A MESSAGE FROM DEAN NANCY MATHEWS

OUR COMMUNITY

Our students, staff, and faculty work collaboratively to address many of today’s grand challenges. Among these are conserving Earth’s biodiversity, slowing climate change, and ensuring that all people have the opportunity to live healthy and productive lives in an environment that is both safe and empowering. In short, we strive to learn, to discover, and to live sustainably in order to nurture and enhance the nexus that joins humans with their surroundings.

The Rubenstein School offers one of the nation’s foremost environmental and natural resource programs. Our teaching and learning focus on preparing global citizens who think and act in ethically and socially responsible ways, who understand the impact of their decisions, and who have the breadth of knowledge to solve problems in rigorous and interdisciplinary ways. We embrace diverse learning communities that blend in- and out-of-class experiences through field courses, service-learning, and internships. We cultivate the skills that will ensure that our graduates emerge ready to engage in transformative environmental leadership.

It is our goal to advance discovery and learning through academic excellence and to be of service to society, the nation, and the world.
The Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources is home to nearly 770 undergraduates, 120 M.S. and Ph.D. students, and 85 faculty and staff. Our alumni now number over 4000 and engage in environmental problem solving around the world. We seek to create a thriving learning community that is culturally diverse and academically enriched. We integrate core knowledge from diverse fields and foster critical, interdisciplinary thinking to prepare students as citizens and leaders in this rapidly changing world. Our overarching goal is academic excellence.

The Rubenstein School is housed in the LEED Platinum-Certified Aiken Center. Renovated in 2012, the Aiken Center serves as a living-learning laboratory and allows students to study green roof technology and energy efficiency. The School is home to the campus-wide Environmental Program that oversees Environmental Studies, the fourth largest undergraduate major at UVM. Environmental Sciences, the third most popular program at UVM, is the Rubenstein School’s largest major. The School is also home to the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, the Aiken Forestry Sciences Laboratory, and the Melosira, our 45-foot research vessel on Lake Champlain.

Complementing our campus facilities are four research forests and ten UVM natural areas, including the top of Mt. Mansfield.

A LEARNING COMMUNITY THAT STRIVES TO UNDERSTAND, NURTURE, AND ENRICH THE INTERDEPENDENCE BETWEEN HUMANITY AND HEALTHY ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS.
Our Office of Experiential Learning works with students, faculty, and community partners to facilitate and support high impact engagement through internships, service-learning courses, study abroad, and applied research. These experiences prepare Rubenstein School students to become effective environmental leaders and engaged citizens by developing problem-solving, critical thinking, communication, and professional skills. Our programs also foster skills in cultural competency so that our graduates may work inclusively across diverse communities and perspectives.

COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

At the Rubenstein School, a large portion of our community-based learning opportunities come in the form of service-learning courses, incorporating real-world experiences to enhance students’ academic and personal explorations. Each year, faculty teaching close to 20 courses collaborate with community partners to give students an opportunity to put into practice what they are learning, while helping to promote change in the world.

Real world products generated through service-learning courses include:

- Wildlife population data based on student inventory and monitoring at Shelburne Farms
- GIS maps based on aerial tree canopy assessments for the State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
- Reports on the state of plastic packaging and waste reduction at Burton Snowboards and City Market Food Co-op
- Riparian restoration project design and implementation with local conservation organizations
- Research and recommendations for climate resiliency prepared for Vermont regional planning commissions
- Outreach and public education with USDA-APHIS about invasive forest pests and their threat to landscapes

INTERNSHIPS

Internships help students explore careers, build relevant skill sets, and make connections in fields of interest. Students find that internships allow them to apply the knowledge and skills they gain in the classroom setting and give them a crucial competitive edge when applying for jobs after graduation. Internships may be for credit, paid or unpaid, part-time or full-time. Internships may be in the Burlington area, set up with an organization in hometowns, or in any location in the United States or internationally.

Organizations from private, public, governmental, and municipal sectors that have hosted our interns include:

- Student Conservation Association
- Vermont Agency of Natural Resources
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- The Nature Conservancy
- Sugarbush and Stowe Mountain Resorts
- Hubbard Brook Research Forest, U.S. Forest Service

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

Our research and discovery are rooted in forests and fields, in soils and waters, in the cities and towns of the Green Mountain State, and around the world. We strive to prepare citizens for the future and create leaders who will succeed in a rapidly changing world, all the while recognizing that all life on earth is interdependent.

The Rubenstein School targets high impact research opportunities to sustain the human/environment bond and promote thriving life worldwide. Students have the opportunity to join research projects sponsored by faculty. Research topics include:

- Species restoration and management of invasives
- Urban stormwater management
- Human impacts on lake systems
- Using geospatial technologies for monitoring and conservation

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GAIN MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE ON AND OFF CAMPUS

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES

There are many opportunities for students to gain international experience, including travel courses for credit during winter, spring, and summer breaks, in places such as Ecuador, the Netherlands, and the Bahamas. Students can also participate in summer and semester experiences with programs such as:

- Rubenstein School’s Costa Rica Program
- University of Western Australia at Perth
- EcoQuest New Zealand
- Round River Conservation Studies
- University of Lapland, Finland

GAIN MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE ON AND OFF CAMPUS

JOBS

- Environmental Sciences: Research Scientist, Ecovative Design, LLC
- Environmental Manager, Washington State Dept. of Transportation
- Environmental Studies: Urban Park Ranger, NPS Department of Parks & Recreation
- Forestry: Forestry Technician, U.S. Forest Service
- Natural Resources: Client Strategy Manager, Native Energy
- Sustainable Parks, Recreation & Tourism: Town Planner, Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts
- Sustainable Forestry: Natural Resource Specialist, National Park Service
- Wildlife & Fisheries Biology: Wildlife Technician, Colorado Parks & Wildlife
- Conservation Biology: Conservation Leadership, Colorado State University EcoStudies

THINKING CRITICALLY about interests, skills, and values is an important part of exploring careers and life direction. Our Career Counselor and Internship Coordinator works directly with students to assist them in career exploration, resume writing, interview preparation, job searching, and the graduate school application process. After graduation, professional pathways take our students all over the world into a wide variety of careers and experiences. Here is a sampling:

CAREERS AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

- Master of Science in Conservation Leadership, Colorado State University
- Master of Science in Sustainability in the Urban Environment, City University of New York, City College
- Master of Science in Wildlife Science, Cornell University
- Master of Science in Environmental Management, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies
- J.D. Environmental Policy, Vermont Law School
- MBA Sustainable Management, Bard College
- Ph.D. Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech

COMPETENCIES

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Working Across Difference
- Problem Solving
- Inquiry & Analysis
- Integrative Learning

KNOWLEDGE

- Ecological Processes & Systems
- Social Processes & Systems
- Planning & Management
- Sustainability

CORE COMPETENCIES & KNOWLEDGE AREAS

By offering a scaffolded set of required core courses grounded in environmental and natural resource content, we prepare our students to successfully integrate and apply knowledge across disciplinary boundaries in their personal and professional lives.