



THE CENTER FOR NORTHERN STUDIES AT STERLING COLLEGE

P.O. Box 72, Craftsbury Common, VT 05827



spring 2005 alumni newsletter



Reunion 2005

Dear Alumni and Friends,

For two days in January Alumni and Friends of the Center gathered in Wolcott, Vermont, to see old friends, learn more about the Center's merger with nearby Sterling College, and, of course, spend time outside in the woods of Bear Swamp. The weekend kicked off with a hearty dinner at the Center. Nearly thirty alumni, friends, and Sterling community members packed the common-room and classroom, eating and telling stories. The evening concluded with a fantastic slide show by Steve Young about his recent travels in Mongolia. Highlights from Saturday included an indoor winter ecology primer and a field walk into bear swamp with Gerry Courtin, who was back for his 18th year teaching about the winter world at CNS. The afternoon had time for everyone to get out and enjoy the snow and woods of Wolcott. Just before dark folks returned indoors to reflect on their Center experience and brainstorm ideas for the Center's future. The evening events took the group to Sterling College for a dinner and an outstanding lecture about winter weather by VPR meteorologist Mark Breen.



Thanks to all who attended for a great weekend here at the Center and Sterling College. It was wonderful to have so many warm and interesting folks together to enjoy presentations, the outdoors, and memories of the Center. It was also terrific to hear so much positive feed back about the Center experience and to have all of you contribute so many great ideas for the future of the Center with Sterling College. We hope to see you all at the next reunion slated for January 2007.



Photo credits: Zsolt Tolgyesi and Rick Morrill

Clockwise from top left: Justin Schlawin '04 and Brooke Halsey '04; Sarah Rosow '02 and Devin Sigman '01; Gerry Courtin and class in Bear Swamp; Gus Sinsheimer '00 and Emily Green; Chris Urban '03, Bill Morrison '04, Aaron Coburn, and Laurel Kritkauskay '96; Kati Dana and Andrea St. John '02; Dawn Morgan and Amanda Devine '01; Gus Sinsheimer '00 and Jed Williamson - Sterling College President.





Steve Young giving an evening presentation about his recent work in Mongolia.



Kristi Tolgyesi



Katie Trautz '03', Kristi Tolgyesi, Bill Morrison, '04'.

Coming Home

When I came back to the Center for the reunion, I was coming home. Turning on to Town Hill Road. I was struck with that familiar sense of relief and relaxation one feels coming home to warmth, friends, and fond memories. Reuniting with professors, friends, and alums I had never met was simply wonderful. When I was a student at the Center I was one of three students, so meeting other alums from the past twenty five years gave me a sense of continuity and a bond with others who shared memories similar to my own. I value my experiences with the Center more than any others in college, and sharing that passion and love with other alums was a treasured opportunity. If you plan on another reunion, I'll be there early.

Gus Sinsheimer 2000



Sarah Rosow '02' preparing breakfast on the woodstove.



Steve Young, and Bill Osgood



Ibit Getchell '82

ANNOUNCING THE CNS ALUMNI DIRECTORY!

If you want to reconnect with old friends or network with other alumni, both electronic and paper copies of our alumni directory are available upon request. Please e-mail Rick at rmorrill@sterlingcollege.edu to request a copy. If you have contact info for alumni who may not be in our directory or have names of folks you want us to track down, please pass that along so your friends can reconnect with the Center. And we are constructing a CNS alumni webpage! If you would like to post a message to friends or anything at all please e-mail Rick for more information.

Old and New

Returning to the Center for Northern Studies for the reunion helped refresh the details from my time there, of the camaraderie of travelling to Newfoundland, Labrador, and Ottawa, living with friends and learning in a hands-on way. The Center may have been a haven in the woods of Wolcott, but it was a place that expanded my world. At the reunion I was the oldest alum by seven years. That was the only disappointment about the weekend. I so wished more of us who experienced the Center—especially those

from the earlier years—could have gathered together to revisit a time and place in our lives that was so meaningful and to see how the northern studies spirit remains so vital. I was reassured to learn the new connection with Sterling College has clearly benefited both institutions. I trust the Center will continue to thrive into the future with Sterling alongside. It is still the old Center we knew and loved. The academic challenges, aesthetics, and the fun of both learning and living together on field excursions and in rural Vermont is still what it's all about. Examining tracks in the snow and buds on the trees, listening to engaging lectures with stunning slides of remote northern places, grappling with the difficult balance of development and cultural integrity, the Center's program gave me a huge lesson in how everything is connected. It's how we lived those months. What better way to learn? To those younger alums I met in January, thank you for your warm friendship. It was fun sharing our stories. To those who missed the reunion, especially those I knew when I went to school and worked there, I missed you. You, too, would have enjoyed your return. And to Steve and those who are teaching and running the Center now with Sterling, I celebrate the Center's 30th anniversary and thank you for bringing us back. 'Hope to visit again soon for a lecture or a walk to Wolcott Pond.

Ibit Wright Getchell '82



Gerry Courtin in Bear Swamp explaining plant adaptations to winter.

Check out the online version of this newsletter at www.sterlingcollege.edu/CNS/events