

CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FILMMAKING

CONSERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT
THROUGH THE POWER OF MEDIA
CHANGING LIVES | FOSTERING CREATIVITY




Our world faces unprecedented environmental challenges, from climate disruption to species extinction. The Center for Environmental Filmmaking was founded on the belief that powerful films, images, and stories can play a key role in fostering conservation and bringing about change. We are committed to raising awareness and empowering action through the innovative use of media.

OUR MISSION

To inspire a new generation of filmmakers and media experts whose commitment to environmental stewardship drives them to produce creative work that is informative, ethically sound, entertaining—and makes a positive difference.





I've had the opportunity to work on projects for NOAA, PBS, and the National Park Service, where I now work full-time as a producer. The experience has truly been life changing.

SARAH GULICK, SOC/MFA '14
Filmmaker



As part of AU's School of Communication (SOC), the center partners with SOC's programs in journalism, public communication, film and media arts, and communication studies, drawing on the expertise of the accomplished filmmakers on SOC's faculty to offer students exceptional professional training. We also collaborate with the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of International Service.

Located in Washington, DC, we belong to a broad and vital community that includes the Smithsonian Institution, the National Geographic Society, Discovery, Animal Planet, and PBS, as well as many nonprofit environmental organizations and government agencies, providing rich opportunities for our students. Each year we participate in the Realscreen Summit, Environmental Film Festival, and other major film festivals and conferences.

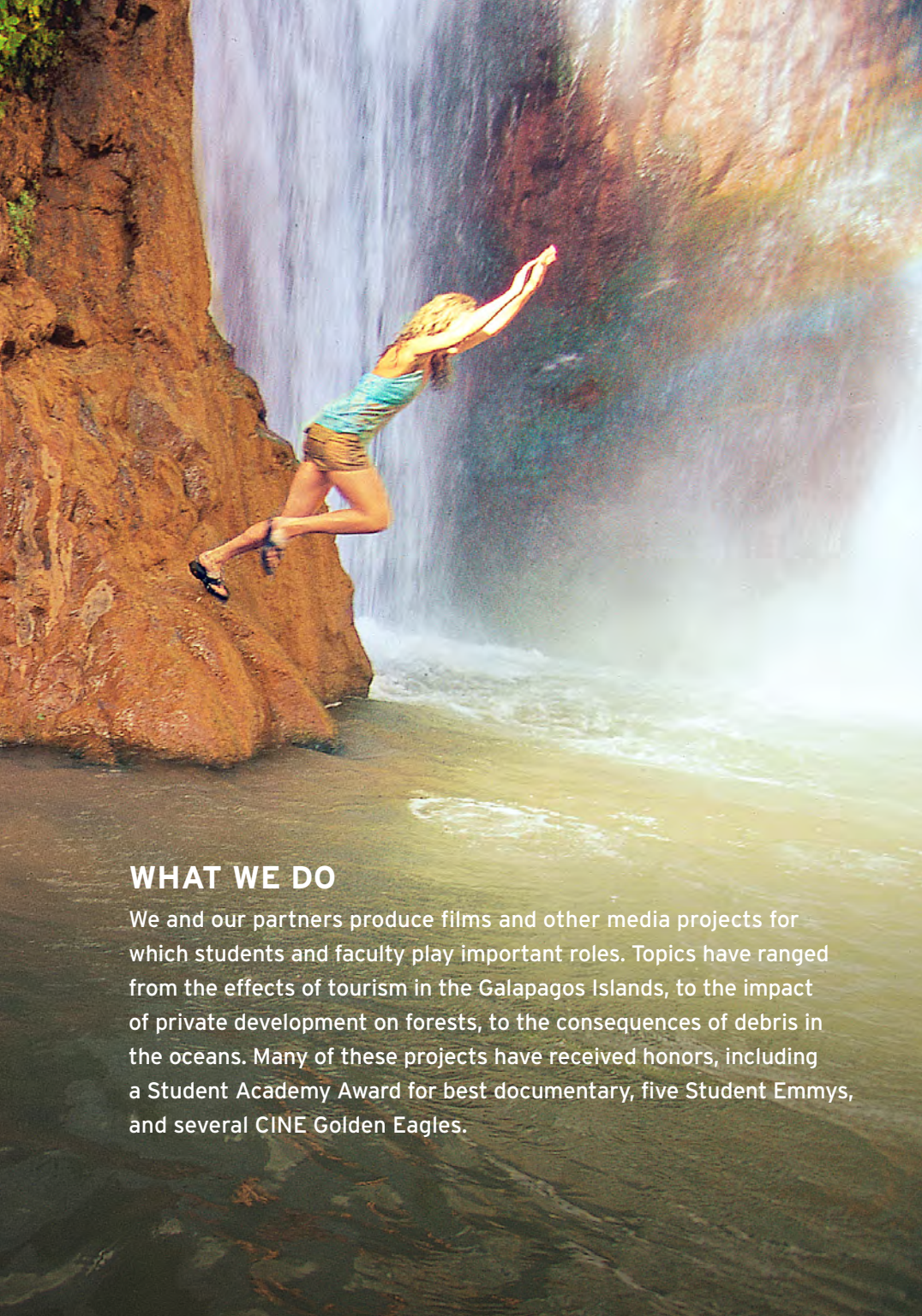
... far and away the most important part of my education and professional growth at AU. The center's courses, events, and opportunities for connection are truly world-class.

SAM SHELINE, SOC/MFA '17
Filmmaker

SIGNATURE INITIATIVES

- **CREATE PARTNERSHIPS** with Maryland Public Television, National Park Service, Nature Conservancy, Humane Society of the United States, and other established organizations that give students the opportunity to produce professional films.
- **BRING TOP FILMMAKERS** to American University to talk, teach, and mentor.
- **DEVELOP INNOVATIVE, INTERDISCIPLINARY, AND EXPERIENTIAL** classes and programs.
- **PROMOTE THE ETHICAL TREATMENT** of wildlife and the environment.
- **AWARD STUDENT** scholarships and fellowships.





WHAT WE DO

We and our partners produce films and other media projects for which students and faculty play important roles. Topics have ranged from the effects of tourism in the Galapagos Islands, to the impact of private development on forests, to the consequences of debris in the oceans. Many of these projects have received honors, including a Student Academy Award for best documentary, five Student Emmys, and several CINE Golden Eagles.

A SAMPLING OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

- a campaign to reform the wildlife filmmaking industry
- courses on the art and business of environmental and wildlife filmmaking
- a showcase of new films and celebrated filmmakers
- a film series on sustainable farming
- Eco-Comedy Video Competition
- Student Short Environmental Film Festival
- Classroom in the Wild (Chesapeake Bay, Galapagos Islands, Costa Rica, and Alaska)
- mentorship and career guidance
- Challenge Prize
- Senior Scholars
- Center Scholars
- Mavis and Sidney John Palmer Scholarship



DIRECTOR

CHRIS PALMER—environmental and wildlife film producer and author of *Shooting in the Wild* and *Confessions of a Wildlife Filmmaker*—founded the Center for Environmental Filmmaking in 2005, a year after joining SOC's full-time faculty as Distinguished

Film Producer in Residence. Over the past three decades, he has spearheaded the production of more than 300 hours of original programming for prime-time television and the giant screen IMAX industry, including the Disney Channel, TBS, Animal Planet, Travel Channel, and PBS. The president of One World One Ocean Foundation and the MacGillivray Freeman Films Educational Foundation, Palmer and his colleagues have won numerous awards, including two Emmys, an Oscar nomination, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Media at the International Wildlife Film Festival.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

LARRY ENGEL, SARAH MENKE-FISH, AND MAGGIE BURNETTE STOGNER

Our renowned associate directors collectively have amassed more than 100 years of production experience, over 500 films, scores of years of teaching, and numerous prestigious awards.



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