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History of Lungs of the Planet Mosaic

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Lungs of the Planet – A History of the Tile Mural

The *Lungs of the Planet* was made by the Natural World Cluster of Holy Cross's first-year program, Montserrat. Its purpose is to highlight the vital role played by trees in the cycle of life and our obligation to protect our planet from human threat. The process was collaborative and inclusive – students, faculty, staff and community. Individuals from Dinand library made the initial inquiry concerning a new mural. Students were excited to help beautify the campus and leave a thoughtful legacy for the future. Virginia Raguin, Distinguished Professor of Humanities, who has taught in Montserrat from its inception, worked with the project from its inception to finish.

Students determined the design. They allocated tasks of background painting, tracing of line drawings on a single 6 x 6 inch tile, and also drawing larger images in color of blossoms, fruit, and birds to symbolize the cycle of life. Students themselves were free to devise options for background tiles showing flowers, leaves, insects, snails, fish, constellations, trees, stars, and even oscillating patterns of energy. The advanced painters based their images on models from 19th-century Audubon illustrations.

Initial progress on the design would have been impossible without the expertise and generosity of Tom O'Malley, Ceramic Department Head, Worcester Center for Crafts. Early in February, Liz Baker '16 and Sarah Valente '16 with the assistance of Emma Kuper '18 refined the plan which was discussed among many participants. In mid-March a group of 15 students produced a full size paper "model" called a cartoon. Tiles, paint, and the cartoon were transported to the Wheeler common room and students painted the 384 tiles guided by Sarah Margolin, Alia Paltos, and Desiree Petty from the Craft Center. At the Worcester Center for Crafts, students helped to load the kiln to fire the tiles and cemented them to eight backing boards. Members of the Carpenters Unit of Holy Cross's Physical Plant, under the leadership of Chuck Krikorian, transported the boards and attached them to the Dinand Library roof garden wall.

Participants include: Dinand Library: Karen Reilly, Slavica Zukic, Eileen Cravedi, and Lisa Villa; Montserrat: Stephanie Yuhl, Director, Faye Caouette, Program Coordinator, Natural World Cluster: Andrea Borghini (Philosophy), Director; Bruce Bunke (History); Claudia Chierichini (Modern Languages: Italian); Carly Herold (Political Science); Barbara Merolli (Librarian, Science Library) Christina Cetti (CDC Wheeler Hall), and Virginia Raguin.

Class of 2016: Liz Baker, Sarah Valente, Jack Gallagher, Zachary Buzzard, Tom Shannon.

Class of 2018: Emily George, Megan Viera, August Easton-Calabria, Emma Kuper, Chris Fox, Ziyun Lin, Melissa Gryan, Hannah Moore, Caroline Fleming, Alex Brisbois. Of the 115 students in the Natural World Cluster, who all contributed a tile, special appreciation is extended to Anna Lenney, Katie Badenhausen, Kristin Buscone, Katherine Turner, Matteo Mannara, Yen Nguyen, Andela Seslija, Lauren Simeon, Sofia Maietta, Edith Mensah Otobil, Will Griffin, Ryan Ferraro, Tom Shannon, Peter Crinella, Joe Dillard, Kevin Buccerone, Tommy Nixon, Maggie Ryan, Laura Garcia, and Abbey Rheault.

Advice and support was given by Kerstin Bean, Administrative Assistant, and Amy Remby, Visual Arts Department, Roger Hankins, Cantor Gallery, Sharon Matys, Robin Drew, and Tom Parsons, Graphic Arts, Margaret Nelson, Educational Technology, Chick Weiss, Director, Office of Strategic Initiatives, and Daniel and Nicole Raguin.