The Center Quarterly
The Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Center for Environmental and Sustainability Education! Thank you to the Haffenreffers and an anonymous Maine friend who have made a challenging challenge and will enable gifts for a total of $5,000. You may have received an original with a return envelope and a check for your total, mailed to you. Gifts may be mailed to Peter Blaze Corcoran at the address below. They should be made payable to CESE/FGCU and will be fully tax deductible.

Fundraising Challenge
Annual Fundraising Reception

Held for the third consecutive year at the Sanibel Island home of Peter and Melody Haffenreffer, the Center's annual fundraising reception on February 24, 2007, was well, by all measures, a success. Over 130 attended the event, including many of the members of the Center's Board of Advisors: Coach Mary Evelyn Tucker, Rick Clugston, Alison Hawthorne Deming, Armand Ball, Louise Johnson, Oannes Pritzker, June LaCombe, and Larry Amon.

During the reception, Mexican-American author Homero Aridjis spoke of the migration of monarch butterflies to his childhood home in Mexico and of his journey in becoming a leading Latin American writer and environmentalist. He also read his magnificent poem "Eye of the Whale" in Spanish. Alison Hawthorne Deming preceded him in reading the English translation.

Thank You Again, we would like to express our gratitude to all who have contributed to the Center. Truly, it is your generosity that allows our research, education initiatives, and publications to continue.

Special thanks to our host and hostess, Peter and Melody Haffenreffer, for their support and for opening their home again to us. Thank you also to the Maine friends they enlisted to make it a magical evening.

On February 23, 2007, Mexican-American author Homero Aridjis performed the Center's annual Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecture. Aridjis spoke both at Florida Gulf Coast University and at the Thomas A. Edison Congregational Church in Fort Myers, Florida. To date, this is the first time the Center has held this lecture in Fort Myers; indeed, this is part of the Center's ongoing work in reaching out to a wider local audience.

Aridjis reflected on his work in creating El Grupo de Cien (The Group of 100) and his work with sea turtles, gray whales, and the wintering home of monarch butterflies near his hometown of Contepec, Mexico. Aridjis also read a number of his poems in Spanish which were preceded in English by the American poet and Center board member, Alison Hawthorne Deming.

Rachel Carson Award

The Center presented the annual Rachel Carson Award to Professor Bill Hammond. This award honors his worldwide leadership in environmental education, his activism in the local community, and his inspiring love of the natural world. Bill is retiring from FGCU at the end of this spring semester.

Youth Participation in Sustainable Development: An East African Perspective

As its contribution to FGCU's International Week, the Center hosted a conversation with Philip Molo Osano on March 22, 2007. Philip is a dynamic young leader from Kenya and a Sauvé Scholar at McGill University in Montreal. He related the story of his journey as a scholar and is currently co-editing a book on urban and rural youth, Education and Environmental Development: Exploring Principles, Perspectives and Practices.

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Questions, economics, or suggestions? We would be like to hear from you. Please write.

Thank You!