

Center for Environmental Studies: 50 Years Strong

On display in Sawyer Library 455, Steven Schow Gallery

September 2017-January 2018

The Center for Environmental Studies (CES) is celebrating 50 years! Established in October 1967, it is one of the first environmental studies programs established at a liberal arts college. CES administers a variety of activities in which students are able to lead and participate alongside members of the Williams community. Resources offered to students include databases, funding for student organizations, activities initiated by students, and support for summer internships and research. CES is currently located in the Class of 1966 Environmental Center, a Living Building. This exhibition highlights six major components of the Center for Environmental Studies (CES). These components include: origins and founding of CES; Environmental Studies academic program; log lunches; environmental activism; Hopkins Memorial Forest, and the Class of 1966 Environmental building/Kellogg House.

Oldest Environmental Studies Program at a Liberal Arts College

In October 1967, during the College's 173rd Convocation event, President John E. Sawyer announced that Williams was launching the first Center for Environmental Studies (CES) at a liberal arts college. "Our goal," he said in a speech to the audience, "will be to foster the kinds of analyses, decisions, and recommendations for action that can help set in motion responses by the several levels of government and community leadership which are needed while there is still time to choose among the environmental options before us. Almost no other subject is more closely related to the central humane values of liberal learning--its concern for the conditions of quality of living for men on this earth."

CES was established with three main objectives:

1. To provide a focal point for undergraduate teaching and faculty research in the environmental field.
2. To relate the academic resources of Williams College to planning and development needs of surrounding regions.
3. To build a body of factual knowledge and professional understanding of environmental issues developing in the metropolitan hinterland regions of the Nation, -- those areas extending 50 to 150 miles beyond major urban

concentrations, now experiencing profound changes in land use, population distribution and institutional relationships.

Establishing a Coordinate Academic Program

During the February 1970 faculty meeting, Williams faculty approved the establishment of the curricular program in Environmental Studies to become effective during the 1970-1971 academic year. Under the new coordinate program, students majoring in established departmental disciplines had the option of selecting environmental studies as a field of special emphasis. When the program started in 1970-71, it was structured around six core courses. Three new courses were required by all students: Introductory Ecology, Economics, and Planning. Non-science majors elected one additional course dealing with the geological or physical science aspects of environment, and science majors elected comparable courses dealing with environmental issues within one of the social sciences.

The coordinate program was directed by an Advisory Committee, made up of faculty and students, that were part of the Center. Over the years additional opportunities catering to the special interests of individuals have been offered. At one time an experimental “Williams in the City” course was offered: this involved a semester- and summer-long period of study to explore related environmental interests.

Purpose of the Coordinate Academic Program

As stated in a CES report from 1970 about the newly established undergraduate program: “Its purpose is to give each student a common basis of understanding for perceiving environmental issues, and for appreciating the interrelationships among different environmentally-related disciplines and professions. The flexibility inherent in the program will enable each individual to follow his own interests through additional elective courses, and through the Winter Study Program, a month of independent student research and field study offered between semesters.”

CES and the Economics Department

The Economics Department has been heavily involved in the Center since its inception in 1967. Several faculty taught environmental economics courses and had some involvement with the Center. Economics faculty continue to teach both some of the Center's multidisciplinary courses as well as economics courses. Some courses are team taught with faculty in other disciplines such as Art, Chemistry, Biology, English, and History.

Environmental Studies Today

Students at Williams can either major or concentrate in Environmental Studies. The eleven-course major includes six core courses. All majors are required to take ENVI 101 Nature and Society and ENVI 102 Environmental Science. Additionally, during their senior year students are required to take one 400-level Environmental Studies capstone research practicum involving "either collaborative research on a specific environmental problem or client-driven team projects on issues of immediate environmental significance in the Berkshire region."

(<https://ces.williams.edu/academic-program/environmental-policy/>) The Environmental Studies concentration consists of six courses and "provides students with an opportunity to explore how humans interact with the environment, including physical, biological, philosophical, and social elements."

(<https://ces.williams.edu/academic-program/environmental-studies/>)

The Four Places Goal is a significant aspect of the program, although it's not required of Environmental Studies majors. The goal is to foster an environment while at Williams so that each student who graduates with either a major or minor in Environmental Studies has developed intellectual insight and personal experiences of four places: "Home," "Here," "There," and "The World." Through these four places of discovery, Williams students are exposed to geographic and socioeconomic situations that fall outside their previous experiences, giving them a broader view of the world both locally and beyond.

Log Lunches

Modeled after the four-decades old faculty science lunches, the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) started their own program of weekly lunches beginning in 1972. Every Friday during the academic year, the Center organizes and hosts a one hour lunch including a talk on a topic relating to the environment and/or

science. Speakers are drawn from local, national, and international organizations and are often students or faculty at Williams.

When the Environmental Studies lunches first started, they took place in the living room of the former Van Rensselaer home (once located on the site of the Library Quad) where the Center for Environmental Studies was housed. In 1973, CES moved to Park Hall and for five years the lunches took place in the large central living room. The Center moved once again in 1978 to the Kellogg House and due to the popularity of the Environmental Studies lunches (plus or minus 100 attendees), Log Lunch was born. The Center remained in the Kellogg House until 2009 when it moved to the Harper House until 2015. Currently, the Center is housed in the Class of 1966 Environmental Building. Log Lunch today is prepared by students and is a vegetarian meal which takes place at The Log (former Alumni House) on Spring Street. The students meet with local farmers, plan the menus based on what's in season, and spend Friday mornings cooking the meal for the lunch event.

“Log Lunch typifies the friendly, welcoming and traditional side of Williams. Students rub elbows with a professor on one side and a community activist on the other, and they might sit across from the person who runs the renewable energy program at the U.S. Department of Energy. They find their compatriots there, eating homemade soup and strategizing to save the world.” --Sarah Gardner, Associate Director of the Center (*Williams Magazine*, summer 2016)

“My goal is that every student becomes concerned about the environment. The variety of our talks means there are new faces every week. Log Lunches are a catalyst for getting people involved with issues they may never have heard of otherwise.” --Sarah Gardner, Associate Director of the Center (*Williams Magazine*, summer 2016)

“Buying locally has become desirable in the consciousness of the community, and Log Lunch works to embrace this. The menu is driven by what is in season because seasonality drives locality. The food at Log Lunch strives to connect people with the world around them. It is a menu not only about people eating it but also about the products from local farmers. While these farmers may not be at the meal, they are embodied in the food that is served, connecting diners with the broader

Williamstown community.” --Jeffrey Rubel '17 (paper for ANTH 232 titled *The Log: Striving to Create Community Through Food and Drink*, fall 2015)



Amos Lawrence Hopkins Memorial Forest

Beginning in the late 1880's Col. Amos Lawrence Hopkins, Williams' Class of 1863 and son of Williams College President Mark Hopkins, began to take up gentleman farming and consolidating small farms in the northwestern corner of Williamstown, MA. After attending Williams and serving in the United States Army, Col. Hopkins began a successful career as a railroad manager. He maintained his railroad career and the operation of the farms until his death in 1912,

by this time amassing over 1600 acres of land. One such lot that was sold to Col. Hopkins in 1906 was by Alfred C. Moon who had been living on the land since 1882. Moon retained about 60 acres of the 100 acre lot and continued to live there until his death in 1924.

Col. Hopkins and his wife, Maria Theresa Hopkins, made their home on the consolidated farm-land called Buxton Farms during the summer months. It was one of the largest estates in Berkshire County and consisted of new and updated barns, numerous farm houses, and Hopkins' primary residence. Maria Theresa Hopkins continued farm operations until 1924. For the next ten years the estate remained vacant with Maria living in Boston, MA. During this time Buxton Farms was cared for by Arthur E. and Ella G. Rosenburg, Williamstown residents with close ties to the estate and a genuine love of the land and area. In 1935, Maria bequeathed all the

land associated with Buxton Farms to Williams College in memory of her late husband for which the land is now named after.

Between 1935 and 1937 the College would consider various suggestions on what to do with the memorial land. One such suggestion appeared in the Oct. 1934 *Alumni Review* about developing the land into a Williams Colony which would divide the land into numerous tracts leased out to individuals to develop as residences, in turn allowing the College to collect taxes on the property as carrying the undeveloped land would become a tax burden. Hopkins Memorial Forest (HMF) as we know it today may not have been if this suggestion had been realized.

In 1935 the 1,679 acres and 15 buildings would be deeded over to the U.S. Forest Service following negotiations between Williams and the United States Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture, Henry A. Wallace, announced that the former Buxton Farms would be formally known as the Amos Lawrence Hopkins Memorial Experimental Forest. Plans were already underway to develop it as a Forestry Experimental Station and establish a weather station on the property. The Forest Service predicted that it would take years before any experiments on the land (which extended along the New York and Vermont state lines) would provide any substantial value to them given that the farm lands would be transformed into timberland, which naturally would need time to grow.

In 1968 the Forest Service's study of forestry, meteorology, hydrology and tree genetics on the land would come to an end as their research activities were transferred to Durham, NH. Fortunately they would leave 30 years of valuable research data from the HMF for future generations. Once the Forest Service left, ownership of the land was reverted back to Williams. Since 1971 an additional 950 acres, via purchases and gifts, has been added to the 1,679 acres that make up HMF.

Once again debate would ensue about what to do with HMF with a similar suggestion again arising to sell portions of the property. Though by 1971 the decision had been made by the Williams College Board of Trustees to continue using HMF for research and study by rededicating HMF as a field station and making the forest available to Williams' Center for Environmental Studies (CES). A Mellon Grant was obtained in 1971 to start an environmental analysis lab as well as an environmental research facility in HMF. The first interdisciplinary course taught by CES was ES 350: Perspectives on Environmental Analysis, the forest serving as an invaluable resource for this course.

Today HMF totals 2600 acres and is managed by CES with the primary goals listed on Williams' Hopkins Memorial Forest web page being:

to facilitate and research and undergraduate teaching activities while preserving and monitoring forest resources, particularly through long-term ecological research. We strongly encourage disciplinary and interdisciplinary teaching, scholarly activity, and experimental research in the Forest.

Our vision for the HMF of the future is a better-understood landscape that will continue to provide opportunities for learning and connection with the natural world.¹

Research in fields such as geology, biology, ecology, psychobiology, history, landscape design, and environmental studies as well as low impact recreational activities continues to flourish at the College and would not be possible without the preservation, conservation and careful utilization of Hopkins Memorial Forest.

The Moon Barn was part of Alfred C. Moon's property located near the center of Hopkins Memorial Forest (HMF). Shortly before Moon's death in 1924 he sold the Moon Family land to Lowell Primmer who lived on the property until 1954. After Lowell left the property the forest began to take over. In 1971 Williams purchased the land and it was incorporated as part of HMF. In 1975/76 Alfred C. Moon's Barn built in the 1850s and referred to as the Moon Barn was deconstructed and moved across from the Rosenberg Center where it would be reconstructed. The relocation and reconstruction project was an outgrowth from Peter B. McChesney's (Williams 1975) senior thesis in History. The Moon Barn now serves as the Hopkins Forest Farm Museum which was made possible with funding from the Massachusetts Bicentennial Commission, private donors, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

¹ <<https://hmf.williams.edu/>>

Copy of Fall 1979 *Alumni Review* announcing dedication of Rosenberg Center in honor of Arthur (Art) and Ella Rosenberg. The Rosenberg Center was the former carriage house, built in 1906, of A.L. Hopkins when HMF was still Buxton Farms. In 1979 the carriage house was renovated via a matching grant from the National Science Foundation to Williams. The Center, located at the eastern entrance of Hopkins Forest, has office space, a classroom, exhibit and museum space, laboratories, and archives.

Kellogg House and Class of 1966 Environmental Building

Kellogg House, originally where Hopkins Hall is now, was built in 1794 for Williams' first president Ebenezer Fitch and would serve as a home for the next three presidents: Zephaniah Swift Moore, Edward Dorr Griffin, and Mark Hopkins. The land where Kellogg House was originally erected was given by David Noble, Esq., one of the original trustees for the Free School and Williams College. Modifications and repairs were made while Kellogg House served as the president's home including painting the house in 1841 and adding a study in 1836. Up until 1843 the presidents were paying \$125 to rent Kellogg House until the trustees voted it was no longer necessary.

After President Hopkins moved out of Kellogg and into Sloan House in 1858, it became faculty housing and Professor Paul Ansel Chadbourne took up residence. In 1872, Kellogg House would make its first move slightly north to where Stetson Hall would later be located and the old location was turned into lawn space until Hopkins Hall was built in 1888. By 1873 when Rev. A.G. Sewell moved into Kellogg, it had been completely renovated and the gable was likely added around this time. Others would take up residence as well including Professors Truman Henry Safford, Frederick Hollis Howard, M.D., and James Lawrence Kellogg respectively. It is for this last professor that the house is likely named for though. The house was generally

referred to as the “President’s house” initially, “old president’s house” or by its current occupant when it began serving as faculty housing.

In 1919, Kellogg House would move for the second time, again northward making room for Stetson Hall. It would live in this new location for the next 90 plus years serving as the home for various faculty. In 1978, the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) moved in following a renovation. More renovations would come in the following years including expanding and enclosing the porch for the creation of the Matt Cole Memorial Library (formerly known as the CES Library). The Matt Cole Memorial Library would be moved to a new edition on the house in 1995.

Kellogg House closed in 2008 and CES moved to temporary quarters in Harper House, making way for the new Stetson-Sawyer Library building project at Stetson Hall. Kellogg House would be moved yet again, to a temporary location approximately 100 yards west from its 1919 location in September 2011. During this time assessment of what to do with the building and space would be conducted in order to best fit the needs of the college. It was decided that it would continue to be the home for CES and the new home for the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives but further analysis was necessary to determine the needs for CES and the Zilkha Center. The outcome of various surveys conducted of CES faculty, staff, and students is the building that can be seen today, extensions that were added to Kellogg House over its lifetime were deconstructed and the main house is what remains now with entirely new additions. The house was also moved from its temporary location approximately 50 yards north to where it rests now.

Kellogg House is now a blend of old and new and the environmental hub of the college including office space for CES and Zilkha Center faculty and staff, a seminar classroom, study and social spaces, and even a fully equipped kitchen. The building has another major significance as well, meeting the criteria for the Living Building Challenge (LBC). LBC requires that the new building not only be an attractive and efficient space but also be able to generate all of its energy needs from renewable sources whilst keeping energy and water needs low. The building successfully achieved Petal Certification on May 22, 2017, meeting six of the seven environmental performance criteria of the LBC. The building is still known by some as Kellogg House, but is now more commonly referred to by its new name, the Class of 1966 Environmental Center. It was the Class of 1966 that provided the funding for the building project as part of their 50th Reunion class gift to Williams.

The Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives was established in 2007 after a generous donation from Williams alum Selim Zilkha, class of 1946. Reducing emissions on campus and making the college more sustainable are some of the Zilkha Center's primary goals.

James Lawrence Kellogg (1866-1938), Professor of Biology, lived in Kellogg House from 1907-1931 and was the longest occupant of Kellogg House with a brief interruption from 1919-1920 when the house underwent its second move slightly northward from where Stetson Hall is now. By 1919 the house was referred to as "Professor Kellogg's house", though there is no confirmation--it is likely that Kellogg House retained this name from the beloved biology professor.

1993 publication, *A History of the Matt Cole Memorial Library: An Environmental Library at the Center for Environmental Studies* by Marcella Rauscher discusses the renaming of the CES Library in honor Matt Cole, class of 1980.

There is no longer a library in the Class of 1966 Environmental Center, all of the volumes from the Matt Cole Memorial Library were integrated into the main Sawyer Library collections in 2008 when Kellogg House was closed in preparation for the Stetson-Sawyer Library building project. Volumes from the library still have the Matt Cole Memorial Library gift plates inside them. The Class of 1966 Environmental Center now has a reading room dedicated in memory of Matt Cole.

Environmental Studies 302 Environmental Planning Workshop Dec. 20, 2009 report shows some of the results from surveys conducted of faculty and students in ENVI 101 AND ENVI 102 on what they were looking for in a new CES building. Notable requests were solar panels and outdoor space, in particular a garden. The solar panels and garden are some of the prominent features of the Class of 1966 Environmental Center as can be seen when approaching the building.

Origins and Founding of the Center for Environmental Studies

In October 1967, the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) opened during Fall Convocation as a facility for both research and education. CES was the first of its kind for liberal arts colleges. In the midst of the the social and political turmoil of the late 1960s, the Center sought to blend theory and practice: to provide environmental education for Williams students and facilitate concrete ways to tackle environmental issues.

Funding the Center for Environmental Studies

CES received its' first funding in the form of an eighteen month Rockefeller Grant, which was later renewed for another three years. The proposal requested: "a grant of \$75,000 to assist the College in planning a coordinated program of research and education in the environment field."

Berkshire Panel for the Public Environment

One of the Center's first actions was the creation of the Berkshire Panel for the Public Environment, which endeavoured to discuss solutions of local environmental issues including waste, transportation, and land use. Most importantly, the panel desired to engage the local community in discourse regarding environmental justice and influence local policies.

Environmental Studies Courses

In 1967, newly hired professor Andrew Scheffey '50 taught Williams' first environmental studies course: Resource Policy and the Environment. That fall, President John Sawyer named Scheffey director of the newly created Center for Environmental Studies (CES)—a first for a liberal arts college. "Almost no other subject has as broad a spectrum of contact with our present program," Sawyer said, "nor are many fields more closely related to the central humane values of liberal learning." Scheffey wrote about the burgeoning field of environmental studies: "environmentally-oriented coalitions (are) now taking shape in colleges and

universities across the land; centers of environmental activity...‘are literally starting to litter the landscape.’”

Environmental Justice and Activism

Environmental justice and activism of the 1980s emerged in reaction to discriminatory environmental practices including toxic dumping, municipal waste facility siting, and land use decisions which negatively affected communities of color. Parallel environmental justice focused groups fortified in the 1980s, including at Williams where environmental justice activism focused more on the campus and the surrounding community of Williamstown.

Community Activism

Environmental justice, by default, was always part of the Center for Environmental Studies’ mission. A milder form of community activism, the Berkshire Panel for Environmental for the Public Environment sought to directly influence public policy via meetings, research, community outreach, and education during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

The Purple Druids

During the Spring of 1985, at the height of the environmental justice movement, Williams students formed the Purple Druids to create a stronger unified environmental voice on campus. Under the official oversight group, the Williams College Student Environmental Awareness Group, the Purple Druids were disturbed by the lack of a codified recycling program on campus, the increasing environmental apathy of Williams students, and the seemingly unchecked building development on campus.

Purple Garbage Bags

Sometimes donning purple garbage bags were made to evoke the look of pre-Roman British priests, the Purple Druids worked seriously to 1) reactivate a presidential advisory committee, The Committee on Energy and the Campus Environment and 2) formulate a student group to work directly with Williams students. Both goals were met during the 1985-1986 academic year. Purple Druids protested the development of Hopkins Forest in the spring of 1987, closely monitored Williams' Pine Cobble housing development plans, and worked with the facilities department at Williams to centralize a recycling program.

Trash-ion Show

In 2014, students with support from CES and the Zilkha Center organized a *Trash-ion Show*, where students dressed in self-made costumes of what might be considered trash. Utilizing used, discarded, found, and repurposed elements to create fashion and jewelry students used *Trash-ion* as a light-hearted way to draw attention to very serious waste management issues.