Change is afoot at Yale F&ES in 2009! We sent Dean Gus Speth off with a rip-roaring climate change discussion and a promise to keep him close to us as an “honorary F&ES alumnus.” In the same breath, we welcomed incoming dean, Sir Peter Crane, with an eagerness to get to know him and to collaborate with him on our School’s next stage of evolution – all of this in the bright light of Kroon Hall, our new home at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies!

Changes outside the School had their impacts too, as budgets became leaner, staff positions fewer, and planning tighter. We realize each and every one of you are dealing with fallout from national and global economic shifts in your own way.

This publication, for example, is a combination of two previous keepsake pieces, Reunion Newsletter (since 2003) and Graduation Newsletter (since 2001), published annually for F&ES alumni audiences by our Office. To embrace our new frugality we offer this hybrid publication to the same audiences. In addition, we have taken this opportunity to create an additional feature in providing a briefing on our F&ES Alumni Association Board activities.

Once the excitement of Reunion Weekend and Graduation passed, we on the staff planned and executed our office moves into recently updated Sage Hall. At this writing, we have re-inhabited Sage Hall, re-installed our Graduation Photo Gallery, and are settling in with our new dean and our new crop of future F&ES alumni. We present this reflection on Reunion Weekend 2009 and Graduation 2009 as fond memories with you, F&ES alumni who starred in the events of 2009!

Kathleen Schomaker ’96

SAVE THESE DATES: MAY 7 – 9
REUNION WEEKEND 2010


Highlights include:
- TGIF/Class parties
- Kroon Hall Tours
- Field trips/continuing education
- Biennial Diversity Update
- Symposium/awards luncheon
- Tree planting at Marsh

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## ALUMNI REVIEW 2009

**Executive Editor:** Kathleen Schomaker ’96  
**Managing Editor:** Deborah DeFord  
**Graphic Design:** Bryan Gillespie, YPPS  
**Photographers:** Javier Dominguez, Matt Garrett, Peter Otis, Harold Shapiro, Catherine Feihn (back cover)  
**Contributors:** various alumni
Early Friday morning, Prof. Mark Ashton and research coordinator Brent Frey joined Reunion Weekend trekkers to tour Yale Myers Forest. Once arrived at the forest, the day began with a camp stop-in at Morse House, followed by a walk along the demo trail, Kozy Road (much distracted along the way, according to witnesses, by the group’s efforts to eradicate invasives). A picnic lunch restored everyone to full energy, and fueled them for the walk back to camp via the April 2009’s planting of chestnuts, where conversation inevitably turned to the notorious woolly adelgid, the eastern hemlock’s equivalent to the devastating blight of the past century that wiped out eastern chestnuts.
Kroon Hall, the new administrative home of F&ES (named after the family of Mary Jane and Rick Kroon), was built not only to be energy efficient, but to put its occupants in closer contact with nature, embodying the theory that such contact maximizes people’s emotional, social and intellectual capacity. At 66.5 feet tall, 57 feet wide and 218 feet long, the building boasts a southern façade that maximizes solar penetration during the winter. The lowest floor is built into a hillside to minimize northern exposure and provide insulation. Kroon Hall uses 50 percent less energy than a conventional modern building of the same size. The wooden louvers, made of Douglas fir and located at each end of the building, are fixed in position at 23 degrees and are meant to deflect heat and glare during the summer, but allow ample natural light into the building.

Reunion Weekend attendees were able to view these and the many other water, energy and architectural sustainability features during the numerous tours conducted over Reunion Weekend. Especially appealing to alumni of our School, and certainly those who took part in the Yale Myers field trip in northeastern Connecticut, is the fact that half of the red oak used to panel the interior of Kroon Hall—15,000 board feet—was harvested from the Yale Myers Forest. All the wood used in the building was harvested from sustainably managed forests and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. More detailed information will soon be available on the School website at http://environment.yale.edu/. 

The RETURN AIR sign is visible, indicating the direction of airflow in the building.
Kroon Hall Grand Opening

Despite a stormy forecast, the sun shone on the festivities Friday afternoon in honor of Kroon Hall’s opening, and Dean Gus Speth’s leavetaking. Students, alumni, staff and honored guests filled the south courtyard of Kroon with conviviality, conversation, live jazz and a delicious Southern-style barbecue. The School treated Gus and Cameron Speth to traditional F&ES festooned hats, created by Jude Wu ‘09 and Lisa Leombruni ‘09 just for this occasion and worn by the Speths for a stroll down the “Speth Walk,” accompanied by Dixieland music and a crowd of well-wishers. Also on hand, members of the Kroon family assisted in the ribbon cutting; incoming dean, Sir Peter Crane, was introduced and made his way around the group for chats and greetings; and a highly-represented F&ES Alumni Association Board joined the fun as the kick-off to a full schedule of Reunion Weekend events. The afternoon of formalities and fabulous food morphed seamlessly into another fine F&ES tradition, TGIF, held for the first time in our new home.
Kroon Hall Grand Opening  continued
Our Symposium theme, “One Hundred Years, One Hundred Days,” provided an opportunity for F&ES alumni to reflect together on the great work and writings of Aldo Leopold, M.F. 1909, at the centennial of his graduation from our School. Leopold provides perennial inspiration to foresters, land managers, policy analysts and researchers. At the same time, our gathering gave us pause, as Yale School of F&ES alumni not only celebrate the many strong shoulders on which we stand, but also reflect on the historic challenge of global climate change and the prospects for policy and impact possibly emerging from Washington, D.C., just past the first 100 days of the Obama administration.

Symposium moderator and Alumni Board member, Bob Perschel ’79, introduced our theme with Leopold’s “land ethic” — positing humans as members within the ecological community, rather than a species outside of that community—with reflections that this principle was years ahead of its time, this idea created the field of environmental ethics, and this notion challenged fundamental assumptions in Western thought. It is the principle that

...a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong as it tends otherwise. (Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949)

An ethical relationship to land requires head and heart—both rational and emotional intelligences—as well as an “ecological conscience.” The Land Ethic challenges our notion of the boundaries of human moral consideration—it makes the land (ecosystems) morally considerable. Moral consideration for land requires a new leadership approach focused not on what leaders do and how they do it, but who leaders are and from what inner place or source they operate, both individually and collectively. New leadership goals and needs are shared between the business and environmental communities—we all need a broader awareness and a deeper understanding of the systems we are working with, the matrix within which they arise, and the complexities of their trajectories.

Land Ethic is never finally written—it evolves in the minds of the contemplating community. Since Aldo Leopold left this School as a student 100 years ago, a new land ethic has been evolving. It is written in the stones and wood of each of our historic buildings, and it will be written into this wonderful new place, Kroon Hall, as well. Some of the words of our evolving relationship to the natural world are Aldo Leopold’s. Some belong to others who have taught and studied here, like Bill Burch, Steve Kellert and Dave Smith. And some of them are yours.

Liz Wyman Mills ’04 drew inspiration from Leopold’s Sand County Almanac observation that “one of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds.” Embarking on local community environmental education, she found herself guiding students through a maze of local issues including dealing with landfill impacts, encountering the realities of life off-the-grid, understanding mill-town life and the shift from pulp wood to biomass energy, and “reading the landscape” with the ruins of 19th-century towns embedded in 20th century forest lands.
Mills recounted how students emerged with greater ecological literacy—and burden—along with a greater sense of responsibility to serve as models in their communities, and found colleagues in the process.

Pat Leavenworth ’79 told the story of Coon Creek Valley in Wisconsin from her work with Resources Conservation Service (USDA). Coon Creek Watershed Project—the nation’s first watershed project—was proposed by Soil Erosion Service Chief H.H. Bennett during the early 1930s dust bowl and was intended to show farmers fearful of losing their severely eroded lands to the government that the government was actually going to be their ally in restoring the land so that they could again make a living.

With support for this unique endeavor from President Roosevelt, Aldo Leopold ’09 and others from the University of Wisconsin were the first to visit Chief Bennett and petition for Coon Creek, Wisconsin, to be selected as the first watershed demonstration project. Coon Creek was a huge success, with more than 400 farmers restoring their land over a two year period, aided by a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. To allay fear and encourage farmers to sign up, Soil Erosion Service employees developed a play called “Old Man Erosion,” which was put on in schoolhouses throughout the watershed. Aldo Leopold and his two sons worked in the watershed and joined the nighttime fire discussions, where they were inventing conservation and multiple resource management on the fly.

Now, decades later, families like the Haugen brothers, Ernie and Oscar, recall when their fathers signed on to the conservation plan at the kitchen table with the government guys back in 1933-34, and they still follow the plan without any additional government incentives. Along with the rest of the Coon Valley community, they are proud of their work, celebrated in the Valley’s Conservation History at their Sesquicentennial several years ago. As Leopold said, “The land ethic evolves in the mind of the community.”

Inspired by these reflections on how Aldo Leopold lives in the mind of the F&ES community, John Carey ’79, brought the conversation up to date in reflecting on the Obama Administration’s first 100 days, during which the White House moved on everything from mercury emissions and air pollution from ships to steps in climate change initiatives. Along the way, science has also come back into the federal decision-making process. Carey commented, “Overall, it has been an amazing change from the past eight years, and offers hope for the future.”

Chris Brown ’79, Liz Martin Perera ’04, and Dan Nepstad PhD ’89, helped guide a lively discussion on pending climate legislation, anticipating COP15 in Copenhagen this December. Climate change science, policy options, negotiating sessions, legislative initiatives—all are arenas where D.C.-area alumni are actively engaged, and alumni around the country and the globe are chiming in.

Dean Speth—soon to be dubbed “honorary F&ES alumnus” Gus Speth ’04—was delighted with the lively discussion among F&ES alumni on climate policy at his concluding Reunion Weekend Symposium as dean. It was another historic moment, this time in Kroon Hall/Burke Auditorium discussing climate change policy, a century after Aldo Leopold left campus.
Symposium  continued

One Hundred Years, One Hundred Days: Reflect and Celebrate
Anniversary Classes

Always a highlight of Reunion Weekend, Saturday night is Class Party night. The Classes of 1979, 1994, 1999 and 2004 gathered for remembering and catching up, with some family members (some of them future F&ES alumni?) joining the fun for good measure. Kudos to the class members who networked to make these gatherings a great time!

For the third year running, the evening included a History Dinner with Jim Fickle, University of Memphis history professor and historian for the upcoming published history of the School’s first 100 years. Jim offered some insights and stories on the research he has done so far, and participants shared memories and ideas in kind.
What’s Reunion Weekend without a good flapjack breakfast and the annual tree-planting? Sunday dawned cool and sunny to greet alumni and families gathered for the occasion. Eric Larson, manager of the Marsh Botanical Garden, hosted this most recent addition—a dwarf Japanese Black Pine *Pinus thunbergii* ‘Banshoho.’ The planting received some expert help from the sandbox contingent (twigs from the alumni branch). The newly planted tree thrives.
2009 Reunion Attendees

Amanda (Farris) Mahaffey ’04
Lee Alexander ’83, Ph.D. ’89
Ruth Allen ’72, Ph.D. ’77
Philippe Amstislavski ’04
Krista Anderson Mostoller ’06
Irene Angeletti ’04
Vicki Arroyo (John Carey ’79)
Nigel Asquith (Maria Teresa Vargas ’04)
Oliver Barton ’94
Gordon Bass (Jennifer Vogel Bass ’04)
Jennifer Vogel Bass ’04
Jennifer Baxter ’99
Cordalie Benoit ’02
Beth (Owen) Bisson ’04
Keith Bisson ’04
Cherelle Blazer ’04
Jonathan Bollon (Jane Calvin ’94)
Julie Bourns ’89
Lindsay Brace Martinez ’94
Alexander Brash ’85
Christopher Brown ’79
Marco Buttazzoni ’04
Rayna Caldwell ’97
Jane Calvin ’94
John Carey ’79
Roger Carlson ’69, Ph.D. ’76
Elizabeth Carroll ’99
Mohamad Chakaki ’06
Nicole Chevalier ’99
Starling Childs ’80
Liza Cleveland ’94
Heather Coleman ’04
Peter Coleman ’04
Philip Conkling ’76
Jonathan Cook ’04
Jane Coppock ’91
Valerie Craig ’04
Peter Crane, F&ES Dean
Michael Davies ’08
Teresa Doksum (Ken Pruitt ’95)
Javier Dominguez ’94
Michael Ebner (Suganthi Simon ’99)
Tasha Eichenseher ’04
Juan Espinosa ’04
Erik Esselstyn ’93
Ona Ferguson ’04
Margarita Fernandez ’04
Cesar Flores-Negron ’95
Jocelyn Forbush ’99
Kathleen Frangione ’04
Dave Galt ’97
Jennifer Garrison Ross ’99
Gordon Geballe H ’81, F&ES Assoc. Dean
of Student and Alumni Affairs
Timothy Gregoire ’82, Ph.D.’85
Evan Griswold ’75
Leah Hair ’74
Carol Hall ’94
Steve Harrington ’94
Ellen Hawes Hobson ’06
Elizabeth Hayes McGraw ’94
Kate Heaton ’89
André Heinz ’99
Danie Hellerstein ’86, Ph.D. ’89
David Hobson ’04
Benjamin Hodgdon ’03
Coleman Holt ’71
Harriet Honigfeld ’94
Jamie Jones (Christiana Soares Jones ’99)
Diana Karwan ’04
Rick Kelley ’80
Dave Kittredge ’80, Ph.D. ’86
Rob Klee ’99, Ph.D. ’05
Samuel Krasnow ’05
R. A. Lautenschlag r ’74
Pat Leavenworth ’79
Qi Feng Lin ’08
James Lucas ’03
Tom Lynch ’49
Joan Lynch (Tom Lynch ’49)
Ken Malloy (Maria Seidler ’07)
Brian Marceraule ’04
Peter Martinez (Lindsay Martinez ’94)
Susan Tambi Matambo ’04
C.J. May ’89
Alex McIntosh ’05
Bob Merrick (Liza Cleveland ’94)
Audelia Micho ’00
Jarod Mills (Liz Wyman Mills ’04)
David Moffat ’94
Jen Molnar ’04
Judith Moore ’89
Matthew Mostoller (Krista Anderson
Mostoller ’06)
Sean Murphy ’94
Moe Myint ’08
Jim Nash ’94
Marc Neilson (Susan Tambi Matambo ’04)
Dan Nepstad ’87, Ph.D. ’89
Tim Northrop ’03
Rugemeleza Nshala ’07
Jon Nute ’85
Chad Oliver ’70, Ph.D. ’75
Brian O’Malley ’99
Rachel O’Malley ’96
Anne Osborn ’00
Jennifer Palmiotto ’94, Ph.D. ’99
Peter Palmiotto ’94, Ph.D. ’98
Gene Peck ’96
Liz Martin Perera ’04
Alexander Perera (Liz Martin Perera ’04)
Robert Perschel ’79
Anne Perschel (Robert Perschel ’79)
Chris Pratt ’87
Kirsten Prettyman Adams ’99
Ken Pruitt ’95
Don Redmond ’94
Diane Renshaw ’75
Christopher Riel ’04
Kirk Rodgers ’56
Daren Ross (Jennifer Garrison Ross ’99)
Mary Rourke ’89
Amy Saar ’05
John Saar (Amy Saar ’05)
Nalin Sahni ’04
Neha Sami ’04
Rahul Sami (Neha Sami ’04)
Kathleen Schomaker ’96, Director,
Alumni Affairs
Maria Seidler ’07
Andrew Shapiro (Abby Weinberg ’04)
Ben “Shep” Shepherd ’06
Sasha Silver ’00
Laura Simon ’89
Suganthi Simon ’99
Dani Simons ’04
Walter Smith ’04
Christiana Soares Jones ’99
Yajie Song ’89, Ph.D. ’95
Gus Speth H ’89, F&ES outgoing Dean
Cameron Speth (Gus Speth)
Macol Stewart Cerda ’94
Yusuke Taishi ’04
Steve Thomson ’73
Graham Trelstad ’94
Mary Tyrrell ’97
Maria Teresa Vargas ’04
Daniela Vizcaino ’04
Jim Weigand ’89
Abby Weinberg ’04
Holly Welles ’88
Diana Wheeler ’96
Jane Whitehill ’94
Susan Wyman (Brad Wyman ’67)
Diana Wyman Mills ’04
Henry Young ’74
Susan Young (Henry Young ’74)
Marie Zack Nolan ’82
Kate Zyla ’04
The F&ES Alumni Association Board is a group of 18 volunteers committed to leading the effort to keep F&ES alumni in touch with the School while keeping the School in touch with our alumni! Board members meet three times each year—in early fall to plan for the year, in winter to focus on Reunion Weekend, and in May at Reunion Weekend (RW) to communicate with the gathering of alumni. Those of you who joined us in New Haven for Reunion Weekend 2009 last May know that many Board members were on hand for the Kroon Hall Grand Opening and our Symposium event, and participated as leaders in a few animated “reflection groups” with Reunion attendees.

At the October 2009 planning retreat, Dean Peter Crane met with the Board to introduce himself and his professional interests, to outline his first impressions of the School and to delineate a few strategic opportunities he envisions for F&ES in the near future. The Board, with the help of facilitator Ona Ferguson ’04, then undertook a brainstorming and planning process, reflecting on Dean Crane’s message while also incorporating the collected input from the May 2009 Reunion alumni reflection groups. The result of that work continues as Board committees generate workplans to invigorate their activities and the Board as a whole works on both short- and long-range strategic plans to inform and support those of our new dean. [NOTE: Please watch your quarterly F&ES Alumni E-News for more information on Alumni Board activities.]

Included among Board members are the F&ES delegates to the Association of Yale Alumni (AYA), the umbrella alumni organization on campus. Among its many other activities, AYA annually convenes delegates from a variety of Yale alumni constituencies—professional Schools, Yale College Classes, Yale Clubs, and more—at a themed Assembly. This year’s Assembly was held November 19-21, 2009, on the theme, “Transformational Dialogue: Spiritual and Religious Engagement at Yale and in the World.” Invitees to AYA Assemblies include F&ES delegates and other Board members. AYA also manages a suite of online services for all Yale alumni, including Yale Career Network, Virtual Yale Station and the Online Alumni Directory. You may access these services at: www.alumniconnections.com/yale
F&ES Salutes Our Master’s Graduates 2009!

Master of Environmental Management
Jenny Ace
Gabriela Alonso Mendieta
Alyssa Lee Arcaya
Panah Bhatla
Nina Bhattacharyya
Casey Crockett Brown
Ke Cao
Sarah Marie Charlop-Powers
Mark Richard Diestro Evidente
Joseph Jeffrey Famely
Christopher William Finney
Haley E Gilbert
Eva Mariana Gladek
Lauren Elizabeth Goers
Lisa Noelle Henke
Molly Elizabeth Howard
Olusola Uchenna Ikuforiji
Jacob O. Iversen
Max Holtzman Joel
Leslie Patrice King
Yi Luo
Lauren Leigh McGregor
André Mershon
Glen William Mirmina
William E. Morgan
Amir Joel Nadav
Darcy Leanne Newsome
Stephanie Niall
Tara Parthasarathy
Brent Ellison Peich
Tristan James Peter-Contesse
Shyla Raghav
Mirko Ivo Serkovic
Neelesh Man Shrestha
Hiroshi Sugano
Norio Takaki, Jr.
Simon Lev Tudiver
Fengyuan Wang
Baihai Wu
Judith Sy-Ying Wu
Jack Alexander Yeh
Mercedes Aurelia Bravo
Tianming Chen
Peter Anton Christensen
Michael Jeremy Coren
Stephanie Nicole Day
Darcy Graham Dugan
Sara Katrin Enders
Francisco Javier Espinoza
Bjorn Kalle Fredrickson
Todd William Jones
Janet Kay Lawson
Jordan Evan Macknick
Helen Karin Chabot McMillan
Claudia Alejandra Octaviano Villasana
Mary Alta Rogalski
Esteban Rossi
Megan Christina Selby
Trisha Renee Shrum
Daniel Carl Steinberg
Rachael Truth Teel
Cecilia Fadigas Viana

Master of Environmental Science
Meghna Agarwala
Christa Marie Anderson
Ariana Cummings Bain
Murefu Boniface Barasa
Katharine Elizabeth Boicourt

Master of Forest Science
Francis Eugene Eaton, Sr.
Andjar Rafiastanto Hadrianus
Tal Ilany
Rajesh Koirala
Nancy Ann Marek

Master of Forestry
Ana Cecilia Del Cid-Liccardi
John Douglas Kaufman
Brian Jeffrey Milakovsky
Jacob George Munger
Joseph Nathan Orefice

Yale Joint Degree Graduates

Master of Environmental Management/
Master of Business Administration
Cindy Joan Chang
Claire Martine Jahns
Leif Linden
Eric Roberts
Stella Zucchetti Schons
Zephyr Taylor
John-Frederick Thye

Master of Environmental Science/
Master of Business Administration
Neda Arabshahi

Master of Environmental Management/
Juris Doctor
Seth Lindsey Atkinson
Denise Antonia Grab

Master of Environmental Management/
Master of Public Health
Anna Hartung Milkowski
Lili Pirbazari

Master of Environmental Science/
Master of Public Health
Meng Ji

Pace Law School
Joint Degree Graduates

Master Environmental Management
and Juris Doctor
Sean Thomas Dixon

Vermont Law School
Joint Degree Graduates

Master Environmental Management
and Juris Doctor
Elise N. Rindfleisch

ALUMNI REVIEW 2009
Nicole Michele Ardoin
Major advisor: Prof. Stephen Kellert
Sense of Place and Environmental Behavior at an Ecoregional Scale

Rebecca Ashley Asare
Major advisor: Prof. William Burch
Cocoa Establishment and Shade Management in Ghana’s Ashanti Region: Understanding the Main Factors Driving Farmer’s Decision Processes and Practices

Graeme Stewart Auld
Major advisor: Prof. Benjamin Cashore
Reversal of Fortune: How Early Choices Can Alter the Logic of Market-based Authority

Cristina M. Balboa
Major advisor: Prof. Benjamin Cashore
When Non-Governmental Organizations Govern: Accountability in Private Conservation Networks

Jennifer Kakareka Balch
Major advisors: Profs. Lisa Curran and Daniel Nepstad
Effects of Recurrent Fire on Transitional Forest Dynamics in the Amazon Wildfire Frontier in Mato Grosso, Brazil

Rebecca Titus Barnes
Major advisor: Prof. Peter Raymond
Nitrogen Export to the Long Island Sound: Determining Fluxes and Processes within the Connecticut River Watershed

Janette Bulkan
Major advisor: Prof. Michael Dove
The Slippages Between Forestry Concession Policies and Practices in Guyana

Uromi Manage Goodale
Major advisor: Prof. Graeme Berlyn
The Ecophysiology of Pioneer Tree Species in Relation to Their Disturbance Ecology in a Wet Lowland Rainforest, Sri Lanka

Manja Holland
Major advisor: Prof. David Skelly
Landscape Conversion and Amphibian Disease: From Cellular Biology to Community Ecology

Aaron Michael Hohl
Major advisor: Prof. Chadwick Oliver
Decision Support Tools and Monitoring for Sustainable Forest Management

Shafqat Hussain
Major advisors: Profs. Michael Dove and Kalyanakrishnan Sivaramakrishnan
A History of Marginality: Nature and Culture in the Western Himalayas

Elizabeth Ralston Jones
Major advisors: Profs. Lisa Curran and Oswald Schmitz
The Influence of Mammalian Seed Predation on Five Species in Papua New Guinea: Differential Effects on Regeneration and Implications for Adult Recruitment

M. Andrew Niccolai
Major advisor: Prof. Chadwick Oliver
Automated Methods for Individual Crown Information Extraction using High Resolution Digital Imagery in the Northeast USA

Anastasia Rose O’Rourke
Major advisor: Prof. Daniel Esty
The Emergence of Cleantech: Essays on the Creation of Cleantech as a Venture Capital Category

Alexandra Giselle Ponette-González
Major advisors: Profs. Lisa Curran and Kathleen Weathers
Land Cover Effects on Water Fluxes and Atmospheric Deposition across a Mexican Tropical Montane Landscape

Tao Wang
Major advisor: Prof. Thomas Graedel
Forging the Anthropogenic Iron Cycle
Commencement without mortarboards is about as likely as F&ES mortarboards without a wild array of imaginative displays, including but not limited to various flora and fauna, signs, symbols, models and slogans. The well-topped F&ES graduates processed in colorful form from Kroon Hall and down Prospect Street to join the University graduates gathered from all corners of the campus on this momentus day.
After a return procession to Marsh lawn, streaming in file behind the bagpipe and the standard-bearer, the graduates, both Master’s and Doctoral, took their places under the tent to hear the inspiring speeches and musical performances of their peers, and receive the reward for their years of hard work and dedication. Graduates also turned the tables to confer honors, including recognition to Prof. Brad Gentry, Prof. Chad Oliver and outgoing dean, Gus Speth.
Because we – the Class of 2009 – are the heroes of this great day, this makes you – the parents who beckoned us to keep going, the supporters who gave their resource so that we travel from far and near in search of a chance, the faculty who worked magic with theories and numbers right before our eyes, the staff who made us feel special, the spouses and friends and others who cheered us on from the bleachers – this makes you the greater heroes. Inasmuch as the diplomas we are about to receive have our names written on them, we cannot fail to acknowledge the unwritten names of those who nudged us closer to this day.

“We face neither east nor west; we face forward.” These words of Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana at the dawn of their graduation into independence, are words that speak of being wary of distraction and keeping your eyes on the prize. Today as we step out into newness, excitement and uncertainty, we choose to face forward.

My name is Murefu Barasa. When I was born, many moons ago, my father named me Murefu, a Swahili word meaning the “tall one.” I am always fast to admit that this name can be a little misleading. For obvious reasons many have asked me whether this is truly my name while others have wondered, some even aloud, why I was named with such a name. I always like to think that when I was named Murefu, my father thought I would grow up so tall; but if not, that there will always be people along my path who would allow me to stand on their shoulders just to reach a little further. I have been fortunate to have such people, and the fact that we, the class of 2009 are seated here today says that most, if not all, of us have had similar fortune. Today we will be named with great names not only because we become “Masters” or “Doctors,” but more because of the association with this outstanding School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, an association that joins each of our names with those who have gone before us, whose faces stare down at us from framed wall pictures, whose names we hear and read and whose deeds echo through eternity. As we bask in the pride that comes with this naming, the realization that the race is not always for the swift nor the battle for the strong should instill in us a sense of humility that will open us to consider other voices.

There are many things that make this School outstanding, one of which is the rich diversity that offers what I like to think of as the “utility of diversity.” On the surface it appears to be a diversity of race, gender or nationality, but it goes beyond this and includes diversity of experiences, worldviews and focus, all woven together to make a unique fabric that is this School, this Class. This utility of diversity has challenged our thinking and caused us to question givens, but more importantly to question ourselves. This diversity can do little to our prejudices because these are of our own choice, but it has certainly shifted our biases closer to what is true and actual.
This diversity has educated us on the shades beyond the colors, enlightening our tastes and sensibilities.

Today more than ever is such exposure to diversity needful, because we increasingly face problems that take on a global scale: health risks like the recent outbreak of the H1N1 virus or the financial crisis or the climate change risk that threatens the functioning of civilization as we know it. I am sure that there are many elsewhere who are working tirelessly to confront these global issues. I cannot speak for them, but I can speak of you, Class of 2009. I can speak of you because I have seen the looks on your faces and heard the urgency in your voices when you talk about your theses. I have seen the colorful pictures of your internship experiences and listened to your project ideas. We have shared food from the carts down Prospect Street, danced to the tunes of life at Bowers Hall, laughed a lot and been sad sometimes. We have spent long nights in the GIS labs and gone on those tiring but useful field trips. And because I know of you, have heard from you, and because there are people like you thinking, working, crafting, debating and facing down these global challenges, I am hopeful.

So three things as I close: Because today we are so grateful, owing our gratitude to many; and because we will be privileged to be named with a great name; and because we have been part of this amazing exposure to diversity, we then ought to give back the chances we have been given, graciously share the gifts bestowed upon us and be that inspiration we desire to see in our world. Class of 2009, I know we will.

Community

By Jude Wu

Thank you, Murefu, what an honor it is to speak with you today. I want to share the little secret with our friends and family that it took not one, not two, but three rounds of voting before we were picked by our classmates to speak today. Essentially, everyone voted for everyone else, such is the immense love and respect we have for one another.

My dear classmates, F&ES faculty and staff, and friends and family, some wise advice from a man named Philip Thatcher has given me the guidance to be where I am today: Ask not what the world needs, ask rather what makes your heart sing... and go do that... for what the world needs is people with hearts that sing.

Friends, family, professors, deans, all the F&ES staff with us today, before you sit almost 100 students with hearts that sing fiercely! And we owe our singing hearts to your love and support, over the past two years or throughout our lifetimes – for that we are deeply grateful.

I have only a few minutes to share thoughts on why this gathering is worth celebrating and what it might contribute to our continued happiness and future success. If I were to say just one word, it would be the title of the most important class we took at F&ES, but which will never show up on any transcript. It is the class that you, Class of 2009, taught me and one another,
the class called “Community.”

Here is how I came to the topic of Community: A few weeks ago, at Yale’s first Environmental Film Festival, I had a powerful emotional breakdown. As Disney’s Earth played, and children sat entranced by the jaw-dropping scenery, giggling at polar cubs learning to walk, without warning, my eyes turned to leaky faucets, tears drenching my cheeks and shirt, running like rivers down my face, silently. Behind the awe-inspiring imagery, as dark shadows, all I could see were smokestacks and tailpipes that at every moment threaten the very glaciers on the screen.

At first, I focused on me alone: what difference am I going to make, just saving a few acres of polluted land in my little lifetime? Even worse, I thought about how the number of environmental advocates still pales in comparison to the number of people who don’t know or care about the impact of humans on everything else on this planet. Why, then, waste our time and lives on environmental careers? Why not pick a career just for fun, one without any lofty, unattainable mission?

That last question is easy to answer. We know the work we do is too important to neglect; perhaps that is key to why it makes our hearts sing. But how are we to surmount this sense of impossibility at making a difference?

What all of you here at F&ES have taught me is the lesson that brought back the light at the end of this dark tunnel. More than ever I am convinced that Community is one of the most important weapons we have to reverse the trend of environmental degradation. But what does Community mean? According to our generation’s authoritative source of all knowledge – Wikipedia – a biological community is simply a group of interacting organisms sharing an environment, and, of course, humans are just one of many of such organisms. Yet, what is it that makes the human community wreak such havoc on everything else?

So here we come to an important distinction between two types of human associations, as described by German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies in 1887: One type of human association can be translated as something like “civil society” – though “civil” seems ironic here – in which the group never takes on more importance than individual self interest and individuals do not necessarily share common ethics. Isn’t this precisely the mentality and social structure that results in the “tragedy of the commons” dilemma we’ve all studied at F&ES?

Conversely, the other type of association offered by this sociologist is translated as “community,” in which individuals value the entire group’s best interests equally if not more than their own self interest. These individuals are voluntarily regulated by common ethics and expectations for appropriate behavior and responsibility (like not showing up at more than one veggie dinner per week!).

So, friends, imagine that we could
somehow bring modern humans back to this age-old idea that each individual should uphold the interests of the entire human – and biological – community in equal measure with each person’s self-interest. Can you imagine how this paradigm shift, among several million or billion human beings in their daily lives, could give us some real optimism? That image of several billion people, explicitly or indirectly supporting the goals we are venturing out to accomplish, that, my friends, was the revelation and hope that reignited the light at the end of my tunnel.

Now, I don’t mean to suggest that we quit our hard-earned jobs and get another Master’s – this time in Community Building. We need your technical expertise, your dedication and your passion in the fields in which you have been trained. What I say is: Look around to this community we’ve built for two years while we were doing our academic and professional work. Outside of the occasional loud and tacky proms and thriller dances thrown in here and there, building our community was a quiet undercurrent, yet a joyous and integral part of our lives.

So this is my graduation wish – really a graduation plea – to each of you: Take a piece of our F&ES community with you, wherever you go. Take it to Nepal, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Colombia, Mexico, Washington, D.C., Boston. Plant it firmly in your neighborhood and just this once, let Community become an invasive species! Make it take over your neighborhood until it spreads to your city and your country. Just don’t forget to show up for work to get an actual paycheck!

In closing, classmates, Murefu and I present this poster, “How to Build Community,” as a class gift to Kroon or Sage Hall, in celebration of the community you have built here – from Ari and Gabriela’s limitless hugs, to Neda our veggie dinner goddess, to the reliable Sean and Tristan behind turntables and kegs. May this inspire future generations of F&ESers to build community and spread it wherever they go.

We thank the school for generously providing a postcard version with each of our diplomas. When you are far from us and start to miss veggie dinner, tacky prom or international TGIF, may the card help you build your new community into one that is nuts enough to organize things like veggie dinner, tacky prom and international TGIF.

If you only remember one line from my thoughts today, may it be this: When it comes to invasive species, tree of heaven from MODS 1.0 – bad, bad, bad! Building Community – good, oh so good, very, very good.

Thank you all!
Memories

Mt. Moosilauke, New Hampshire

Alabama in March

Lake Winchester, Connecticut

Mumbai, India

Great Mountain mysteries

Great Mountain...top
Memories continued

MODS...

MODS...

and more MODS

Halloween

Good times
What Costume?

Holiday Party

Tacky Prom

End of Year Party

Down with that tree!

Tackier Prom
The offices of Career Development, Alumni Affairs and Doctoral Studies have compiled the following information about members of the Class of 2008. If you have updates to this information, please forward your update to us at alumni.fes@yale.edu.

Syeda Mariya Absar is a research officer in water policy for COMSTECH in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Obinna Aduba is a field assistant for Jones Family Farms in Hamden, CT.

Angelica Afanador is a consultant for the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Agha Ali Akram is a doctoral student New Haven, CT.

Devorah Ancel is an environmental law fellow with the Sierra Club in San Francisco, CA.

Avery Christian Anderson lives in Santa Fe, NM.

Meg Arenberg is a domestic energy project coordinator at the Sunseed Tanzania Trust, Tanzania.

Weslyne Ashton is the program director for the Program on Industrial Ecology in Developing Countries at the Center for Industrial Ecology, Yale School of F&ES, New Haven, CT.

Georgia Basso is a senior analyst for Five Winds International in Paoli, PA.

Annette Bellafore is a research associate for Project FROG in Oakland, CA.

Jorge Bentin is an agricultural consultant in Lima, Peru.

Joshua Berman is a 2009–2010 Liman Public Interest Fellow working with the Natural Resources Defense Council in Chicago, IL, on litigation to curb greenhouse gas emissions from coal-fired power plants.

Genevieve Biggs is communications manager for the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation in Winnetka, IL.

Emmanuel Blankson lives in Accra, Ghana

Jessica Boehland is a program officer for the Environment Program at the Dresge Foundation in Troy, MI.

Gerald Bright is an aquatic biologist for the Philadelphia Water Department in Philadelphia, PA.

Sara Bushey Ohrel works at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, focusing on climate economics and lives in northern Maryland.

Rayna Caldwell works for Corporate Eco Forum in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Luz Calle lives in New Haven and works at F&ES for the Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative as their Leadership Program coordinator.

Jaime Carlson Ojeda is a Recovery Act fellow in the Department of Energy in Washington, DC.

Margaret Carmalt is a forester for the NYC Parks Department in Flushing, NY.

Natalie Ceperley is a project development associate for the Natural Heritage Institute in San Francisco, CA.

Jeffrey Chatellier is an environmental consultant at Bosch and Siemens Home Appliances in Indonesia.

Duncan Cheung is an analyst for GreenOrder in New York, NY.

Anton Chiono is the California policy associate for the Pacific Forest Trust in San Francisco, CA.

Zachary Christie is a manager at Greenhouse Gas Services, a venture formed by GE Energy Financial Services and the AES Corporation.

Christopher Clement is a sustainable economist for EDAW/AECOM in San Francisco, CA.

Marcia Cleveland is a managing partner focused in environmental law at Marcia J. Cleveland LLC in Bath, ME.

Vin Conti is vice president of operations for Lantern Energy in New Haven, CT.

Kimpton Cooper is a district planner at the Walla Walla Ranger District Office, USDA Forest Service, in Walla Walla, WA.

Caitlin Cusack is the Starksboro Art and Soul project coordinator for the Town of Starksboro, VT.

Audrey Davenport is a project manager in the Corporate Partnerships Program at the Environmental Defense Fund, Washington, DC.

Kara DiFrancesco is a project management fellow with the DOE on Washington, DC.

Kara DiFrancesco is a project development associate for the Natural Heritage Institute in San Francisco, CA.

Aarjan Dixit is a research assistant with the Vulnerability and Adaptation team at the World Resources Institute in Washington, DC.

Obidimma Ezezika is a senior research fellow at the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health and project manager of the ethical, social, cultural and commercialization program for Water Efficient Maize for Africa.

Laura Frye-Levine is director of research for the Center for Sustainable Cities in Lexington, KY.

Benson Gabler is manager of corporate sustainability at the PNC Financial Services Group in Pittsburgh, PA.
Joshua Gange is a juris doctoral student at NYU Law School in New York, NY.

Ramon Gastelum works for a clean tech private equity group called Emerging Energy & Environment and lives in Mexico City, Mexico.

Andrea Gelatt was admitted to the State Bar of California.

Dominique Gilbert is a doctoral student in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois, Urbana, Champagne.

Nigel Gurnett is a data analyst intern for Ceres in Boston, MA.

Achim Halpaap is the associate director of the training department and head of the environment unit at UNITAR, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Zeke Hausfather is chief energy scientist for Climate Culture in New York, NY.

Amy Heinemann is a renewable energy policy analyst for the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency at the North Carolina Solar Center in Raleigh, NC.

Troy Hill is a doctoral student at Yale F&ES in New Haven, CT.

Thomas Hodgman is an associate of the Timber Group at Equator LLC in Seattle, WA.

Patrick Holmes is a conservation program coordinator for the Colorado Conservation Trust in Denver, CO.

Jed Holtzman lives in San Francisco, CA.

Laura Hopkins is an associate at Beveridge & Diamond, PC, in Washington, DC.

Rita Hudetz is an associate of the Corporate Consulting Group for Booz Allen Hamilton in McLean, VA.

Thomas James currently lives in Mongolia and will soon begin a doctoral degree at Yale F&ES.

Laura Jensen is a conservation practitioner for TNC in San Francisco, CA.

John Jewell is an industry and public affairs coordinator for the Dairy Farmers of America in Kansas City, MO.

Kevin Johnston works for ESRI.

Olivia Kaplan is a forestry program coordinator for the Clinton Climate Initiative in New Rochelle, NY.

Shanti Karanjit is a senior associate for ICF International in New Delhi, India.

Mark Kasinskas is a consultant with Ferrucci & Walicki and lives in Cheshire, CT.

Kelsey Kidd is an associate project scientist for Weston Solutions in Tempe, AZ.

Lucas Knowles is a wind energy policy analyst for Windward Consulting and lives in Anchorage, Alaska.

Scott Laeser lives in Argyle, WI.

Poorva Gupta Lalbhai has an internship with the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology in Ahmedabad, India.

Dan Leistra is an associate with Industrial Economics in Boston, MA.

James Leslie is a carbon finance officer for the United Nations Development Programme, EEG, in Lima, Peru.

Jennifer Lewis is the assistant director of the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at New York University in New York, NY.

Innocent Liengola is the Salonga national Park project director for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Qi Feng Lin is energy science associate for Climate Culture in New York, NY.

Yi-Wen Lin is a forester for the NYC Parks and Recreation Department in New York, NY.

Chung-En “John” Lu is a doctoral student in the Environment & Resources program at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Angela Lott is an environmental policy associate for PG&E in San Francisco, CA.

Andrew Mackie is the executive director of the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas in Salida, CO.

Naoko Maruyama works for Bureau Veritas in Yokohama, Japan.

Beth Mburu works as a project assistant for Innovations for Poverty Action in Nairobi, Kenya.

Jennifer McVlor is an environmental coordinator for the Clinton Climate Initiative in New Rochelle, NY.

Adam Melnick is an associate project assistant for Beveridge & Diamond PC in New York, NY.

Jihoon Min lives in Brooklyn, NY

Tara Moberg is a freshwater scientist at The Nature Conservancy in Pennsylvania.

Baruani Mshale is a doctoral student in the Environment & Resources programme, EEG, in Lima, Peru.

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Innocent Liengola is the Salonga national Park project director for the Wildlife Conservation Society in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Qi Feng Lin is energy science associate for Climate Culture in New York, NY.

Yi-Wen Lin is a forester for the NYC Parks and Recreation Department in New York, NY.
Matthew Oden works as the recently established sustainability manager at the University of Southern California.

Peterson Olum is a scientist for Dow Agrosciences in Indianapolis, IN.

Daniel Peerless is the associate director of Gray Is Green in New Haven, CT.

Cornelia Pinchot is a doctoral student at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Sergio Pineda lives in Bogota, Colombia, and is working on implementing a geographic information system for an urban policy institute.

Lili Pirbazari is an environmental specialist at the NASA Ames Research Center in California.

Samuel Price is an analyst for International Forestry Investment Advisors in Cambridge, MA.

Tingting Quan is an environmental management consultant for nests Waters North America in Greenwich, CT.

Jamie Spivey Quigg works as the sustainability manager for Grays Harbor Paper in Hoquiam, WA.

Micha Rahder is a doctoral student in anthropology in Santa Cruz, CA.

Caroline Raisler lives in Northampton, MA.

Paula Randler is in her second year of her Presidential management Fellowship as a natural resource specialist for the USDA Forest Service in Washington, D.C.

Catherine Rawson lives in New Haven, CT.

Korinti Recalde is in the Environmental Health & Safety Leadership Program at United Technologies in Hartford, CT.

Ashley Roberts is a community organizer in the Powder River Basin Resource Council in Sheridan, Wyoming.

Michael Robertson is a CFA and general partner at Industrial Symbiosis Capital.

Jeffrey Ross is a Master's of Philosophy student at Universitetet i Tromso in Norway.

Edan Rotenberg is an associate attorney for Earthjustice in New York, NY.

Angela Rutherford is a GIS specialist at Harmony Design and Engineering in Driggs, ID.

Teresa Sarroca works for The Forests Dialogue as their program manager and lives in New Haven, CT.

Meredith Sattler is a Master’s student at the Yale School of Architecture in New Haven, CT.

Jeramy Shays lives in Washington, D.C.

Yuliya Shmidt is a regulatory analyst for the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco, CA.

Mark Sloan is a stewardship forester for the Ministry of Forests and Range in Campbell River, British Columbia.

Peyton Smith is a doctoral student in soil microbial ecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Jing Su is China Program Director at the American Council on Renewable Energy in Washington, D.C.

Colleen Sullivan lives in Washington, D.C.

Lu Sun is a doctoral student in environmental microbiology at the Harvard School of Engineering and Applied Sciences in Boston, MA.

Anshuman Tiwari lives in New Haven, CT.

Chisato Tomimura lives in Tokyo, Japan.

Terry Unger lives in Laurel, MD.

Brenna Vredeveld is a junior professional associate for The World Bank in Washington, DC.

Rebecca Watters is a project manager for the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative in Jackson, WY.

Jason Weiner is associate director and staff attorney for Ventura Coastkeeper in Malibu, CA.

Robert (Bo) White is a green investor at Kuh Green Investments.

Erik Winegar is a staff specialist for air quality at AECOM Environment in Sacramento, CA.

Julie Witherspoon is a project coordinator for Urban Villages in Denver, CO.

Christopher Yuan-Farrell is a land Protection Fellow for Colorado Open Lands in Lakewood, CO.

Katie Zaidel Salipante is an environmental health consultant for Jonathan Borak and Company in New Haven, CT.

Carolina Zambrano Barragan is Ecuador’s national climate change director at the Ministry of the Environment in Quito.

Yong Zhao is a doctoral student at Yale School of F&ES in New Haven, CT.

Xiaohong Zhou is a research assistant at Yale Peabody Museum in New Haven, CT.

Do you know where these classmates are?

Heather Colman-McGill

Jorge Figueroa

Bella Gordon

Kristin Hesser

Elizabeth Jones

Lisa Leombruni

Jing Li

Zachary Parisa

Daniel Tessini
A New Chapter Begins…
F&ES Career Development

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CONGRATULATIONS, MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2009... HELLO, CLASS OF 2008 AND ALL F&ES ALUMNI!

The Career Development Office remains a resource available for you even after graduation. We are eager to help each of you in your capacities as both job-seeking individuals and also as representatives of your employing organization trying to identify talented summer interns and post-graduation employees. We hope you will return to F&ES to speak about and share your post-graduation achievements with the F&ES community.

FOR JOB SEEKERS WITH ALL LEVELS OF EXPERIENCE, WE URGES YOU TO USE THESE SERVICES:

1. ONLINE ENVIRONMENTAL JOB AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY RESOURCES IN THE GLOBAL ERCUITING OUTREACH (GEO) PROGRAM DESIGNED TO ASSIST YOU IN SEARCHING AND LOCATING JOBS

As F&ES alumni/ae, you will always have access to Geo with all of the same functions that you had as a student. To access the login page of the Geo Program, please visit http://yalefesgeo.experience.com/er/security/login.jsp

2. A COMPREHENSIVE WEB SITE (ENVIRONMENT.YALE.EDU/CAREERS)

Visit the F&ES website and review the resources available to you, especially under the CAREER DEVELOPMENT FOR ALUMNI/AE SECTION found at http://environment.yale.edu/alumni-alumnae/Career-Development/. Within this section, you’ll see links to assist you with networking, job resources, interviewing, salary negotiations, as well as information for international students.

3. THE YALE CAREER NETWORK AND YALE ON-LINE ALUMNI DIRECTORY

The links for both of them can be found at: http://ayayale.edu/. While inquiries about specific jobs are discouraged, students and alumni may contact alumni/ae about their organizations and general career opportunities.

For Employer Representatives We Offer:

1. ACCESS TO OUR ONLINE GLOBAL ERCUITING OUTREACH (GEO) PROGRAM DESIGNED FOR POSTING YOUR INTERNSHIPS AND JOBS

This password-protected site enables current students and alumni/ae to search jobs and internships posted by the CDO and employers, research registered employers, and network with employer contacts. More and more employers have been posting senior level positions onto Geo.

2. ACCESS TO STUDENTS’ RESUMES THOUGH OUR GEO PROGRAM AND ON-LINE RESUME BOOKS

3. AN EAGERNESS TO RECEIVE E-MAILED INTERNSHIP AND JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR POSTING IN OUR SYSTEM

If you are an employer seeking to hire other F&ESers, please visit http://environment.yale.edu/doc/822/job_and_internship_posting_instructions/ for information on how to post your opportunities with the CDO.

4. ON-CAMPUS PRESENTATION AND INTERVIEWING FACILITIES TO PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES YOU HAVE


Spread the Word! Admissions

Do you know someone who would make a great F&ES student, an individual passionate about environmental issues and intent on advancing their career? Please promote Yale F&ES!

You can help shape our future – attend an upcoming Admissions event, encourage friends, colleagues or students to apply, or meet with prospective students in your local area. There are many ways for alumni to stay active and connected to F&ES. Please keep in touch.

The full calendar of upcoming events and event registration information can be found at https://apply.environment.yale.edu/events/?country=*.

Many thanks for your participation!
Kroon Hall seen through the Osborn Memorial Laboratories archway.
Class of 2009