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Around the Campus

May 3 from 12-1 pm
Sustainability Coordinator’s Meeting
BA 349

May 8
Shredding Day
Please see Page 16 for details

May 11 from 2-4 pm (Reading Day)
UAlbany Green Scene End of the Year Gathering
Indian Pond Picnic Area

May 11-19
Give N Go
All living areas

May 19
Green Your Commute/Bike to Work Day
All Campuses
Dr. Alexander Shekhtman in the Department of Chemistry teaches Chemistry and Sustainability, Physical Chemistry Laboratory, Biochemistry and Biophysical Techniques. We asked him a few questions about the connections between chemistry and sustainability...

1. What are some of the topics that you cover in your course?

Our ACHM 100 Chemistry and Sustainability course discusses air quality, water pollution, green energy, food and drug safety, fitness and health, agro- and household chemicals and other topics related to sustainable chemistry. The basic concepts of chemistry such as atomic theory, bonding, chemical reactions, gas laws, molecular structure, and intermolecular forces will also be covered. The course integrates both lectures and lab assignments.

2. What are some of the learning objectives/outcomes related to sustainability that you hope students walk away with?

The learning objective of the course is to provide a broad introduction to chemistry and combine it with specific examples relevant to sustainable development. The laboratory section of the course is designed to give students hands-on experience of chemical aspects of sustainable development.
3. What role does sustainability play in the discipline of chemistry?

Sustainability has emerged as a result of significant concerns about the unintended social, environmental, and economic consequences of rapid population and industrial growth as well as unlimited consumption of our natural resources. The present economy remains utterly dependent on massive spending of natural resources that are mainly nonrenewable. To achieve a sustainable civilization, chemistry has a critical role to play. Sustainable Chemistry, also known as Green Chemistry, encompasses the design, manufacture and use of efficient, safe and environmentally friendly chemical products and processes. Chemistry is critical to finding sustainable solutions to far-reaching challenges, including: renewable energy sources, environmental protection, food and water safety, and global healthcare. Here are some examples to address the questions raised above. In the course we will discuss the evolution of energy resources and consumption and the future outlook from coal/natural gas (fossil-fuel based consumption), nuclear and solar/wind. Part of the course is devoted specifically to discussing the challenges of Sustainable Development in the post-industrial world, which serves as a global model for the developing countries to control climate changes.
Greenwashing **noun**
expressions of environmentalist concerns especially as a cover for products, policies or activities (*Merriam-Webster*)

Greenwashing is an issue in the recycling world because a material may say “made from recycled material” or have a recycle symbol, but that does not necessarily mean that it is able to be recycled in common recycling streams, and it may require specialized recycling procedures. Flexible plastics such as shopping bags and wrappers should not be placed in a single stream recycling bin as they jam up the machinery at the recycling plant. Grocery stores usually have a plastic bag recycling drop off. Recycling plants usually accept “hard” plastics for recycling.
Above: A pile of wires, cords, VHS and audio tapes that can not be recycled because they get caught in the machinery.

Left: White plastic milk containers are the money makers in the recycling world

Bottom: Things not to recycle—a missile launcher and an animal carcass!
Glass, jewelry and other miscellaneous items get grinded down and used as the layer below concrete.

Single stream recycling includes: corrugated cardboard, paper bags, empty pizza boxes, magazines, brochures, newspapers, junk mail and greeting cards, paper egg cartons, paper milk/ juice cartons (no foil), phone books and shredded paper.

*Remember to shred papers with sensitive information!
How does single stream benefit communities?

It encourages people to recycle more, and that’s a clear, community-wide environmental benefit. As more dual-purpose trucks are phased in, all trash and recycling will be picked up by a single truck, reducing our carbon footprint with fewer trucks on the roads, less fuel consumption, and decreased carbon emissions.

 Metals that can be recycled:

- Cans
- Clean, balled aluminum foil
- Pie pans, empty aerosol cans (no caps)

Left: Beata Mazur and Joanne LaForest-Qua pose in front of blocks of crushed aluminum cans

It all adds up.
The Falconer Lecture Series is hosted by the renowned Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC). It is a series that highlights science, nature and the environment and is named after the late Ray Falconer, the first full-time employee at the ASRC. The lectures feature experts in the field and are free and open to the public. They take place on Tuesday evenings at 8 pm in the Sullivan Auditorium in the CESTM building at 251 Fuller Road. The first few lectures featured the nation’s responses to weather warnings, radon in New York State air and water, the importance of science and data on policy decisions and the American Chestnut. Please see the remaining lectures below.

May 2—Professor Dennis V. Kent, Rutgers University. “Geological Climate Change.”
Practically the entire range of past environmental conditions occur today, from thick polar ice sheets to tropical rain forests & scorching deserts. What is meant by times of extreme paleoclimates is thus contingent on location, such as the presence of a rich megaflora and reptiles above the Arctic Circle in the Early Eocene or glacial dropstones in the tropics of a Neoproterozoic Snowball Earth. With the lateral mobility of continents, the distribution of paleoclimate indicators and the climate system itself must be viewed within an independent latitudinal framework provided amazingly enough by records of Earth's geocentric axial dipole field. This talk will focus on the changes in paleogeography and their effects on atmospheric CO₂ and global surface albedo that governed the switch from the normal hothouse to today's icehouse world.
May 9—Dr. Charles Brock, NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory, Boulder, CO. “Mapping the Formation and Growth of Aerosol Particles from the Arctic to the Antarctic.”

Particulate matter can be emitted directly from the Earth's surface or can result from gas-to-particle conversion in the atmosphere. There are very few measurements of the vertical and spatial frequency of this second pathway of aerosol particle formation in the Earth's atmosphere. The Atmospheric Tomography (ATom) project is a three-year NASA program to map the spatial and temporal distribution of greenhouse gases, reactive chemical compounds, and aerosol particles from the Arctic to the Antarctic. The NASA DC-8 research aircraft has completed two of four global circumnavigations over the mid-Pacific and mid-Atlantic Oceans while continuously profiling between 200 m and 12 km altitude, providing an unprecedented dataset of aerosol particles 4 nm to 50 μm in diameter. The ATom measurements show that particles are formed by gas-to-particle conversion in the tropical upper troposphere, which grow in size over time-scales of weeks and become a globally significant source of cloud condensation nuclei.

The Falconer Lecture Series included scientists from different institutions all across the nation:
This year’s winners include, from left to right, top to bottom: the Office of Sustainability, Dutch Quad, Indian Quad and Men’s Ultimate!

Right: James Rath created his outfit made from the waste he generated in the month of March that would have been sent to the landfill. It only weighed 1.5 lbs! How creative! He definitely earned major sustainability points for this outfit.
Fashion Show
RecycleMania Results

That's a wrap! The RecycleMania competition season ended on April 1st. We recycled 418.69 lbs total, which placed us 41 out of 214 schools. Our diversion rate finished at 42.8% placing us 69th out of 90 competitors. That is up from last year when we placed at #72. In addition, we more than doubled our compost from last year and UAlbany stands at #13 in the nation for pounds of compost per capita. We currently compost at all five dining halls on campus. The food scraps from cooking and the food waste left on your plate is composted and is turned into nutrient rich soil in approximately 3 to 6 months.

We didn’t do so well on recycling per person. We placed 181 out of 245. Next year, let’s try to better educate our peers about recycling. Our campus is moving toward single stream, which would allow paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, glass and aluminum cans to be placed in the same recycle bin! Spread the word!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Overall Ranking</th>
<th>Peer Group Ranking</th>
<th>NYS Ranking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversion Rate</td>
<td>42.79%</td>
<td>69/190</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>5/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycling Rate Per Person</td>
<td>5.53 lbs/person</td>
<td>181/245</td>
<td>7/7</td>
<td>18/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Recycling</td>
<td>418.69 lbs</td>
<td>41/214</td>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>5/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Minimization</td>
<td>53.84 lbs/person</td>
<td>87/135</td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td>3/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compost</td>
<td>175 lbs/person</td>
<td>13/142</td>
<td>1/6</td>
<td>3/13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Green Your Commute Day

This year’s Green Your Commute Day (GYCD) will be taking place on Friday, May 19th 2017 and in celebration of it the Executive Order 4 Subcommittee on Operations and Engagement is hosting a campus competition to see which campus’s employees can lower their environmental footprint the most from their commutes.

GYCD is a great opportunity for all of us to lead by example by using more sustainable forms of transportation to get to work. More importantly, it should also open our eyes to how easy, fun, and convenient it can be to bike, walk, take public transit, or carpool to work, and may even spur us to start new habits. In 2016, participants offset 8.5 tons of CO2 emissions just from greening their commute on one day.

How to participate:
1. Register: your participation so that they can measure the impact that everyone is having on this day and determine the campus that wins: www.surveymonkey.com/r/gycd17
   - Categories: agency with the highest percentage of employees greening their commute and agency whose employees offset the most CO2 by greening their commute.
2. Do: walk, bike, take public transit, car pool, drive an electric vehicle, or use another form of sustainable transportation that is not driving a single occupancy gasoline powered vehicle to work.
3. Post: join the conversation and post about your green commute on social media! Use the hashtag #GYCD17.

The Office of Sustainability will be hosting check-in tables in the morning. Those who greened their commute will receive an “I greened my commute sticker”! Follow our Facebook page for more information to come!

Jordan Carleo-Evangelist is organizing a “Bike to Work” event that morning. Please email him if you are interested in meeting up with the group at jcarleo-evangelist@albany.edu.
Sustainability Coordinators Committee

The Sustainability Coordinators are currently taking on the task of exploring a sustainability plan for the University at Albany. The Office of Sustainability is looking for representatives from every building and department on campus. The Sustainability Coordinators program gives university employees the opportunity to work with the Office of Sustainability on various Green Scene initiatives. All coordinators complete a training and agree to serve as the point person for sustainability matters. In addition, professional development opportunities are offered to the coordinators committee. This semester they will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 12-1 pm in BA 349. If you would like to join or nominate someone from your area, please contact the office at gogreen@albany.edu.

If you are a faculty or staff member and are interested in becoming a Sustainability Coordinator, the Office of Sustainability will be hosting trainings throughout May. You can view and sign up for them here.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are several opportunities this semester to volunteer for a sustainability event or initiative. Please email gogreen@albany.edu if you are interested!

◊ Give & Go Move Out Program—sorting will take place in the month of May
◊ Heritage Garden—Help us ready the garden and plant native pollinator-friendly plants, herbs and fruits! Our end of the year gathering will include a garden planting party on May 11 from 2-4 pm by Indian Pond.
Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact gogreen@albany.edu if you are interested in participating in any of these volunteer opportunities!

◊ **Give N Go @ all living areas on campus:** Help sort move-out donations. May 11-19

Summer Internship with the Office of Sustainability

**Heritage Garden and Composting Intern:** The Office of Sustainability is seeking one motivated and energetic intern to assist with caring for the UAlbany Heritage Garden, managing the Office Composting Program, and assist with planning for the fall semester. The intern is expected to complete 60 hours over the summer. This internship is unpaid, though students may obtain academic credit through the Community and Public Service Program. Please email gogreen@albany.edu if you are interested!

***Special Announcement for the UAlbany Community***

The Office of Sustainability has acquired 100 40x60 foam core poster boards. If your office or student group is in need of any, please feel free to stop by and pick some up, free of charge!

We are located in BA 309.
I Love my Park Day at Thacher Park
Saturday, May 5 from 9-1 pm
Join in the statewide volunteer effort to show some love to our parks. There are a variety of projects for different interests and abilities, so bring a friend or family member along. This event is sponsored by Parks and Trail New York and The Friends of Thacher Park. There will be a free BBQ lunch for all volunteers. Please register at www.ptny.org.

Shredding Day
Monday, May 8, 2017 in various locations
8:30-10 am: MSC/UAB Lot
10:30-12:30 pm: State Quad Student Gold Lot
1:30-3 pm: Hawley Lot (Downtown Campus)
3:30-5 pm: GEC Lot (Health Sciences Campus)

Materials OK to shred:
Paper/card stock, manila folders, paper clips, stapled paper, checkbooks

Materials NOT to be shredded:
Plastic ring binders, CD’s, metal binder clips

*Please note: Shredding Day is a popular day among UAlbany faculty and staff. As always, we will do our best to prevent long lines. Those who bring an unusually large volume of items may be asked to pause their shredding job to allow others with less items to go ahead.

Science Café
May 11, The Hollow Bar + Kitchen from 6-7 pm
Science Cafe: Time Travel to Ancient New York with Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, Curator of Sedimentary Rocks
Grab a drink and join a rousing conversation about ancient New York – a land of tropical seas, Earth’s first forests, and volcanic ash from nearby explosive eruptions. This fun, interactive program is free. Food and drink are not included.

Thacher Park Native Plant Sale
May 20 –21, Thacher Park Overlook
Want to attract butterflies and birds to your backyard and support threatened pollinators? Provide food and habitat for birds and insects by adding ‘Biodiversity All-stars’ to your garden! Call 872-0800 for more information.
“Put a Price on It” Fellowship
Our Climate and Citizens’ Climate Lobby invite students to apply to “Put a Price on It” fellowships for the summer, fall, or spring. Put a Price on It is a nation-wide campaign focused on passing fair and effective carbon pricing policy at the state and national levels. Fellows work with Our Climate and CCL staff to start campus chapters, rally public support for a national and state carbon pricing policy, and engage directly with elected officials. Please email clara.fang@citizensclimatelobby.org if you are interested!

Albany Stormwater Coalition
There are **five paid** internship positions for **next academic year**. This is for upcoming seniors or graduate students. These involve GIS mapping and students need to have completed an Intro to GIS and Remote Sensing Coursework or the equivalent to be eligible. Students will need to explore receiving credit in their home department or can receive RSSW credit through the Office of Sustainability.

The topic areas are:
- Historic Well and Septic data
- Green infrastructure asset identification
- Municipal soil boring data mapping
- Historic Erie Canal maps

**Capital Roots – Food System Assessment**
Capital Roots, as part of their effort to conduct a food system assessment in the Capital Region, is seeking interns **this summer** to conduct literature reviews and data collection on topics around the production and consumption of food regionally. Students will need to explore receiving credit in their home department or can receive RSSW credit through the Office of Sustainability.

**American Farmland Trust**
This is a paid internship for this summer and is located in AFT’s Ballston Spa office. This is open to undergraduate and graduate students and entails aiding in the completion of a survey of local food purchasing by SUNY campuses and summarizing findings. Students will need to explore receiving credit in their home department or can receive RSSW credit through the Office of Sustainability.
Dear Sustainable Suzie: I am graduating this semester and I do not have enough room in my car and home to store a lot of my things, such as my coffee maker, utensils, futon, and a bunch of clothes that I don’t wear anymore. All of these items are still in good condition and I don’t want to throw them away. Is there anywhere I can bring them to find them a new home?

Sincerely, Graduating Gerry

Dear Graduating Gerry: First of all, congratulations on graduating UAlbany! Thank you for asking us this question as it is a hot topic this time of the year. The Office of Sustainability hosts the Give N Go move out program, which is our largest reuse program. We place Arnoff HomePAK units at each living area during finals week (May 11-19). As you are moving out, you can place gently used clothing/shoes/coats, household items, kitchenware, working appliances and electronics, furniture and more in the units. During this time, the UAlbany community is welcome to take anything that they like within the storage units. Throughout May, volunteers will help us sort all of the items and find them a new home with the Trinity Alliance and Habitat for Humanity ReStore. If you have any further questions about the program or would like to help sort items, please email me at gogreen@albany.edu!

-Sustainable Suzie

Have a sustainability question for Suzie? Anonymously submit a question here!

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