Vermont Law School has selected Carol Browner, former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, as the Fall 2014 Distinguished Environmental Law Scholar. As EPA administrator, Browner adopted the most stringent air pollution standards in the nation’s history; set a fine particle clean air standard; and spearheaded the reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act as well as the Food Quality Protection Act. She was known for working with both environmentalists and industry to set scientific-based public health protections while providing businesses important flexibilities in how to meet those standards.

Browner is now Senior Counselor at Albright Stonebridge Group and a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. She served as the Director of the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy in the Obama administration from 2009 to 2011, where she oversaw the coordination of environmental, energy, climate, transport, and related policy across the federal government.

Browner will deliver the keynote address at Vermont Law School’s Fifth Annual Colloquium on Environmental Scholarship on October 3–4, 2014.

Investor, philanthropist, and advanced energy advocate Tom Steyer delivered a lecture titled “Climate Solutions—Building a Clean Energy Future” at VLS in May. Steyer, who received VLS’s 2014 Honorary Degree for the Environment during Commencement, is the founder of NextGen Climate, an organization that acts politically to avert climate disaster and preserve American prosperity. He works to promote economic development and environmental protection in California, and serves on the board at Stanford University, where he and his wife, Kat Taylor, founded two renewable energy research institutions: the TomKat Center for Sustainable Energy and the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance. The couple is among several high-wealth Americans to join the “Giving Pledge,” a promise to donate the majority of their wealth to charitable and nonprofit activities during their lifetimes.

Steyer also established Advanced Energy Economy, which works with businesses to make energy secure, clean and affordable, and Next Generation, which addresses energy and children’s policy issues.

Last year, the Environmental Law Institute presented Steyer with its Environment Achievement Award in recognition of his leadership in clean energy and climate change policy. He shared the award with George Schultz, former secretary of the treasury and secretary of state, with whom he created a bipartisan coalition to defeat California’s Proposition 23, an effort by out-of-state oil companies to dismantle California’s groundbreaking clean energy law.

“Tom Steyer is a true trailblazer when it comes to energy and climate,” said Associate Dean Melissa Scanlan, director of the Environmental Law Center at VLS. “We were pleased to welcome him to the Vermont Law School community, and to recognize his commitment to a clean energy future with our honorary degree.”
CLINIC DEFENDS VERMONT’S NEW GE LABELING LAW

This summer, one of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic’s primary projects entered a new phase after a significant victory in the spring. For the past couple of years, the clinic has been representing the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) in legal advocacy toward passage of a labeling bill for genetically engineered foods (GE) in Vermont. The clinic provided a comprehensive legal research memo, testimony, and several binders of factual materials to the Vermont legislature during the last biennial session. This gave student clinicians the opportunity to testify before House and Senate committees, interact with state officials, and work closely on a broad-based legislative campaign with our client and other partners—Rural Vermont, Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont, and Cedar Circle Farm. Both chambers of the Vermont legislature passed the bill by wide margins and, in May, Governor Peter Shumlin signed the bill into law. This made Vermont the first state in the nation to require labels on GE foods, with labels required by 2016.

However, the fight is not over. As expected, several industry groups sued the state claiming that the law was unconstitutional. They filed the suit in June and, in July, the Clinic filed a Motion to Intervene in the case. Along with co-counsel from the Center for Food Safety (CFS), the

"WITH THIS FILING, WE’RE VERY PROUD TO TAKE OUR FIRST STEP IN DEFENDING VERMONT’S LAW. WE’VE SEEN GE LABELING THIS FAR AND AREN’T GOING TO GIVE UP NOW—IT’S A STRONG LAW THAT DESERVES PROTECTION."

—LAURA MURPHY, Associate Director, ENRLC

Bon appétit!

Melissa K. Scanlan

FROM THE ASSOCIATE DEAN

GREETINGS FROM VERMONT

As we are in the midst of harvest season, Vermont Law School is excited to unveil the most comprehensive food, agriculture, and environmental law program in the country. We are offering a new LLM in Food and Agriculture Law and a Master of Food and Agriculture Law and Policy (pending ABA acquiescence), along with a new Certificate in Food and Agriculture Law for our JD and master’s students. We have grown our residential and distance learning curriculum and now offer 12 courses in this emerging field.

A hallmark of a Vermont Law School education is that it is experiential. This fall we enrolled our first students in a new Food and Agriculture Clinic on campus, which is dedicated to food systems advocacy. We received a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide legal and technical support to farmers’ markets. We also have students in our Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic helping defend Vermont’s first-in-the-nation GMO labeling law. And some sweet news: The Center for Food Safety has declared VLS the first official “bee-friendly” campus in the nation!

I hope you’ll enjoy reading about the many ways Vermont Law School is working to develop the next generation of sustainable food and agriculture law and policy leaders.

Bon appétit!

Melissa K. Scanlan

Melissa K. Scanlan

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The mission of the Environmental Law Center is to educate for stewardship, to teach an awareness of underlying environmental issues and values, to provide a solid knowledge of environmental law, and to develop skills to administer and improve environmental policy.

This is a publication of the Environmental Law Center. We welcome your questions, comments, corrections, article proposals, and updates.

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Melissa K. Scanlan

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REMEDIATION OF VERMONT’S IMPAIRED WATERS

This summer, the ENRLC represented the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) in the appeal of three stormwater discharge permits issued to Jay Peak Resort. The streams around Jay Peak, a ski resort in northern Vermont, have been impaired by sediment for at least a decade. With this appeal, VNRC hopes to ensure that impaired streams are adequately remediated before additional permits for new development and additional stormwater discharges are issued at Jay Peak.

Throughout the summer, the clinician team of Amanda Langenheim ’16, Marissa Meredyth ’14, Alexis Peters ’16, and Rachel Stewart ’16 drafted memoranda and pleadings; participated in client meetings and case development; and conducted extensive research on the Clean Water Act, the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act, and Vermont stormwater regulations.

THE BEE’S KNEES: VLS IS THE 1ST OFFICIAL BEE-FRIENDLY CAMPUS IN THE NATION

Vermont Law School has partnered with the Center for Food Safety’s BEE Protective Campaign, making it the first higher-education campus in the country to earn official neonicotinoid pesticide-free designation.

“Honey bees and other pollinators play a critical role in agricultural systems,” said Professor Laurie Ristino, director of the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS). “Protecting their health and safety is a reflection of Vermont Law School’s commitment to the environment and CAFS’ mission to support sustainable food and agricultural systems. We hope more will follow our lead.”

The law school’s partnership with BEE Protective follows an Obama administration directive, announced in June, to create a “Federal Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators.” The presidential memorandum reports that “pollinators contribute substantially to the economy of the United States and are vital to keeping fruits, nuts, and vegetables in our diets. Honey bee pollination alone adds more than $15 billion in value to agricultural crops each year in the United States. Over the past few decades, there has been a significant loss of pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, birds, bats, and butterflies, from the environment.”

BEE Protective is a national campaign established by the Center for Food Safety and Beyond Pesticides, and works with municipalities, campuses, and homeowners to adopt policies that protect pollinators from bee-toxic pesticides. For more information about the campaign, visit http://bit.ly/1kp3gSV.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded the Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFS) at Vermont Law School and the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont (NOFA-VT) a $500,000 grant to strengthen farmers’ market organizations through legal education.

Awarded by the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative grant enables CAFS and NOFA-VT to create “Farmers’ Market Legal Research and Extension.” The integrated research and extension project is designed to build stronger market organizations by developing a legal resources toolkit for market organizers and educating them on complex legal issues facing farmers’ markets.

Phases of the project are established for the next four years and include the development of toolkit resources in three areas: year one, governance; year two, liabilities related to the use of Electronic Benefits Transfer and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) tokens; and year three, general risk management. Year four is dedicated to toolkit training for farmers’ market organizers nationwide. CAFS and NOFA-VT have partnered with the Farmers Market Coalition to take advantage of its national network of farmers’ market leaders and communications resources to disseminate the toolkit across the country.

“We are grateful for this USDA grant, as it will directly benefit not only farmers’ markets in our region but also across the country,” said CAFS Director Laurie Ristino. “We’re eager to begin our research and stakeholder outreach to farmers and farmers’ market administrators, and we look forward to collaborating with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont.”

As part of the extension work, NOFA-VT plans to gather information directly from farmers’ markets, pilot toolkit resources at annual marketing conferences, and assist CAFS in training farmers’ market organizers.

“The Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont is very excited to be a partner in this important work providing robust legal resources for farmers’ markets to improve their stability, which in turn has the potential to improve direct-to-consumer sales for hundreds of Vermont agricultural producers,” said Erin Buckwalter, NOFA-VT market development and community food security coordinator.
EXPANDING INTO NEW FOOD HORIZONS

This summer, Assistant Professor Jamie Renner taught a new class on Global Food Security to law and master’s degree students from Brazil, China, Switzerland, Canada, and the U.S. Nation-wide, only a handful of law schools address this multidimensional subject matter. The course explored how food security is defined and measured for policy purposes; its international legal dimensions; comparative domestic law and policy matters; the financialization of food and farming; farming technology, biotechnology (GMOs) and intellectual property rights; the right to food; and the complex impact of climate change on food and water security worldwide. Guest speakers included a Food Security Analyst from the United Nations World Food Programme, a former nine-year South African Member of Parliament and water security expert, the Director of Public Affairs at the Vermont Foodbank, the Director of Scientific Engagement at Monsanto, and a Nigerian human rights attorney who was awarded the European Parliament’s Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought in 2005.

This fall, Renner will spearhead a new Food and Agriculture Clinic for VLS’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems. It will be one of the first law school clinics in the country dedicated to food systems advocacy with a focus on environmental sustainability, public health, rural economies, food access, and animal welfare. Students in the clinic will collaborate with local, regional, national, and international partners to create legal and business tools supporting targeted market and policy initiatives of farmers, food entrepreneurs, consumers, healthcare professionals, legislators, and advocates, among others. Students will also explore incorporating social entrepreneurial strategies into their advocacy. For its first project, driven by a $500,000 USDA grant, the clinic will partner with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont and the national Farmers’ Market Coalition to produce Farmers’ Market Toolkits—guides that will help farmers’ market leaders nation-wide navigate common but complicated business and legal choices regarding governance, risk management, and the use of SNAP/EBT systems. Other impending clinic projects include land tenure, food labeling, Community Supported Agriculture, and industrial animal agriculture. 🌱
The Center for Agriculture and Food Systems (CAFoS) is adding four new online courses to a suite of five summer classes and a list of courses offered during the academic year as part of a comprehensive curriculum. “We’re building a strong, innovative curriculum in food and agriculture law and policy,” said Laurie Ristino, Director of CAFoS. “The addition of online courses allows students flexibility to take a comprehensive course of study in food and agriculture law and policy online, or mix and match with our residential offerings. This way we can provide the best program for individual students.”

“Once again, Vermont Law School is leading the way in developing unique and flexible curriculum,” said Rebecca Purdom, Associate Dean of Innovation and New Programs. “VLS students have always been out in the field, busy living and doing. Our distance learning programs, which can be taken completely online or mixed with residential experiences, provide those busy, living, doing students a chance to get the best education that fits their lives and goals.”

### Expanding Distance Learning Offerings in Energy and Food and Agriculture Law

VLS is offering two new degrees and a new area of study in our online program. We launched the Master of Energy Regulation and Law (MERL) and LLM in Energy Law degrees online in May, 2014. Also in May, we added a concentration in Agriculture and Food Systems law and policy to existing online degrees.

The MERL and Energy LLM programs offer intensive training in the law and policy governing energy use, production, and transmission. “We have already seen the success of these degrees among our residential students,” said Michael Dworkin, Director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment. “But we recognize that some students can’t spend a year studying in South Royalton. We look forward to students taking some or all of their degree from a distance, while continuing their professional lives around the globe.”

Simultaneously, the law school added a new concentration in food and agriculture law and policy for students in the online LLM in Environmental Law and Master of Environmental Law and Policy degree programs.

Vermont Law School is now the Vermont leader in electric vehicle charging access at a single commercial location. Recently, with the support of the VLS Green Revolving Loan Fund, a new Chargepoint dual EV charging station was energized on campus. In total, the law school now has seven publicly available EV charging ports. The charging infrastructure is all grouped together in a convenient location across from the main classroom building. A colorful variety of Chevy Volts, Nissan Leafs, Toyota Prius, and Ford C-Max belong to faculty, staff, and students regularly recharge on campus. Occasionally, a yellow Tesla Roadster has even been spotted. Twenty-three kW of new solar PV was also recently installed on campus in conjunction with the charging stations to further green our campus footprint.
Zhongnan University of Economics and Law (ZUEL) in China and Vermont Law School have signed an agreement to collaborate on programs that will expand educational opportunities for students from both schools and promote exchange between faculty members. The agreement includes collaboration on student and faculty exchanges and training programs, degree and certificate programs, joint legal research projects, and publications on environmental and energy law research and policy development.

“This partnership reflects our commitment to developing global leaders,” said Marc Mihaly, president and dean of Vermont Law School. “We are proud to partner with Zhongnan University and look forward to watching as students and faculty from both institutions work toward influencing environmental law and policy, both in China and elsewhere in the world.”

The Zhongnan University delegation was comprised of Professors Liu Maolin, vice president; Han Long; Zhang Hong, vice dean of ZUEL law school; and Jiang He, assistant dean of ZUEL law school.

VLS, with the support of the U.S. Agency for International Development, launched the U.S.-China Partnership in 2006 to advance environmental governance and rule of law in China. Now known as the U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law, the program also administers three environmental advocacy programs in China funded by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) in Beijing, Guangzhou, and Kunming.
Financial support for the EIA trainings comes through the program monthly through November 2014. The EIA trainings are scheduled to assess the environmental and social impacts of investment and development projects in Myanmar. Myanmar has increased the need to thoroughly assess the environmental and social impacts of projects. The EIA trainings are scheduled to occur monthly through November 2014.

Since its geographical focus was expanded in July 2014, the program is broadening its geographical focus and incorporating new partners, projects, and opportunities. This expansion of geographical focus was demonstrated in July 2014, when PEL began a series of five multi-day Environmental Impact Assessment trainings for Myanmar’s Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF), and hosted a workshop on civil society engagement in the EIA process.

Myanmar is finalizing its EIA procedures and legal framework. In addition, the influx of investment and development projects in Myanmar has increased the need to thoroughly assess the environmental and social impacts of projects. The EIA trainings are scheduled to occur monthly through November 2014. Financial support for the EIA trainings comes from the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

PEL’s commitment to strengthening environmental governance in China was highlighted at Beijing’s Environmental Public Interest Litigation Roundtable in July. PEL sponsored the event to launch a project to help environmental NGOs in China use legal tools, including the standing provision permitting NGOs to sue on behalf of the public interest under the recently revised Environmental Protection Law, to improve and strengthen environmental governance and rule of law in China. At the event, environmental lawyers and representatives from various NGOs, such as Friends of Nature and Green Anhui, and international NGOs, such as Greenpeace and the Natural Resources Defense Council, convened to discuss how they would go forth with public interest litigation in 2015, when the Environmental Protection Law will go into force.

Avi Garbow, General Counsel of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, spoke at the event about the role of citizen suits in environmental enforcement in the U.S. and how they supported and complemented the government’s enforcement efforts. “Citizen enforcement represents the much-needed opportunity for engagement,” he said. He also praised the NGOs in the room for their work and emphasized the importance of such organizations, particularly in collaboration, to enforce environmental regulations. The launch event is the first step in bringing together environmental NGOs to help improve China’s environmental situation and lead the way for a cleaner future.

After a national search, Vermont Law School has hired Jessica Scott ’10 for a two-year Visiting Assistant Professor position. From 2010–14, she was an attorney in the Office of General Counsel at U.S. EPA, where she focused on the Clean Air Act; human rights and the environment; capacity building in China and Burkina Faso; and environmental justice. Scott’s time at EPA included awards and international exchanges. She received the 2013 Distinguished Environmental Advocates Award from the American Bar Association Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, and the 2012 Trudy Speciner National Honor Award from EPA, for “exceptional legal analysis, creativity and leadership to protect human health and the environment in communities across the nation and around the world.”

In 2011, she spent two months in Beijing as a fellow of the American Bar Association’s Rule of Law Initiative, where she gave presentations on American environmental laws to China’s Ministry of Environmental Protection, participated in academic conferences, and researched and wrote a report on a groundbreaking Chinese environmental law case.

She also participated in a two-way exchange for environmental law professionals in China and the U.S., cosponsored by the National Committee on United States-China Relations, and the Center for Legal Assistance to Pollution Victims at China University of Political Science and Law. The program is a capacity-building opportunity for young environmental lawyers, government officials, NGO representatives, and other environmental law professionals.


Scott received her JD degree, magna cum laude, from VLS in 2010. She received her BS, cum laude, in International Politics from Georgetown University. She will teach Air Pollution Law this spring.

The U.S.-China Partnership for Environmental Law at Vermont Law School is pleased to announce it is changing its name to the U.S.-Asia Partnerships for Environmental Law (PEL). This change comes at a time when the program is broadening its geographical focus and incorporating new partners, projects, and opportunities.

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACULTY NEWS

Tracy Bach will lead the VLS Observer Delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP20/CMP10, to be held in Lima, Peru, in December. The ten students on the delegation, selected from over 50 applicants, will represent the law school at the international climate change meeting. Students enroll in a course consisting of a weekly class for the full semester and one week on-site at the Conference of the Parties (COP). At the COP, our students will support the Myanmar State Party Delegation. Students will come away from this course with a deeper understanding of international environmental lawmaking informed by first-hand experience.

Betsy Baker has been named to the National Academy of Sciences Polar Bear Research Board. She is one of the few legal academics to have served on the board in its 56-year history. The appointment in part recognizes her cutting-edge work linking law and natural sciences in Arctic research. She presented “Shaping Arctic Policy from DC to Alaska: The U.S. Continental Shelf and Offshore Oil and Gas Regulation in America’s High North,” as part of the Spring 2014 Faculty Speaker Series at VLS in April. She served on the panel “Comparison of Current Regulatory and Liability Regimes in Arctic Coastal States” in the research workshop, “Arctic Oil/Gas Drilling: Lessons from the Past and Implications for the Future,” in recognition of the 4th anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, at Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment, in April.

Laurie Bevranenav '03 was appointed to serve on the Food and Drug Law Institute’s Academic Programs Committee for a three year term beginning in April 2014. The Academic Programs Committee advises FDLI staff in formulating and implementing policies and strategies consistent with FDLI’s mission, relating to programs and publications of interest to the academic legal community. She gave a presentation entitled “Food Labeling for Health Care Professionals” at the Vermont Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Annual Meeting in April. She was a faculty member at the Summer Academy in Global Food Law and Policy in Bilbao, Spain, where she discussed the impacts of the Food Safety Modernization Act on the global food supply.


Jackie Gardina presented on “Environmental Obligation and Enforcement” at the National Association of Environmental Professionals 39th Annual Conference, Changing Tides and Shifting Sands, in April.


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(continued on page 10)

Sean Nolon presented “Managing Land-Use Disputes” at the American Planning Association meeting in Atlanta in April. His article, “Bargaining for Development Post-Koontz: How the Supreme Court Invaded Local Government,” was recently accepted by the Florida Law Review.

Patrick Parenteau testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Hearing on “EPA’s Expanded Interpretation of its Permit Veto Authority Under the Clean Water Act,” in July. He worked with students in the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic (ENRLC) to prepare an amicus brief on behalf of climate scientists in a case involving use of the Clean Water Act to address the problem of ocean acidification. He also worked with ENRLC students to prepare a petition to the Federal Trade Commission regarding deceptive advertising in the use of Renewable Energy Credits by Vermont utilities.

Rebecca Purdom was granted the 2014 East Africa Environmental Fellowship. She will be working on anticorruption and environmental justice issues in East Africa in October and throughout the 2014–15 academic year. She was also invited to present at the International Environmental Law Course in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in November.

Laurie Ristino moderated the panel “Geopolitical Context” at the University of Vermont’s Food Systems Summit, The Necessary [r]Evolution for Sustainable Food Systems, in June. VLS’s Center for Agriculture and Food Systems was a cosponsor of the event. She presented “The Law and Building the Infrastructure of the New Food Movement” at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation event, Harvesting Change: The 2014 Food & Community Gathering, in Detroit in May. Her article co-authored with Katie Hannon Michel ’15, “Carbon Trading in the United States,” in Research Handbook on Climate Change Mitigation Law, was listed on multiple SSRN Top 10 downloads in May.


Jack Tuholske served as a speaker on “Implementing Constitutional Environmental Rights in North America,” at the Global Environmental Constitutionalism event at Widener University School of Law in April. His article, “Solving Transboundary Pollution Disputes Locally: Success in the Crown of the Continent,” appeared in 92 Oregon Law Review 649 (2014). He was lead counsel in a case just settled in federal court in Oregon requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to publish a draft and final Recovery Plan under the ESA for bull trout (the largest freshwater salmonid) by September, 2015. In July, he led students in his Public Lands Management: Montana Field Study class on numerous treks through the northern Rockies.
SUMMER SESSION: BY THE NUMBERS

37 short, intense classes on topics ranging from Ecosystem Management to Global Energy Justice to The Modern Farm Bill

Over 200 students taking classes, including JD, master’s, and LLM candidates at VLS; JD students from other law schools; and visitors from around the world

3 Distinguished Summer Scholars: John Knox of Wake Forest University and the UN Human Rights Council; Benjamin Sovacool of Aarhus University in Denmark; and Sandra Zellmer of University of Nebraska

44 summer faculty from as far away as Shanghai and the University of Cambridge, and from right across campus at Vermont Law School

17 lectures in the Hot Topics in Environmental Law brown bag series, covering electric cars, unnatural disasters, fracking, and urban agriculture

4 Welcome Receptions—a chance for students, faculty, and special guests to mingle and enjoy Vermont microbrews

3 Environmental Law Media Fellows: Kevin Begos of The Associated Press, Osha Gray Davidson, author and freelance writer, and Tom Henry of The Toledo Blade

11 students trekking through the northern Rockies in Montana with Jack Tuholske’s Public Lands Management field study class

many afternoons spent hiking up Kent’s Ledge, tubing down the White River, and sampling the wares at Vermont’s farmers’ markets

SUMMER SESSION FACULTY NEWS

Don Baur has been elected to the Board of Directors of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Shenandish National Park Trust. In May, he spoke at the annual meeting of the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission in Washington, DC. He spoke at a conference on tribal Environmental Quality in Morongo, California, to discuss the application of the Endangered Species Act in Indian Country. The American Bar Association will publish the second edition of Ocean and Coastal Law and Policy, authored by Baur, Tim Eichenberg, and Michael Sutton. Baur is a partner at Perkins Coie. Eichenberg is Chief Counsel at the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Sutton is Executive Director of Audubon California. They co-teach Ocean and Coastal Law at VLS.

Tom Lautzenheiser was the lead author of Mass Audubon’s report, “Losing Ground: Planning for Resilience,” released in June, which documents land use change in Massachusetts from 2005–2013. The report is the fifth edition in the Losing Ground series that has tracked Massachusetts’ development and land conservation trends for over 30 years. The report features an analysis of land use planning regulations in the I-495 corridor, among the regions of the state facing the highest development pressures. Lautzenheiser is the Central/Western Regional Scientist at Massachusetts Audubon Society. He co-teaches Ecology.

Catherine MacKenzie is an editor of Law, Tropical Forests and Carbon: The Case of REDD+, along with Rosemary Lyster of the University of Sydney and Constance McDermott of the University of Oxford. The book is published by Cambridge University Press. MacKenzie is a University Lecturer in Environmental Law at Cambridge. She teaches Peace, War, and the Environment at VLS.

Thomas McHenry took his VLS students on a field trip to the Elizabeth Mine Superfund site in nearby Strafford, VT. The class toured the abandoned copper mine as part of his Environmental Aspects of Business Transactions course. McHenry is a partner at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Benjamin Sovacool has published numerous articles recently, including “Cornucopia or Curse? Reviewing the Costs and Benefits of Shale Gas Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking),” in Renewable & Sustainable Energy Reviews (September, 2014); “Energy Studies Need Social Science,” in Nature (July 31, 2014); “Exposing the Paradoxes of Climate and Energy Governance,” in International Studies Review (June, 2014); and “Construction Cost Overruns and Electricity Infrastructure: An Unavoidable Risk?” in Electricity Journal (May, 2014) (with VLS students D. Nugent and A. Gilbert). Sovacool is Director of the Danish Center for Energy Technology at Aarhus University in Denmark. He teaches Global Energy Justice at VLS.

Jacqueline Weaver taught a one-week course in May at the Fordham Law School summer program in Accra, Ghana, on International Petroleum Transactions. She lectured at the International Law Institute’s seminar on “International Oil and Gas Development: Upstream” in Washington, DC, in May. She presented a talk on “Reflections on Best Practices in International Petroleum Practices” at the opening conference of the new LLM program in Energy and Sustainability Law at the University of Nuevo Leon in Monterrey, Mexico, in August. She is the A.A. White Professor of Law at the University of Houston Law Center, and teaches Oil and Gas Production and the Environment at VLS.


David Wirth’s paper, “The World Trade Organization Dispute over Genetically Modified Organisms: The Precautionary Principle Meets International Trade Law,” was listed on numerous SSRN Top Ten download lists. Wirth is a Professor of Law at Boston College Law School. He teaches International Trade and the Environment at VLS.

Steven Wise appeared on The Colbert Report on July 17, where Steven Colbert asked about his arguments for legal “personhood” for chimpanzees and other animals. His work was also featured in a cover story in The New York Times Magazine on April 23. Wise is the President of the Nonhuman Rights Project. He teaches Animal Rights Jurisprudence.

Huiyu Zhao’s translation of “US Environmental Law for the Supreme Court,” co-written with Robert Percival, is forthcoming from China Law Press. Her article, “Controlling Air Pollution and Carbon Emissions by Regulations on Mobile Sources in China and the U.S.” is forthcoming in China’s Journal. Her article, “The Role of Civil Society in Environmental Governance in the United States and China,” co-authored with Percival, appeared in Duke Environmental Law & Policy. Zhao is an Associate Professor of Law at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Percival is a Professor of Law and Director of the Environmental Law Program at the University of Maryland. They co-teach Comparative U.S.-China Environmental Law at VLS.
The White River Environmental Law Writing Competition has announced the first annual White River Environmental Law Writing Competition. The winning essay will receive a $1,000 cash prize and an offer of publication in the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. All students at accredited United States law schools are invited to submit original articles that address a relevant topic in environmental law. Additional submission requirements and deadlines can be found on the journal’s website, http://vjel.vermontlaw.edu. The winning entry will be announced in January 2015.