is usually a busy time for those of us out in the field, I'm looking forward to traveling on the weekends and spending my spare time playing outside with fellow Whitman alumni friends who reside in the area. I also see fellow Thoreau Scholar Sarah Zerbonne quite frequently, as she also lives and works nearby.

As for my longer-term plans, I am currently evaluating several offers of admission for graduate school, where I am looking into pursuing an M.A. in Geography, starting this fall. I envision my studies focusing on physical and natural resource geography, as I hope to improve my knowledge base for regional and international field research opportunities. I wish the current Henry David Thoreau Scholars the best of luck and encourage any graduates to get ahold of me if you find yourself out in the Seattle area!

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Lani T. Stinson
Bates College '05

After graduating from Bates College with a degree in Biology in May 2005, I moved to North Carolina for the summer; where I worked as a research technician at the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences, examining the ecological effects of beach nourishment. In September, I set off for South America, where I spent three months traveling and working in Peru. I volunteered as a research assistant at the Tambopata Research Center, located deep in the Peruvian Amazon. There I studied the conservation and nesting ecology of macaws, a project which included climbing into the rainforest canopy to monitor macaw nests and nestling success. I'm currently living in the Bay Area of California, working for the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory on a large-scale project examining mercury uptake and nest success in shorebirds. My current email address is lani.stinson@gmail.com.

Shannon H. Stone
New York University '04

This year, while I have continued working in an antiques business, I have been active as the chair of the Solid Waste Committee/Zero Waste Project of the NYC Group of the Sierra Club. Mainly, we have been working on an expansion of New York State's bottle deposit program that could potentially return \$179 million annually to the state's Environmental Protection Fund, plus the passage of a NYC electronics recycling bill that would mandate that manufacturers of electronics wishing to sell their products in NYC take back and recycle their consumers' waste. This bill is perhaps the truest embodiment of the principles of the growing movement of Extended Producer Responsibility in the United States. It places financial responsibility for the end-of-life product with the manufacturer who designed it originally and who will then have an incentive to design the product for easier recycling.

Shannon H. Stone
(continued)

In January, I was elected to the Executive Committee of the NYC Group of the Sierra Club, where we address the whole range of environmental issues affecting the city, including nearly every controversial development and land-use proposal. I choose to live in New York City because I am such a strong proponent of Smart Growth, the idea that living in a densely populated area reduces the size of that population's ecological footprint because of increased reliance on public transportation and smaller dwelling size.

The debate at the NYC Sierra Club is whether we have gone too far: Lifelong New Yorkers are noticing a decline in their quality of life, including poor air, lack of open space, and strained infrastructure, including overflowing sewers. During this year, I hope to apply to graduate programs in urban planning, so that I can test the validity of these arguments that city living is more environmentally sustainable. If so, is there a point where sustainability declines?

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Sarah J. Zerbonne
Colby College '03

For the last two years, I have been living in Seattle. I am currently in my second year as an AmeriCorps member at EarthCorps, a non-profit specializing in environmental restoration in the Puget Sound region. During 2005, I was a corps member at EarthCorps, removing invasive species, planting native species, building trails, restoring stream ecosystems, etc., on a daily basis.

This past January, I became an outreach intern for EarthCorps. My work involves

Sarah J. Zerbonne
(continued)

educating the public about restoration during regular volunteer events, as well as doing environmental education for youth during various programs throughout the school year and summer.

Recently, I organized my first major volunteer event at Dearborn Park Elementary, a local school in South Seattle. Entitled “Dearborn Earth Day,” this annual event engaged almost 300 students and 50 EarthCorps employees in restoration projects and environmentally focused educational booths. The experience planning this event was extremely rewarding, and is just the beginning of my organizational efforts as an outreach intern at EarthCorps.

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