

## Mark Synnott, "Adventure Climbing: Lessons from the Edges of the World"

6:30 pm, Thursday, September 28  
Simpson Hall, Sterling College

A longtime adventure climber and guide, Mr. Synnott will give a talk and slideshow about three of his greatest adventures: Polar Sun Spire in Baffin Island – a 39 day 5000-foot rock wall in the Arctic; The Great Trango Tower – a 6000-foot rock wall that tops out around 22,000 feet, which he climbed in 1999 with Jared Ogden and Alex Lowe; and The Scorpion Wall, a 1500-free climb on the side of Mt. Roraima, a tepui located in the heart of the Amazon jungle. There will be a raffle for two climbing ropes from the Sterling Rope Company following the slideshow. Cosponsored by Sterling Rope, Biddeford, ME.

## Alootook Ipellie, "Inuit Writing Today"

7:00 pm, Thursday, October 12  
The Center for Northern Studies

Mr. Ipellie is an Inuit writer, artist, and speaker who was born in Nuvuqquq, a small hunting camp in northern Nunavut in Northeast Canada. He later moved to Toronto to continue his work highlighting the importance of balancing cultural heritage in the face of contemporary pressures. Among his written work is a 1993 book of contemporary and traditional stories and drawings titled *Arctic Dreams and Nightmares*. Mr. Ipellie has been a prominent voice in discussions of cultural identity among the Inuit as a newspaper editor, essay writer, poet, and recognized "Inuit cultural ambassador." His talk will include readings from his poetry, prose, and works in progress, and he will also discuss the development of Inuit writing in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Mr. Ipellie's visit is sponsored by a grant from the Arctic Research Consortium of the US.

## Jane Brox, "Legacies of the American Farm"

6:30 pm, Thursday, October 26  
Simpson Hall, Sterling College

Jane Brox is the author of three books about life and work on her family's farm in Dracut, Massachusetts: *Five Thousand Days Like This One: An American Family History*, *Here and Nowhere Else: Late Seasons of a Farm and Its Family*, and *Clearing Land: Legacies of the American Farm*. Her unique

perspective blends personal and historical narrative to paint a picture of New England's changing agricultural landscape. Ms. Brox will read selections from *Clearing Land* and will talk about some of the changes in New England farms throughout the 19th and 20th centuries as well as the way farming has been both marginalized and romanticized in the culture at large in recent years.

## Mitchell Thomashow, "Observing Environmental Change: Why it Matters"

6:30 pm, Thursday, November 9  
Simpson Hall, Sterling College

Perhaps the most crucial challenge for environmental educators is how to make global environmental issues more tangible, so that they become an integral part of everyday awareness. Such awareness implies both ecological and spiritual attention, and at its core is a simple assumption: the best way to learn to perceive the biosphere is to pay close attention to our immediate surroundings. Through local natural history observations, imagination and memory, and spiritual contemplation, we develop a place-based view that can be expanded to encompass the biosphere. Mr. Thomashow is the president of Unity College, Unity, ME.

## John Alexander Watler, "A Performance of Belizean Stories"

7:00 pm, Friday, November 3  
Simpson Hall, Sterling College

John Alexander Watler, a Belizean novelist, master storytelling comedian, folklorist and playwright, is considered a folk hero, and is highly honored in Belize for keeping Belizean Creole culture alive at a time when it was most unpopular to do so. Mr. Watler is currently considered one of Belize's best writers of plays and fiction, and is known as Belize's own Mark Twain. Belize's Ministry of Education has contracted Mr. Watler to visit schools nationwide, to inspire, motivate and lecture on Belizean culture. His books include *Cry Among Rain Clouds (2001)*, *Sea Lotto (2004)* and *De Works (2003)*. Monologues include "Wapey's Letter," "Onefoot was Pushed," "Brer Anansi Escape to Nomo-Nomo," and other folklore comedy. Mr. Watler comes to Craftsbury as part of *Research in Tropical Ecosystems of Belize*, a course offered through Sterling College.

## Tom Slayton, "The Cover Story: Fifty Years of Vermont Life, Fifty Years of Vermont"

6:30 pm, Thursday, November 16  
Simpson Hall, Sterling College

The Vermont landscape – its culture, environment, economy, social fabric – has changed dramatically in the half century since the publication of *Vermont Life* Magazine's inaugural issue. In his talk, Tom Slayton draws on his 21 year tenure as editor-in-chief of Vermont Life to trace changes in Vermont history since 1946 through the covers of the magazine, a time which has seen as much change in the state as any time in its history. In addition to his position as editor, Mr. Slayton is the author of many magazine and newspaper articles and three books, including *Finding Vermont* and *The Beauty of Vermont*.

## Llyd Wells, "The Arctic Ecology of Invisible Beings"

6:30 pm, Thursday, November 30  
Simpson Hall, Sterling College

Mr. Wells' talk will address the importance of micro-organisms to water-column and sea-ice ecosystems of the Arctic, while introducing some of the basic principles and methods of aquatic microbial ecology. His talk will focus on two broad avenues of Mr. Wells' laboratory and field research. First, he will consider the little-understood domain of life known as Archaea, which is as different from Eukaryotes and Bacteria as each is from the other. Second, he will consider the characteristics and ecological roles of marine viruses in the Arctic, particularly during winter. Mr. Wells' work attempts to convince audiences of the existence, relevance and interest of invisible beings found not only in the Arctic, but all about us. Llyd Wells is a visiting scholar at Sterling College.

All Sterling Seminars are free and open to the public.

For more information about the series, please call 802-586-7711 ext.140