

HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2010





MISSION STATEMENT

THE HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE, INC. (HMI) nurtures personal growth through interaction with nature and participation in a strong community. We promote intellectual, physical and personal development through insistence on academic excellence, our philosophy of mentoring and apprenticing, and rigorous experiential learning. We seek to promote independent thinking and to develop skills of learning and habits of mind that both enhance self-reliance and transfer beyond the boundaries of HMI.



FROM THE BOARD



I FIRST HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BECOMING INVOLVED WITH HMI AS A STUDENT, afterward as an alumnus, and now as a Trustee. Through all of this, I have discovered how many people make sure that the High Mountain Institute—both the education it provides and the mission it promotes—carries on.

The school isn't merely kept alive by its faculty, staff, and heads of school, as I supposed as a student back in 2003. The collective determination is enormous. From top to bottom—from the Board of Trustees, to graduated students, from families, friends of families and beyond—all of those who care for our school do so because of what it makes of those who attend.

The support and generosity of the many who care ensure that HMI continues to enlighten and enliven young students. From what I've seen, this is a goal shared on all fronts.

The Board of Trustees is committed to sustaining the singular experience of the HMI education so many can experience it, more fully and more richly, for years to come. And the good news is that things are coming along very well. With a renewed commitment to diversity and environmental sustainability, as well as a healthy vision of the future, the school's mission and goals are increasingly realized and refined. This momentum is enabled by all those who, like you, help sustain it.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gregory".

Michael Gregory, HMI Board Member, RMS X Alumnus

FROM THE CHAIR



I WANT TO ADD MY HEARTY THANKS to those of fellow Trustee Michael Gregory; your generosity is wonderful, and I am most appreciative. The meeting of minds and nature is so vitally important to our futures that our collective effort to sustain the programs of HMI will have a lasting effect.

So very many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela J. Clarke".

Pamela J. Clarke, HMI Board Chair



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THIS FALL, WE WELCOME THE 25TH GROUP OF SEMESTER STUDENTS TO THE HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE. As we take time to appreciate the families, sending schools, students, faculty and staff who have helped us reach this milestone, our tendency is also to look ahead. We remain focused on making certain that the same educational experience we are providing today will be available to the 50th semester and beyond.



As part of this process, we have recently engaged in refreshing and updating our strategic plan. Thank you to those of you who completed our online survey last spring and added your voice to this conversation. In an effort we are calling HMI 2020, the Board of Trustees has identified four key areas of focus for the school beginning this year. Specifically, a year from now, we hope to report measurable progress in:

- » Diversity: Defining our goals for student body diversity and identifying strategies to reach them;
- » Growth: Addressing the question, “Can and should we serve more students?” via the creation of new programs, while maintaining the size and quality of the semester program;
- » Academic Program: Continuing to pursue incremental change and improvement in the academic classes we offer;
- » Environmental Sustainability: Starting an educational dialogue about our environmental impact, and integrating the topic of sustainability more actively into our academic curriculum.*

As we define the “forest”—the big ideas that point to where HMI is headed strategically—we remain aware that it is the “trees” of individual student experiences, parent interactions and donor gifts that are the heart of our work. To all who entrusted your children to us, made a financial contribution, or wrote an email of support for our efforts this year, we thank you. We look forward to your continued company on the path ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "ChH Barnes".

Christopher Barnes, Executive Director

christopher@hminet.org • 719-486-8200 ext. 101

**As a starting point, please see our first ever Environmental Impact Update beginning on page XX.*

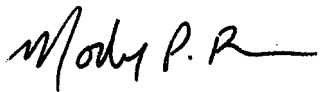
FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

TWELVE YEARS AGO, WHEN THE FIRST STUDENTS ARRIVED AT THE HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE, the campus looked very different than it does today. On the first day of Rocky Mountain Semester I, for example, the Main Building had not so much a front door, but a swinging piece of plywood! The boys' cabin was not quite complete, and the apprentices were living in the yurt—which they had constructed themselves only a few days before.

A lot has changed. Physically, the campus has expanded, and is now nearing our original vision for it. This winter, for example, spring semester students will be the first to have indoor bathrooms and laundry facilities within 100 yards of their cabins. Instead of meeting in the yurt on the opening and closing nights of the semester, we now meet in Stuen Hall—a ceremonial space that retains the intimacy and sacredness of the yurt, but is more beautiful and less rustic.

Other things have changed, too. The student body is now larger, we have expanded the faculty and year-round staff, and we have refined both the systems and the core values of the semester over time. Just as the High Mountain Institute has seldom been static in the twelve years since we opened our doors, change is an inevitable part of our present and our future. As Christopher's letter demonstrates, we are constantly challenging ourselves to answer difficult questions, make tough choices and consider both additions and subtractions to our educational program.

And a lot has stayed the same! In the midst of ongoing change, I continue to be inspired by what remains the same. Students and parents continue to tell us that the HMI experience is transformational. The stories we hear of alumni who return home with new-found confidence, or willingness to lead, or love of wilderness, are largely the same as those we heard twelve years ago. The students who arrived this fall for our 25th semester may have arrived to a real door on the Main Building, but the essence of what they will gain after walking through it has not changed. Thank you for your support in helping us achieve this balance between retaining the best of the old and embracing the excitement of the new.



Molly P Barnes, Head of School

molly@hminet.org • 719-486-8200 ext. 104



PROGRAMS YEAR IN REVIEW

2009–10 HIGHLIGHTS

Rocky Mountain Semester

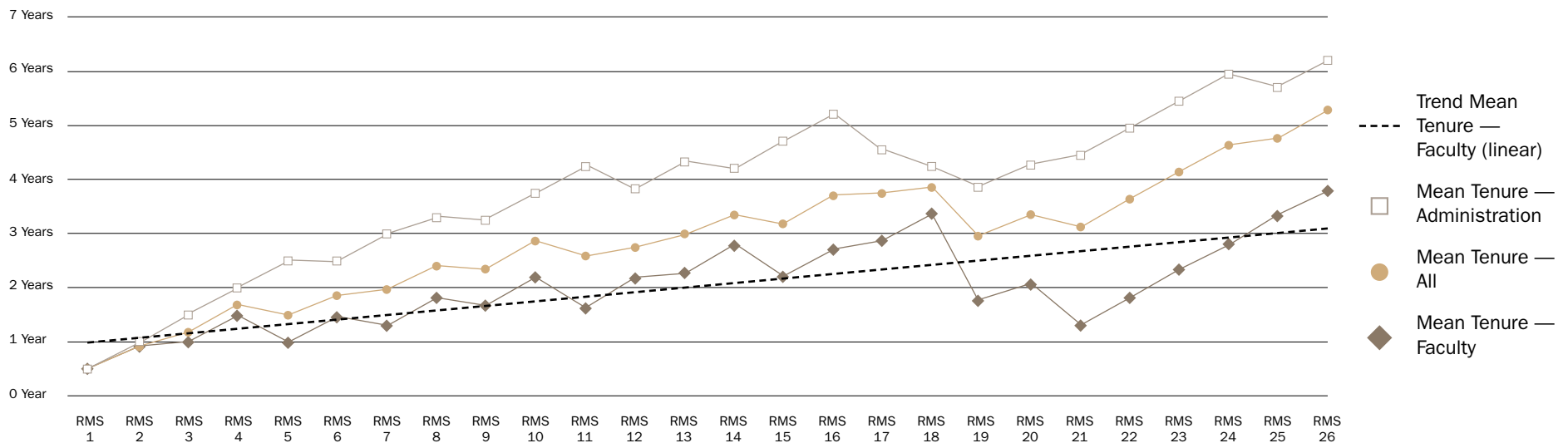
- » Our new Academic Dean, Ben Dougherty, arrived in June. He will be using Grant Wiggins' *Understanding by Design* model to guide the faculty in documenting the Rocky Mountain Semester academic curriculum.
- » For RMS XXV and XXVI (fall 2010 and spring 2011), we had the strongest applicant pool in our history. We also had the highest enrollment rate in history, which meant that we did not take any applicants from our extensive waitlist.
- » For the second year in a row, 100% of the Rocky Mountain Semester faculty chose to return. We are thrilled to welcome them back for the 2010-2011 school year.



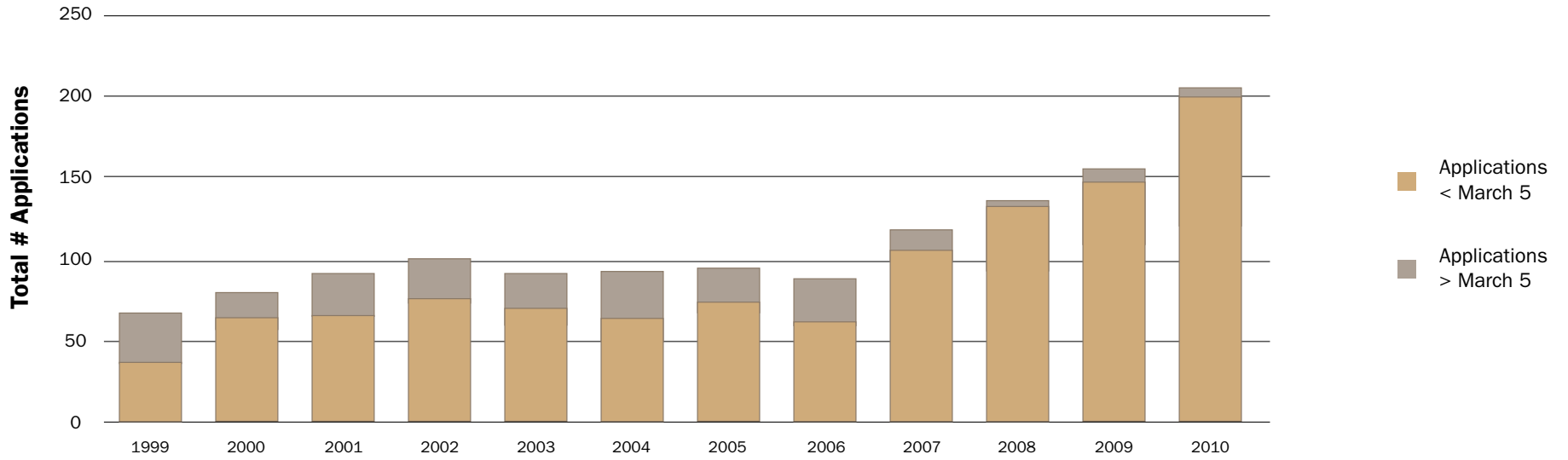
Summer Programs

- » In 2010, HMI's Summer Programs continued to offer substantial financial aid. 48% of students received financial aid from HMI; of these, 47% also received aid from another source or partner organization. The total amount of aid awarded was \$33,799 (up from \$23,015 in 2009).
- » In end-of-course evaluations this year, the average answer for the question "I would recommend this program to my friends" was 4.6 (on a scale of 1-5, where 5 is the highest). For Leading Edge courses, the average answer to the question "I believe that I will be a better leader thanks to this program" was 4.5.
- » This summer, HMI offered the first ever Lake County Summer Backpacking Trip for local 7th & 8th grade students. The trip was offered in partnership with Full Circle of Lake County, a local non-profit serving youth and families, and the Lake County School District. It was funded in through in-kind donations from HMI and Full Circle and through the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program.

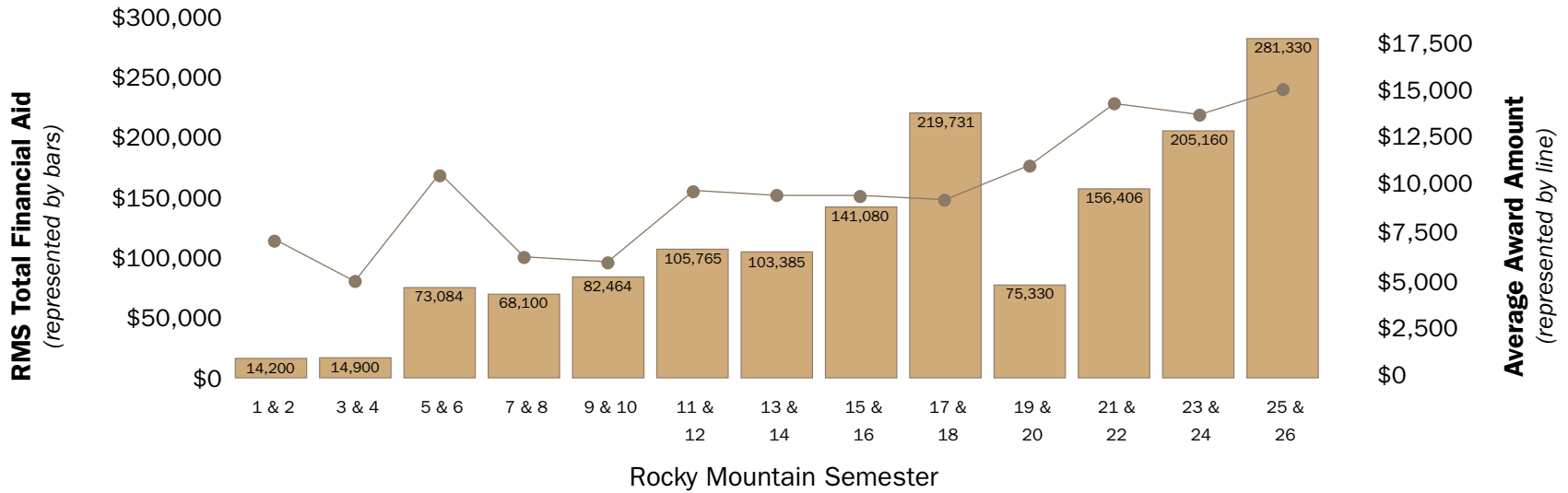
Mean (Average) Employee Tenure at HMI



Rocky Mountain Semester Applications Received



Rocky Mountain Semester Need Based Financial Aid Amounts





ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT UPDATE

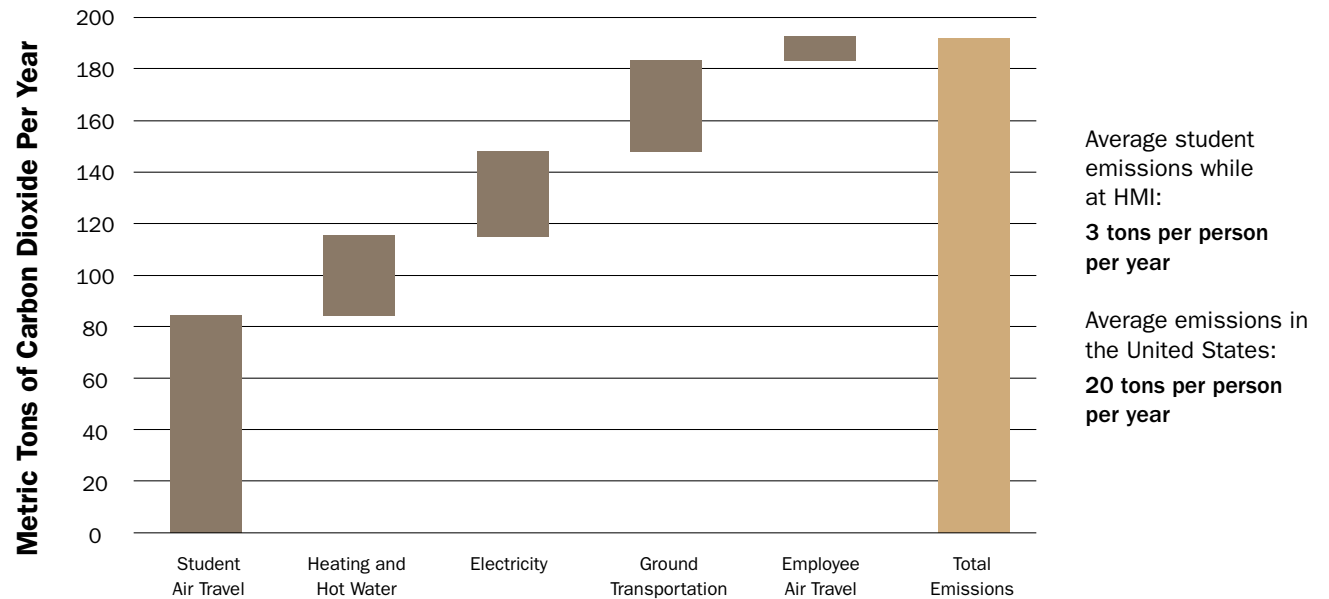
INTRODUCTION

DURING THE 2009-2010 ACADEMIC YEAR, the High Mountain Institute began an effort to improve our environmental impact. To date we have taken several steps to quantify our current state and have actively been pursuing options for reducing our consumption of energy and water.

2009–2010 Highlights

» Understanding our starting point is a critical first step in improving our environmental impact. To this end, we created a baseline for our current greenhouse gas emissions and discovered that in 2009, we emitted 190 metric tons of Carbon Dioxide (equivalent to the annual emissions of 34 passenger cars). Most of our emissions are the result of student air travel to and from campus, with the rest being roughly equally split between heating buildings and hot water, electricity use, and ground transportation for expeditions and around town. Employee air travel also contributed a relatively small amount to our overall emissions.

Major Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2009)



» Creating a robust baseline that we can measure our progress against is an equally important step. HMI forecast our greenhouse gas emissions growth through 2020 given a “business as usual” scenario in which no additional steps are taken to improve our environmental impact. If student air travel is not considered (because we have less influence over it), our greenhouse gas emissions will likely grow by 60 percent between 2009 and 2020 — an average of 3 percent per year.

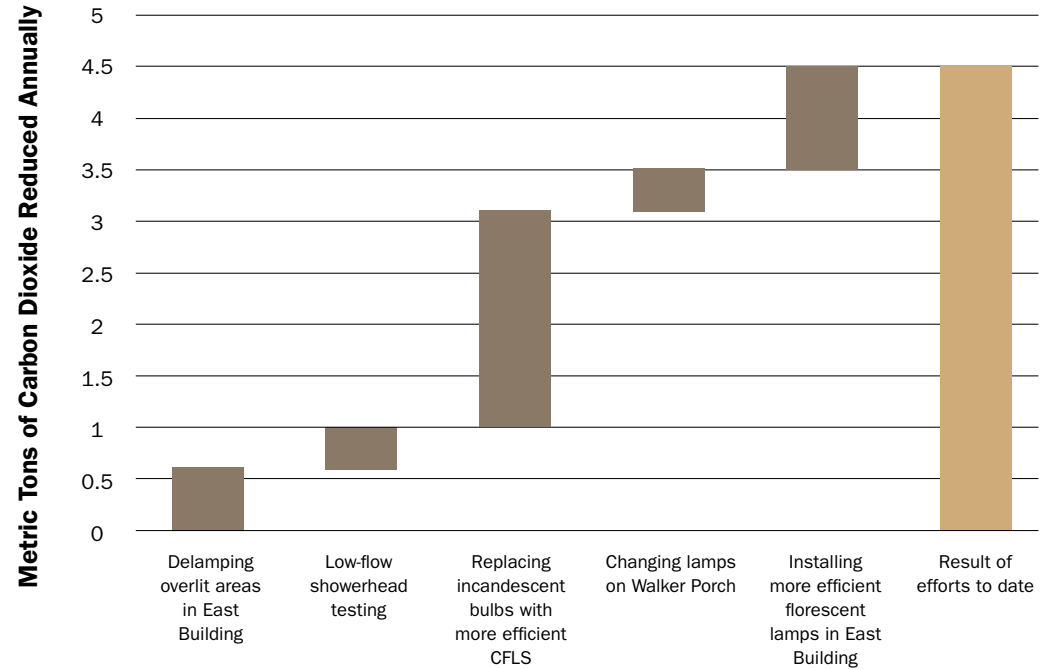
» Fueled by a desire to get started on improving our environmental impact, we’ve taken concrete steps to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Actions thus far include: reducing the number of lamps in significantly over-lit spaces in the East Building, installing low-flow showerheads, replacing traditional incandescent light bulbs with more efficient compact florescent lamps (CFLs), reducing the amount of light that is used to light the East Building exterior to an appropriate level, and installing more efficient florescent lamps throughout the East Building. These actions will save 4 ½ metric tons of carbon dioxide annually — roughly equivalent to taking one passenger car off the road.

» We’re also getting started on less tangible but equally important measures. In the Spring of 2010 we started reporting our energy and water use to students to increase awareness of their environmental impact, and we’ve installed energy monitoring technology to better understand how we use electricity on campus.

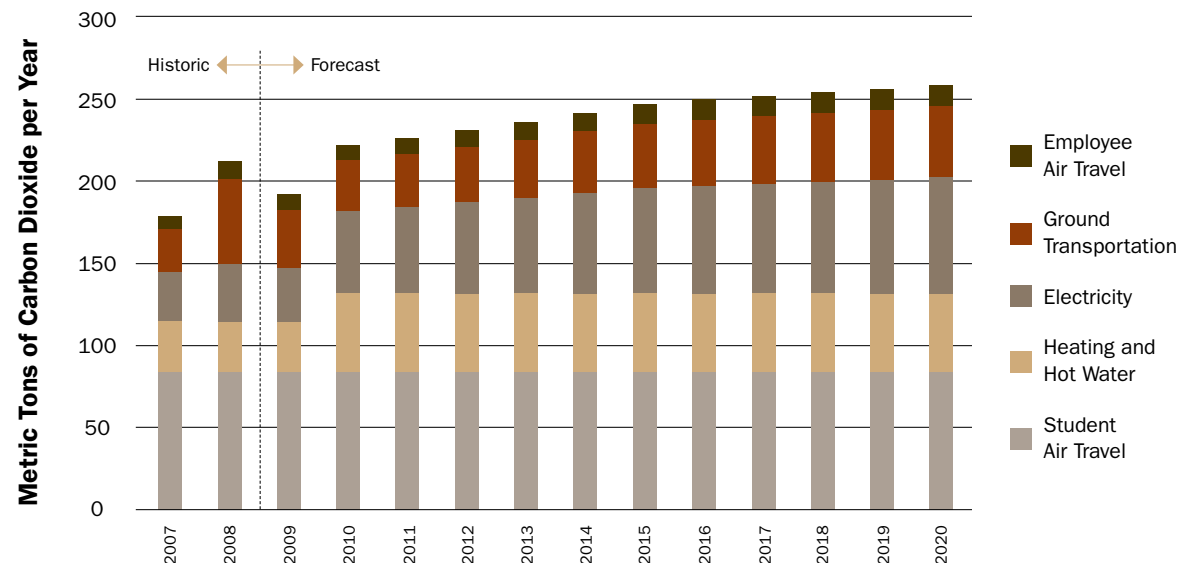


If you have questions about our environmental impact efforts, please contact Eric Wanless, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator, at ewanless@hminet.org

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Efforts to Date



Greenhouse Gas Emission Forecast with No Reduction Efforts



“We have been fortunate enough to have our son experience the magic of the Rocky Mountain Semester. Seeing for ourselves and through him the true gift he received made us want to give back to the High Mountain Institute.”

– Bob and Diana Friedman



DONORS

WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL to these donors for their commitment to HMI and our mission. Through their generosity, our work to be the place where nature and minds meet continues and is enhanced.

2009–2010 ANNUAL FUND DONORS

This list reflects donations made to the High Mountain Institute Annual Fund between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with any corrections by calling 719-486-8200 or emailing hmi@hminet.org.

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for their partnership and exemplary
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In-kind support during 2009-2010
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OUR CAMPAIGN FOR SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE

WE REMAIN DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE DONORS who contributed to, and continue to support, Our Campaign for Sustainability. We reached our fundraising goal of \$1.7 million in committed funds in June 2009, and this past year the fruits of that effort began to be tangible.

As part of our goal to fund financial aid and faculty salaries on a permanent basis, the HMI endowment is now funded at over \$700,000. On campus, Stuen Hall was completed in the spring of 2010 and was dedicated in June (see page 18). Semesters now hold their opening and closing ceremonies, as well as community meetings throughout the term, in this new sacred space. The community center that will house student bathrooms and laundry, the apprentice program and a faculty housing unit will be called the West Building. It is slated to open in time for the arrival of apprentices and semester students in January 2011.

Our Campaign for Sustainability remains a milestone in HMI history as the first time the collective community joined together to raise nearly \$2 million for the school. The success of the campaign reflects our evolving maturity as an organization, as well as the depth of the dedication of our donor base. Thank you!



2009-2010 CAMPAIGN DONORS

This list reflects donations made to the ongoing support of Our Campaign for Sustainability between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with any corrections by calling 719-486-8200 or emailing hmi@hminet.org.

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Photo credit: George Burke

STUEN HALL DEDICATION

ON JUNE 13, 2010, approximately 30 of Matthew Stuen's family and friends, along with HMI staff, alumni and Trustees, attended the dedication of Stuen Hall. Matthew was an alumnus of RMS VIII who died tragically during his freshman year in college. Matthew's family created the Matthew Stuen Memorial Fund in his memory, and their generous donations—along with those of many others—helped make the construction of Stuen Hall possible.



The plaque that now hangs in Stuen Hall reads:

“Stuen Hall is named in memory of Matthew Lloyd Stuen. “Matty”, as he was known at HMI, was a member of Rocky Mountain Semester VIII in the spring of 2002. After graduating from high school he attended Widener University. On February 4, 2004, while a freshman there, Matthew died suddenly from complications associated with a seizure disorder.

Matthew’s family and friends gave generously to support the construction of Stuen Hall and to have it named in his honor. They were inspired to do so by the impact of the Rocky Mountain Semester and the High Mountain Institute on Matthew’s life. His family wrote:

“Lao-Tze once wrote, ‘He who conquers others is strong. He who conquers himself is mighty.’ Matthew became mighty at HMI.”

Stuen Hall was dedicated on June 13, 2010.”

The High Mountain Institute is grateful in particular to Matthew’s parents, Rev. William Weisenbach and Dr. Cynthia Stuen, his sister, Emily Weisenbach, and his brother-in-law, Mike Burke, for leading the creation of the Matthew Stuen Memorial Fund, and for partnering with HMI in hosting and organizing the dedication weekend.

2009-2010 MATTHEW STUEN MEMORIAL FUND DONORS

This list reflects donations made to the Matthew Stuen Memorial Fund (part of Our Campaign for Sustainability) between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact us with any corrections by calling 719-486-8200 or emailing hmi@hminet.org.

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