



College of the Atlantic students explore Grand Manan Island in the Bay of Fundy, New Brunswick, Canada.



College of the Atlantic students Erica Georgaklis and Corinne Boet-Whitaker examine mushrooms collected in Bar Harbor, Maine.



Bard student Noland Gardner demonstrates a bicycle water pump at an INSO permaculture and organic production center in Oaxaca, Mexico.



Bard student Michelle Phillips and INSO staff member Nelly Fernandez collect water samples in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Strengthening Environmental Studies

SLOW WATER AND COASTAL ECOLOGY

The Foundation's environment initiative supported a wide range of projects at colleges and universities that strengthened environmental studies and promoted international research partnerships and exchanges.

At the College of the Atlantic in Maine, a project on Coastal Ecology and Integrated Marine Studies involved faculty and students in collaborative research that examined the impact of climate change on island ecology. Field trips, complemented by course work, deepened students' knowledge of marine science and generated new scholarship.

Bard College developed a program, Learning Across Borders, that strengthened the international component of graduate

environmental studies. Eight young professionals from developing countries completed a Master of Science degree in environmental policy at the college, and Bard students served six-month internships in India, South Africa, Mexico, Slovakia and other countries. The program fostered a strong collaboration with the Institute for Nature and Society (INSO), a non-governmental organization in Oaxaca, Mexico. Bard students and several faculty members participated in joint research with INSO. The work focused on the problem of too much "fast water," which disappears rapidly during the rainy season, and not enough "slow water," which in the past was trapped by healthy ecosystems and retained for use throughout the year. The Bard-INSO team explored approaches to water management that would protect ecosystems and promote sustainable practices.

Bard and the College of the Atlantic joined investigators from other Luce-supported schools at a gathering hosted by Brown University's Watson Institute to share research findings and build collaborative networks. ■